



Short profile/ Last updated 20.2020

What is the *Familienhebammen Kreis Heinsberg*?

The *Familienhebammen Kreis Heinsberg* which translates as the *Family Midwives of the District of Heinsberg* is part of the Heinsberg early intervention programme. The *Familienhebammen Kreis Heinsberg* team consists of a family midwife, a family paediatric nurse and a social worker. Families are supported on-site by the family midwife and the family paediatric nurse. The social worker coordinates work assignments.

Who is the service for?

The services offered by the family midwives are aimed at all parents-to-be and families with children under a year old who are affected by psychosocial and/or health-related stresses. The terms family/parents also include people who exercise social parenthood (such as for example foster parents).

What are the aims?

Parents should be empowered to carry out their tasks independently. If it is helpful, other family members and caregivers, as well as professional helpers, can be included.

How is support provided?

The staff member visits the family at home and supports them on-site during appointments. During the pregnancy, our staff's tasks include:

- Assistance with attending ante-natal examinations and ante-natal courses
- Information regarding and assistance with sourcing necessary baby equipment
- Assistance with applications for financial aid
- Arrangement of other support services and accompaniment to these, for example pregnancy counselling centres, public authorities or doctors' practices

After the birth, their tasks include for example:

- Advice and instruction on feeding and care of the new-born
- Support with organising everyday life as well as furnishing the living space in a child-appropriate manner
- Stimulation and encouragement of a positive parent-child bond
- Information and instruction regarding the baby's age-appropriate development
- Advice and instruction to encourage the baby's self-regulation ability
- Support with participation in parent-child courses
- Support with applications for financial aid
- Arrangement of support services and accompaniment to these, for example pregnancy and educational counselling centres, public authorities or doctors' practices
- Support with searching for and applying to a kindergarten or childminder
- Support with reintegration into work

How can I get help?

The families themselves, relatives or professional helpers can contact the coordinator, Sandra Schüren.

☎ 02452/13-5118

Fax: 02452/13-885118

✉ sandra.schueren@kreis-heinsberg.de

In order to make a decision regarding this help, a short requirements form must be filled out. This can be filled out in advance and sent via email or fax. The requirements form is on the website www.fhkhs.de in the Downloads section.

The information is treated confidentially and in the course of a joint conversation, we decide whether the family midwives service is useful or whether another early intervention service is appropriate.

If the application was made by professional helpers, the coordinator will give them a short response regarding whether the help has started.

The requirements form is forwarded to the relevant member of staff. They then contact the family to arrange the first appointment.

Cost, duration and end of the support

The service is financed by the federal foundation for early interventions (*Bundesstiftung "Frühe Hilfen"*) and is free of charge for the parents.

Support can be provided from pregnancy until the child's first birthday. The service is voluntary and can be ended by the family at any time.

What can the family midwives service not provide?

The service is based below classic youth welfare services and is not a replacement for the available facilities for children's or youth welfare. The member of staff does not have a supervisory function.

The member of staff is **not responsible** for the medical care of the mother or child. For example, they do not carry out navel care, weight checks, breast-feeding consultations, breast checks or measurements of the state of the uterus.

These checks are carried out by midwives, who initially visit daily after the birth.

If there is no midwife-provided post-partum care, the gynaecologist is responsible for the mother's medical care and the paediatrician is responsible for the child's medical care.

Duty of confidentiality

The *Familienhebammen Kreis Heinsberg* team is bound by confidentiality. However, in cases of acute endangerment to the child's welfare, the duty of confidentiality does not apply. In these cases, members of staff are obligated to initiate immediate child protection measures according to Section 8 a of Volume VIII of the German Social Code (SGB).