

**Y&H Neonatal ODN Executive Board**  
**Y&H Maternity Clinical Network update**  
**1<sup>st</sup> September 2020**

**System Support: COVID – 19**

From the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Maternity Clinical Network paused the work programme priorities in line with national MTP, to support Trusts to focus on clinical requirements. Two members of the CN team were redeployed to COVID support cells during this time and Sarah Winfield, Network Clinical Lead, returned full time to support clinical commitments within her Trust.

The Maternity Clinical Network Team re-grouped in August and are preparing to restart the work programme.

Working with HoMs and the North Region MTP Team

This includes weekly meetings with the Regional Maternity Lead, attendance at the weekly Y&H HoM meetings and hosting LMS/ODN/CN meetings, initially weekly and subsequently fortnightly meetings, to provide support, advice, intelligence and to share learning, best practice and innovation.

The CN continue to attend LMS system check in meetings in SYB and HCV.

As a result, a number of bespoke pieces of work were undertaken.

Data collection was carried out in March and April to review stillbirth, late miscarriage and BBA data across Y&H following reported increase in another Clinical Network. The findings were shared with the LMS PMOs. A further data collection has been undertaken to include May, June & July as requested by the HOMs, and is currently being collated.

A Y&H Maternity and Neonatal Safety Champions Framework to support the Maternity Incentive Scheme safety action has been developed with support from the Heads of Midwifery along with the Neonatal ODN and shared widely.

A survey was undertaken by the Y&H Diabetes Clinical Network on the impact of changes to Glucose Tolerance Tests as recommended by the RCOG COVID-19 publication. The findings were shared with the Maternity CN Clinical Lead and subsequently with the Maternity and Diabetes National Clinical Directors. A change to the RCOG guidance subsequently took place and Trusts have either commenced or are re-starting GTTs.

The Maternity Clinical Network has worked with the Y&H Neonatal ODN and the LMS Programme Leads to develop a Neonatal Critical Care Review Recommendations action plan. The next step is to plan system wide implementation and ensure alignment with each of the LMS plans.

**Structures**

The revised NHS England and NHS Improvement organisational structures were due to come into force from 01.04.2020. Due to the pandemic, no recruitment to vacant posts has been able to take place. The Clinical Network are currently recruiting to a secondment/fixed term Quality Improvement Lead to join the maternity team.

## Governance

All Maternity CN Meetings were paused as a result of the pandemic. The CN have resumed work on its work programme during August 2020 with meetings commencing from September 2020. In line with the decision that all NHS England and NHS Improvement staff will continue to work from home until 31st December 2020. All meetings will be held virtually via MS Teams.

Dates for the following meetings are unchanged and revised diary invitations will be issued to members for the groups:

Y&H Maternity Clinical Expert Group - Friday, 18th September 2020, 09.00 – 12.30hrs

Y&H Maternity Strategy Group - Thursday 8th October 2020, 14.00 – 16.00hrs

Y&H Commissioners Forum – Wednesday 14th October 2020, 09.30 – 12.00hrs

## Work Programme

The 2020/21 Y&H Maternity Clinical Network work plan has been updated in line with the requirements of the LMS national deliverables and the national CN key deliverables. Meetings with LMS PMOs to inform this work plan took place in November 2019 to align work priorities between the North Region, the Maternity Clinical Networks, Y&H Neonatal ODN and the LMS' and again with the LMS' in January 2020.

There will be two previously agreed additions to the CN work plan which will be Preterm Births and Neonatal Critical Care Review.

Work with the Maternity and Neonatal Safety Improvement Programme has continued through the pandemic and are currently looking to restart the work on <27 week gestation babies born outside a NICU. The exception reporting process has been developed to include all 'Off Pathway' births and has been circulated to the Neonatal Executive Board for comment.

Hilary Farrow  
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