

NHS NORTH CENTRAL LONDON	BOROUGHES [: BARNET, CAMDEN, ENFIELD, HARINGEY, ISLINGTON WARDS: ALL
REPORT TITLE: General update from the North Central London Maternity and Newborn Network for 2012-13.	
REPORT OF: Sarah Price – Chief Officer Haringey CCG Fiona Laird – Head of Midwifery NMUH Suzanne Sweeney – Acting Maternity Network Manager NHS North Central London	
FOR SUBMISSION TO: North Central London Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee	MEETING DATE: 14 th March 2013
SUMMARY OF REPORT: <p>The North Central London Maternity and Newborn network has continued to ensure clinical input to inform and direct targeted service improvement interventions and support the strategic development, and commissioning, of maternity services across North Central London providers. The network implemented an agreed work plan to address the following areas during 2012;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standardisation of midwife to birth ratio • Standardisation of guidelines and protocols • Establishment of training days with the North Central London Perinatal Network(NCLPN) • To secure the future and local development of the North Central London Maternity and Newborn network. • To work collaboratively with the emerging Maternity and Child Strategic Clinical Network (SCN) through the London Clinical Senate. <p>This report provides a general update on maternity services, work force planning (in response to the ageing midwife population), and maternity unit suspensions (diverts).</p> <p>CONTACT OFFICER: Suzanne Sweeney Acting Maternity and Newborn Network Manager NHS North Central London</p>	
RECOMMENDATIONS: The Committee is asked to comment on the report for North Central London Maternity and Newborn Network 2012/13.	
Sarah Price, SRO for Maternity, NHS North Central London DATE: 04 March 2013	

North Central London Maternity and Newborn Network

North Central London Maternity and Newborn Network is a provider network made up of the following Trusts: UCLH, Royal Free, North Middlesex, Whittington, Barnet and Chase Farm.

This report gives an overview of the work and achievements of the network in 2012/13.

In 2013/14, the network plans to increase engagement with the five CCGs in North Central London and to establish a new strategic group across North Central London and East London in line with Academic Health Science Centre (UCLP)

General Update on North Central London Maternity Services

Achievements Overview

- Maternity services across North Central London have been successful in receiving additional central NHS funding to invest in local services. Both the Whittington Hospital and the Royal Free were successful in their bids for funding to improve midwifery services and patient experience.
- The midwifery unit at the North Middlesex University Hospital (NNUH) were presented with the prestigious Bio Oil Team of The Year Award at the Royal College of Midwives' annual award ceremony. The team's application focussed on engaging the hearts and minds of their staff as well as the patients to provide the best possible service at every stage of the maternity pathway. 100% of mothers surveyed said they would recommend the maternity service at NNUH.
- University College London Hospital maintained their level III Clinical Negligence Scheme for Trusts and the Royal Free Hospital obtained this level.
- Thames Regional Perinatal Group (TRPG) appraised the North Central London Perinatal Network (NCLPN) including maternity services. Good feedback was received and we are awaiting the final report.

Work Completed

Throughout 2012/13 the network has supported service transformation and improvement, as well as strategic plans (including the QIPP programme). Specific areas of work completed include:

- **Reducing the C-section (Caesarean-section) rate:**
The sector shows an increase in normal deliveries from April 2012 and a decreased trend in C-section for the same time period. Overall from 2011 to 2012, although there have been peaks and troughs, the overall trend for C-section has declined.
The rate for C-Section was high (32% in November 2011). The network has achieved reduction in key Trusts through the adoption of a standardised multi disciplinary approach and protocol for reviewing all C-sections. This has been embedded in the maternity contract specifications. The network has designed an information leaflet on elective C-section on maternal request and undertakes monthly monitoring of C-section rates for a standing item discussion at the quarterly NCL Maternity Network Board. The network has also looked at the wider reasons for maternal choice C-section and undertaken an audit of VBAC (vaginal birth after Caesarean section).

- **Implementing an effective process for sharing best practice:**

For example, the use of Fetal Fibronectin to detect threatened pre-term labour has been adopted across North Central London. The network has also introduced the use of Propess® for induction (moving to outpatient induction) and the use of magnesium sulphate in pre-term labour to prevent cerebral palsy.

- **Standardisation of counting midwife to birth ratio in North Central London:**

All units have now standardised the way in which they collect data for this indicator, using an agreed template which is reviewed monthly. All units are working towards the recommendation and the sector expects compliance by year-end. NHS London recommends a ratio of 1:30 for London units.

- **New Publications:**

The network has created a North Central London Birth Choice leaflet for women and families which also includes information for women assessed to have high risk pregnancies and births.

The network has worked towards the standardisation and procurement of delivery packs in NCL.

- **Staff Development**

To standardise training and skill competencies across the sector, the network developed and piloted the NCL Passport for Learning. Initial work was undertaken by the clinical practice facilitators' working group.

The network has successfully established joint training days with the North Central London Perinatal Network to share and inform best practice and new developments. Both networks work collaboratively on projects, such as reducing avoidable admissions.

New approaches to improving staff attitude include the introduction of Care rounds, Midwife rounds and staff incentive schemes.

- **Future Work Plans**

The network is working towards a centralised booking procedure within the sector to help reduce the number of double bookings.

Workforce Planning

We have reviewed the current midwifery workforce across the sector. As expected, there is disparity in age of the workforce in each unit. Those Trusts where the ageing population was an issue are working to mitigate these effects internally.

The network has focussed its efforts in areas where it could positively impact clinical quality and improve the birth experience for its mothers. Much work has been undertaken to achieve the evidence-based national recommendations on midwife to birth ratios (1:30) across the network, ensuring that all units were using standardised reporting models. The network expects to be fully compliant by year-end.

Maternity Diverts 2012

Most Trusts did not need to divert services during 2012.

Unit	No. of diverts
North Middlesex University Hospital	None
Royal Free Hospital	None
Whittington Hospital	None

University College London Hospital	One
Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals	158 - mainly internal transfers between hospital sites

It is expected that the movement of maternity services from Chase Farm Hospital to Barnet Hospital in November 2013, with the associated physical capacity improvements and appropriate workforce in place as part of the implementation of the BEH Clinical Strategy will solve the internal divert issue at this Trust.

The network will continue to closely monitor service provision and any maternity diverts.

Sarah Price
SRO For Maternity
NHS North Central London