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 June 2007, in Meeting Room 1 at Deaconess House, 148 Pleasance Edinburgh.

Present:
Mathilde Peace (Lay Member, Chair)
Jo Harknett (Birth Resource Centre)
Cheryl Ruiz (Lay member)
Sarah Burton (NCT)
Cynthia Clarkson (Joint Breast Feeding Initiative)
Linda Thompson (SANDS)
Sau Mei Fong (Chinese Linkworker MEHIP)
Ben Stenson (Department of Neonatology, SCRH)
Ros Burns (Consultant Anaesthetist, Department of Anaesthetics, RIE)
Sunit Rane (Consultant G&O, SJH)
Rod Combe (Midlothian CHP)

In Attendance:
Joyce Clearie, Committee Coordinator
Sana Sadullah, Interpreter
Judith Sim, Public Health researcher

Apologies:
Isobel Gardiner (Community Midwifery Manager)
Maria Wilson (Principal Midwife, SCRH)
Rhona Hughes (Consultant G&O, SCRH)
Sarah Cooper (Consultant G&O, SCRH)
Sandra Smith (Consultant Midwife, SJH)
David Cassells (GP, East Lothian)
Elizabeth Hunter (Chair of LAHP Committee, LAHP representative)
Jackie Mitchell (Community Midwife, North West Edinburgh & RCM rep)
Babs Macdonald (Community Midwife, East Lothian)
Cathy Orr (Women’s and Children’s Commissioner, Lothian NHS Board)
Harden Carter (Consultant in Public Health Medicine, Lothian NHS Board)
Wai Choo McFarlane (Senior Midwifery Lecturer, Napier University)

Introduction and Welcome
Mathilde Peace welcomed everyone to the meeting. Members introduced themselves around the table. Apologies were noted.

1 Minutes of the previous meeting held on 29 March 2007
The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a correct record of that meeting.
2 Matters Arising
2.1 Membership Update
2.1.1 Mathilde Peace updated members on the current situation. Members were advised that Sam Pringle NCT member (South Edinburgh) would soon be joining the MSLC as an additional lay member. It was hoped that she would be able to attend the next MSLC meeting on 23 August.
MP to give JC Sam Pringle’s details

2.2 Your Baby Your Choice Leaflet
2.2.1 Mathilde Peace updated members on the current situation. Copies of the finalised document were made available to members at the meeting. Members noted that initially 9000 copies had been printed.

2.2.2 Members discussed the proposed circulation of the leaflet i.e. where and when it should be distributed. It was recognised that given the content of the leaflet, the earlier women could have access to the information the better, for example in GP surgeries / libraries / pharmacists. Concern was expressed that giving the leaflet out at “booking appointments” would be too late.
MP and Isobel Gardiner to contact Health Promotion again to see if they can include the leaflets alongside the Ready, Steady, Baby book which they send out to surgeries.

2.2.3 Members also wondered whether the leaflet had been translated into other languages (Chinese, Bengali, urdu, Arabic and Polish).
MP to contact Harden Carter.

2.2.4 It was also agreed that it would be useful to send Joyce Clearie a PDF file of the document. It was also suggested that leaflet should be made available on the intranet and from the MSLC website. Members would be kept updated on developments.
MP to send PDF to JC and to contact webmaster.

2.3 MSLC Annual Report
2.3.1 Mathilde Peace advised members that the finalised MSLC annual report was on the agenda of the Healthcare Governance and Risk Management Committee at their meeting on 17 April 2007. She informed members that it had been well received. Concerns raised in the report regarding filling the infant feeding advisor post at St John’s had been noted. The need to provide parity and equality across Lothian was recognised. Theresa Douglas, non-executive Director, would speak to Stuart Smith (Committee Chair) and Alison McCallum (Director of Public Health) as how best to progress matters and members would be kept updated on developments.

2.4 Satisfaction Survey (May 2005)
2.4.1 Members were updated on the current situation. Members noted the Satisfaction Survey (May 2005) was to be presented to the Maternity Quality Improvement Programme meeting in September. Mathilde Peace and Cynthia Clarkson would both be attending this meeting and would raise awareness of MSLC concerns e.g. postnatal care in hospital, Breast feeding support, information at discharge, food and car parking etc.

2.4.2 Cynthia Clarkson advised of another satisfaction study relating to maternity services that she had heard mentioned at the Ministerial Group meeting. Pat
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Straw, Head of Patient and Public Partnership was proposing to do this survey in Lothian in September 2007.

2.5 Complaints Report
2.5.1 Members noted the complaints report which was tabled for their information.
2.5.2 Following discussion it was agreed that more information was needed in order to make more sense of the statistics given:-
   - Indicate what period the figures relate to (2006 ? January to April ?) and whether they are for acute or primary care.
   - Ideally, quarterly reports would be produced.
   - Separate acute from primary and Simpson from St John.
   - Give the response-time figures (against targets) : time taken to reply to first letter, etc ...
   - Percentage of complaints upheld / not upheld
   - Anonymised summing up of the most representative causes for complaints. The ISD codes are useful, but too vague to give any idea of the reasons why service users filed a complaint.
   - This is important as it would also allow the MSLC to follow up any action plan or decision taken as a result of a complaint (upheld or not). This is the main reason for a committee like MSLC to be informed of complaints so that the committee can ensure some positive action is taken following a complaint which revealed flaws in the service or malpractice.
   - Include comments made by service users (both complimentary and critical) which do not become formal complaints.

MP to feed back comments to Maria Wilson.

2.6 Chlamydia screening
2.6.1 Members were reminded that at previous meeting Alison Craig (Community Nurse / Family Planning) had given a presentation on the planned introduction of a Chlamydia screening service for all pregnant women under 25. There was some discussion on the best way to return positive results to women and prescribe treatment. Mathilde Peace provided update on the proposed plan – women to be informed by midwife who took sample and advised to see her GP or pick up prescription. Midwife to check treatment is ongoing at next suitable appointment.

2.7 MSLC Web Site www.nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk/mslc
2.7.1 Members were updated generally on developments. Sarah Burton agreed to email Joyce Clearie her collated information on website links. Sarah Burton to email links list to JC. JC to circulate to all members for comments / additions.

3 Ethnicity and Experiences of Pregnancy in Lothian (Judith Sim)
3.1 It was decided to take this item next on the agenda. Mathilde Peace introduced and welcomed Judith Sim (NHS Health Scotland), Sana Sadullah (Interpreter) and Sau Mei Fong who had agreed to give members a presentation on the recently completed research on ethnicity and experiences of pregnancy in Lothian.

3.2 Judith Sim explained the background to the research and then gave an informative presentation on the study (see Appendix 1). She detailed...
draft recommendations and invited MSLC members to comment on these. Two focus
groups with Polish women were to take place over the Summer. The full report
was to be issued in the Autumn.

3.3 In response to a query from Mathilde Peace, Judith Sim agreed to provide her
with an up to date breakdown of the composition of ethnic groups in Lothian.
Pakistani and Chinese families have always been well represented in Lothian,
but there has been an important influx from Polish families in the recent years.

3.4 An interesting discussion then followed. One of the points raised was
regarding women’s expectations of triage and assessment and fear of being
sent home when they felt they were in established labour. It was explained
that reason for this was well documented and that women were less likely to
have interventions if sent home when in early to mid labour and admitted later
on in their labour. It was agreed that if this message was more clearly
communicated it would be useful. Perhaps it would be useful to convey this
information early for example at parenthood education classes etc. Other
points raised were:-

- Language needs – should be flagged up on notes as early as
  possible so that interpreting support is in place at appointments and
  information passed on between services.

- Form to determine exact language (specific dialect)

- Scans : there is an expectation for more scans during pregnancy

- Attendance at parenthood education / difficulties in some cultures if
  men present / preference for classes with the same ethnic
  background.

- Translation of information leaflets to address specific cultural
  differences and include information on NHS structure and
  personnel.

- Women more at risk of adverse incident during labour and delivery
  if communication is not good : presence of interpreter essential,
  continuity of carer as well.

- Inclusion of minority ethnic groups on MSLC.

Mathilde Peace thanked Judith Sim for her interesting and informative
presentation. It was suggested that the report should also go to the
Maternity and Neonatal Strategy Group and the Parenthood Education
Group. Members would be kept updated on developments.

4 Caesarean Section Rates / Robson Categories

4.1 Mathilde Peace introduced this item and drew members attention to the tabled
statistics relating to SCRH and SJH which she had received that morning from
Allyn Dick. It was recognised that the information had been received too late
to format properly and it was recognised that the information provided was
almost too detailed. Members noted the percentage tables were the most
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useful summary sheet by which to see any significant discrepancies. **MP to feed back comments to Allyn Dick.**

**4.2** In the following discussion amongst the points raised were
- All CS are currently reviewed daily at handover at SJH.
- Category 3 and 4a to start being reviewed daily at SCRH and put on list of Incidents that must be reported
- VBAC project ongoing (category 5)

**4.3** Members were invited to forward any further comments they might have on the figures to Mathilde Peace for collation.

**5 Workforce**

**5.1** There was nothing further to report on this item at present.

**7 Lothian Maternity Services Working Groups**

**7.1 Maternity and Neonatology Strategy Group**

Members noted the outcome of the meeting held on 22 May which had been attended by Cynthia Clarkson.

- Fetal anomaly scanning - no further progress to report.
- Funding for a part-time specialist midwife (normal birth) at Simpson’s has been secured from the Scottish Executive project - Keeping Childbirth Natural and Dynamic.
- A specialist midwife post (triage and assessment) for Simpson’s will be advertised this Summer.
- Inequality issues to become on-going item on agenda.

**7.2 Quality Improvement Programme Groups (QIP)**

Members were generally updated on developments
- Lothian University Hospital Division won a UK research bid to look at obesity and pregnancy
- Audit of low risk women /routine admission CTG
- Antenatal referral guidelines now in place
- Venous thromboembolism risk assessment chart to be reviewed

**7.4 Parenthood Education Meeting**

Sarah Burton updated members on developments. A proposed plan to appoint local co-ordinators was looked at, as well as a draft proposal for a common syllabus.

**MP to ask for the documents to be circulated to MSLC for comments.**

**7 Any Other Competent Business**

**7.1 New Advice on Alcohol in Pregnancy**

Members discussed the recent government (Department of Health England) recommendation that no alcohol should be consumed at all when pregnant. It
was noted however that although different advice was now being given the evidence had not changed.

8 Date of Future Meetings
8.1 The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Thursday 23 August 2007 at 10am at Deaconess House

9 Dates of all further meetings in 2007 and proposed programme of talks/presentations
9.1 Meetings will normally take place on Thursdays from 10am until 12 noon

- 23 August – Breastfeeding support/community Infant Feeding advisors
- 11 October – Preparing midwives for challenges of redesigned maternity service
- 6 December – Karla Napier, Infant Feeding Advisor