

Women's Health
Maternity Unit

MATERNITY SERVICES LIAISON COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 11 July 2005

Present:

Kerry Harris	Chair
Chris Nelson	Acting Community Midwifery manager
Arash Bahmaie	Consultant Obstetrician
Gillian Smith	Tamba
Frances Harvey	Lay member
Jabeen Qureshi	Health Link Worker
Jo Wilding	Maternity Care Assistant
Lesley Howick	Labour Ward Manager
Mary Bell	Consultant Midwife
Natasha Wynne	Lay member
Sandra Campbell	Health Visitor
Theresa Spink	Acting Head of Midwifery
Trisha Whisker	NCT
Gail Soliman	Notetaker

Apologies:

Arash Bahmaie	Consultant
Jane Pickett	Community Midwife
Jill Hickman	Supervisor of Midwives

1 Minutes of the last meeting / Matters arising

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

2 Practice Development Unit (PDU)

Jo provided information on the PDU, a programme from Leeds University which provides help and support to staff to improve the care to mothers and families. The aim is to find ways of improving the environment by making small but effective changes on the wards with little or no cost. A suggestions board in the form of a tree is displayed on Joan Booker and mothers are encouraged to add their comments written on paper feet. A steering group will be set up and the board will be reviewed weekly. First projects will be starting soon and the aim is for level 1 accreditation by October 2005.

It was suggested that messages could be written in different languages – picture cards could also play a part.

3 Maternity Services Questionnaire

Mary presented the findings from the Maternity Services questionnaires received between 1 April to 30 June, compiled by Sarah Peters, Clinical Governance Midwife. A total of 64 forms had been received, an increase on previous quarters. Overall responses were reassuring with many 'thank you' messages for staff and a general view that the Trust had improved since their previous baby was born. However focus remained on housekeeping issues, in particular cleaning, and the meals, considered to be over-cooked and of little nutritional value. Sarah had drawn up an action plan with the Unit Housekeeper, Bilal, taking forward issues on housekeeping and food, and Sarah looking into reducing noise and disturbance by buzzers, particularly at night, and the enforcing of a rest period in the middle of the day.

Sarah had specifically asked if the Group could look at Question 2 which was frequently not answered properly, and to suggest changes to the wording. The following was suggested:

“Do you think you and your partner were kept informed about the care and treatment you received” – with three tick boxes – yes, no and N/A.

It was also agreed to add to Q8 with regard to privacy and dignity which Mary will draft.

4 Privacy and dignity

Mary provided an update on the work currently being led by Yvonne Geaves. Yvonne has met with postnatal mothers and from these discussions, labour room doors will be provided with locks for times when personal care is being undertaken. It was also suggested that the beds be turned round. On Joan Booker, a Trust-wide rolling programme has started to add Velcro to the bed curtains. Yvonne will also be repeating the birth environment audit later this year. Offers to assist from lay members will be passed on to her.

5 Update on progress of new notes

Theresa confirmed that the Consultants had been asked to consider that we use the notes devised by the Perinatal Institute. This would provide a saving both in the cost to the Trust, when finances were under severe pressure, and in the time of staff in discussing and preparing a draft. Their response was awaited.

6 Labour ward issues

Lesley reported on the following issues with regard to labour ward.

- As previously advised, locks were being arranged for delivery room doors
- The use of the home-from-home rooms is steady
- A business case would be made for a floor standing hoist for the pool room – value £5k
- A washing machine had been purchased and was installed in the sluice
- The computers had finally been installed in the rooms and were functioning
- Discussions were taking place with Bilal with regard to the provision of meals on labour ward

The following comments were received;

- that partners should be involved in conversations
- that Jabeen should be contacted when necessary to support a woman – it was not appropriate to say that she did not work at the Trust, she was available and would come in where possible.

7 Any other business

- nine midwives were undergoing training to examine well term babies to help with timely discharges
- staffing – approval had been given for funding to increase the establishment by 10 midwives which it was hoped to fill by the end of the year
- the Open Day on 25 June was well attended by both professionals and the general public

8 Date of next meeting

12 September

1300-1430

Parent Education

Future meetings

2005 14 November

2006 16 January

15 May

18 September

13 March

10 July

13 November

July 2005