Mother and Infant Mental Health Service (MIMHS) Eligibility Criteria for Referrals

- Women over the age of 18. (MIMHS will work jointly with Children and Young Peoples Services (CYPS) if the young person is due to give birth after the age of 18).

- Pregnant women or women up to one year post-partum currently suffering from or with a history of severe mental illness of a degree to warrant referral for prophylactic care and or specialist medication advice (NICE Guidelines CG192,)

- Women with a history of psychotic illness or severe mood disorder including bi-polar affective disorder or a postpartum psychosis.

- Women with severe anxiety disorders including Obsessive Compulsive Disorder or panic disorder.

- Women identified in pregnancy as being at high risk of having a relapse of their mental illness.

- Women discharged from a Mother and Baby Unit.

- Women who have an existing moderate to severe mental illness who are wishing to become pregnant and would like preconception counselling and advice.

- Women registered with a GP in Kent or Medway where the baby is expected to be living with the mother after birth (If it is likely an infant may be removed at birth, medication advice can be given by the MIMHS consultant psychiatrists).

In the event of loss of pregnancy when open to MIMHS the service will continue to support the patient until a more appropriate service becomes available.

In addition MIMHS will work in collaboration with partners to improve detection and provide early intervention to provide positive outcomes. This may include:

- Supporting primary care with short term early intervention for mothers with mild to moderate perinatal mental health issues.
- Medication advices from the MIMHS Consultant Psychiatrist to services supporting perinatal patients who do not require ongoing intervention from MIMHS.

MIMHS is available for advice wherever possible but does not accept referrals for:

- Young people under the age of 18 - Consultation and advice is available to Children and Young Peoples services (CYPS), primary care or maternity services. MIMHS will work jointly with CYPS if the young person is due to give birth after the age of 18.

- Those with a primary diagnosis of substance misuse or learning disability - Consultation and advice is available to these services.

- Women who have been assessed not to be capable of independent functioning in caring for their baby in the community even with reasonable support.

- Women whose difficulties are due to primary, social and relationship issues in the absence of mental illness.

- Women solely requiring counselling for miscarriage or still birth who were not open to MIMHS prior to the loss.

- Women whose mental health can be managed within primary care (using NICE guidelines) except for early intervention work.