

Local Maternity and Neonatal System Update July 2024

This update is designed to keep local stakeholders up to date with what is happening within our Local Maternity and Neonatal System. It is circulated to individuals and organisations with a particular interest in maternity and neonatal services.

Maternity and Neonatal Voice Partnership (MNVP) Activity

The new Maternity and Neonatal Voices Partnership (MNVP) enhanced model is continuing to be in place across all maternity providers.

The MNVP team has now conducted 'Walk the Patches' and '15 steps' across Greater Manchester and East Cheshire, gathering feedback from maternity users on the antenatal and postnatal wards of maternity units.

'Walk the Patch' is a volunteer-led program to collect direct feedback from current maternity users on the antenatal and postnatal wards of a maternity unit. It is intended as a snapshot of women's experience of care on a certain day on the maternity wards and can be collected from women who have birthed in a birth centre or on the labour ward.

The '15 steps' toolkit has been developed with MNVPs in mind. Small teams access local maternity services where care is provided to 'get a feel' for the space, using all their senses to reflect on their first impressions. They use the '15 steps' observation guides to ensure their observations are considerate of a wide variety of services user. MNVP team is currently looking at preterm birth signs and symptoms and information for families about induction of labour.

The MNVP leads based at Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust, have undertaken 'Walk the Patches' on postnatal wards to gather feedback from families on the recent changes to visiting hours.

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The MNVP has recently co-produced information on signs and symptoms of preterm birth.

The ['mybirthmychoice' website](#) is currently being reviewed, by NHS Greater Manchester to ensure our women and families have access to up-to-date information.

Safety Update

The first Maternity and Perinatal Provider Oversight Panel meeting has taken place, and the Local Maternity Neonatal System (LMNS) has put in place monitoring processes to assess compliance to the Maternity and Perinatal Single Delivery Plan.

A Safety and Learning event was held on 6th August 2024, in collaboration with Health Innovation Manchester, to showcase examples of excellent practice, which were described at the recent LMNS assurance visits, and to share learning across all our providers. Chief Midwife for England, Kate Brintworth, attended as a keynote speaker and accompanied by Donald Peebles, the newly appointed National Clinical Director for Maternity.

The Maternity Safety Assurance visits, completed by NHS Greater Manchester, the LMNS and the Care Quality Commission (CQC), highlighted that many maternity units across the region are undertaking further quality improvement work to improve the service given to women attending Maternity Triage departments.

In July 2024, a new programme of work for maternity triage commenced in Greater Manchester and the East Cheshire Strategic Clinical Network welcoming back two clinical advisors to the team, midwife, Chantal Knight and obstetrician, Dr Karen Bancroft. Their focus will be on agreeing a model of triage and supporting maternity providers in implementation of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG) standards.

Work the LMNS team has been doing around optimisation has been nominated for a British Association of Perinatal Medicine (BAPM) award, with the winners announced in September 2024.

Improved Outcomes 2023/2024

Outcome measures, including stillbirths, early neonatal deaths and serious brain injury during birth rates have improved in 2023/2024, and the LMNS continues to work towards and prioritise improving outcomes for birthing people and families.

Workforce Numbers Improving

The Greater Manchester and East Cheshire LMNS maternity and neonatal workforce delivery plan has been shared across the system and approved by the system group. An accompanying implementation plan is under development with input from the Workforce Delivery Plan working group, where actions from the overarching plan will be prioritised and where possible, outcome measures identified.

The workforce implementation plan will focus on training, retaining, and reforming our maternity staff across all areas. We will be increasing education and training, and ensuring better access to apprenticeships and alternative routes into professional roles are available. We want to boost flexibilities offered to our staff ensuring a work-life balance and improve culture and leadership to ensure we retain our staff. We will

be looking at building broader teams to increase skill sets so we will be able to take advantage of new technology.

Following the recent refresh of the maternity support worker (MSW) career, education and development framework, NHS England's workforce and training and education funding has been offered to all LMNS to support implementation of this framework. We are pleased to confirm that we have been successful in our application for funding.

The local plan is to use this funding to support a part-time secondment of a staff member from the system to coordinate the mapping of MSW, updating of electronic staff record coding, development of a standardised job description, and training and competency framework in collaboration with our existing MSW development group.

Clinical Negligence Scheme for Trusts (CNST) webinars

To provide support to maternity providers with the CNST Year 6 process, the LMNS will facilitate webinars for specific safety actions, to share examples of best practice, discuss the requirements of NHS Resolution and therefore improve the quality of evidence and reduce variation across Greater Manchester and East Cheshire.

Stay in touch.

If you have any questions about the content of this newsletter, please contact the LMNS: gmeclmns@nhs.net.

If you wish to be added to the circulation list for this newsletter, please contact: gmhscp.gm-stakeholders@nhs.net.