

Women's Health Directorate
Maternity Unit

MATERNITY SERVICES LIAISON COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 12 May 2003

Present: Kerry Harris Chair
Vanessa Earle Lay Member
Michaela Morris General Manager Family Services/Head of Midwifery
Jacqui Rees Clinical Governance Midwife
Gillian Smith TAMBA
Trisha Whisker NCT
Gail Soliman Notetaker

Apologies Jane Pickett
Jabeen Qureshi
Mel Watson

1 Minutes of the last meeting/Matters arising

The minutes were agreed. There were no matters arising.

2 CHI

The Trust will be leading a Workshop on 9 June involving Trust staff together with external agencies including the MSLC. The Trust was currently working up a draft action plan which will be circulated prior to the meeting. The question was raised of how much comeback there had been from the public. Michaela said that the helpline received only three calls. There had been a some other calls direct to members of staff, some of which were made to compliment the Unit on the service received.

3 CNST

Jacqui reported that in the benchmarking exercise for the new Maternity standards carried out at the end of March, the Unit passed with high marks. We were complimented as being one of the better exercises the CNST investigator had carried out. The plan was to go forward to complete the formal session within the next year with the possibility of going for the highest standard although no decision on this had yet been made.

4 Wound Surveillance

Jacqui reported that the audit carried out in 2001 showed the Unit to be on the high side of what is considered the normal range. Following this the Unit had implemented action particularly around the theatre. A further audit was carried out between June and November 2002 and this had indicated that the rate of infection was below average. However it was difficult to compare the two audits as they had been carried out very differently. In 2001, women had been followed through the first 28 days and was carried out as a telephone audit. In 2002 the audit covered the first 10 days. Even taking into account the difference in audit method, the indication was that the rate of infection was down. Jacqui said that much had been learnt and discussions were underway to refine the audit parameters with a view to carrying out a shorter, more accurate audit possibly later this year.

5 Midwifery led unit

Denise Skidmore left the Trust on Friday 2 May. Theresa Spink has taken over the Chair of the group until the Consultant Midwife is in post at the end of June. Documentation has been circulated to the consultants for comment on the criteria for access to the unit. Meetings are now being held fortnightly. Theresa and Michaela are due to speak to GPs at the Tuesday Luncheon Club on 27 May. It was confirmed that the allocation of rooms between the midwifery led unit and the 4-bedded bay had been made.

With regard to the birthing pool, it was confirmed that the aim was to hire in when required so advance notice was essential. The design called for filling and drainage to a bath and was between 20 and 25 inches high. The question of how many women were asking for a waterbirth was raised - Michaela said she would ask

Theresa who would have an idea of numbers.

6 Maternity information

Michaela said that she had had a meeting with Ian Mackenzie to discuss issues with regard to information and IT. This had covered the e-referral pilot scheme proposal, a dedicated Maternity IT system and the provision of information on the Trust web site. The latter subject had also been raised at the Clinical Governance meeting where Laura Griffiths, the Directorate link in IT, had said that it was relatively easy to upload information. Michaela said that the AGM (Women's Health) post that she had just interviewed for, would include this as part of the job description. Consideration was already being given to documents to include. E-referral and a Maternity system remain under discussion and funding would be required to further either of these projects.

7 Cleanliness

Michaela said she had had a meeting with Rex Cassidy and that he supported the Directorate's view that the Unit should have a dedicated housekeeper. Meanwhile Trish Watt had made progress with regard to maintenance on Joan Booker, and had obtained quotes for replacing the flooring and repainting to put to the Capital Expenditure committee. She was also obtaining new curtains through the Friends. Michaela also reported that Mary Riley, the Non Executive Director linked to Family Services, had asked the Trust Board to provide the necessary funding for refurbishment of Joan Booker.

8 Any other business

Car parking - the subject was discussed.

Patient information packs - the packs given out in the Antenatal clinic and on Joan Booker were made available to the committee for review. If an interim report could be made available prior to the CHI Workshop on 9 June, this would aid discussions within the information group work.

Milk bank - Gillian said that she still had not received information from NICU - Gail agreed to take this up with Audrey Elmore.

TAMBA 25th Anniversary - Gillian handed out copies of the details of the Multiple Births Conference to be held in Guildford on Tuesday 1 July. Members of the committee wanting to attend would pay £25 as West Surrey Health Professionals.

Twins Picnic - this was being held on Saturday 28 June between 12 and 2pm. Michaela said that it was hoped to combine this with the official opening of the Unit at 2pm with a local "celeb".

NCT Conference - Michaela confirmed that she would be attending this conference on 13 June together with Theresa.

9 Date of meetings for the remainder of the year

14 July

15 September

17 November

all 12.30 - 2pm in the Parent Education Room, Abbey Wing