MATERNITY SERVICES LIAISON COMMITTEE

Lothian NHS Board

Maternity Services Liaison Committee

Minutes of the meeting of the Maternity Services Liaison Committee held on Thursday 7 February 2008, in the Lower Hall, Kirk O’ Fields Church, Edinburgh.

Present:
Mathilde Peace (Lay Member, Chair)
Cathy Orr (Women’s and Children’s Commissioner, Lothian NHS Board)
Sam Pringle (Lay member)
Sarah Burton (NCT)
Cynthia Clarkson (Joint Breast Feeding Initiative)
Cheryl Ruiz (Lay member)
Linda Thompson (SANDS)
Ben Stenson (Department of Neonatology, SCRH)
Emma Currer (Community Midwife, RCM representative)
Corinne Love (Consultant Obstetrician SCRH)
Sunit Rane (Consultant G&O, SJH)
Frances McGuire (Contact Supervisor Of Midwives)

In Attendance:
Joyce Clearie, Committee Coordinator
Jane Bray, Specialist Registrar in Public Health
Dermot Gorman, Consultant in Public Health Medicine
Dasslane, visitor
Philip Conaglen, visitor
Karla Napier, Infant Feeding Specialist

Apologies:
Jo Harknett (Birth Resource Centre)
Sau Mei Fong (Chinese Linkworker MEHIP)
Maria Wilson (Chief Midwife, SCRH)
Sandra Smith (Consultant Midwife, SJH)
Rhona Hughes (Consultant G&O, SCRH)
Babs Macdonald (Community Midwife, East Lothian)
Elizabeth Hunter (Chair of LAHP Committee, LAHP representative)
Jackie Mitchell (Community Midwife, North West Edinburgh & RCM rep)
Rod Combe (GP, Midlothian CHP)
David Cassells (GP, East Lothian)
Wilma Spencer (Practice Education Facilitator, SCRH)
Wai Choo McFarlane (Senior Midwifery Lecturer, Napier University)
Isobel Gardiner (Community Midwifery Manager)
Ros Burns (Consultant Anaesthetist, Department of Anaesthetics, RIE)

Introduction and Welcome
Mathilde Peace (MP) welcomed everyone to the meeting particularly those attending for the first time.
MATERNITY SERVICES LIAISON COMMITTEE

1 Minutes of the previous meeting held on 6 December 2007
The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a correct record of that meeting subject to Ros Burns being added to apologies

1.1 Eastern European Migrant Workers – Maternity Concerns – Presentation
1.1 It was decided to take this item first on the agenda. Mathilde Peace welcomed Jane Bray, Specialist Registrar in Public Health, and Dermot Gorman, Consultant in Public Health Medicine, who were in attendance to give the presentation. Members were reminded of ongoing work that Judith Sim had carried out looking at minority ethnic population in Lothian in relation to maternity services and the concerns which had been noted at a previous MSLC meeting.

1.2 Recent work with Eastern European groups was moving on well with some interesting findings which were worth early reporting to the MSLC group and for discussion of related issues.

1.3 In the following discussion various points were raised and discussed

- Language needs were usually identified early and some efforts were made to have an interpreter present at appointments. However, staff were not always aware of how to access the interpretation service, interpreters were not present at all appointments or during labour.
- Language barriers were of particular concern when seeking informed consent or discussing care options, especially during labour.
- Most information leaflets had now been translated.
- Cultural differences: staff training was needed to raise awareness of the family and social structure in the country of origin, attitude to breastfeeding, expectations of the health service, etc.
- It is unfortunate that Lothian NHS Board response is once again reactive rather than proactive. The impact of the recent influx of migrant population, mainly from Poland, was felt strongly because of the high numbers involved. However, these issues had been raised repeatedly in relation to other ethnic minority groups present in Lothian. These groups should not be forgotten in the efforts made to improve the current situation.
- The proactive approach adopted in West Lothian which has put effective support in place could be used as a model for the rest of Lothian.

2.4 Thanks were given to Jane Bray and Dermot Gorman for their interesting and informative presentation. The full report was to come to the MSLC and the Maternity and Neonatal Strategy Group before the end of 2008.

2 Matters Arising

2.1 Membership Update
2.1.1 Members were advised that there was nothing new to report on at present.

2.2 Your Baby Your Choice Leaflet
Members were updated on the current situation. The leaflet would be distributed through the usual channels to GP practices. Members noted that funding for translation was now underway.

2.3 Fetal Anomaly Scan / Information Leaflet Feedback
2.3.1 Cathy Orr updated members on developments. She advised that she had taken back the comments suggested by MSLC members at the last meeting to Ginnie Graham and where appropriate these changes had been included in the finalised leaflet which Ginnie Graham was now progressing.

2.3.2 Members were advised that the service would be introduced selectively from April 2008, in part for training purposes. There was some discussion of the selection criteria i.e. mother’s age, geographical area, etc.

2.3.3 Members noted that Implementation of the full service was realistically still some time away but that it was hoped to have it in place by January 2009.

2.4 Saving Mothers Lives / CEMACH Launch
2.4.1 Cynthia Clarkson reported on this item and advised members that the full report and further detailed information was available on the following website www.cemach.org.uk i.e. separate reports including executive summary recommendations for midwives etc.

2.4.2 Cynthia Clarkson advised that the report had been UK wide since 1985 and that the 99 recommendations from the report had been prioritised to 10. She highlighted the recommendations relating to migrant women, obesity and caesarean sections.

2.4.3 Members noted that all the recommendations were to be implemented in each health board in Scotland, with follow-up audits.

2.4.4 It was felt that Lothian NHS Board was already meeting most of the recommendations. Some would have to be implemented such as a full medical examination for mothers outwith UK at their booking in appointment.

2.5 Other Matters Arising
2.5.1 Preparation and Practice of Supervisors Programme
Mathilde Peace informed members of an email she had received from Wai Choo MacFarlane thanking them for their support at the validation event and advising that the Preparation and Practice of Supervisors Programme had now been successfully validated and had started on 6 February with a three day study block.

2.5.2 Safer Childbirth
Mathilde Peace updated members on developments. She advised that a
MATERNITY SERVICES LIAISON COMMITTEE

subgroup of the Maternity and Neonatal Strategy Group would prepare an action plan for Lothian drawn from the recommended minimum standards. The Safer Chilbirth document is available on: www.rcog.org.uk

3 Activity data and CS Robson Categories  Allyn Dick
The circulated activity data and CS Robson Categories figures were noted and it was agreed to discuss them in detail at the April MSLC meeting.

4 Workforce Planning
It was agreed this item should be considered at the April MSLC meeting.

5 Lothian Working Groups / relevant issues not covered in the agenda.
Members noted the following meetings had been held and were advised to contact either Mathilde Peace or Joyce Clearie if they wished to see the minutes.
  - Antenatal QIP – 17 December 07
  - Maternity QIP – 21 January 08
  - Intrapartum QIP – 20 December 07 / 24 January 08
  - Maternity and Neonatal Strategy Group – 22 January 08

6 Eastern European Migrant Workers – Presentation Dermot Gorman and Jane Bray
This item taken earlier on in the agenda.

7 Infant Feeding Advisor Report - Presentation Karla Napier
7.1 Mathilde Peace introduced and welcomed Karla Napier, Infant Feeding Adviser at Simpson Centre for Reproductive Health, who was in attendance to give a presentation on the Unicef Baby Friendly status of the maternity unit, the breastfeeding drop-in clinic and related matters. See attached appendix.

7.2 Breastfeeding drop-in clinic
  - A survey of the women attending the clinic had highlighted the following points:
  - Most women heard about the clinic through their midwife or by word of mouth.
  - Problem usually solved after 1 or 2 visits.
  - Satellite clinics were needed to improve access. Discussion followed as to where these should be based. There are trained midwives ready to run the clinic.
  - A business plan would be drawn for one extra clinic.

7.3 Karla Napier then updated members on developments with regard to Unicef Baby Friendly assessment. Various points/issues raised
  - Skin to skin contact: had dropped following an incident in 2004 but passed well in 2007.
  - Formula supplementation. Documentation had to be more accurate. An audit was required.
  - Baby-led feeding.
MATERNITY SERVICES LIAISON COMMITTEE

- Information given to mothers about existing support in community should be more consistent.

7.4 Other points to be noted

- Mentoring programme ongoing. Recruitment of Breast feeding mentors/facilitators who receive one to one training with Karla.
- 50% of all babies are born in baby friendly hospitals in Scotland
- Breastfeeding target: one third of babies to be exclusively breastfed at 6 weeks by March 2011
- However Lothian target likely to be higher as some areas of Lothian are already meeting that target.
- St John’s Hospital: a half-time Infant Feeding Advisor post was to be advertised shortly. The MSLC welcomed the news as this is recognised as a necessary step towards improving breastfeeding rates in West Lothian.
- Karla raised the issue of Scotland policy regarding advertising for formula milk and suggested a letter should be sent to the Scottish Government

7.5 Mathilde Peace then took the opportunity to thank Karla Napier for her useful and informative presentation and wished her well for the forthcoming final visit for Baby Friendly re-accreditation which was scheduled for 4 March

8 Any Other Competent Business

8.1 Mathilde Peace suggested that one of the 2008 meeting dates, possibly 9 October, could be turned into an NCT Voices Training Day Event. The suggestion was well received and MP would contact Lothian NHS Board for approval. Members would be kept updated on developments.

9 Date of next meeting:

10th April 2008 at 10am

10 All Further meeting dates for 2008

Meetings will normally take place on Thursdays from 10am until 12 noon.

10 April
5 June
4 September
9 October possible NCT Voices Training Day Event
11 December