

Executive Summary

Report to the Board of Directors

Being Held on 23 July 2024

Subject	Maternity and Neonatal Services - Listening to Women and Families
Supporting TEG Member	Chris Morley, Chief Nurse
Author	Laura Rumsey, Midwifery Director, Andrea Galimberti, Clinical Director and Nathan Timmis, Operations Director
Status¹	N

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

On 9th January 2024 the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Birth Trauma established the first national inquiry in the UK Parliament to investigate the reasons for birth trauma and to develop policy recommendations to reduce the rate of birth trauma.

On 17th May following publication of the APPG's report on Birth Trauma, NHS England highlighted that the implementation of the Three-Year Delivery Plan for Maternity and Neonatal Services was a requirement of the operational planning guidance for 2024/25. NHS England requested that Trust Boards review the commissioning and implementation of existing commitments for which they have received funding for implementation in 23/24, and which will help address recommendations in the APPG Birth Trauma report. This report seeks to provide the Board of Directors with assurance that all elements highlighted by NHS England are in progress at the Jessop Wing.

These commitments are:

- Perinatal pelvic health services, in line with the national service specification
- Maternal mental health services, in line with national guidance
- Availability of bereavement services 7 days a week
- LMNS equity and equality action plans, working across organisational boundaries.

KEY POINTS

Perinatal Pelvic Health Services

- Key achievements
 - Better access to physiotherapy services
 - New information for women and service users
 - Education for women and professionals
 - Increased staffing

Maternal mental health services

- The South Yorkshire maternal mental health service provides support to women and birthing people experiencing moderate to severe mental health difficulties relating to perinatal trauma or loss.
- Jessop Wing, and all South Yorkshire & Bassetlaw (SY&B) maternity providers, offer a 'Birth Reflections' service, referred to as the Birth in Mind service.
- Jessop Wing, Perinatal Mental Health (PMH) Team, work collaboratively with the Local Maternity and Neonatal System (LMNS) and are currently involved in a specific project to understand the needs of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities and groups in relation to perinatal mental health support.

Availability of bereavement services 7 days a week

- Current provision includes 0.8 WTE Band 7 Lead Bereavement Midwife, 0.6 WTE Band 6 Bereavement Midwife and 1.0 Band 5 Bereavement Operational Support Manager.
- Out to advert for 0.6 WTE Band 6 Neonatal Bereavement Nurse to join the team.

LMNS Equity and Equality action plans, working across organisational boundaries

- SY&B LMNS Equity and Equality action plan was published in September 2022.
- A year one progress update will be published in June 2024 by the LMNS.
- Jessop Wing is actively involved with all elements of the plan.
- Recent appointment of Consultant Midwife role who will lead the focus on reducing perinatal health inequalities for women, birthing people and families receiving care in Sheffield.
- Additional investment 1.2 wte Band 7 Midwives make up the Cultural Safety team who work within the portfolio of the Consultant Midwife.

IMPLICATIONS²

Aim of the STHFT Corporate Strategy		✓ Tick as appropriate
1	Deliver the Best Clinical Outcomes	✓
2	Provide Patient Centred Services	✓
3	Employ Caring and Cared for Staff	✓
4	Spend Public Money Wisely	✓
5	Create a Sustainable Organisation	✓
6	Deliver Excellent Research, Education and Innovation	✓

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board of Directors is asked to receive and note the contents of this report and acknowledge the progress made against the four areas highlighted for review by NHS England.

APPROVAL PROCESS

Meeting	Date	Approved Y/N
TEG	03.07.2024	
Board of Directors (Public)	23.07.2024	

¹ Status: A = Approval
A* = Approval & Requiring Board Approval
D = Debate
N = Note

² Against the six aims of the STHFT Corporate Strategy 'Making a Difference – The next Chapter 2022-27'

1. Report Overview

On 9th January 2024 the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Birth Trauma established the first national inquiry in the UK Parliament to investigate the reasons for birth trauma and to develop policy recommendations to reduce the rate of birth trauma.

The Inquiry received 1,300 submissions from people who experienced traumatic birth, as well as nearly 100 submissions from maternity professionals. It also held seven evidence sessions, in which testimony from both parents and experts, including maternity professionals and academics, was heard.

2. Recommendations

The fundamental conclusion recommended a base standard in maternity services across the United Kingdom. It was recognised that there are several strategy documents relating to maternity and neonatal services but no single, living document.

The report calls for the publication of a National Maternity Improvement Strategy, led by a new Maternity Commissioner who would report to the Prime Minister. This should outline ways to:

1. Recruit, train and retain midwives, obstetricians, and anaesthetists to ensure safe staffing levels in maternity services and provide mandatory training on trauma-informed care.
2. Provide universal access to specialist maternal mental health services across the UK to end the postcode lottery.
3. Offer a separate 6-week check post-delivery with a GP for all mothers which includes separate questions for physical and mental health to the baby.
4. Roll out and implement, underpinned by sufficient training, the OASI (obstetric and anal sphincter injury) care bundle to all hospital trusts to reduce risks of injuries in childbirth.
5. Oversee the national rollout of standardised post birth services, such as Birth Reflections, to give all mothers a safe space to speak about their experiences in childbirth.
6. Ensure better education for women on birth choices. All NHS Trusts should offer antenatal classes. Risks should be discussed during antenatal classes and at a 34-week antenatal check with a midwife to ensure informed consent.
7. Respect mothers' choices about giving birth and access to pain relief and keep mothers together with their baby as much as possible.
8. Provide support for fathers and ensure nominated birth partner is continuously informed and updated during labour and post-delivery.
9. Provide improved Continuity of Care and support the digitising of mother's health records to enhance communication between primary and secondary health care. This should include the integration of different IT systems to ensure notes are always shared.
10. Extend the time limit for medical negligence relating to childbirth from three years to five years.
11. Commit to tackling inequalities in maternity care among ethnic minorities, particularly Black Asian and minority ethnic women. To address this NHS England should provide funding to each NHS Trust to maintain a pool of appropriately trained interpreters with expertise in maternity and to train NHS staff to work with interpreters.
12. NIHR to commission research on the economic impact of birth trauma and injuries including factors such as women delaying returning to work.

3. National Context

The Three-Year Delivery Plan for Maternity and Neonatal Services was published by NHS England on 31st March 2023 with the aim of making maternity care safer, more personalised and equitable. The Plan outlines four overarching themes and provides maternity and neonatal services with a single improvement roadmap incorporating and replacing all recommendations from the East Kent: Reading the Signals Report, and both Ockenden Reports Immediate and Essential Actions. Maternity provider delivery and progress against the Three-Year Delivery Plan is monitored by the maternity and neonatal arm of South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw, (SY&B), Integrated care Board (ICB), the Local Maternity and Neonatal System

(LMNS). The LMNS/ICB are accountable in providing regional assurance of system progress and delivery.

NHS England wrote to all trusts on the 17th May following publication of the APPG's report on Birth Trauma highlighting that the implementation of the Three-Year Delivery Plan for Maternity and Neonatal Services was a requirement of the operational planning guidance for 2024/25. In addition, they requested that Trust boards review the commissioning and implementation of existing commitments for which they have received funding for implementation in 23/24, and which will help address recommendations in the APPG Birth Trauma report. These commitments are:

- Perinatal pelvic health services, in line with the national service specification
- Maternal mental health services, in line with national guidance
- Availability of bereavement services 7 days a week
- LMNS equity and equality action plans, working across organisational boundaries

4. Jessop Wing Response

Perinatal Pelvic Health Services

In June 2022, SY&B LMNS joined a national project to improve pelvic health services and access to support during pregnancy and up to 1-year after birth. The aim of the project is to ensure that women understand the pelvic health issues that can develop during pregnancy and after birth, how to prevent them and how to get support if they experience them.

As part of the project, the LMNS team, women's physiotherapists, midwives, obstetricians and service users have come together to focus on improving key areas such as information for service users, staff education and developing a new app for women in SY&B.

Perinatal Pelvic Health Services: Key achievements

Better access to physiotherapy services

- Self-referral to physiotherapy available in all four Trusts in South Yorkshire
- Access to physiotherapy support up to 1-year after birth across South Yorkshire.

New information for women and service users

- Leaflet on how to perform perineal massage - including 2 translations
- Bladder care animation
- Video on signs and symptoms of pelvic health issues and how to do pelvic floor exercises - translated into British Sign Language (BSL)
- Video on what to expect at your pelvic health physiotherapy appointment - translated into BSL
- A new pelvic health app, **getUBetter**, with general information, as well as information for pregnancy and after birth. Includes translation and touch to speak functions.

Education for women and professionals

- Links and outreach to key local community and voluntary sector groups
- Outreach and education for GPs and health visitors
- Specialist pelvic health midwives providing ongoing education to maternity staff
- Pelvic health education as part of antenatal classes.

Increased staffing

- System wide funding for 1.6 whole time equivalent (WTE) midwives (0.6 wte in Jessop Wing) and 4.9 WTE pelvic health physiotherapists to provide additional support on postnatal wards and in perineal trauma clinics.

Maternal mental health services, in line with national guidance

In the absence of a national specification for maternal mental health services, the SY&B ambition is outlined within both the Long-Term Plan, and the Mental Health Implementation Plan.

The South Yorkshire maternal mental health service provides support to women and birthing people experiencing moderate to severe mental health difficulties relating to perinatal trauma or loss. The team are also involved in giving training to specialist midwives and other maternity staff. Over the past 12-months the team have been working with women and birthing people to develop their 'expert by experience' panel.

Jessop Wing, and all SY&B maternity providers, offer a 'Birth Reflections' service, referred to as the Birth in Mind service. This service enables onward referral to other services such as perinatal mental health or maternal mental health clinical psychologists where enhanced support is necessary. Women who have attended the Birth in Mind service are invited to join the expert panel following discharge from the service. By joining the panel women are able to collaborate and inform the development of the service.

Jessop Wing, Perinatal Mental Health (PMH) Team, work collaboratively with the LMNS and are currently involved in a specific project to understand the needs of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities and groups in relation to perinatal mental health support. They are developing relationships with, community groups and organisations that support communities that they know are not using the service, to improve this. In some areas the service has moved to Family Hubs and there are plans for the Birth in Mind service to be available in community clinics to support better access, specifically for those living in areas of high deprivation within the city.

The PMH team are also involved in developing guidelines for supporting neurodiversity in maternity services.

Psychology provision will be enhanced, to provide an additional service to women experiencing loss, this role is out to advert, with interviews in July 2024.

Jessop Wing, Perinatal Mental Health, (PMH), Team comprises of 1.6 WTE band 7, 1.76 wte band 6 Midwives, and 1.0 wte Maternity Support Worker. The team support women and birthing people with their emotional wellbeing and mental health. They work closely with other specialist services, such as Psychology services, the Parent and Infant Service (PAIRS) and the Sheffield Perinatal Mental Health service.

Recent quality improvements include:

- Emotional Wellbeing Clinics, specifically aimed at women who do not meet the threshold for Sheffield Perinatal Mental Health Support, are offered in a community-based appointment with one of the PMH midwives who listen and work with women to formulate ongoing PMH support plans.
- A Maternity Passport has been designed to support women and birthing people throughout their journey, informing professionals of individualised needs and aids with the improvement to their pregnancy and birth journey.
- Improved collaboration with the Sheffield Perinatal Mental Health Service, participation at MDT meetings, has bolstered the support available to women alongside traditional routes of access, by providing wraparound care.

Availability of bereavement services 7 days a week

Current provision includes 0.8 WTE Band 7 Lead Bereavement Midwife, 0.6 WTE Band 6 Bereavement

Midwife and 1.0 Band 5 Bereavement Operational Support Manager.

Recent developments:

- Out to advert for 0.6 WTE Band 6 Neonatal Bereavement Nurse to join the team.
- 14 clinical Registered Midwives have volunteered to be Jessop Wing Bereavement Champions.
- Planned Bereavement Champion training scheduled for 30th July and 22nd August 2024, to support a 24/7 service for women and families. This will be achieved by October 2024.

Recent Bereavement Team Feedback in the form of Thank You cards from three families:

'We are so grateful for everything you have done for us as a Family. Thank you for being so understanding, respectful and for taking the time to help us through every step of the way. You truly are amazing, thank you so much'.

'When you first come for your 12- week scan & you see the sign for the bereavement suite, you never think you'd be visiting there. Unfortunately for us our journey meant we needed too. We just want to say thank you so much for your help and support over these past few weeks. You have made the hardest days easier for us. Thank you for caring for our beautiful baby'.

'We as a family just want to say thank you for caring for our babies. Nothing was ever a problem, and you gave us memories we will cherish for the rest of our lives. Thank you for always being there and giving us the best support we needed during the worse time of our lives. Thank you for being there every time we needed you. We will never forget your kindness our babies would appreciate it so much too.'

LMNS Equity and Equality action plans, working across organisational boundaries

SY&B LMNS Equity and Equality action plan was published in September 2022.

A year one progress update will be published in June 2024 by the LMNS. Jessop Wing is actively involved with all elements of the plan. Significant progress has been made and the plan continues to evolve and become embedded across provider organisations in SY&B. Jessop Wing specific progress includes:

- Recent appointment of Consultant Midwife role who will lead the focus on reducing perinatal health inequalities for women, birthing people and families receiving care in Sheffield.
- Additional investment 1.2 wte Band 7 Midwives make up the Cultural Safety team who work within the portfolio of the Consultant Midwife.

Quality improvements include:

1. Interpreting and translation – improvement in provision, launch of language Risk Assessments undertaken at the Booking appointment.
2. Disaggregation of feedback data by Ethnicity (Friends and Family Test (FFT) and National Maternity Survey). Includes Datix incident reviews and Perinatal Mortality Review Tool (PMRT).
3. Community engagement and direct feedback via bimonthly Cultural Safety Forum and strong links with the Maternity and Neonatal Voices Partnership (MNVP).
4. MNVP Co-production projects – Female Genital Mutilation safeguarding support improvements for women.
5. Development of Jessop Wing Website resources with a focus on accessible information. Recite Me a translation software is now available.
6. Successful Roma link worker recruitment to enhance support for the Roma community.
7. Annual mandatory staff training on cultural safety and sensitivities.
8. Six members of maternity and neonatal midwifery and nursing staff began on NHS

- Leadership Academy Elevate and White Allies course.
9. Future plans- co-production of improved Gestational Diabetes Mellitus (GDM) services for South Asian women.
 10. Improvement initiative to raise the inclusivity of parent education provision in Sheffield.

5. Conclusion

Listen to Mums: Ending the Postcode Lottery on Perinatal Care: The All-party Parliamentary Group Birth Trauma Report is the latest report into maternity care to be published. This report has reviewed the commissioning and implementation of existing commitments for which the Trust has received funding for implementation in 23/24, as requested by NHS England. Working collaboratively across the LMNS, the Trust is able to demonstrate positive and ongoing progress in the four areas highlighted by NHS England.