



NORTH WEST MATERNAL MEDICINE NETWORK NEWSLETTER

LANCASHIRE AND SOUTH CUMBRIA · CHESHIRE AND MERSEYSIDE · GREATER MANCHESTER AND EASTERN CHESHIRE

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**NORTH WEST
MATERNAL
MEDICINE NETWORK**

WELCOME TO THE FIRST ISSUE OF THE NORTH WEST MATERNAL MEDICINE NETWORK (NW MMN) NEWSLETTER.

We will use this newsletter to communicate with women/birthing people, families and clinicians involved with maternal medicine services in the North West.

The North West Maternal Medicine Network is one of fourteen Networks in England that were formed to ensure women/birthing people with medical conditions have timely access to the best specialist advice and care at all stages of their pregnancy. We aim to bring together health professionals, patients and families involved with maternal medicine services.

You can read more about the network team later in this issue.

If you want to get involved in shaping maternal medicine services please get in touch:

NW.MMN@nhs.net

ABOUT THE NETWORK

In October 2021, NHS England published the final version of the national service specification (NHS England » Maternal medicine networks: service specification) for MMNs. The specification outlines the requirements for MMNs, the specialist care pathways and includes standards for Maternal Medicine Centres (MMC). The aim of MMNs is to ensure women/birthing people with medical conditions have timely access to the best specialist advice and care at all stages of their pregnancy.

MMNs provide clinical leadership for the identification, referral and management of women/birthing people and their medical conditions within the network, with identified MMCs having responsibility for co-ordinating the care required for women/birthing people who use the services. MMNs will encourage specialist doctors, midwives and nurses to work together to improve pre-pregnancy counselling and optimise medical care. It will strive both to improve the whole service's approach to medical conditions in pregnancy and support the specialist clinical contribution.



**Lancashire and
South Cumbria**

**Maternity and
Newborn Alliance**
What matters to you, matters to us

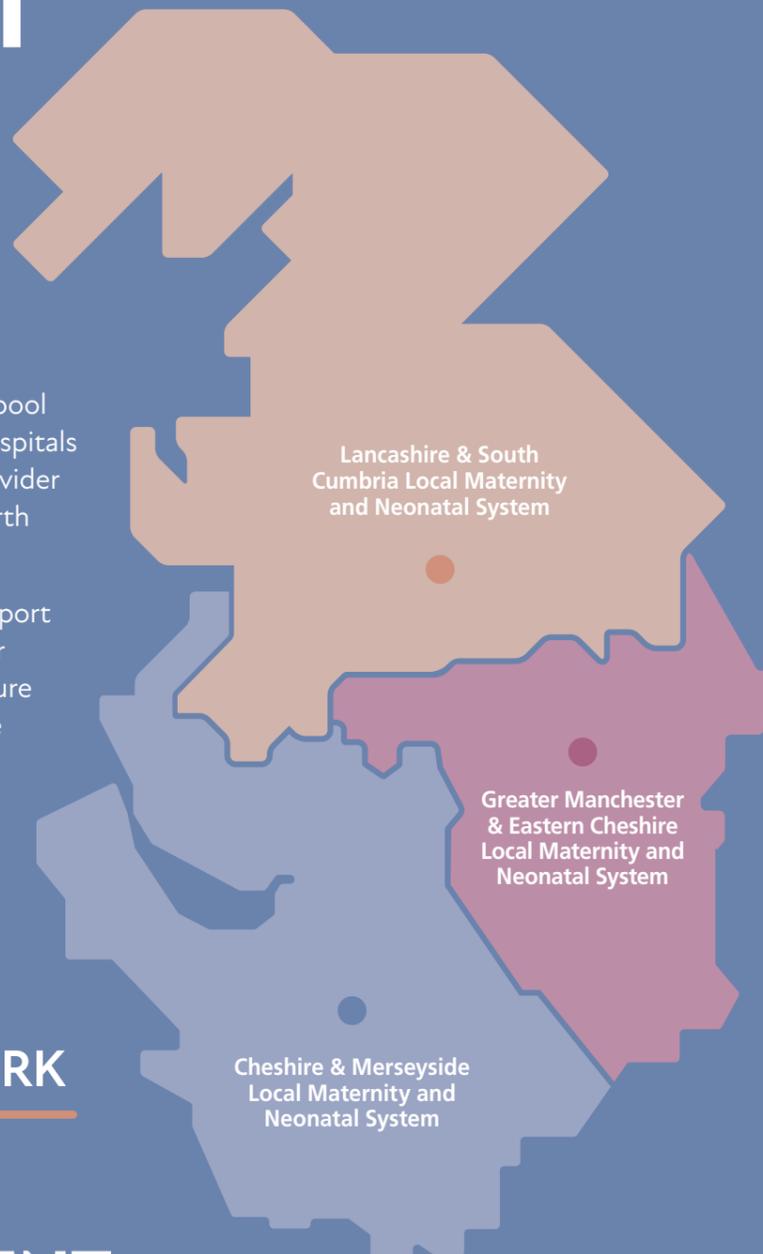


**Greater Manchester
and Eastern Cheshire
Local Maternity System**

NETWORK FOOTPRINT

The North West of England has joined together to form a Maternal Medicine Network. This Network covers Greater Manchester & Eastern Cheshire, Cheshire & Merseyside, and Lancashire & South Cumbria. There are three specialist maternal medicine centres - St Mary's Hospital Manchester, Liverpool Women's Hospital and Lancashire Teaching Hospitals (Preston) alongside services delivered in all provider hospitals supporting the population of the North West of England.

The aim is to provide equitable and expert support for women/birthing people with pre-existing or pregnancy-induced medical conditions, to ensure sustainability of maternity care wherever in the region they may live.



NORTH WEST MATERNAL MEDICINE NETWORK

MISSION STATEMENT

“Collaborating together to provide safe, high quality and equitable care for all who access maternal medicine services”

NETWORK KEY OBJECTIVES

 <p>To provide a high quality, fit for purpose network, demonstrating value and providing strategic direction for maternal medicine provision across the North West.</p>	 <p>To facilitate and support the development of a maternal medicine service between the three Maternal Medicine Centres, that is aligned with service provision throughout the rest of the region.</p>	 <p>To support the delivery of equitable and timely specialist care and advice for all women/birthing people before, during and after pregnancy.</p>
 <p>To monitor and drive improvements in quality of care.</p>	 <p>To put women/birthing people at the heart of all maternal medicine services and support improvement in patient and family experience.</p>	 <p>To provide and support education, training and development of the workforce within the Networks footprint.</p>

MEET THE TEAM

The MMN has a senior leadership team which includes a Clinical Lead, **Dr Mark Clement-Jones** Obstetrician from Liverpool Women's, Lead midwife **Catherine Chmiel** and Network Manager, **Dr Charlotte Bryant**.

The senior team are further supported by clinical leads from each MMC who together form the Networks Clinical Reference Group (CRG).



Dr Mark Clement-Jones



Dr Charlotte Bryant



Catherine Chmiel

ST MARY'S HOSPITAL MMC

Emma Shawcat - Obstetrician at St Marys Manchester

Clare Mumby - Obstetric physician at St Marys Manchester

Bhasker Narayan - Obstetric physician at St Marys Manchester

LIVERPOOL WOMEN'S HOSPITAL MMC

Emma McGoldrick - Obstetrician at Liverpool Women's

ROYAL PRESTON HOSPITAL MMC

Charlotte Cox - Obstetrician at Royal Preston

Anna Bewlay - Obstetric anaesthetist at Royal Preston

The team are supported by a Network administrator, **Melissa Power**



Developing Maternal Medicine Services in the North West

The MMN Clinical Reference Group (CRG) has been convened to support the development and mobilisation of the network. The group, made up of representatives from each MMC, are responsible for reviewing and determining clinical actions arising from the specification to support the developments of the NW MMN. The group are developing clear pathways of care, clinical models and regional guidelines for the NW MMN including service/ threshold levels and referral processes.

They are supporting the integration of operational plans for the 3 MMCs as well as identifying the wider training needs across the system.



Co-production Reference Group

The network has a Co-production Reference Group chaired by Dr Faye Bruce, Chair of the Caribbean & African Health Network (CAHN) and Derin Webb, Strategic Lead for Health Inequity and Policy for CAHN. The group includes a Maternity and Neonatal Voices Partnership (MNVP) representative from each LMNS.

The values of the Co-production group are based on the Equity and Equality guidance:

- Equity for mothers and babies from Black, Asian and Mixed ethnic groups and those living in the most deprived areas.
- Race equality for staff.
- Gather intelligence from birthing people and families using MMN services.



THE ROLE OF THE OBSTETRIC PHYSICIAN

I trained at the University of Birmingham and qualified in 2004. My core medical and specialist training in Diabetes and Endocrinology and General Internal Medicine was in the North West of England. I was appointed as a Consultant Physician in 2017 at Manchester Royal Infirmary.

During my training I developed an interest in maternal medicine. In 2019 alongside obstetric colleagues we set up the maternal medicine clinic and maternal medicine team to provide MDT care to women in Greater Manchester with medical problems in pregnancy, particularly those not already served by specialist maternal medicine clinics. Shortly after I received national training to formally train as an Obstetric Physician and despite the challenges of COVID travelled to the John Radcliffe in Oxford to train with Dr Lucy Mackillop. I obtained a Diploma in Obstetric Medicine from the Royal College of Physicians and work within the North West Maternal Medicine Network.

My role as an obstetric physician is very much to provide the link between obstetric and the medical teams to ensure women get appropriate and timely care. I enjoy the support I can provide my colleagues in managing women, giving them the confidence to give women the most appropriate care. This reaches out beyond St. Mary's to our provider hospitals within Greater Manchester and beyond. I love being part of the MDT bringing together the different skills and knowledge each member can offer to a woman's care.

I am proud that St Mary's are now a pilot training centre for the Obstetric Medicine credential and have their first trainee. I want to bring Obstetric Physicians to the North of England and particularly the North West to ensure equity of care to women living in areas of deprivation and for our women from ethnic minority populations.



Dr Clare Mumby
Obstetric Physician and MMC Lead



We held our first Maternal Medicine study day in May in collaboration with Liverpool Women's Hospital Lead by Dr Emma McGoldrick MMC Lead for C&M.

The day was a great success with over 100 delegates attending in person or online and gave an opportunity for those with an interest in maternal medicine to hear more about the network and listen to experts in the field.

We also collaborated with the charity Action on Pre-eclampsia (APEC) to facilitate a study day in June - <https://action-on-pre-eclampsia.org.uk/>. The day hosted by St Marys Manchester brought together leading experts in pre-eclampsia to provide the most up to date knowledge about how to deliver evidence informed care and share best practice.

We are planning to host specialty themed study days throughout the year. Our next study days is taking place at Royal Preston Hospital in February.



Siobhan was a patient at Liverpool Women's Hospital back in 2022. This is her story about her pregnancy and relationship with her midwife

PATIENT STORY

I was diagnosed with stage 4 Primary Mediastinal Large B Cell lymphoma at the end of August 2022. I was almost 17 weeks pregnant and was critically unwell. At this point I was referred to Liverpool Women's hospital and came under Jo's care. Jo visited me at Liverpool Heart and Chest and at Clatterbridge Cancer centre once I started my emergency chemotherapy. There was a lot of hope for my pregnancy despite my diagnosis, but sadly we found out that our son himself was desperately unwell, and my pregnancy ended when I was almost 24 weeks pregnant. Jo's constant support during this difficult time was invaluable to not only myself but to my husband and to our family. Jo kept me informed of what would be happening and when, and was someone I could turn to for advice.

Jo was so friendly and kind. She had a calming presence and put me at ease when we met. It means so much to us that Jo was the midwife who delivered Freddie.

The lead up to Freddie's birth was heartbreakingly difficult, but the birth itself was calm and special. Thanks to Jo we have precious memories, experiences and tangible links to our son. Jo took photos, Freddie's prints and put a memory box together for us.

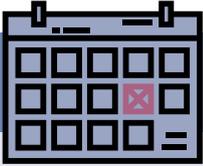
Jo treated and trusted me as a mum and continues to do so. Jo meets me when I am at the Women's for follow up appointments and scans which has really helped, returning to the hospital after having Freddie could have been really hard for me but knowing I was going to see a familiar face has made it a lot easier. Jo went above and beyond for our family and we will never be able to thank her enough for what she did for us.

The support from Jo has been unwavering and we have a very special bond now. I wish all people experiencing pregnancy could have a midwife like Jo.

QUOTE FROM MIDWIFE JO (OUTREACH MIDWIFE AT LWH):

“ My role in the provision of midwifery care for Siobhan ensured continuity of carer from the moment Siobhan was admitted to hospital unwell and will continue to be ongoing for as long as she requires support from me. Through knowing her individual case, schedule of appointments and family support I was able to develop a care pathway suited to her individual needs with the full support of the maternal medicine team. ”





DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

23RD NOVEMBER

Maternal Medicine Network Launch

Venue: Novotel Worsley M28 2YA.

This is an invitation only event bringing together key leaders in maternity care.

2ND FEBRUARY

Maternal Medicine Network Study Day

Venue: Royal Preston Hospital, PR2 9HT.

Registration: TBC

TRAINING

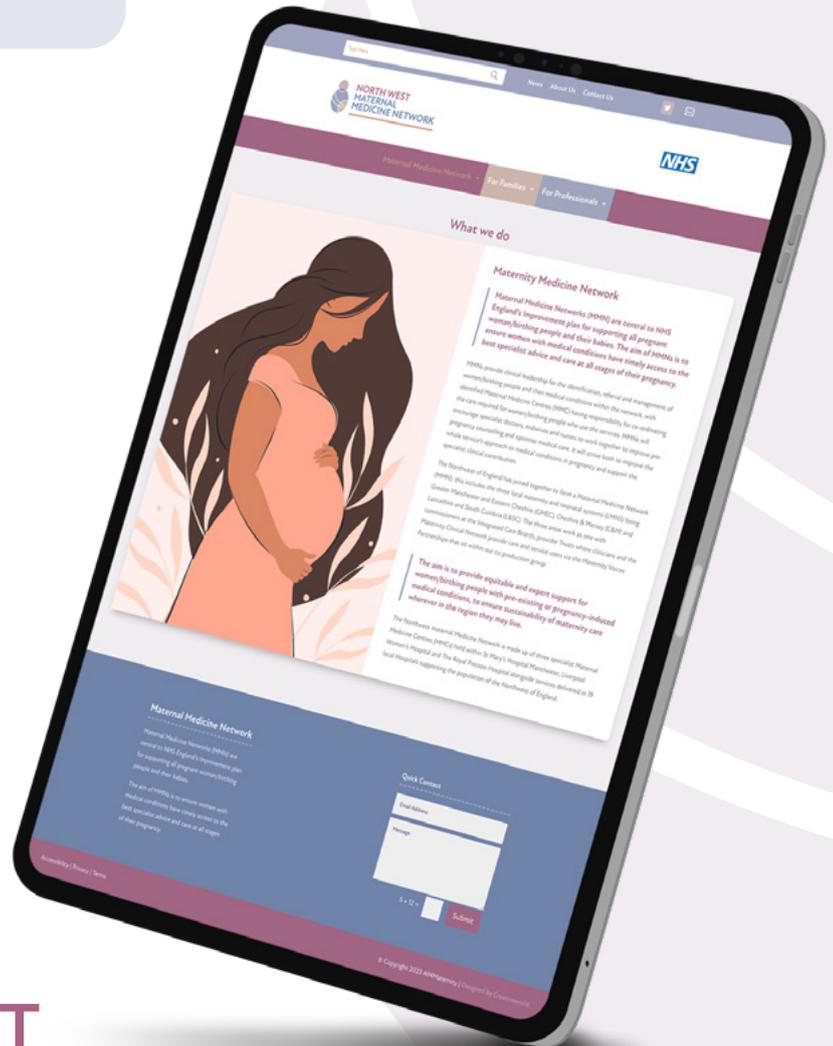
We are establishing a training plan for the workforce in the North West and have already supported a number of training courses for clinicians and midwives from the region. We are developing a maternal medicine masters module that will be run in the North West and available to all health professionals. If you have any ideas or requests for training and content please get in touch.

Contact us: NW.MMN@nhs.net

WEBSITE

Our website is currently under development. Please use the link below to take a look:

www.nwmaternalmedicinenetwork.org.uk



NORTH WEST MATERNAL MEDICINE NETWORK