**July 2022 NENC Maternity and Perinatal Mental Health Clinical Network Update**

*The Maternity and Perinatal Mental Health Clinical Networks (PNMH) exist to provide expert clinical advice and peer support to solve problems and build momentum for positive change.*

The Maternity Clinical Network supports the NENC Local Maternity Neonatal System (LMNS) to deliver the Maternity Transformation Programme.

The Perinatal Mental Health Network plays an important role in supporting strategic planning and local delivery.

The Maternity Clinical Network has several multi-organisational specialist groups in place which are led by clinicians and overseen by a Clinical Advisory Group. The key aims of the groups are learning, sharing and improvement through an expert collective voice. In this monthly update we aim to inform you about recent innovations and provide an insight into the work being undertaken. To be part of the Network groups, please e-mail Paula.elliott2@nhs.net for further information.

*Preterm Birth* – This group meets monthly reporting their PTB activity and outcomes and in May 2022 submitted their annual report setting out their key milestones for the year. Ongoing education and training are discussed with recent focus being on cervical length training. The group have developed NENC wide guidelines [Guidelines - North East Clinical Networks North East Clinical Networks (nescn.nhs.uk)](https://nescn.nhs.uk/page-network/maternity-children-and-families/guidelines/)

*Intrapartum Care* – Meeting quarterly this group works closely with the fetal monitoring midwives’ group. This month’s focus has been on the National Modified Early Warning Score (MEWS) and developing a NENC wide fetal monitoring training programme.

*Maternal Medicine* – The Maternal Medicine Network is now fully operational and during a national meeting was recently highly praised for the outstanding work being carried out. The group comprises of Consultant Obstetricians specialising in maternal medicine, obstetric physicians and a Consultant Midwife. To ensure co-production all units in the NENC region collect baseline maternal medicine activity data. This group works closely with the Diabetic Network and CGM data is shared quarterly.

*Fetal medicine* – Recently this group developed the Antenatal computerised CTG guidance which has since been ratified and is now in circulation. [Guidelines - North East Clinical Networks North East Clinical Networks (nescn.nhs.uk)](https://nescn.nhs.uk/page-network/maternity-children-and-families/guidelines/) The Chair and Vice Chair of this group continue to deliver the Ultrasound Scan Masterclass with over twenty clinicians participating in the course and a further 30 with a planned date or expressing interest.

*Maternity Patient Safety Learning Network* – This group meets quarterly giving the opportunity to share serious incidents where they are considered to be system wide. It takes learning from the external review process which is now enhanced with feedback from reviews which have taken place.

*Maternal Mental Health Services (MMHS) Task and Finish Group* – This group provides information to the system about current programmes of work and provides insight into the policy and system change. This new group is working with providers across NENC to ensure MMHS:

* offers timely access to specialist assessment and evidence-based treatment with a focus on psychological interventions for women having moderate to severe or complex psychological difficulties arising from, or relating to, pregnancy and childbirth (mainly trauma, loss or fear)
* integrates psychology into maternity care (including building upon the Afterthoughts/Birth Reflections Service) and also developing strong links with services providing mental health or psychological input in the perinatal period (e.g. Improving Access to Psychological Therapies and CPNMH)
* works with a range of delivery partners to deliver a co-produced, holistic, personalised and trauma-informed approach to care – within the service and to ensure how it connects and links to the rest of the system when it is launched across the region

*Perinatal Mental Health Network -* The Perinatal Mental Health Network provides a multi-disciplinary forum through its quarterly Clinical Advisory Group. The team have recently facilitated a face to face workshop for the specialist perinatal mental health teams to share learning, knowledge, challenges and to take stock of where they are in addressing the NHS Long Term plan ambitions for perinatal mental health.

Another key focus for the team has been developing pilot (fast follower) sites for maternal mental health services with national mental health funding in two hospital sites Sunderland and South Tyneside and North Cumbria. The focus now is to propose a plan to have maternal mental health services across NENC.