What is Minding the Baby?
Minding the Baby aims to help first-time parents, aged 14-25, care for their babies and deal with the challenges of becoming a parent. As you know, your partner is part of a study that is evaluating the Minding the Baby service, to see if it is more helpful than services that are normally available in your area. We are also very interested in hearing from fathers about their experience of becoming a parent and to see which services they find most helpful.

Do I have to take part?
No, it’s up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you decide to take part you are still free to change your mind at any time and without giving a reason. If you decide you want to pull out of the study, that’s fine, and it will not affect the standard of care that you or your family receive.

What will I have to do if I take part?
We would ask you to complete a small number of questionnaires about yourself and about your baby at the start of the study, and again around your baby’s 1st and 2nd birthdays. You could either complete when one of our researchers comes to visit your family, or you could complete them at another time and send them to us by freepost.

Will it be difficult to do?
Parents usually find the questionnaires quite interesting and we will always be happy to answer any questions you have about them, either in person or by telephone. Some of the questionnaires could be a bit upsetting because they ask about any problems you might be experiencing. You never have to answer any questions would prefer not to.

Will my answers be kept confidential?
Yes. All the information we collect will be stored in line with the Data Protection Act 1998. This means:

• the information you give will be kept strictly confidential
• all information gathered will be filed away in a locked cabinet at our research site
• only the research staff will be able to look at the information you give us. Your name or any other personal details will not appear on any of your data
• all personal information you give us will remain locked away separately from your data and then destroyed after five years

When you’re involved in the study, the things you talk about won’t be shared with anyone else unless you say it’s OK. But if you tell us something that makes us think there is a serious risk to you, your baby or the safety of others, then we are legally obliged, like all organisations, to notify other professionals so that you and your family can be kept safe. This would include involving child protection services if it concerns your baby, another child, or you, if you are under 16.

When we report the results of the study, we will not include any personal details about any of the families that took part so that they can’t be recognised.

Questions
If you would like to ask any questions about the study please contact [TBC] on [telephone TBC].

Complaints
We hope that you are happy with the study and find it helpful. However, if you are unhappy with any part of the study, and you would like to make a complaint, you can contact Pasco Fearon on 0207 679 1244. Or, you can pass on a complaint to any NSPCC member of staff, volunteer, or local office. You can also email comments@nspcc.org.uk or call 020 7825 2775 and quote the name of the project, ‘Minding the Baby’.

Thank you for your time.