Brighton and Hove Maternity Services Liaison Committee (MSLC) Meeting  
Thursday 11th September 2014  
10:00 - 12:30  
Sussex House Boardroom

Present:  
Suzanne Jarrett (SJ) Chair, Parent Rep  
Hannah Sherlock (HS) Co-Chair, Parent Rep, NCT Homebirth Group

Service User Reps:  
Nicky Thackeray (NT) NCT Regional Co-ordinator, Parent rep

Service Providers:  
Pip Andrews (PA) Postnatal Ward Lead Midwife, Supervisor of Midwives, RSCH  
Jane Canning (JC) Birth Stories Midwife, BSUH  
Emma Cockburn (EC) Lead Sonographer, BSUH  
Dawn Elson (DE) Manager for Gynae and Maternity (arrived at 11am)  
Kate Hassan (KH) Labour Ward Co-ordinator, Acting Labour Ward Lead (arrived at 11am)  
Matthew Kersham (MK) CEO, BSUH (arrived at 10.30)  
Helen O’dell (HO) Deputy Chief Nurse, BSUH (arrived at 11am)  
Ainslie Smith (AS) Student Midwife in waiting, BSUH  
Carol Whiley (CW) Children’s Centre Service Manager, SCT  
Marion Wilyman (MW) Community Midwifery Lead, BSUH

Commissioners  
Kathy Felton (KF) Commissioner for Maternity, NHS Brighton and Hove CCG  
Sue Leeves (SL) Commissioning Support, NHS Brighton and Hove CCG

Guest  
Dr Dan Poulter (DP) Health Minister (arrived at 11am)  
Donna Webster (DW) Communications Team, BSUH (arrived at 11am)

Apologies  
Sonia Griffiths (SG) Antenatal Educator, Hypnotherapist  
Janet Everest (JE) Infant Feeding Advisor, BSUH  
Sylvia New (SN) Brighton and Hove Healthwatch  
Marien Scmittenner (MS) Parent Rep, NCT Homebirth Group

Welcome, introductions and apologies  
Introductions were led by SJ

Minutes, Actions and Updates from June Meeting  
It was agreed the minutes of the last meeting were accurate

Breastfeeding Readmissions  
Jenny Davison was leading on this issue. Now resigned.  
ACTION: SJ to raise with new manager.

Birth Centre for Brighton and Hove  
SJ met MK on 7th July. On track. HO will continue to lead process despite new role. MSLC to be updated later in the meeting  
ACTION: SJ will update MSLC at next meeting

Hypnobirthing info in Labour Ward booklets  
SG has suggested changes of wording.  
ACTION: SJ to follow up with BSUH

Plan for Normalising Birth  
High rate of C-Section raised with CQC  
ACTION: SJ to follow up with BSUH
Diabetes / insulin IV in labour
Jenny Davison was leading on this issue. Now resigned. Plans for improvements to Diabetes pathway and clinic waiting times
ACTION: SJ to raise with new manager.

IEMT research
ACTION: SG to update next meeting

Feedback from women re. screening / sonography
Attendance from lead sonographer EC improving links with MSLC
ACTION: SJ to attend next Screening Working Group to raise feedback from women

Update to My Pregnancy Matters website re. expected number of scans to be offered
HS: women’s expectations based on number of scans offered via private health care where parents are charged per scan
EC has requested info be sent to women re. nuchal scan to avoid confusion on the day
ACTION: SJ to raise with community midwifery team re. information given at booking re. two scans offered.

Walk The Patch Postnatal Ward
Walk completed in early May and shared with MK
Latest WTP to be discussed later in meeting.

Buddy scheme re. homebirth
ACTION: Midwife Mags Rathbone coming to next MSLC to discuss

Improve engagement of Obstetric team with MSLC
ACTION: SJ planning to engage with monthly obstetric meeting

Discussion of statistics June – Aug 14

Discussion of low water birth numbers
- women need to be aware of availability of new pools
- JC: midwives feel far away from labour ward in case of emergency but when woman offered pool, can impact positively on labour and reduce interventions
- MW: an email will be sent to all team members re. encouraging women to use pool
- DE (later in meeting) appointment of consultant midwife should help midwives confidence, more staff training planned
ACTION: MSLC to monitor stats

Discussion of reduced homebirth numbers
- MW: high transfer rate in August not captured by stats, monitored by community team via internal audit
ACTION: MSLC to request transfer rate published on monthly stats

Discussion of rising C-Section rate
- MW: population having second C-Section affects rate, will not drop easily
- all agreed the post C-S talk to inform women that one C-S doesn’t mean a second C-S and may relieve pressure on Birth Stories
NT: women need to be educated that C-S not a pain free option
SJ and NT talked about their positive experiences (VBAC and traumatic first birth) following session with Birth Stories
HS: Birth Stories an example of how investment in staff can empower women and save money
JC: confusion between Birth Stories and VBAC clinics – hard to determine who needs what. Community midwives can talk to women about past experiences – she may not need Birth Stories service
ACTION: MSLC to ensure Birth Stories continues to be funded
Discussion of CQC Inspection May 2014

MK – overall CQC result for Trust – needs improvement. The same conclusion as per many other Trusts in England. Only 5 ‘Good’ ratings across country. BSUH not surprised by findings. CQC were positive around efforts of staff. All areas flagged are actioned for improvement that will take time.

(Meeting paused for late arrivals)

Update from Maternity Services, BSUH

HO:
- Birth Centre nearly at final sign off with support of Trust team
- antenatal clinic to be moved to Sussex House following 6 month refurbishment
- will be another 18 months before the Birth Centre opens (c. March 2016)
- will continue to support case for Birth Centre

DE:
- August busy, challenging re. staffing levels
- Feedback from new midwives that they feel supported
- increased complexity of cases should improve midwife ratios
MK: the Birth Centre should match needs of women with experience of staff

Discussion of Friends and Family Test:
DE: Majority of women who respond extremely likely to come back. Themes – partners would have liked to have stayed longer
PA – looking at partners staying overnight. Need to audit then will roll out at RSCH
ACTION: MSLC to monitor progress of partners staying overnight

DE: Postnatal experiences harder to capture
KF – anecdotally, women don’t feel as supported in PN period. Feel PN team too busy
MW – more visits from MCAs introduced to improve breastfeeding support
HO – specific groups are targeted with more breastfeeding support – women who have had CS and Post Partum Haemorrhage (PPH)
MW – letter being rewritten re. what to expect when arrive home after giving birth plus women on perinatal mental health pathway are receiving more postnatal support
NT – feedback from women that don’t have extended family in the area feel they need more support
SJ – women need to be aware of support in children’s centres
JC – postnatal clinics in children’s centres good ways of introducing support systems in place
NT – we need to raise awareness of NCT feeding helpline
DE – Friends and Family capture rate 30%, immediate postnatal period good time to survey women but they are tired and overwhelmed
HO – app not well used, paper copy higher return rate
ACTION: SJ to follow up points made

Discussion of new roles in BSUH maternity service:

DE- new acting Head of Midwifery role. Manager role to be advertised. Deputy Head of Midwifery role has gone. Band 7 midwives are being appointed
HO – new deputy chief nurse role – midwife at senior level in Trust
ACTION: MSLC to be updated at next meeting
Update of Community Midwifery Service:

MW – have recruited more MCAs plus IT project lead so community midwives will have access to all IT systems. Vital to input correct information about women at booking to ensure accurate tariffs. September expected to see rise in homebirths (Christmas babies).

Antenatal classes – have increased number of all day weekend workshops, easier for Dads, friendship groups formed, more likely to hear breastfeeding info, ideas to bring other teams in (aromatherapy).

Discussion of recent Walk The Patch results

SJ talked through report which can be found at www.brightonandhovemslc.com

Specific comments:

SJ: differences in feedback from women who are surveyed on the postnatal ward and those surveyed at the Children’s Centres – whose feedback is often more negative. Time to reflect?

PA: women talk to each other and elevate issues

MW: issue raised from last WTP report re. women seeing several antenatal midwives has been resolved

SJ: issue with women based in Portslade choosing Worthing. Reasons given:
- modern unit
- easier to access from Hove and Portslade
- easier to park

ACTION: MSLC to suggest ways of increasing awareness

SJ: not many women knowledgeable about Birth Centres
DE: Consultant Midwife will be tasked with raising awareness

Discussion of Diabetic Pathway and implications for quality of antenatal care
ACTION: MSLC to monitor new NICE guidelines around diabetes in pregnancy and ensure BSUH are following NICE re. screening programme

Discussion of Screening programme and implications for quality of antenatal care:
EC: Moving ultrasound to Sussex House with a quiet room and exit away from antenatal clinic for women who have had bad news following screening. Also looking into dedicated member of staff to support women and their partners following bad news. Noticeboard in place to inform parents about waiting times.

PA: More information going up on PN ward re. Breastfeeding Peer Support in the community – so women can see the sort of people that attend – its hoped it will remove the potential feelings of exclusion

CW: women are invited to breastfeeding peer support groups via information distributed during antenatal period

PA: mattresses are now available on the floor for partners wishing to stay the night

AOB: there was no further business

Date of next meeting: Thurs 6th Nov 2014, Sussex House Board Room, 10-12.30