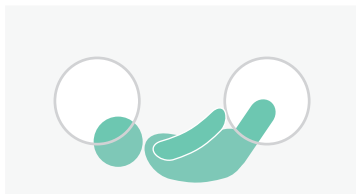


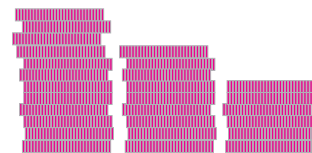
# Benefits of increasing breastfeeding rates

Click here for the [New Breastfeeding Strategy 2016-2021](#)



Breastfeeding can reduce the risk of infection associated with prematurity

The Chief Medical Officer report (2012) states that the annual public sector costs per pre-term birth are £25,920



There is a correlation between higher rates of breastfeeding prevalence and lower rates of inpatient admissions amongst infants under one year old for 10 conditions



Longer term health benefits for children include a lower risk of type 1 and type 2 diabetes, childhood leukaemia and SUDI



Breastfeeding provides a unique opportunity for attachment between mother and baby and can protect the child from maternal neglect

Modest increases in breastfeeding rates could potentially reduce child obesity by 5% and save £100 per child per year



## Health benefits for the mother



Reduction in the incidence of pre-menopausal breast cancer



Reduction in the incidence of ovarian cancer



Increased likelihood of returning to pre-pregnancy weight



Reduced incidence of hip fractures, low bone density, osteoporosis and rheumatoid arthritis