

Minutes of the Maternity Services Liaison Committee held on 6 February 2020 at 10am in Seminar Room 5, Chancellor's Building, Edinburgh Royal Infirmary.

### **In Attendance:**

<b>Mathilde Peace</b>	(Chair) Lay Representative
<b>Ruth Stevenson</b>	Lay Member
<b>Liz Foster</b>	National Childbirth Trust
<b>Nicola Welsh</b>	Held in our Hearts (prev. SANDS Lothians)
<b>Sarah Dempster</b>	Perinatal support Coordinator, Aberlour
<b>Sau Mei Fong</b>	Chinese Linkworker, MEHIS
<b>Garry Luke</b>	Best Start Implementation Manager
<b>Tracy McGillivray</b>	Team Leader, Health Promotion
<b>Elaine Turnbull</b>	Project Midwife (breastfeeding)
<b>Kirstin Worsley</b>	BF Network
<b>Jenni Bonnar</b>	Family Nurse Supervisor
<b>Hanan Mustafa</b>	Consultant Obstetrician RIE
<b>Marian Nelson</b>	Deputy Charge Midwife, Ward 119 RIE
<b>Gillian Gardiner</b>	Charge Midwife, Labour Ward RIE
<b>Hannah Lennox</b>	Midwife (East Lothian)
<b>Sue Shade</b>	Clinical Midwifery Manager, SJH
<b>Gail Norris</b>	Lead Midwife for Education, ENU

### **Apologies:**

Catriona Grainger, Torya Hughes, Carolyn Worlock, Andie Hewitt, Jacqueline Imrie, Sarah Denniston, Charlotte Scott, Kat Pringle, Zoe Brown and Helen Macgregor.

### **Welcome and Introductions**

The Chair welcomed the Committee to the February meeting of the MSLC. Members introduced themselves for the benefit of the new members present.

#### **1. Minutes of the previous meeting**

- 1.1 The minutes of meeting held on 19 December 2019 were accepted as an accurate record.

#### **2. Matters Arising Running Action Note**

- 2.1 Survey Monkey - The contract with a new provider, Online Surveys, has been signed. MP advised that the contract did not allow surveys of the public. MP has spoken to Simon Malzer, NHS Lothian Public Involvement Manager. He agreed to pursue the matter but noted that amendment to the contract at this stage would seem unlikely.

2.2 Maternity Dashboard – the dashboard had been circulated and would be discussed later on the agenda.

2.3 Partners' Contract – A contract for those partners wishing to stay overnight following birth was being developed nationally. The contract aimed to hold partners to account and provide boundaries for their behaviour during their stay in hospital. Members awaited the outcome of national discussions. Once finalised the contract would be added to the welcome pack to postnatal wards.

**MP/CG**

2.4 Midwifery Research Projects - Helen Macgregor had provided a list of all research projects to MP. MP agreed to circulate the full list to the Committee for information. Sue Shade would also circulate the Quarterly Obstetric Research Newsletter for information.

**MP/SS**

2.5 Mothers' Voices – The final report from the initial Mothers' Voices event was circulated widely. A second event would be hosted within West Lothian. Details of the second event would be confirmed in the near future.

**MP/SS**

2.6 Signage at RIE – The signage had been ordered and awaited collection from the factory. Garry Luke had escalated the implementation of the signage to Ms Campbell and Mr Crombie. He anticipated that the signage would be implemented in advance of the next Maternity Services Liaison Committee meeting in April.

2.7 BRAINS Stickers Trial Feedback – feedback from the BRAINS stickers trial would be reviewed at the MSLC working group on consent and making decisions together immediately after the main meeting concluded. This small pilot shows promising signs about the positive impact of the use of decision making aids in maternity services. The group will consider what recommendations to make to maternity services going forward.

2.8 Any other matters arising – there were no other matters arising from the previous minutes.

### **3. Under MSLC Watch**

3.1 Better Birth – The Better Birth Group had been set up to improve women's satisfaction, improve SVD rates and reduce interventions. Gillian Gardiner advised that funding had been received to provide mats / beanbags and install murals of nature scenes in labour suites at RIE and SJH. The programme of

work for the murals would start at SJH and roll out to the RIE site as lifecycle work develops.

3.1.1 GG had concerns that SVD rates had dropped to 48% at RIE at the end of 2019. The best rate had been 59% during 2019. Work to target improvement in SVD rates would be a focus going forward. Reinforcing the message to adopt upright positions where possible, to use birthing tools such as peanut balls to help open the pelvis, to set up the room in a non medical way, etc...

3.1.2 Cook's balloons were the 1<sup>st</sup> line of management for induction in Lothian, following a 100% success rate seen in NHS Grampian.

3.1.3 Members agreed that there should be an update from the SJH Active Birth group at the next MSLC Meeting. Andie Hewitt would be invited to provide an update at the March meeting. **AH**

3.2 SANDS Lothians – SANDS Lothians had gone through the process of rebranding and had launched under the new name '**Held in our Hearts**'. The organisation's principles would focus on empathy, connection and love. It was felt that the new brand better described the purpose of the organisation as they support all families who suffer a loss from early miscarriage to loss of an older baby. This also acknowledges the organisation's expansion to include Fife and Forth Valley. The organisation and the new principles would encourage more families to take up the services offered and welcome all those in need of support.

3.2.1 Nicola Welsh advised that 47% of parents who have experienced a loss present with complex PTSD. Going forward all staff in Held in our Hearts would be trained in complex PTSD management to provide compassion-focused therapy.

3.2.2 Scottish Government would launch the first National Stillbirth campaign this year, hosting the inaugural National Stillbirth event worldwide in Leeds. The event would be the first of its kind focusing on 3 recommendations to reduce the risk of stillbirth:

- Sleeping on one side
- Not smoking
- Monitoring movement and reporting changes

3.3 Best Start – Garry Luke gave a detailed overview of the Best Start Implementation Process.

- Focus would be on finalising the formal report and evidencing progress against Best Start to date.

- Staff Governance Group would focus on midwifery and setting up an engagement event. It was hoped that this would run in parallel with International Midwife Day on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2020. Mr Luke anticipated that colleagues from Willow and Aspen team would present at the event.
- Perinatal Mental Health Sub Group was focusing on mental health provision. Work to scope access to service and map the pathway were underway.
- Access to Attend Anywhere Software had been requested on behalf of maternity services. It was hoped that the use of the software and the ability to do video consultations from home or GP surgeries would improve care and waiting times within the service. Members noted that there was a strong appetite to engage with the programme of work. Proposed pilot sites would be based at the RIE and SJH.
- The continuity of care pilot remained in progress with the 2 teams running well. The regional pilot remained ongoing with a low rate of transfer into Lothian, a position mirrored within NHS Scotland as a whole. There are issues when women transfer from a Board using Badgernet as Lothian use Maternity Trak instead.
- Mr Luke would provide a full update on the pilot and database at the next meeting.

**GL**

3.3.1 The committee discussed national records for pregnancy in Scotland. Colleagues noted concerns regarding the lack of access to Badgernet in Lothian, the implications for patient safety and care if access was not sought going forward. Mr Luke would pick this matter up with Ms McGuire and Professor McMahon to identify a way forward for Lothian.

**GL**

3.4 Maternity Dashboard – Dr Mustafa spoke to the previously circulated report. She noted that since the report had been circulated the dashboard had been updated. MP would circulate the most up to date figures to the committee prior to next meeting.

**MP**

3.4.1 SVD rates have always been in the amber zone. They were in the red zone in November 2019 when they fell to 48%. December had seen a slight improvement to 53%. Given these “appalling figures”, Dr Mustafa required that action be taken to explore how to improve SVD rates by looking at the whole picture.

3.4.2 Caesarean Section rates had always been in the amber or red zones. The committee discussed the impact of increasing VBAC (Vaginal Birth after CS) as a way of bringing CS rates down and the work needed to support women’s decision making. There was agreement that there should be a

standard message communicated to women across Lothian and across all healthcare settings.

3.4.3 Members agreed that a MSLC multidisciplinary group looking at promoting and supporting VBAC should be established. The group would consider:

- The use of specialist Midwives or clinics to support VBAC.
- Role of Health Visitors to support women immediately after their first CS could and referral to discuss labour options when thinking about next child.
- Appropriate interventions in the pathway and better debriefing following traumatic deliveries.
- Pre-pregnancy counselling.
- Distributing leaflets at earlier points in pathway.

3.4.4 MP agreed to establish the MSLC-lead project group to look at supporting VBAC.

**MP**

4 MSLC Improvement Project for RIE Postnatal Ward – MP would meet with Catriona Grainger after the MSLC meeting concluded to discuss progress against key actions. MP would feedback at the next meeting.

**MP**

4.1 MP advised Members that MSLC support was available to consider other areas and make similar improvements using the 15 Steps approach. There was agreement that work with Ward 119 and Labour Ward would be a logical next step.

## **5. MSLC Annual Report 2019/20**

5.1 The Committee received the draft annual report and the information there in. MP invited those members present to provide comments on the content of the report within 10 days. MP would collate the comments and incorporate them into the final report

**ALL/ MP**

5.2 MP to update the section in respect of working with partners to include SANDS Lothians new name, La Leche League and the Breastfeeding Network.

**MP**

5.3 LB to format the report and add new photos to refresh the format so that the report is easily identifiable from the previous year's report.

## 6. AOCB

6.1 Fire starter Festival, 22<sup>nd</sup> January to 14<sup>th</sup> February 2020 – Members noted 3 events across university/ college sites that will focus on:

- How can we build a Breastfeeding Friendly Scotland?  
Purpose of Events: To bring people together and start conversations about why it is important to build a Scotland that values and supports breastfeeding and how it could be achieved.

6.2 Breastfeeding Groups Leaflet – Members noted that the new version of the leaflet would go to print this month. The leaflet is available online on the NHS Lothian Feeding Your Baby site. In addition, posters would be displayed to encourage mothers to attend the drop-in groups. It was noted that the age range for the drop-in groups had been expanded to attract more mothers and increase attendance.

## 7. Date of the Next Meeting and Dates for 2020

7.1 The next meeting of the Maternity Services Liaison Committee was scheduled for **2 April 2020** at 10 am in room 5 of the Chancellor's Building, Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh.

7.2 Remaining meetings for 2020 are:

4 June, 7 August, 29 October and 17 December.

## Running Action Note

<b>ACTION NO.</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>LEAD</b>
<b>2.1</b>	Update on online survey tool	<b>MP</b>
<b>2.3</b>	Review welcome pack to postnatal wards to include guidance for partners staying overnight	<b>MP CG</b>
<b>2.4</b>	Midwifery research projects – circulate information	<b>MP SS</b>
<b>2.5</b>	Set up Mothers' Voices event in West Lothian	<b>MP SS</b>
<b>3.1.3</b>	Update on Active Birth group at SJH	<b>AH</b>
<b>3.3</b>	Update on Best Start implementation	<b>GL</b>
<b>3.4.3</b>	Set up MSLC group on VBAC	<b>MP</b>
<b>4</b>	Update on improvement project postnatal ward RIE	<b>MP CG</b>
<b>5</b>	Comments and corrections on MSLC annual report	<b>ALL</b>