

Minutes of the Maternity Services Liaison Committee meeting held on 17 December 2020 via Microsoft Teams.

In Attendance:

Mathilde Peace	(Chair) Lay Representative
Lyndsay Baird	Committee Administrator
Sue Shade	Clinical Midwifery Manager (St John's)
Andie Hewitt	Parent Education Coordinator
Carolyn Worlock	Team Manager, Community Health Visitors
Jacqueline Imrie	Infant Feeding Lead, NHS Lothian
Sau Mei Fong	Chinese Linkworker, MEHIS
Ellie Moriarty	La Leche League
Elaine Turnbull	Project Midwife (breastfeeding)
Daisy Dinwoodie	Pregnancy and Parents Centre
Connie Mcluskie	Napier University
Lynn Rose	Clinical Midwifery Manager
Gary Luke	Best Start Implementation Manager
Zoe Brown	NCT Breastfeeding Project Coordinator
Nicola Welsh	Held in our Hearts (prev. SANDS Lothians)
Kate Cheesbrough	Team Leader for SE Willow & Rowan Midwives
Carol Hodgkin	Breastfeeding Network
Kat Prangle	Breastfeeding Peer Support Facilitator

Apologies: Catriona Grainger, Sunit Rane, Emma Westall, Liz Foster, Sarah Denniston, Alice Henderson.

Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed the Members to the first full meeting of the committee since February 2020. She welcomed members attending for the first time: Carol Hodgkin for the Breastfeeding Network and Ellie Moriarty for La Leche league, standing in for Sarah Denniston.

The Chair made special mention of the retirement of Frances McGuire, Chief Midwife, and put on record her heartfelt thanks for the support and attention Frances had given to the committee for many years.

The Chair also mentioned that Sean Donaldson had moved to a new post and left the MSLC. She recorded her thanks for Sean's interest in and contribution to the work of the MSLC.

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

1.1 The minutes of the meeting on 29 October 2020 were accepted as an accurate record.

2. Outstanding Actions from 6 February Meeting

2.1 Online Survey Tool - NHS Lothian have signed a new contract with JISC (Joint Information Systems Committee), a not-for-profit network and IT services provider, which includes an online survey tool. This tool has limitations (no free text) but could present the MSLC with a solution to survey users of the service. MP agreed to investigate potential for MSLC. **MP**

2.2 Maternity Dashboard - VBAC was identified as a priority for action at the MSLC February meeting. A meeting of stakeholders took place on 13 March. MP agreed to contact Hanan Mustafa to decide further action. **MP**

MP suggested that the dashboard should be presented to the MSLC on a regular basis (quarterly?) and discussed when an obstetrician could attend. **MP**

2.3 Better Birth Group RIE - Gillian Gardiner who chaired the group has left NHS Lothian. Lynn Rose will advise MP when a new chair is appointed. **LR**

2.4 MSLC Working Group on shared decision-making and consent - The group will reconvene on 20 January 2021.

In light of the emerging findings of the review of maternity services in Shrewsbury and Telford NHS Trust England (the Ockenden Report) the work of this group has never been more important.

3. Outstanding Actions from 29 October Meeting

3.1 Clinical Guidelines

The MSLC discussed whether the clinical guidelines could be uploaded onto the public-facing NHS Lothian website.

There was agreement that the guidelines were written for clinicians and therefore might not be appropriate for a public website.

The following compromise was reached:

- To upload current patient information leaflets on the website
- To add links to supportive information websites or publications when relevant, for example from NICE or RCOG.
- To provide the option to request specific guidelines via a contact person / service.

MP agreed to contact Sarah Court, Chair of guidelines group, to present proposal. **MP**

3.2 COVID-19 Information

A central point of information on the Lothian Maternity Services Website has been created. The new tile includes a list of frequently asked questions about service changes in Lothian, the latest government guidelines and various resources. MP thanked Lynn Brown, Andie Hewitt and Garry Luke for creating the new section in a matter of weeks. She noted that the section had been updated in real time when changes to visiting protocols were made and that this had been relayed on NHS Lothian Facebook account too.

3.3 The Service is pursuing further access to NHS Lothian social media to inform parents in real time and provide alerts when changes were made to services. The proposed dedicated Facebook maternity services account has been approved in principle and work has started.

3.4 Lynn Brown and Andie Hewitt are coordinating a short life working group to review the website.

3.5 COVID-19 information in other languages

Women will now receive the Scottish Government COVID-19 information sheet in their language at booking.

3.6 Breastfeeding peer-support in other languages

NCT, La Leche League and Breastfeeding Network have provided a link to their services. Community Midwifery and Health Visiting Teams have been advised. The information is on the NHS Lothian Feeding Your Baby website and on the Online Breastfeeding Drop-in Groups information leaflet. The leaflet is now more visible on the website.

3.7 Maternity Engagement Groups

Around 12 mothers were interested in taking part in this quality improvement work. The groups have now been set up and are waiting for their first meetings to be organised in the New Year. There will be groups looking at care on postnatal ward at RIE (including breastfeeding support), discharge process, partners staying overnight, Cook's balloon for induction and aromatherapy.

4. **The Best Start – Garry Luke, Best Start Implementation Manager**

4.1 Garry Luke, NHS Lothian Best Start Implementation Manager, gave a detailed update on progress and took questions.

4.2 Continuity of Carer

- 4.2.1 The two BS midwifery teams, Willow in Edinburgh and Aspen in West Lothian, had struggled through the year with the development of this new model of care due to workforce issues and the morale was low. The teams were now on a pathway to recovery. A Band 7 labour ward midwife, Maria Wood is the new lead for Willow, the process to recruit into the teams has started again. The teams will have a head count of 9 instead of 6 as per newest Scottish Government recommendations. An enhanced level of support is now in place as these teams, as role models, need to be working well.
- 4.2.2 Finance planning for the next 3 years is showing that Lothian might be able to deliver BS in a cost neutral way mainly due to the decrease in the birth rate. The Lothian Workforce Planning group will report in April 2021.
- 4.2.3 Key aspects to the delivery of BS are safety, staff well being, improving mothers experience and outcomes whilst being evidence based, sustainable and with a strong training programme.
- 4.2.4 Connie McLuckie, Lead Midwife for Education at Edinburgh Napier university, said that it was crucial to take the students midwives on this journey too and to involve Napier in the high-level BS meetings.
- 4.2.5 Jacquelyn Imrie, Lead IFA, said that the teams' needs for breastfeeding education need to be considered.
- 4.2.6 Zoe Brown, NCT, said that the Third Sector should be part of the process also and all staff should be aware of the support available to mothers. Garry said that they are in the process of cataloguing all Third Sector associations.
- 4.3 Keeping Mums and babies Together
- 4.3.1 More babies are kept on the postnatal wards who would have otherwise been in the neonatal units. Over 100 babies as of mid-September count.
- 4.3.2 Community teams are also working to prevent readmission to hospital where possible. This has opened capacity for welcoming babies from further afield (Fife, Borders and Tayside) to Lothian NNU and SCBU but this has not happened yet in practice.
- 4.4 Data Collection
- 4.4.1 A balanced score card system is being introduced which will collect data from four sources: women perspective, internal processes, learning & growth and resources.
- 4.5 Questions

- 4.5.1 Nicola Welsh, Held in our Hearts, asked how the new models for bereavement support fitted into BS. It was recognised that they need to be embedded from the start.
- 4.5.2 Daisy Dinwoodie, Pregnancy and Parents Centre, asked that reduction in pre-term births be added to the measures of success for continuity of carer.
- 4.5.3 MP thanked Garry for this very detailed and useful presentation which brought the MSLC up to date with the Best Start implementation in Lothian. An update will be given at mid point in 2021.

5. Any Other Competent Business

5.1 MSLC Chair and Vice Chair Positions

- 5.1.1 Both positions are coming up for renewal in February 2021.
- 5.1.2 MP is willing to continue as chair if no one comes forward. She will check what the current Vice Chair, Sally Egan, would like to do.
- 5.1.3 Looking ahead MP said she would like the chair to remain a lay member when she retires but understands how difficult it is to attract someone to the post. She proposed to canvass the lay membership and see if the post could be advertised more widely. She would be happy to co-chair during a transition period if someone was interested.
- 5.1.4 MP said that there is currently some work at Scottish Government level looking at maternity users involvement. She is hoping that more support could be provided in the future with a national network of MSLCs in Scotland and hopefully some kind of financial support/ recognition for lay chairs.

5.2 Andie Hewitt gave an update on Parenthood Education

- 5.2.1 All in-person classes had to stop in March 2020.
- 5.2.2 All mums are given an information sheet with online support links. This will be translated in other languages soon. **(Attached)**
- 5.5.3 AH is in the process of setting up an online platform for classes to restart via video conferencing. This would provide 4 classes of one hour lead by the mum's midwife.

4 short films of the 4 weeks of Parenthood Education sessions are being made and will soon be available on the Lothian maternity services website.
- 5.5.4 Short videos are or will soon be available on the website. The videos on bathing baby and baby wearing are already on the website. Others to come will cover breastfeeding, bottle feeding, interventions and pain relief.

5.5.5 WhatsApp groups have been set up by each midwifery team and mums are encouraged to join and take part. Zoe Brown said that she had received good feedback from mums.

5.3 Changes in Vitamins Provision

5.3.1 JI and CW explained the changes and that a draft information leaflet was out for consultation. MP said that the MSLC had taken part and members had made useful suggestions.

5.3.2 A pilot will start soon with mums getting pregnancy vitamins in their booking pack and mum and baby getting vitamins at discharge.

5.4 Programme for Government Funding

5.4.1 JI said that funding was secured for two projects:

Delivering early breastfeeding support (West Lothian) until June 2021

Antenatal hand expressing (Edinburgh) until March 2021. MP agreed to invite Elaine Turnbull to present report in 2021.

MP

5.5 Edinburgh Napier University

5.5.1 CMcL thanked staff for the support they have given student midwives during the pandemic and said that the students needed all the support they could get as this had been a very challenging period.

6. **Date of Next meeting**

6.1 The next meeting of the Maternity Services is scheduled for 4th February 2021 at 10 am via Microsoft Teams.

Running Action Note

ACTION NO.	DESCRIPTION	LEAD
2.1	Enquire about JISC online survey tool for MSLC	MP
2.2	Contact Hanan Mustafa about maternity dashboard and VBAC group proposals	MP
2.3	Better Birth RIE – advise of new lead	LR
3.1	Clinical guidelines access / MSLC proposal. Contact chair of guidelines group, Sarah Court	MP
3.3	Report on progress made with maternity-specific Facebook account	KR /GL
3.4	Review of maternity services website	AH/LBr/MP
5.1	Contact MSLC vice chair	MP

5.4	Invite E Turnbull to present on antenatal hand-expressing pilot	MP
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