

The MVP volunteers who work alongside midwives, birth workers, clinicians, consultants, and the commissioning group to co-design and help shape maternity services in Leeds.



The new Lotus Alongside Midwifery Unit pg 10



Parent Reps discuss perinatal mental health support with professionals

Pg 2

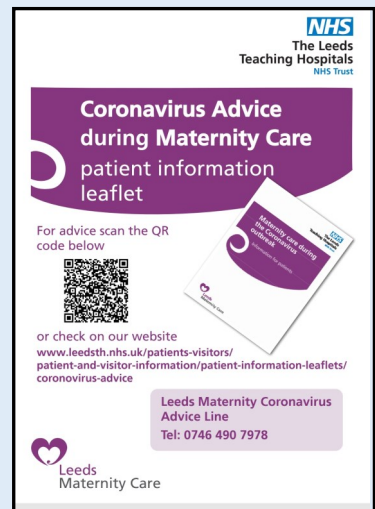


Developments from the Maternity and Neonatal Consultation Jan—April 2020 pg 8



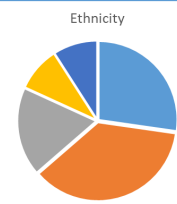
Walking the Patch with Maternity Support Workers at SJUH pg 9

Parent Reps: Interests and backgrounds—what gets discussed at the formal MVP meetings and they



Co-producing information leaflet in a pandemic pg 12

- News from maternity notes online and conducting surveys'
- Midwife nominated from the Haam-la service pg 5
- Patient Information Leaflets pg 4
- You said we did



552 Members on Facebook



374 hours  
Volunteer Hours

10 New  
Parent Reps

# MVP formal meetings and Parent Reps

The MVP has 30 parent reps listed on the group email. Throughout the year the parent reps respond in different ways for giving feedback; either through giving guidance on patient information leaflets, attending walking the patch, formal and informal meetings. The **formal MVP** meeting has 21 people in attendance, on average: 7 parent reps and 14 professionals from different services within the maternity children's and families sector. Over the last 12 months parent reps have helped raise discussions around perinatal mental health (PMH) which has led us to make connections with the NEST ambassadors for Mindmate and discussing themes such as communication, knowledge and accessibility at the trust and in the community. We have also helped give feedback on how survey's are written and disseminate them once they've been approved. One in particular was to highlight the role partners have in breast feeding. This has led to patient experience team at the trust working with the midwives for an 'ALWAYS' event, the importance of Skin to Skin' Contact and the Fishbowl engagement technique. We have helped support digital online survey by conducting face to face survey's with the public. Advised on 8 Patient Information Leaflets. Topics shared Maternal Healthy Weight Action Plan, Smoking in Pregnancy and the Maternity and Neonatal consultation which launched 17th January 2020. The quarterly meeting took place May, September and December 2019 and March.

## Co-production



MVP meeting in June 2019

Left to right Debbie Smith Health & Psychologist

/Lecturer speaks with Sarah and Maha. Jenny Wilson Involvement Manager Deborah Tighe Involvement Deputy director and Corrine Liddle Johnson—Matron speaks with Anita exploring professionals perspective on mental health support for families

Staff from the trust and academic reps work with parents to discuss how professionals seek out mental health support for women and families. This break out session at the MVP formal meeting in June 2019 was designed at the parent reps informal meeting the month before, it was influenced by the work that the perinatal mental health sub group have done over the last year.

- **Knowledge on mental health issues**
- **Where do you go to access the support you need to gain for helping women and families**
- **How do you move forward in helping families find support.**

Whilst professionals knowledge was broad we noticed the a low awareness of the Mindmate service and that it should be promoted more to professionals. Contact with Liz Neill from Mindmate helped make that connection with ongoing promotion of the work they do also. More on this on page 5

### Collective interests and backgrounds of Parent Reps

Birthing Spaces, Antenatal practitioner, Infant Feeding, Bereavement, Active Birth Home Birth, Neo Natal Asylum Seeker and Refugee and Perinatal Mental Health, Birth and Post Natal Doula and Young Parents

# Parent Reps involvement:

- Antenatal practitioner and breast feeding support worker Emily contributed to the presentation for breastfeeding partner presentation 1st May 2019, showing good support by professionals overall, however, inconsistencies between advice in the community for those struggling to feed.
- Co-chair Claire attended virtual filming tour with midwives over the course of two days helping to keep the tour informative and understandable using the right language to describe contractions using 'intense' instead of the word 'pain'.
- 3 Parent reps attendance at the Wave of Light at SJUH Chapel 14th October to remember all babies who we have lost. Positive feedback between Claire and Laura Walton and presentation to the board of trustees in recognising the 'most improved' result of latest CQC survey is down to the engagement of the MVP.
- Helen Robinson wrote an article on the neo natal consultation and published this on South Leeds Mumbler – this helped increase awareness of the consultation and draw people to the survey.
- Saph helped conduct three face to face digital survey's during Baby Week at the maternity event at Leeds Kirkgate Market. results pg 4
- Claire attended two LGTB+ meetings part of the maternity strategy to hold the team account for ensuring plans are co-produced. CL also attended Leeds Pride Event August feedback was gathered from people who attended from other organisations.
- Alison T wrote a positive birth story on feedback received after having a VBAC (Vaginal Birth After Caesarean) at the new Lotus Suite. <https://www.mvpleeds.com/story-of-leeds/alisons-story/>
- Sophie helped reading through and evaluate the online maternity survey published on the MVP website results published on the Leeds MVP website (pg4).
- Emily J, Izzy and Sarah were invited to Baines Wing to attend a meeting with Angela Hewett Associate lecturer in maternity care for helping to design a new BSc (Hons) Midwifery Pre-registration Program Curriculum steering group at the University of Leeds.

## Training

- Sarah Joyce took part in a webinar for the Maternity Voices in November – helping to support MVP's in 'participatory appraisal'. Access good resources to support of level of engagement for co-production and reimburse people for their time. LP shared the link to the Facebook site.
- Sophie attended some co-production that the CCG had free on training at Old Fire Station in Gipton which was really useful.

## Workshops

- Julia took part in the Second Victim in Maternity (SeViM) Study Workshop February 13 2020 at the Leeds Metropole Hotel led by Dr. Tomasina Stacey Reader of Midwifery Practice at University of Huddersfield. The work is with in partnership with the Local Maternity System (LMS) and helps to improve the experience for midwives who are going through an investigation process. Awaiting formulated summary and next steps from Tomasina.



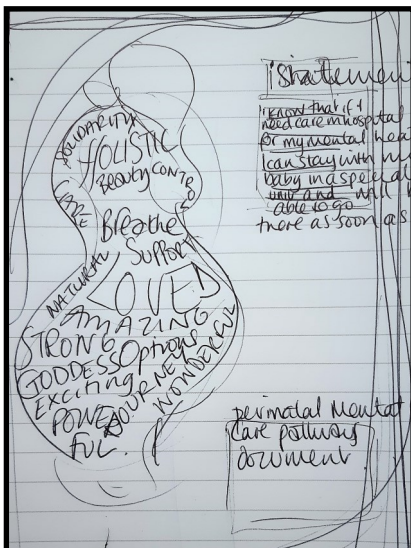
## Ongoing work with parent reps input towards perinatal mental health, maternity services and maternity online notes.

Following the breakout session with professionals (page 2), we spoke to two new parent reps from Senegal and Iran who had experience mental health support experiences which were positive around the Haamla team support. The action plan was to move forward with themes based around communication and knowledge and trust. Below we identified barriers some women face and the message which are being worked towards promoting the good service available to women in the notice board format.

Lucy invited **Hannah Young** part of the **Midwifery Advocacy Team** to our parent reps meeting in September to listen to these experiences to take back to her team;

- **Women feeling they can trust professionals, particularly women from different backgrounds and cultures**
- **Reassurance from parents who have used the services – to testify good support**
- **Awareness on the specialist services that are available and accessible**
- **Women don't want to have to tell their story more than once**

Following our breakout session parent rep Nicky suggested doing a word clone inside the silhouette of pregnancy shape with positive words which can be translated. Lucy put this out to our Facebook followers and we received over 100 empowering words.



### Information being adapted from leaflets into noticeboards

- Self care tips for parents
- Find out what's happening in your community (local events/groups)
- Life after maternity leave (childcare options, going back to work, stay at home parents etc)
- Family/ friends support
- Child safety ie sleeping (co sleeping etc)
- Car seat safety ie Never use second hand
- Gestational Diabetes
- Exercise
- Breast Feeding
- Perinatal Mental Health
- Smoking
- Birthing Partners
- Healthy Living Information
- Perineal Massage
- Induction of Labour (IOL)

### Mindmate manager Liz Neill

who heads up the NEST ambassadors website which helps represent voices of people who suffer from perinatal mental health by helping them write their experiences down. Helped form the I Statements which we hoping to include: 'I know that if I need care in hospital for my mental health, I can stay with my baby in a specialist unit and will be able to go there as soon as possible.'

We supported the **NEST ambassadors** in helping gather face to face survey's with Dads and co parents on Perinatal Mental health support. Through Walking the Patch, Infant Feeding—whose shoes event and giving survey's out to Family Outreach Workers when they deliver Preparation Birth and Beyond (PBB) at children's centres we have gather 12 survey's which have been handed back to Liz, who was extremely grateful for this as only 9 survey's had been completed online as of January 30th.



## **Patient information leaflets (PIL) Trust seeks Parent Reps feedback:**

### **Guidance Leaflet 1**

The insertion of Shirodkar (high vaginal cervical suture) cerclage.

7 parents reps feedback – shared views on the leaflet was very useful however, we did not see the need to have instructions on operation to remove as we thought it held responsibility with the women to carry this around with her if she were to move between trusts through the final stage of pregnancy.

**Guidance Leaflet 2 & 3– Increased Nuchal Translucency Measurement and Heavy menstrual bleeding:**  
Feedback given straight to the lead midwife

### **Leaflet 4 - Bramley Continuity of Carer Team leaflet (Sent out 27/11/2019)**

2 Parent Reps comments:

‘Well presented’ and great to hear ‘congratulations’. ‘More involvement with fathers and partners and having a more active role of support’. Language being too medical i.e.: Regional Analgesia. And clarification of Continuity of Carer – does this mean seeing the same midwife throughout their pregnancy?

### **Guidance Leaflet 5 - Breech Baby Information for Patients:**

Comments from two parent reps Aimee Barrett and Claire Davis (email 25/10/2019)

Women aren't being fairly given all the statistics around success on this breech delivery. The small part in there that does mention it has very leading language to give the impression it is almost not a viable option. Needs to be more information and guidance on breech in general.

It might be useful for women/families if the leaflet explained exactly what ECV is and entails so they know what to expect from the procedure?

Both comments fed back to Laura Walton 30/10/2019.

### **Guidance leaflet 6 - Anaesthetic leaflet following epidural or in the theatre**

Comments from three parent reps; Sarah, Ron and Aimee.

Simpler language as it might still feel like technical medical terms for some people, the main thing for me is say ‘move around’ for ‘mobilise’.

Suggestions they make the leaflets more humanising rather than an average operation.

Advise partners to ensure for at least the first 36 hours your partner or close friend or relative is with you for support?

**Guidance leaflet 7—Coil fitted at Elective C Section** – 3 responses from parent reps; good idea and consent and risks are clear. However, recall leaflets which say okay from 4 week after. One other response was to why this was necessary?

**BMI > 25** (and the One You Leeds OYL) opt in service showed 6 responses from Parent Reps to BMI (including one dad) \* Discussed sensitive issues surrounding stigma and taking away the ‘choice’ and responsibility for women and suggested having an online version of accessing the ‘One You’ program rather than committing to joining a group . Similar comments already received from reps since LP attended meeting a multi professionals meeting who has passed these onto Shelley Cassere midwife beginning of May 2019. Result was to keep the choice open for women and not feel like they have to attend.

# Maternity Online Notes

Over the year we have helped the trust to shape the online digital survey currently undertaken to see what views people have in accessing their notes online. Through feedback with the MVP members we helped the digital team shape and disseminate the survey. The importance of conducting face to face survey's was key to get a view on how many women do and don't access online information. There were 5 parent reps who were able to meet women and families at events in public spaces, children's centres and walking the patch. This information has now been included within the LMS findings to help look at digital uptake across the region.

## How often do you check your notes?

After your scan and hospital appointment 27%  
Before or after each appointment 38%  
Every Day 2%  
Never 23%  
Once a Month 2%  
Once a Week 8%

## Do you use Parenting Apps?

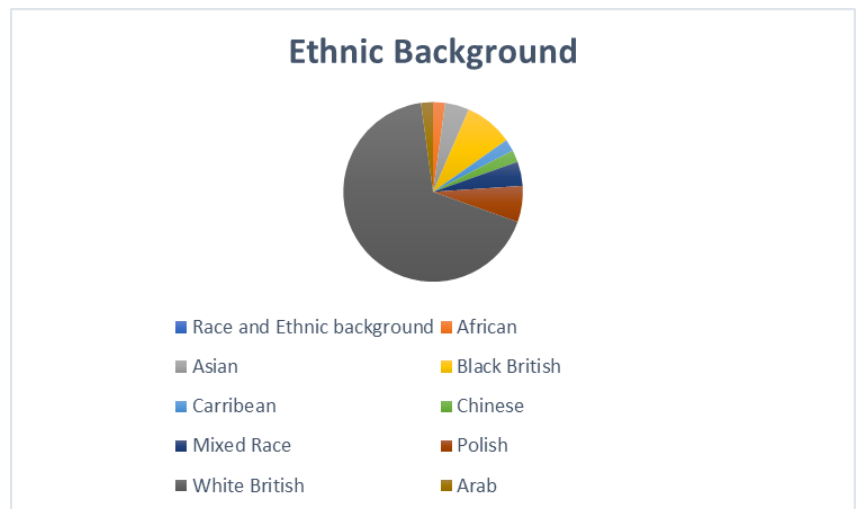
Yes 65%  
No 35%

## Age

Under 20 4%  
21-30 40%  
31-40 50%  
Over 40 6%

## Do you prefer Paper/Electronic/Both

Paper 44% Electronic 27% Both 25%



Taken from the Facebook post in December this was following a nomination made to the Health Hero award at the Yorkshire post.

Midwife Nadia from the Haamla team service accepted the award—Parent rep Maha requested The details from the midwives at the trust.

## Bereavement

Our parent rep Ansa continues to represent the MVP as a valued member who focus on keeping developments co-produced at the quarterly perinatal bereavement sub groups meeting. Minutes get disseminated to the parent reps regarding updated to the National Bereavement care pathway pilot which Leeds holds. The Rainbow Clinic for families who've experienced still birth or neonatal death and because pregnant again the space offer the best possible care and supports them through their future pregnancies. Many thanks to Dr. Tracy Glanville Consultant Obstetrician who has led on this.

# Maternity and Neonatal Consultation

On the 17<sup>th</sup> January the Clinical Commission Group (CCG) launched its maternity and neo-natal public consultation. The MVP supported the consultation by attending the events around the city and promoting the survey. The main questions were around where would you like to see antenatal appointments take place: At your local GP in the community? Or at the hospital? The main purpose of the consultation was to get opinion on maternity services operating under one roof at the LGI rather than between two sites as it is now. The following venues hosted the event: Hamara, Gipton Old Fire station, Pudsey Civic Hall and The Carriageworks. Over 1000 surveys were completed:



**Engagement Lead:** **Caroline Mackay** said 'We did collect some valuable feedback from the visitors who came along, and from the staff and volunteers who attended the 4 drop-in sessions. Thank you for everyone's commitment to the engagement and dedication to making service in Leeds the best they can be'. Above picture at the final event with Julian Hartley; Chief Executive of Leeds Teaching Hospitals

## MVP Maternity Survey online and face to face

The MVP website has an online maternity survey where we received 58 responses—These results were evaluated by our wonderful parent rep Sophie reading through and evaluating. The results showed that the overall service was lacking a clear communication and just over 50% satisfaction in most areas. This was fed back to the Quality meetings held with at the trust each month. In response to this we have helped promote the trusts work in their **Community Big Breakfast** where community midwives delivering a series of professional breakfast mornings to network among professionals and help gain a wider understanding of the work they do within the context of **Continuity of Carer**, and promoted the **Advocacy Midwifery Team** and the great work they do in supporting midwives.

MVP Chair Lucy presented to the maternity strategy board (Nov 2019) regarding themes in improving communication, accessibility and knowledge in the community and at the trust.

**To balance the above findings our co-chair Claire visited the Kirkgate Market one busy Friday afternoon in Leeds—these are based on a Public Survey 21<sup>st</sup> June 2019 – 11** (shorted version of the online maternity services survey)

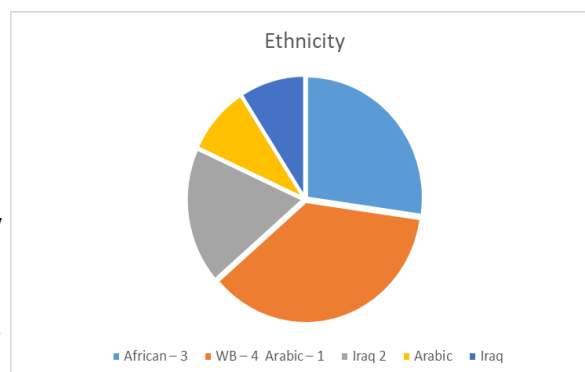
Speaking to women of different nationalities who had given birth in Leeds in the last years and 3 years.

Birthed in Leeds in the last year - **8**

Birthed in Leeds in the last 3 years – **3**

Was treated as an individual with care tailored to my needs – **Strongly Agree 10 Strongly Disagree 1**

**'Overall positive comments which were fed back to the midwives'**



# Walking the Patch



For nearly two years now we have been chatting to families and midwives between two sites SJUH and LGI. Then feedback to team leader meeting.

We are grateful for this opportunity to meet women and families sharing their time whilst we ask about how their antenatal and ongoing care has been. We also conduct survey's on:

- People's thought's on accessing their notes online.
- Support for dads and co-partners with their mental health and infant feeding support.
- March we spoke to 10 families on postnatal ward at St. James's. Most were very happy with their continuity of care when having an elective c-section.
- The need to have a leaflet on self care both physically and emotionally after an emergency C-Section

Maternity Support Worker's Margaret Bingham and Deborah Hampson as they work together with doctors and anaesthetics to provide a comfortable area on J3 to create an opportunity for families to meet each other before during and after their operation. This is a service previously operated from a smaller space but now is a welcoming spacious environment and as part of the **Continuity of Carer**.

## You said-We did

'You said we did' responses have been accumulated from Walking the Patch such as '**Did you know you can ask for as many appointments as you had with your midwife with your first pregnancy as you can with subsequent pregnancies**'. And '**What kind of snacks/refreshments would you like to see whilst waiting to see a consultant**'. From this strategic lead midwife Laura Walton produce a sign helping to direct people to the water fountain near the scanning room on the antenatal clinic waiting room.

All of these have been updated on to our [www.mvpleeds.com](http://www.mvpleeds.com) website

### Two of our new Parent Reps are involved with volunteering in the Neonatal Unit

- Working with veteran parents to offer peer support.
- QI project looking at how we produce neonatal information for parents ante-natally.
- Offer fetal medicine tours.
- Sibling play scheme.
- vCreate and Beads of Courage.
- Surveys and feedback focussing on parent experiences.
- Working towards Bliss accreditation.



# Sharing News from the Trust

## THE NEW LOTUS

### MIDWIFERY LED UNIT at LGI

On Friday 3rd May 2019 the MVP supported the maternity ward at LGI open their newly furnished midwifery led birthing centre.

This will help to offer families more birth choices when deciding where to have their baby. MVP chair Lucy, and parent reps Claire, Nicky and Emma, came along to support the opening and speak to the communications team on what women and families are to look forward to when they choose to birth here. Lucy interviewed staff and put it into a hyper local news blog with South Leeds Life speaking to matron Vicky Brooksbank and Homebirth team lead Naomi Robinson about the how the plans shaped this into the low birth provision service.



Nicky observed *“By not having a bed in the middle of the room, makes it so much easier to move around and help the flow of the birth. Tom Everett lead obs. “Reassure women that this is the right place for them coming through clinic.”* The article created lots of interest with 2000 readership in one week helping to draw interest making the space a popular birthing choice in the city.

## Whose shoes event: Infant Feeding



In January the MVP promoted and attended the ‘Whose Shoes’ workshop at Hillside with Sally Goodwin Mills at Public Health, Liz Wigley from the CCG and Breast Feeding Support Service as they delivered a fantastic infant feeding workshop. The morning saw a mix of professionals and parents taking part in this fun board game which is designed to help professionals and service users listen to each other by answering different scenarios about support around feeding your baby. It was really helpful for putting yourself in someone else’s shoes and sharing your own experiences at the same time. As the engagement event finished, we all pledged to help make information on breast feeding support accessible and consistent. Sally is a regular attendee at our MVP formal meetings, and updates us on developments in this area, especially around breast feeding support information on postnatal wards and the community . Update on the report can be found on the MVP website [here](#).

### Young parents notes from the MVP meeting June 2019

**Rachel Campeny** said the Mindmate website is up and running, with ‘short and sweet’ highlights for under 25s. Liz said the teenage midwives had recently done a consultation looking at replacing one of the 1:1 session with a group setting. Corrine noted contraception training is being given to multiple teams, with a view to fitting coils and implants on the wards. Debbie asked for a definition of ‘teenage’ and Liz clarified that the teenage team is up to age 18 and the pathway is up to age 25. Nicola Goldsborough said Baby Steps is offered for 18 – 25 year olds; Nicola noted a young couple she spoke to on Walking the Patch had found Baby Steps really beneficial. Mindmate website [here](#).

## LEEDS MVP AND THE LOCAL MATERNITY SYSTEM—LMS

The LMS invited Lucy to represent the chairs in the **NHS EXPO** and present with colleagues Karen Poole (Program Manager) and Head of Midwifery Annemarie Henshaw on the '*How to Succeed at System Level Planning*' at Manchester Central September 2019.

Lucy was representing the service user voice on behalf of her position within the Local Maternity System (LMS) of West Yorkshire and Harrogate. It was an opportunity to underline the importance of the membership of the MVP which is crucial for the LMS board in contributing to the decision making and improving maternity care within the Integrated Care System. Lucy helped illustrate how shared learning between the 7 MVPs has helped inform and shape maternity experiences and outcomes of women and families in the region.



### Other work with the LMS

Parent reps have noted a theme around people experiencing delays in **induction**, and not being sure where they are in the process. As this is also a regional theme, some work is taking place across the LMS; parent reps are supporting this by working with the Trust on an induction audit.

**Parent Reps** invited the chair of Harrogate MVP around a Walking the Patch at St James's Post natal ward. This was to help Harrogate to start their doing their own.

## CELEBRATING BABY WEEK



Walking the Patch fell in line with the 4th Baby Week in November 2019. Lucy who is the founder of Baby Week brought along the banner with 4 parent reps, Sadiya Salim from Child Friendly Leeds and Clinical Leader Fellow Dr Amy Riach. We visited the LGI antenatal ward and split into 3 teams and visited the mothers who had been induced. This was part of the ongoing research into a wider LMS induction of labour (IOL) audit across the region. We helped support this with chatting some mums who were having contractions after being induced and their reasons into their choices of this method. The MVP contributed to the co-production of the original questionnaire for doctors to ask women. It was refreshing to see what professional teams conducting the survey and what the results look like! We look forward to being updated on this audit in the spring of 2020.

# ALWAYS EVENT

July 2019 Importance of Skin to Skin using the fishbowl technique took place at Gipton south Children's Centre

Following an MVP meeting in March Jennifer Wilson from Patient Experience was inspired by an infant feeding discussion between Sally Goodwin Mills at Public Health in that the data collated from the UNICEF UK Baby Friendly Initiative Audit Tool for Maternity Services shows a low % of mums being offered skin to skin following a caesarean section. To address this Jennifer arranged an ALWAYS event. An Always event is designed by the NHS to engage with frontline service users to recognise what they value as being a service they should 'Always' receive. Jennifer approached senior midwife Laura Walton, Breast Feeding support midwife Suzanne Tobin and other midwives to invite mums /midwives to bring their infants to take part in a engagement exercise around the importance of Skin to Skin. They used the Fishbowl engagement tool which consists of a group of service users communicating what really matters to them about the first moments of giving birth and how much skin to skin contact they and the father or coparent should get depending on procedure or circumstances. This is done with the professionals sitting around and only listening until their time to swap and the exercise is repeated with the service users listening to them. After the exercise which last about 40 minutes follows a group discussion about moving forward with a statement. Parent rep Helen attended with other mums from patient experience and contributed to the morning. The MVP had an opportunity to promote their work with three parents interested to finding out more. Then we tweeted the two vision statements.



## Vision Statement 1:

I ALWAYS expect to be offered the opportunity to have skin to skin contact with my baby for as long as I want

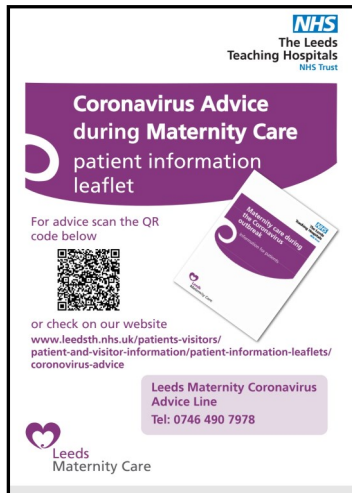
## Vision Statement 2:

I ALWAYS expect to receive consistent information about skin to skin contact with my baby

## Smoking in Pregnancy (SIP)

There has already been lots of work with the Clinical Commissioning group in helping to support the Smoking in Pregnancy Pathway by conducting survey's with Beckett University to get women who are smoking in pregnancy to seek the 'One You Leeds' cessation service. This was shared by Lizzie Greenwood (Public Health) at our December MVP meeting 2019. The letter will go out to those women who smoke in pregnancy if they've not attended the cessation appointment. Lots of good feedback at the meeting for Lizzie to take away including comments from the Facebook community with messages of encouragement rather than judgement. Will continue to involve Lizzie in the MVP meetings when she shares Maternity Prevention Programme by Leeds Health and Care Plan .

# Co-producing information in a pandemic



**The final MVP formal meeting took place on the 19th March via the virtual platform of Zoom.** Due to the sudden change in circumstances; facing the pandemic called Covid-19, a viral infection, causing countries to go into lockdown. Staff at the hospital were being advised to remain on site to support services. Other professionals due to attend the meeting were also limiting their travel and would begin like all of those who could, to be working from home for the unforeseeable future. Apologies were given, and the meeting took place with seven parent reps. The minutes were made up and sent out on the same day to update the professionals. Matters arising were around the safety of the women and families at the hospital.

We understood the demand that the staff were facing, but we also knew if we could direct women and families to a central point on the MVP website to answer some essential questions it would elevate some of the issues midwives were facing on the wards with the public. Claire Licence was able to put as much information from the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists to give a more national guidelines, but we knew we needed to post more local and relevant information and wanted to make sure that accurate information and facts were coming through.

We asked people to post what reassurances they wanted to see by the trust to get an idea of themes. These were then fed back to Head of Midwifery Sue Gibson, Becky Musgrave Deputy and Laura Walton Strategic Lead. Over the next few days the staff at the trust changed the way they worked responding to the pandemic. They rapidly turned around practice keeping the safety of women and babies paramount, reducing the threat of the spread of Coronavirus. On Friday 20th March Sue contacted both chair and co-chair with new information and reviewed restrictions of visitors in visiting hours these we published on the website. On Tuesday 24th March the midwives had found the time to film two midwives with a helpline number specially created for non emergency queries and soon the private messages the MVP were receiving were now being answered by a specialist. On Wednesday 25th March Lucy received a phone call from senior midwife Sarah Bennett who was pulled back into practice from Wakefield CCG. Sarah requested co-production on the guidance leaflet medical illustration was fast turning round. The service user input was needed but we were restricted with time. Lucy compared and confirmed all queries noted on Facebook and where it was necessary to included information on infant feeding postnatally. Once this was passed it was immediately published on The Leeds Maternity Care platform addressing women's and families needs. The poster for the leaflet was also published giving a Q Code to the information and browse aloud function for multiple languages and was posted widely. We received over 100 new Facebook followers in one week. On the final day of work as part of the MVP Chair was invited to take part in the Microsoft Teams meeting hosted by National Maternity Voices. Lucy joined 54 other MVP chairs around the country to share the way we responded to pandemic in the first few days and co-producing quick information. Along with two other chairs from Somerset and the Scilly isles who showed exemplary work Lucy put the quick working down to the positive working relationship the trust has with its MVP reps. Thank you to all involved with making this happen and keeping our women, babies and families safe.



# Saying Good bye and Hello!

As Lucy finishes her time with the MVP, the charity Women's Health Matters remains the MVP contract holder for another year. Aneira Thomas will take over the role as chair and continues to work with the co-chair, parent reps and professionals. Having already taken time for the handover Aneira has done a great job already getting to meet parent and professionals. This picture is the final WTP Lucy did with parent reps at SJUH on Postnatal J5. Thank you lovely midwives who bought me flowers and shared cake.



## Planned work will continue with:

**A focus group—understanding the needs facing parent who have a learning disability.** We could not have predicted the final two weeks of March and because of the Coronavirus some events will have to be rearranged. We had arranged the learning disabilities focus group between MVP, Leeds Voices (Voluntary Action Leeds) and the CHANGE charity who work to advocate the needs of parents who have a learning disability. This will be postponed till later in the year.

Due to the modifications on the Learning Disability and Autism pathway at the trust this is an area which requires further engagement and representation of the LD and Autism community. However, during these past few weeks the MVP has been brought into closer in contact with liaising with people who are vulnerable and understanding their needs, including learning disabilities, Autism, mental health needs and PTSD. The response to the pandemic at the trust has accelerated communications and we can say that we have been made aware of the great resources out there and how these are getting utilised at this moment in time; The disability passport, easy to read documents and helping people plan as much in advance to cover their needs which has helped bring awareness to the forefront of people's minds. Hopefully this focus group which is being planned will use this as evidence to ensure enhance multi-professional working.

### Further work

- **Homebirth** -help communicate changes to the Home birth service and the low birth provision unit (Lotus Suite) to reassure women who still want to Homebirth who aren't low risk.
- **VBAC**—Working with Obstetricians and consultants to co-produce a leaflet to which helps provide a consistent and supportive approach to women and partners wishing to have a VBAC.

