



Unique Northants charity fears it could close without funding

'...NorPIP could close its doors for good – urgent appeal for help...'



In a month when the importance of mental health issues experienced by new parents hit the headlines with the Meghan Markle revelations, a Northamptonshire charity which supports parents and infants could close down.

Funding problems – accelerated by the ongoing Covid-19 crisis – could lead to the closure of NorPIP, *(the Northamptonshire Parent Infant Partnership)*.

Norpip is a charity which supports parents to be and parents with children under two to form stable relationships with their babies.

As one mum put it, "when I used to look at my baby, all I could see was a piece of meat, like in butchers. I didn't love her like her brother, I kept expecting someone to come along and collect her. Through therapy from Norpip, I truly love her now"

Norpip works with mums and dads who find it difficult to form a relationship with their children.

These early year experiences can harm children for life so Norpip helps to get them off to the best start in life.

Chairman of Norpip Chris Lofts said: "The stark reality of the pressures and issues around anxiety and depression among new parents has been brought home with the Meghan Markle interview and the debate over mental health.

"Our families have suffered loneliness and isolation during the pandemic but our funding is getting tighter and tighter – it is a real fear we only have a few months left before closing."

Fundraising, donations and support from businesses and individuals is needed urgently and Norpip is appealing to anyone who can help with fundraising, gifts or other support to get in touch.

Mr Lofts said: "This is a plea from the heart – we provide a safe, confidential space for families to speak to a specially qualified and experienced therapist.

"We help parents work through these difficult feelings and most importantly, find love for their babies.

"There is no greater gift we can give children than a loving caring family, no greater gift we can give a parent than the ability to love their child free from worry. If you can, please help us continue this work."

Another mum's experience was, "I had thoughts about driving into oncoming traffic, with my baby in the car. I just wanted us both dead.

"NorPIP has helped me to find love for my baby. I wouldn't dream of harming either of us now."

If you can help, please contact Sophie Harding on 01604 924735, email info@norpip.org.uk, or visit www.norpip.org.uk

You can also go to www.norpip.org.uk/donate to find the charity's Just Giving page and other ways to donate.

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