

Women's Health
Maternity Unit

MATERNITY SERVICES LIAISON COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 17 January 2005

Present:

Kerry Harris	Chair
Arash Bahmaie	Consultant Obstetrician
Frances Harvey	Lay member
Jabeen Qureshi	Health Link Worker
Mary Bell	Consultant Midwife
Michaela Morris	Head of Midwifery/General Manager Women and Children
Pauline Pearson	Pauline Pearson
Sandra Campbell	Health Visitor
Tracy Meadwell	Nursery Nurse
Trisha Whisker	NCT
Gail Soliman	Notetaker

Apologies:

Anna Roland-Price	Supervisor of Midwives
Gillian Smith	Tamba
Jane Pickett	Community Midwife
Natasha Wynne	Lay member

Kerry introduced Frances Harvey who was currently going through the NCT training programme.

1 Minutes of the last meeting / Matters arising

The minutes were agreed – there were no matters arising.

2 Home from home audit

Mary presented her audit of home from home usage for the year October 2003 to September 2004 (copy attached). There was now a need to look at whether the pool room could also be used as a home from home to increase the availability of these rooms.

From 1 January, all rooms in labour ward will have the same layout – beds will be pushed to the side of the rooms and equipment will only be brought in as required.

The next review will be in 6 months and by the end of the year information will be available from the Maternity system. As the rooms were in frequent use, a photo board would be displayed when the rooms were not accessible during the tours.

3 Labour ward layout

This item was covered in (2) above. Michaela said that the Directorate were in the business planning stage and that a proposal to decorate the remaining labour rooms would be considered. However this would be no guarantee that money will be made available.

4 Cotton nappies

Tracy provided samples from the display provided last year during 'real nappy week'. These showed the various designs available. She also had information on the cost of a starter set and the weekly charges for washing. Although this appeared more expensive than using disposables, when the cost of electricity, buckets, soap and personal time were

taken into account, there was not a great deal of difference. It was also estimated that it took at least 5 years for the decomposition of a disposable nappy in a landfill site.

The members felt that information on real nappies should be made available to prospective mothers earlier in pregnancy. Gail would speak to Rose Cooper, Parent Education, and whether this issue is one of the subjects on Baby TV.

GS

5 Notes

Concern was expressed that birth and subsequent weights were not always entered in the red book. Tracy confirmed that babies were weighed on days 1 and 6, but some may also need to be weighed on day 3. Mary said that there had been discussions at the health visitor/midwifery liaison meeting on a system of e-mail direct to health visitors.

The Maternity Evolution system was scheduled to 'go live' on 18 January beginning on Labour ward and postnatal.

6 NSF

The NSF for Children and Maternity was published last autumn – standard 11 refers to maternity. This was available on the Department of Health website:

www.dh.gov.uk/PolicyAndGuidance/HealthAndSocialCareTopics/ChildrenServices/ChildrenServicesInformation/fs/en

Benchmark against the maternity section had to be returned by the end of March – this will be included as an agenda item at the next meeting.

7 Topics

Suggested topics for the year are to brought to the next meeting.

8 Any other business

- Jabeen reported that she had been supporting a client in labour. The midwife had been accompanied by a student midwife and although the explanations and assistance during labour had been good, there had been whispered conversations. Jabeen did not know if these had been 'teaching' but felt that they were inappropriate. It gave the impression that there was something the staff were not saying.
- Jabeen also said that midwives were not asking how the new mothers were going to feed. It was very common for Asian women not to attend classes so they were not getting the appropriate information during the antenatal period. Michaela suggested that Sandra and Jabeen attend a community midwifery meeting.
- Mary said that a Birth Centre working group would be looking at how there could be general discussion around provision of facilities at Ashford Hospital involving clients, GPs and PCTs. A decision would then be taken. Mary and Michaela presented to the Trust Board and this was warmly received. The Birth Centre would be staffed by midwives and for low risk only.
- Sandra asked that consideration be given to European as well as Asian women in respect of BCGs. There was ongoing discussions with regard to coverage and funding. Michaela would speak to Theresa Spink as she had attended a meeting before Christmas where this issue had been discussed.
- It was agreed that the next meeting would consider antenatal issues including an Anti D update
- Saras Biln, Ante/Postnatal Midwifery Manager, and Theresa Spink, Community Midwifery Manager, together with Rose Cooper, Parent Education would be invited to attend
- Benchmarking and the NSF would also be discussed

11 Date of next meeting

14 March
1300-1430
Parent Education

Future meetings

16 May
11 July
12 September
14 November

January 2005