

Women's Health
Maternity Unit

MATERNITY SERVICES LIAISON COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 15 May 2006

Present:	Kerry Harris	Chair
	Karen Cridland	General Manager Women Children and Sexual Health
	Lenny Hide	Supervisor of Midwives
	Mary Bell	Consultant Midwife
	Natasha Wynne	Lay member
	Theresa Spink	Acting Head of Midwifery
	Trisha Whisker	NCT
	Gail Soliman	Notetaker

Apologies:	Arash Bahmaie	Consultant Obstetrician
	Jabeen Qureshi	Health Link Worker
	Jane Pickett	Community Midwife
	Sandra Campbell	Health Visitor
	Gillian Smith	TAMBA
	Frances Harvey	Lay member

1 Minutes of the last meeting / Matters arising

- 3 - Postnatal Care on Joan Booker

Discussions continue with paediatric colleagues with regard to the number and length of time observations have to be carried out on babies after, for example, prolonged rupture of membranes or the presence of meconium, delaying the discharge of the mother. Changes have already been made to the discharge process whereby paediatricians firstly discharge babies from the ward before assessing those babies in TCR. This, together with midwives now able to provide examination of the newborn, has allowed women to be discharged earlier in the day and has alleviated problems with the availability of beds.

The decision to give all babies a BCG follows national guidance. At present it was an opt in, offered to those babies in a high risk category and made it possible for some to be missed. The mother will be informed of the new process during the antenatal period, her consent obtained and the BCG will form part of the discharge package.

The minutes were agreed.

2 Updates

- Hospital tours – these were now carried out by staff on Joan Booker, either midwives or MCAs. The non-booking process is working well but numbers varied.
- Directorate organisation – Karen explained that the General Manager post was now a job share with Vicky Williams (who will be returning from maternity leave in the autumn). In the interim, she was working 3 days a week. Eileen Nolan, the newly appointed Associate Director of Maternity Services, starts at the end of June and will take the lead on maternity. They will work closely together with both positions reporting to Michaela Morris as Director of Operations.
- Statistics and bookings – statistics to the end of March and bookings to December were provided and discussed. The number of normal births was now 60%, a great achievement from 24 months ago, and the home birth rate was also increasing. Around 30% of home births transferred in, usually for delay and pain relief and not specifically

to access pain relief.

3 Preliminary feedback from focus groups

Mary reported that so far only Hounslow PCT have held any focus groups; of the 3 planned only 1 was attended by users/members of public – more groups will be held in a different local venue once North Surrey and SHAW PCTs have held their first round of groups. There is expected to be some delay due to the reconfiguration of all of the local PCTS.

The findings of the first focus group held are briefly as follows;

- Women would be keen to have a birth environment local to them (Hounslow PCT areas of Feltham, Stanwell etc).
- A birth unit should be integrated with other child health and parents facilities, and local to the population.
- There is a sprawling estate in the area that has poor access to public transport to get to West Middlesex (although this is only 2-3 miles away), and currently has no local access to midwifery antenatal care. This estate is home to a large number of women with poor social and domestic support; the users felt that putting mothers, babies and families support at the heart of this population would help new parents to feel less isolated, and help to build a sense of community.
- Users understand that providing the whole range of obstetric services in that site will not be possible; they are not concerned that a maternity environment would be midwifery-led. They feel that good information about what is and is not possible is more important than having immediate access to everything.
- Users want the unit to provide postnatal stays for women who have had their baby at West Middlesex or Ashford and St Peter's so that families without transport have less far to go to visit their relatives. They also want the unit to be part of a centre that is the hub for parenting support in the area.
- North Surrey and SHAW PCT have struggled to book venues and facilitators; this is likely to be delayed further with the current PCT reconfiguration issues.

4 Increased activity – plans for July and August

Bookings for June, July and August were 341, 328 and 364 respectively with most months now reaching 330. August was always a difficult month being the high holiday season and also reduced availability of NHSP staff who chose to work bank so that they could take the whole holiday off with their children. Theresa outlined some of the plans to enable the service to cope and these included:

- restricted annual leave in August – which had not been popular with staff
- restrict some services – couples classes in July and August had been cancelled, restrictions on parent education in the community and combining of classes (this did not affect any classes for multiple births)
- specialist midwives, consultant midwife and managers will be working clinically
- a community midwife available 24/7 for home from home, which is likely to be relocated to Joan Booker – only low risk intrapartum care with women informed appropriately
- triage unit to run alongside the day assessment unit which would become a booked clinic for routine procedures such as bloods etc. – the triage or assessment unit would take all other walk-ins and telephone calls to ensure that only women in active labour were sent to labour ward – opening times for the triage unit could run from 0800-2000
- a trial of a self assessment form had been started on labour ward to help the shift leader prioritise the workload
- postnatal discharge clinics would also be set up to allow a midwife to see more women in a shorter time – MAs could also run clinics with midwifery input – where these would be held depends on the availability of space both in hospital and in surgeries and health centres

These were changes to help manage in the short term – discussion and plans for the long term would be the responsibility of the ADM.

5 Payment by Results

Karen circulated a paper giving some details on payment by results and the implications for ASPH. The tariffs for maternity had yet to be established. There was discussion on these changes and how they would affect maternity services. She also provided a copy of a briefing paper on the review of services being undertaken at SHA level which could have major implications on the services that we provide, both within maternity and as a Trust.

It was agreed that this would be reviewed at the meeting in November.

6 Any other business

- Lennie had the following items from Sandra and Jabeen
 - Sandra had commented that mothers do not appear to be getting the hearing test leaflet at 34 weeks – she also asked if information where parents were first cousins could be passed to HVs – Theresa said she would look into both issues – however the latter was not part of the short booking
 - Jabeen asked her to pass on the information that she had a possible lay member
- LSA report – Natasha raised two queries
 - independent midwives – there was no process at present to advise women of independent midwives other than to access their website – however the NSF recommended that women should be able to access a midwife without going through a GP so this was an issue that would need clarification
 - it appeared that the maternal deaths for Kent Surrey Sussex were higher than the national average – Mary will speak to Helen O'Dell, LSA Officer
- TAMBA had announced that ASPH had been awarded the first Maternity Excellence Award at Gold Level – plans were to present this at the twins' picnic on 8 July.

Dates of meetings for 2006

PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

17 July

18 September

13 November

Time 1300 – 1430

Venue Parent Education, Abbey Wing