



UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS SUSSEX

Maternity and Neonatal Voices Partnership

Working in Partnership to Improve Maternity & Neonatal Services

Time:	10.00 - 12.00 pm
Location:	Microsoft Teams Online
Chaired by:	Laura Naish, Jordon Clarke & Alix James
	University Hospitals Sussex, Trust-wide MNVP Meeting
Notes by:	Jordon Clarke
Date:	15th May 2024
Attendance:	
Laura Naish	MNVP Strategic Lead and Lead for Brighton & Hove
Jordon Clarke	MNVP Lead – Haywards Heath & Worthing
Alix James	MNVP Lead – Chichester
Gail Addison	Acting Head of Midwifery for Worthing and St Richards Hospital, UHSussex
Emma Chambers	Director of Midwifery, UHSussex
Sharon Gardner-Blatch	Director of Maternity, Neonatal and Sussex Women’s Health Strategy
Lara Kiziltuna	Senior Commissioning Manager – East Sussex, Brighton and Hove, NHS Sussex
Laura Spicer	Maternity Transformation Lead Midwife, UHSussex
Lucy Bloem	Non-executive Director Maternity Safety Champion – UHSussex
Sophie Clark	Bramber Ward Manager, UHSussex
Emma Johnston	Parents & Family Engagement Lead, PAG, Thames Valley & Wessex Neonatal Network
Sue Defreitas	Matron – Princess Royal Hospital
Anouk Lloyd	Infant feeding lead – Royal Sussex County and Princess Royal Hospital
Marie Christian	Neonatal Parent and Family Engagement Lead
Lisa Robertson	Labour Ward Lead – Royal Sussex County Hospital
Naomh Stanford	Bereavement Lead – Worthing & St Richards
Jane Canning	Counsellor Midwife – UHSussex – Royal Sussex & Princess Royal
Didi Craze	Specialist Communications Midwife
Hannah Toms	Interim Matron at RSCH, UHSussex
Sarah Harris	Infant Feeding Midwife, UHSussex – Royal Sussex & Princess Royal
Lucy Simpson	Matron – Princess Royal
Lisa Jury	Lead Community Midwife – Princess Royal
Rob Miller	Service User
Louise Jennett	Lead Professional Midwifery Advocate
Pippa Ruddock	Service user, peer supporter and baby group leader
Thelma Lackey	Course leader for the BSc (Hons) Midwifery Course at the University for Brighton

Victoria Hill	Senior Commissioning Manager – UHSussex – Worthing & St Richards
Nicola Hilton	Postnatal Lead Midwife – Royal Sussex
Karina Gummer	Health Visitor – Healthy Child Program
Charlotte Quine	Community Team Leader - Brighton
Raili Frost	Maternity Improvement Programme Manager
Ikpemesi Olubor	Advanced Public Health Practitioner
Rebecca Corney	Community Midwife – Worthing Hospital
Clare Maddalena	Lush Tums
Karen Penner	Antenatal Teacher & Breastfeeding Counsellor
Julie Carr	Consultant Midwife – UHSussex - Royal Sussex & Princess Royal
Charlotte Crisswell	Infant Feeding Lead
Rosa Thorpe	Communications Midwife – St Richards
Fran Humberstone	Infant feeding lead – Worthing & St Richards
Kathleen Jones	Family Integrated Care Lead Nurse
Kerry Taylor	Clinical Psychologist in Neonatal Intensive Care
John Bell	Community Midwifery Matron - UHSussex – Royal Sussex & Princess Royal
Katharine Fraser	Consultant Obstetrician
Apologies	
Niamh Maguire	Obstetric Clinical Lead for Sussex Local Maternity and Neonatal System (LMNS)
Andrea Yeboah	Pelvic Health Physiotherapist
Rebecca Elms	Acting Head of Midwifery for Royal Sussex and Princess Royal Hospital - UHSussex
Claire Hunt	Divisional Director of Nursing for Children and Gynaecology - UHSussex
Nicola Lainsbury	Labour Ward Lead – Royal Sussex County Hospital

[Link to presentation](#)

No	Item
1.	<p>Welcome</p> <p>Laura Naish opened the meeting & welcomed attendees. She confirmed that we are now an MNVP, so we will be working toward incorporating the neonatal voice into all the work we do, we have had our funding confirmed for 2024/25</p> <p>Welcome to Alix – new chair for St Richards & the Chichester area</p> <p>Alix James introduced herself</p>
2.	<p>Feedback</p>

Above & Beyond – Feedback for the Trust from our survey, walk the patch and community engagement

Alix James shared feedback for St Richards

Jordon Clarke shared feedback for Princess Royal & Worthing

Laura Naish shared feedback for Royal Sussex County

3. Annual Work Plan

Laura Naish shared the 2024/25 work plan – [see slides](#)

Action - Copy of Work Plan to be shared with attendees and on social media if possible

Ikpemesi Olubor raised whether we might be able to find some opportunities to engage with minority groups via church and mosque groups

4. Themes

Jordon Clarke shared the key themes that we have identified from hearing service user feedback – [see slides](#)

Fran Humberstone asked about 'Meet the neighbours', **Laura Spicer** shared plans to arrange one for Worthing & SRH

We expanded on the conversation around the importance of integrating the neonatal voice and some of the nuanced issues

5. Trust Update

Emma Chambers – Director of Midwifery

- **Press coverage** – It's a difficult time with current press coverage, Emma & Laura are working together on a response to provide some support and reassurance
- **Family & Friends Test responses** – recommendation rate is higher than average
- **Maternity survey** – UHSussex scores were about middle of the road compared to the other Trusts
- Working to improve communications and learn from service users' experiences
- **CNST** – successful in achieving this year's actions
- **Staffing** – issues ongoing nationally, all student midwives can be offered a role, most students decide to stay with the Trust. Vacancy is currently at 10%
- **Support worker banding uplifted**
- **Triage** – Implemented centralised triage line across the 4 sites, specially trained midwives that can focus on taking calls with no other responsibilities
- RSCH piloting separate theatre for elective caesareans
- **Estates** – Space is an ongoing issue which is a barrier to providing care in the way they would like it. This is the main barrier to providing an MLU, which is still a high priority
- **Home Birth Team** – New team across RSCH & PRH will hopefully reduce service suspensions
- **Mortality & brain injury rates** are reducing due to the improvements being implemented from saving babies lives, rates are well below national rates – 97% compliant with the care bundle. The 3% is obstetric scanning due to a national sonographer shortage.

6. Supporters staying overnight

Laura Naish – updated on the feedback so far and the importance of continuing to gather feedback from a range of service users – [see slides](#)
Expanded discussion around funding and fundraising for recliner chairs
Meeting upcoming to review the feedback from both service users and staff to shape the next steps

7. Neonatal

Marie Christie – KSS

- Gave an update on Kent, Surrey & Sussex – [see slides](#)

Action – Jordon to introduce Marie to Worthing SU

Emma Johnston– Thames Valley Wessex

- **2 responses for Chichester**

Both

Felt listened to

Were left for a period antenatally

Were put on the antenatal ward or side room, so not on the postnatal ward with other babies

Had to go back to ward for medication

Were told about parking and accommodation

Keen to see new Padlet

Felt part of babies care

Didn't feel health visitor care was beneficial

One

Would have liked a tour, so the virtual tours now being available is great

Would have liked neonatal information in antenatal education

Appreciated meeting the team in advance

Didn't understand why baby was on still on the neonatal ward when medication finished

Had a paper booklet

Didn't feel fully involved in care

Would like to meet with more neonatal parents

Projects

- Neonatal parents to introduce virtual tour
- Journey cards are being printed
- Sibling app is due to be launched

Dr Kerry Taylor - Developing psychological care in neonatal service – [see slides](#)

Discussed the work being done around psychological support and parent/infant relationships

8. International Day of the Midwife

Alix James – shared the feedback that we gathered and shared for International Day of the Midwife

AOB

Katie Fraser – Obstetric Lead for PRH – Call out for feedback on separate theatre for elective caesareans. **Action** - MNVP to share the feedback survey

Sharon Gardner-Blatch – Thank you to the MNVP for all their dedication and hard work during an extraordinary and challenging year

Lucy Bloom – Echoes Sharon’s comments, thanked for effort, especially the work being done towards integrating neonatal voices

Rob Miller (Service User) – Thanked for updates and asked for reassurance that MNVP will review and cross reference trauma report with our service user feedback

- **Laura Naish** confirmed that we will look at this and look at how we can support service users
- **Sharon Gardner-Blatch** reassured that as with all national reports the commissioners, the Trust & the LMNS will all look at the report and compare with local services and actions together with the MNVP
- **Jane Canning** in the role of a birth stories midwife she is aware of the need of more robust pathways to provide feedback
- **Jordon Clarke** - Staff meeting sign up form to be distributed shortly. Also, Alix is working on a community voices meeting to heard what people are hearing and how to reach these parents

Meeting close -

Date of next meeting: Friday 20th September 10.00-12.00

Actions

- Work Plan to be shared with attendees & can these be shared on social media
- Involved Anouk/Fran in infant feeding survey
- Contact Ikpemesi about links with minority groups for engagement
- Anouk to be updated on progress on discharge video
- Chairs - Emma J suggested contacting Love Hospital & Sharon suggested contacting UHSX Friends regarding funding for chairs. Kathleen & Alix are discussing Neonatal chairs
- Share Worthing neonatal contact with Marie Christian
- Share feedback survey for separate elective caesarean theatre - Contact Katherine Fraser
- Send NHS staff meeting sign up form
- Make contact with Jane Canning - MNVP involvement and flyers to share
- Contact Emma Johnson - Neonatal parents to get involved in developing antenatal information

If you would like to discuss anything covered in this meeting or would like to be added to our membership, please contact one of the co chairs -

Laura Naish	MNVP Strategic Lead and Brighton Lead – laura.naish3@nhs.net
Jordon Clarke	MNVP Lead – Chichester & Worthing – jordon.clarke@nhs.net