

Minutes of the Maternity Services Liaison Committee supplementary meeting with Service Managers and Clinical Leads held on 29 October 2020 via Microsoft Teams.

In Attendance:

Mathilde Peace	(Chair) Lay Representative
Lyndsay Baird	Committee Administrator
Katy Ruggeri	Acting Chief Midwife
Pauline Smith	Clinical Manager
Emma Westall	Charge Midwife (ward 119 RIE)
Catriona Grainger	Charge Midwife (ward 211 RIE)
Sue Shade	Clinical Midwifery Manager (St John's)
Emma Campbell	Charge Midwife (St John's)
Lynn Brown	Community Midwifery Manager
Andie Hewitt	Parent Education Coordinator
Carolyn Worlock	Team Manager, Community Health Visitors

Apologies: Donna Swinney, Lynn Rose, Moyra Burns, Jacquelyn Imrie.

Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed the Members present. She explained that this was an extraordinary meeting of the Clinical Leads and Service Managers. The meeting would consider actions and recommendations identified at the 30 September MSLC meeting with the lay representatives.

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

1.1 The minutes of the meeting on 30th September 2020 were accepted as an accurate record.

2. Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting

2.1 The committee discussed the minutes from the 30 September meeting in detail.

2.2 The impact of COVID-19 on service organisation, staffing levels, services access and inequalities gap was recognised.

2.3 Suspension of Antenatal Classes: the Scottish Government had funded free access to the Solihull course for a year and it was anticipated that this would be extended beyond the COVID-19 pandemic. Details can be found on the Lothian maternity services website and women are given an information sheet at their booking appointment (attached). One to one appointments are available via "Near Me" whenever there is a need for more individual support.

2.4 Online breastfeeding drop-in groups leaflet: The leaflet is given to women when they are discharged from hospital and at the first visit with their Health

Visitor. The leaflet is also available on the website but is difficult to find. The Chair recommended moving it to a more prominent position.

- 2.5 The committee noted that the service was setting up a review group to update the maternity services website. Talks are also on going about implementing a standardised social media communication strategy across Women's and Children's services.
- 2.6 The Chair would approach the Guidelines Group about publishing service policies and clinical guidelines on the NHS Lothian public-facing website. **MP**
- 2.7 Reassurance scans – access was restricted due to the COVID-19 pandemic and organisational priorities at a time of extreme pressure. The service understood that bleeding during pregnancy causes real anxiety and can be scary for first time mothers; where there is a clinical need a scan would always be offered. The committee agreed that this should be added to the frequently asked questions section in respect of service changes relating to COVID-19. **MP**
- 2.8 The Radiology SMT issue guidelines on partners attending scans. Maternity services were in discussion to allow for exceptions, particularly for scans where difficult information was being shared. The committee would await a report coming back from the discussion prior to updating information on the website.
- 2.9 Visiting restrictions – the impact of the restrictions was recognised. During labour, a single birthing partner would only be allowed to attend once women had been triaged and admitted to labour ward. If women are not in active labour their partner would be sent home. Similar restrictions applied to home births. Current guidance will be added to the frequently asked questions section. **MP**
- 2.10 Formula top-up and nipple shields - Current process should ensure that women receive a detailed feeding plan at the point of discharge from hospital.

Jacquelyn Imrie, Lead Infant Feeding Advisor NHS Lothian, who had been unable to attend this meeting later provided this detailed response:

“May I please reassure you that ALL staff within NHS Lothian are provided with training to support all women with hand expressing and use of breast pumps to express their breast milk and AVOID unnecessary formula supplementation. There is a formula supplementation guideline that all staff must work within, which requires them to have a conversation with all mothers re formula supplementation.

Prompts re this conversation are in ALL bays in postnatal wards. We also regularly audit formula supplementation rates and carry out learning sessions if this becomes high.

Each woman leaves postnatal ward with the NHS Lothian Breastfeeding Assessment Tool, which details a feeding plan should this be necessary. It also gives women prompts on how to recognise effective feeding.”

- 2.11 There was some discussion around Health Visitor home visits. The initial visit would normally be face to face and subsequent visits via the phone or Near Me. For those women requiring additional support more face to face visits would be arranged. Carolyn Worlock explained that a lot of work had been done to keep supporting parents.
- 2.12 The committee recognised the pandemic impact on mental health generally and the acute distress and isolation of families who sadly suffer a loss. The work of ‘Held in our Hearts’ in supporting these families during this difficult period was acknowledged. The charity was in discussion with NHS Lothian about introducing Compassionate Companions to support parents.
- 2.13 There was discussion around the delay to obtain post-mortem results. It was noted that delays were a result of restrictions placed on the Paediatric Pathology Department but there had been issues prior to the pandemic. Emma Campbell was working with Lynn Rose and Alison Anderson, Mortuary Manager, to look into the delays and work to have a timeline of 14 to 16 weeks on average for the post-mortem reports.
- 2.14 It would not be possible for Lynn Rose and her Team to pass on bereaved families details to the ‘Held in our Hearts’ organisation due to data protection regulations. Members also recognised that services could not be seen to promote one of many charitable organisations but action to reinforce information about support available to parents and to ensure clearer signposting would be taken.

3. Recommendations from Lay Representatives Meeting on 30th September 2020

- 3.1 Recommendation 1 - The Committee discussed identifying a COVID-19 Communications Coordinator with Katy Ruggeri. The Chair hoped that the new role would liaise with the Chief Midwife and Clinical Management Teams, update the website with national and local guidelines and publish alerts on social media when changes were made. The Chair explained that this was a crucial role for supporting pregnant women and families through the pandemic in the months leading up to the winter period. Katy Ruggeri would pursue the development of this role.

- 3.1.1 The committee discussed creating a central point of information on the Lothian Maternity Services Website for lay and staff members. A new tile would be added to the website that will be dedicated to COVID-19 Information. The new tile will include the list of frequently asked questions

KR

about service changes in Lothian, the latest government guidelines and various resources. **This was agreed.** KR

3.1.2 The Service would pursue access to NHS Lothian social media to inform parents in real time and provide alerts when changes were made to services (with links to the COVID-19 section on the Maternity Services website). KR

3.1.3 Lynn Brown would coordinate the short life working group to review the website. Mathilde Peace would be invited to attend the group and review the changes from a lay perspective. LBr

3.2 Recommendation 2 – The committee discussed the need for a specific pathway of care and support with provision of information in other languages and online support in those languages.

Members agreed that women should receive the Scottish Government COVID-19 information sheet in their language at booking. **This was agreed.** Lynn Brown's personal assistant would enquire whether printed copies are available to order from the Scottish Government or organise in-house printing in surgeries and clinics. LBr

3.2.1 The group discussed breastfeeding peer support in other languages offered by NCT, La Leche League and Breastfeeding Network. Women can be put in contact with a peer supporter who speaks their language for online or phone support. The Chair would collect the Information and forward it to Lynn Brown and Carolyn Worlock to disseminate to Community Midwives and Health Visitors. MP/LBr/CW

3.3 Recommendation 3 – The committee discussed the recommendations relating to the Online Breastfeeding Drop-in Groups in Partnership with Third sector. It was agreed that the leaflet would be sited in the new COVID-19 information section of the website.

3.4 Recommendation 4 – This had already been addressed.

4. Frequently Asked Questions

4.1 FAQs about impact of COVID-19 on local services. This will be added to the website and hopefully advertised through social media to ensure that it is signposted to parents.

5. Any Other Competent Business

5.1 Breastfeeding Peer Support on Postnatal wards – It was noted that peer supporters would return to the wards in the RIE and SJH in the near future.

5.2 RIE Wards Engagement Group – There were already 7 to 8 women interested in participating in this quality improvement group. The Committee Administrator would create a group on Microsoft Teams from the list provided by the Chair. A meeting date will be arranged as soon as possible. **LB**

6. Date of the Next meeting

6.1 The next meeting of the Maternity Services is scheduled for 17th December 2020 at 10 am via Microsoft Teams.

Running Action Note

ACTION NO.	DESCRIPTION	LEAD
2.6	Request policies and clinical guidelines to be made available on public-facing website	MP
2.7, 2.9	Update FAQs on service changes due to COVID-19	MP
3.1	Create a COVID-19 information section on website and set up social media communication and alerts Review of maternity services website	KR LBr
3.2	Scottish Government COVID-19 information sheet in other languages given at booking	LBr
3.2	Circulate information on one-to-one breastfeeding peer support in other languages to midwifery and health visiting teams	MP/LBr/CW
5.2	Create Maternity Engagement Group on Teams	LB