

DRAFT Minutes of the Lothian Maternity Voices Partnership meeting held on 3rd February 2022 via Microsoft Teams.

In Attendance:

Mathilde Peace	Lay Chair
Lyndsay Baird	Committee Administrator
Zoe Brown	NCT Breastfeeding Buddies
Clair Halliday	NCT
Helen Hudd	NCT
Kat Prangle	Breastfeeding Support LENS
Jenny Hunter	Breastfeeding Network
Daisy Dinwoodie	Pregnancy and Parents Centre
Cat Berry	JUNO Perinatal Mental Health
Nicola Welsh	Held in our Hearts
Sau Mei Fong	Minority Ethnic Health Inclusion Service
Nicole Giorgi	La Leche League
Virginia Adams	Lay member
Fanny Lena	Lay member
Kate McGough	Lay member
Louise Robertson	Lay member
Claire Smith	Lay member
Susan Taylor	Lay member
Kelly Toms	Lay member
Lynn Rose	Clinical Manager RIE
Catriona Grainger	Charge Midwife (ward 211 RIE)
Fiona McLeod	Charge Midwife (ward 119 RIE)
Hanan Mustafa	Consultant Obstetrician
Florence Fankam	Consultant Obstetrician
Charlotte Scott	Consultant Anaesthetist
Emma Jamie	Ward Manager, St John's
Amanda Paton	Charge Midwife, labour Ward St John's
Andie Hewitt	Parenthood Education Coordinator
Maria Wood	Clinical Manager Community Midwifery
Lynn Brown	Community charge midwife
Carolyn Worlock	Health Visiting
Jillian Mackie	Family Nurse Partnership
Tracy McGillivray	Health Promotion Service – Team Leader
Garry Luke	Strategic Planning and Modernisation
Karen Ormiston	Assistant Programme Manager

Guests:

Emma Thompson	Research Midwife, University of Edinburgh
Julia Wilkens	Consultant Obstetrician

Allyn Dick

Clinical Auditor

Apologies: Liz Foster, Sarah Denniston, Alison Hagan, Catherine Coales, Victoria Paterson, Kirstin Worsley, Emma Cashmore-Gordon, Yvonne Cunningham, Carrie McIntosh, Emma Westall and Pauline Smith.

Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed Virginia Adams, Fanny Lena, Kate McGough and Claire Smith who were attending for the first time as lay members. She extended a warm welcome to Clair Halliday and Helen Hudd, for NCT

She also welcomed Florence Fankam, Consultant Obstetrician, as a new member and Julia Wilkens, Consultant Obstetrician, who had been invited to present under item 3.2 - OASI Project.

The Chair announced some changes to the membership due to promotion or retirement.

The MVP congratulated Justine Craig on her appointment as new Chief Midwifery Officer for Scotland.

The Chair thanked Jillian Mackie, FNP, for supporting the MVP work. Jillian is taking up new responsibilities in her new role (overseeing student nurses for FNP) and is resigning from the MVP. A new representative for the FNP will be appointed.

She thanked Jenny Hunter, Breastfeeding Network, for her contribution to the MVP work. Jenny finishes in her role as Midlothian Coordinator and a new representative will be appointed.

Finally, the Chair expressed her heartfelt thanks to Andie Hewitt, Parent Education Coordinator, who was retiring after many years of dedication to her role. Andie Hewitt had worked tirelessly to create and promote antenatal classes tailored to the local families' needs and gave her full support to the MVP improvement work. The Chair wished her well in her retirement.

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

1.1 The minutes of the meeting on 16 December 2021 were accepted as an accurate record, with the addition of Jillian Mackie's apologies.

2. Running Action Note

2.1 Baby Feeding Journal – A small test of change is continuing in ward 211 at the RIE. The resurgence of Covid-19 has set this project back.

2.2 Postnatal Ward Welcome Pack at RIE – This was also set back by Covid-19.

2.3 Better Birth Group RIE and Lothian Intrapartum Group – Lynn Rose explained that the Intrapartum group was meeting but as an operational management group. The MVP would be informed when the meeting format changed. The Better Birth work is still ongoing at the RIE but there is no Senior Midwife leading on it at the moment. **LR**

2.4 Social Media – The editorial rights are being handed over to midwifery. Each midwifery team or area will take responsibility for posting content, in turn, for one month, starting in March 2022.

2.4.1 The recruitment of a Maternity Services Communications Manager is still planned but was dependent on funding.

2.5 The Pelvic Partnership

After consultation with the physiotherapists supporting maternity services, NHS Lothian decided not to advertise the Pelvic Partnership charity. The physiotherapists do not share the view that ALL women should be recommended for hands-on manual therapy treatment.

2.6 MVP Induction focus group

The setting up of this group was delayed due to Covid-19 impact.

The Chair had circulated a document from the Patient information Forum showing the results of their survey on how information about induction can be improved. Nicole Giorgi pointed out that even though providing data and 'numbers' as recommended by the document was useful, it was important to also provide lived experience and real-life stories to help women make their own decision. **Set up group / MP**

2.7 MNPI Progress Update

MP agreed to circulate the minutes of the MVP focus group on Birth Trauma to the MVP membership for information. **MP to invite MNPI Team**

3. Any Other Matters

3.1 Tongue Tie

Melissa Kallat will shortly be re-joining NHS Lothian as Infant Feeding lead and the group agreed to keep this on the MVP agenda as more investigation is needed to get a fuller picture of the situation.

MK

Allyn Dick will take up the issue of data collection.

Kat Prangle asked about clarity around assessment and referral process. She said many women may not be sufficiently aware of the condition.

Virginia Adams explained that her Health Visitor had referred her baby for a surgical procedure but that she had approached a private lactation consultant for advice to maintain breastfeeding during the waiting period of 11 weeks.

3.2 OASI Project St John's Hospital – Julia Wilkens

3.2.1 Julia Wilkens reminded the group of the background to the OASI Project (Obstetric Anal Sphincter Injury), which is intended to reduce severe perineal injury/ tearing. The project was launched by the RCOG in response to an increase in 3rd/4th degree tears in the UK. St John's Hospital was one of the 16 pilot sites and is now participating in OASI 2.

3.2.2 The OASI care bundle (a grouping of good standard practices) has 4 components: 1. antenatal discussion about OASI project and women given information leaflet, 2. use of hand to support perineal area and baby's head to facilitate a slow and guided birth (with woman's consent), 3. episiotomy if indicated, 4. systematic examination of the perineum offered to all women even if it appears intact.

3.2.3 Julia Wilkens explained that other recommended practices, such as perineal massage during pregnancy or the use of warm compresses at birth, were also of value. However, they were not included in the care bundle for the research project due to the difficulty to assess their consistency and compliance.

3.2.4 The report about phase one of the OASI project shows a decrease in 3rd/4th degree tears in all study units. Indeed, the rates of 3rd/4th degree tears at St John's Hospital have decreased, including for instrumental deliveries.

More information on the OASI Project can be found here:

<https://www.rcog.org.uk/en/guidelines-research-services/audit-quality-improvement/oasi-care-bundle/oasi-background/>

3.2.5 The members discussed the information given to women (RCOG leaflet) and agreed that it was important to raise awareness and keep the discussion around risk in proportion to individual circumstances – for example when discussing pool birth. An assessment at the first vaginal examination at the start of labour provides key information when looking at risk factors. Informed choice remained at the centre of clinical practice. Another important factor was the experience and training of the practitioner attending the birth.

Julia Wilkens will send the information pack to MP for circulation to MVP

4. Infant Feeding Service / Public Health – Tracy McGillivray

- 4.1 Tracy McGillivray explained that NHS Lothian Infant Feeding services (Maternity, Neonates and Community) will now be hosted in Public Health (Maternal and Infant Nutrition). Infant Feeding Services will continue to be offered across all areas and will increase in size and provide better cover.
- 4.2 NHS Lothian has started work towards achieving UNICEF Baby Friendly Gold Award. This move is one of the steps taken for the service to become one entity and to establish permanent contracts for staff. New posts will be created from core funding (IF Nurses and IF Support). A trainee Health Psychologist has also been recruited, joint-funded by NES.

One of the main objectives is to reduce the drop-off in breastfeeding at 6/8 weeks.

Tracy will share her presentation slides with the MVP

5. Continuity of Carer – Garry Luke

- 5.1 Garry Luke is the Implementation Manager for the Best Start in NHS Lothian.
- 5.2 Garry explained the rationale behind the Best Start:
- Proven benefits of continuity of carer
 - Relationship-based practice
 - Improving staff wellbeing. Developing career pathways. Retaining staff.
 - Multidisciplinary working model
- 5.3 There were learning points from the Lothian pilot teams, such as reviewing job description to allow for more flexibility, scoping training requirements and auditing skills, management of on-call, communication with Labour Wards and increased role of Maternity Care Assistants.
- 5.4 Garry explained that there is a need to build-in midwifery team resilience and thus to increase the team size to 9 'Working Time Equivalent' midwives (current recommendation is 6 WTE). NHS Lothian will have 20 to 22 teams once the roll out is completed.
- 5.5 Key issues are: ensuring safe level of staff on Labour Wards, managing the rotation of new midwives, costing the programme to make it sustainable. There will be no new continuity teams for a few months yet. A review of the

complex care (across disciplines) for women on the high-risk pathway is also underway.

Charlotte Scott asked if the High Dependency Units were a part of this change. Garry Luke said that they were not because there is a safety requirement to maintain core HDU midwifery staffing.

5.6 Continuity Data

Allyn Dick explained how he was putting systems in place to be able to audit continuity of carer in a reliable way. Once there is better compliance in the data collection, he will be able to look at outcomes for women and babies.

6. **AOCB**

6.1 Parent Education Videos

Andie Hewitt announced that 6 videos had been produced with the help of the Medical Photography department. The videos are available for viewing on the NHS Lothian Maternity Services website. **MP to circulate links.**

6.2 MVP 2021 Annual Report

The Chair had circulated the draft annual report for comments. She thanked Claire Smith, new lay member, who very kindly offered her help and created the new design of the report. The members agreed it was visually very attractive and easier to read. **MP to circulate final report**

7. **Date of Next meeting**

7.1 The next meeting of the Maternity Voices Partnership is scheduled for 07 April 2022 (10.00 am to 12.00 pm) via Microsoft Teams.

7.2 Meeting dates for 2022, on MS Teams, all Thursdays 10am to 12pm.

09 June, 25 August, 27 October, and 15 December.

NOTE THE NEW DATE FOR JUNE: THURSDAY 9TH JUNE – DUE TO THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE BANK HOLIDAY

Running Action Note

ACTION NO.	DESCRIPTION	LEAD
2.1	Baby feeding journal update	P Smith/ MP
2.2	Postnatal ward welcome pack update	P. Smith /MP
2.3	Better Birth Group RIE Pan-Lothian Intrapartum group update	L. Rose
2.6	Set up MVP focus group on induction	MP
2.7	Perinatal Mental Health services update	MNPI team
3.1	Tongue-tie service - investigation	M Kallat
6.1	Circulate Parent Education video links	MP