

NORFOLK AND WAVENEY LMNS NEWSLETTER

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FROM YOUR
LOCAL MATERNITY AND NEONATAL SYSTEM

The LMNS

The Local Maternity and Neonatal System (LMNS) brings together commissioners, providers and service users to develop and implement a locally-owned plan.

The LMNS is overseen by a Board that includes midwives, provider staff, consultants, NHS England, Higher Education Institutes and Public Health.

The local plan aims to deliver the recommendations of the NHS England Three Year Delivery Plan for Maternity and Neonatal Services published in March 2023.

The LMNS Programme Team



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SPOTLIGHT ON SAFETY & QUALITY



Delivering the future: making maternity services safer, smarter and fairer for all

Quality and safety are key to maternity care in the Local Maternity and Neonatal System (LMNS), ensuring the best outcomes for mothers, birthing people, babies and families.

We know that high-quality care helps to reduce the risk of complications, improve health outcomes and enhance experiences. In Norfolk and Waveney, all staff prioritise quality and safety, following the Perinatal Quality Surveillance Model (PQSM).



We host monthly meetings to support systemwide safety and quality:

- **The Incident Surveillance meeting** brings together our Trust governance teams to review incidents, share learning and highlight best practice.
- **The Safety and Quality Oversight Group (SQOG)** oversees all aspects of maternity safety - from Clinical Negligence Scheme for Trusts (CNST) safety actions to incidents and national drivers to support shared learning across Trusts.

When outcomes are not as expected, as a team we need to review and understand the systems involved and make changes to prevent future occurrences.

Incident reporting now follows the Patient Safety Incident Response Framework (PSIRF), which has shifted focus from blame to a shared system approach to investigating safety incidents. This helps identify all contributing factors and drives meaningful change.

The LMNS works with Trust governance teams to support this process promoting learning, improvement and innovation, and ensuring maternity services are person-centred, equitable and meet local needs.

Interested in learning more or joining these meetings? Please get in touch with us [via email](#). All are welcome.

We attend **Perinatal Mortality Review Tool (PMRT)** meetings to support bereavement teams to review care and identify key themes.



NEWS IN BRIEF



Key updates as we start a fresh new year...

We bid adieu to our current series of local learning events.

In the last year, we've covered some truly inspiring sessions - from neurodiversity, to health inequalities and from baby loss to pregnancy in the LGBTQ+ community. We would like to thank everyone who has presented and attended over the last year.

New plans for sharing learning will be unveiled soon so watch this space!

Leading the way in digital maternity care

East of England digital midwives held their first meeting of 2025. The team welcomed new members Polly Habgood Norfolk & Norwich Hospital (digital midwife) and Abi Davies (Regional Digital and Data midwife). The meeting also saw the launch of a new name, the **Maternity & Neonatal Digital Network (MNDN)** reflecting a more collaborative approach to digital transformation.



Fond farewells...

In December we said goodbye to **Andy Trohear**, who has been a key part of our project management team since 2021. We wish you all the best in your new adventures, Andy, have a wonderful retirement!



Huge congratulations to **Nicola Lovett**, our lead midwife, who is taking up a new role as Head of Midwifery at the James Paget Hospital (JPUH). During her time within the LMNS, Nicola's strong leadership, experience and wealth of knowledge have played a big part in making maternity care safer and better for families in Norfolk & Waveney. Nicola - we will miss your wonderful support, guidance and encouragement, but we're really excited for you as you embark on this new chapter in your career.



Congratulations also to **Elita Mazzocchi**, current JPUH Head of Midwifery, who is leaving very soon for pastures new. We have really enjoyed working with you and wish you every success in your new role, Elita!

And a big hello to our new teammates...

We're delighted to welcome Abi Marquette and Jennie Barrett to the team.

Abi (lead midwife) and Jennie (project manager) have joined us to take forward a systemwide project aiming to tackle and reduce preterm birth rates across Norfolk and Waveney.

You can read more about Abi and Jennie's first few months a bit later on in this newsletter.





GP 6-8 WEEK POSTNATAL CHECKS



To support the delivery of safer, more equitable and personalised care, the LMNS team has worked with partner organisations to develop a repository of evidence-based information for General Practitioners (GPs) to support best-practice 6-8 week postnatal checks.

In December 2023, NHS England introduced new guidance for General GPs on the [6-8 week maternal postnatal consultation](#). The guidance aims to address unwarranted variations in care and sets out “what good looks like”.

The repository is available to all GPs via the Knowledge Now portal. It includes links to clinical resources, local services and treatment pathways as well as useful patient information.

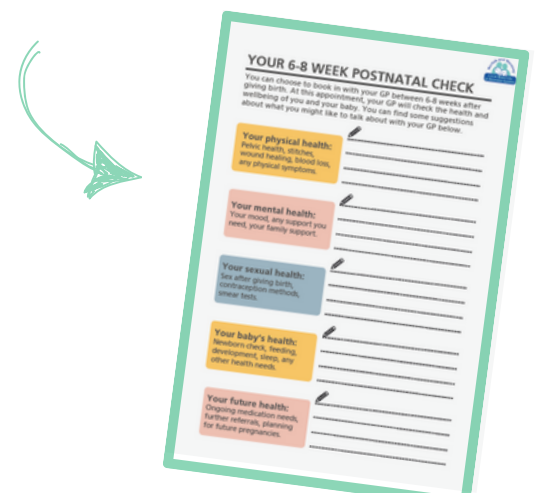
From bumps to baby steps

The 6-8 week postnatal consultation is a key opportunity to check on new mother and birthing peoples’ health and wellbeing as they recover from childbirth and adjust to the early stages of parenthood.

It is often coupled with the 6-8 week baby check and immunisations, although it can also take place separately.

The 6-8 week check is a contractual requirement for GPs.

We have also developed a short guide for new families, aiming to support them to make informed decisions about their postnatal care. Co-produced with our Maternity and Neonatal Voices Partnership (MNVP) leads, the guide will be handed out to women and birthing people after they’ve given birth. It offers useful suggestions to help them prepare for, and get the most out of, the 6-8 week appointment.



[Click here to access the 6-8 week check repository on Knowledge Now.](#)



PROJECT UPDATES



SmartStart: supporting smoke free beginnings

The SmartStart maternity tobacco dependency service is now in place in all three of our Trusts and, since implementation, we have seen a significant reduction in mothers smoking at time of delivery (SATOD).

The service provides specialist non-judgemental behavioural support, Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT), vapes and access to Allen Carr seminars.

In 2023-24, Norfolk & Waveney showed a SATOD rate of 11.2%. So far this year, as the service embeds, the SATOD rate has reduced to 8.8%. We predict this downward trend will continue as SmartStart supports more pregnant smokers to set quit dates and become smokefree when they give birth.



“ Thanks for your support to stop smoking. Throughout my pregnancy...it was always a pleasure seeing you. Never did you make me feel uncomfortable and I won't forget your help, support and kindness. ”



SMARTSTART
Smoke free maternity support in Norfolk and Waveney



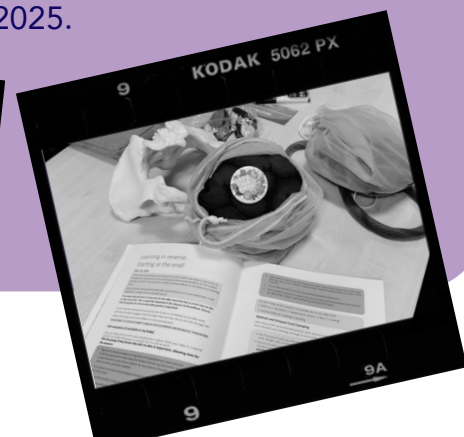
Antenatal facilitator workshops go live

We're pleased to report that antenatal facilitator training for midwives and maternity support workers is now underway across the system.

The workshops, delivered by the Real Birth Company, have been commissioned by the LMNS as part of a drive to refresh and revitalise antenatal education across Norfolk & Waveney.

This marks an exciting step towards reintroducing face-to-face antenatal classes after Covid, ensuring women, birthing people and their families can access equitable and inclusive education sessions during pregnancy - in person and online.

Families will be able to access face-to-face training from April 2025.





PRETERM BIRTHS LAUNCH



Our new preterm births project has launched, exploring systemwide approaches to understanding and addressing preterm births.

Since arriving in November 2024, project manager Jennie Barrett, and prevention midwife Abi Marquette, have been immersing themselves in operations at the Norfolk & Norwich hospital and also visited preterm births teams at the James Paget and Queen Elizabeth hospitals.



This projects marks an important step forward in improving care for families and reducing the potentially devastating impact of preterm birth.

Abi and Jennie have collected comprehensive datasets which will allow the identification of trends, risk factors and priority areas, with a particular focus on identifying gaps in current provision.

These valuable insights will serve as the foundation for Quality Improvement Projects (QIPs) designed to strengthen and enhance care quality, safety and patient outcomes by improving clinical pathways systemwide.



Preterm birth remains one of the leading causes of newborn illness and death, impacting not only babies but their families and the wider healthcare system. The ultimate aim of this initiative is to reduce preterm birth rates across Norfolk and Waveney to 6% by 2025, in line with national targets. Progress will be tracked by measuring compliance with national key performance indicators (KPIs) as outlined in the [National Institute for Health and Care Excellent \(NICE\) quality standard \(2019\)](#) and the [Saving Babies' Lives Care Bundle version 3](#).



CELEBRATING OUR MNVPS



Our three Maternity and Neonatal Voices Partnerships (MNVPs) have recently published their annual reports for 2024. The reports celebrate the achievements of everyone involved in creating positive change in maternity and neonatal care - we encourage you to read more about their work last year via the link below.

Birth Voices East (JPUH MNVP)

Last year, Kaya and Hannah welcomed two new team members - Natasha as volunteer lead and Ruth as community engagement lead. Growing the team has meant they can now extend their valuable outreach work much further into vulnerable communities.

The team held their first on-site listening event which was a great success. They also focussed on improving care for neurodivergent families, creating a powerful film highlighting service user experience to inform staff training and improve safety and quality of care.



[Click here to read our MNVP annual reports.](#)

Norfolk & Norwich MNVP

In 2024, Jenny, Catherine and Victoria continued to focus on developing their outreach to increase the MNVP's presence in diverse communities. A highlight was their partnership with Future Projects to create "Mini Futures" at the Baseline Centre. Monthly stay and play sessions aim to engage with families living in one of the most disadvantaged areas in the UK. The team also worked with local youth charity, MAP, to conduct a 15 Steps visit with young parents to address gaps and improve quality of care.



QEH MNVP

At the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Emily welcomed Francesca to the team as deputy lead. Together, a key highlight last year was the launch of the Butterfly Garden, a dedicated space in the hospital to support parents who have experienced the heartbreak of losing a baby. The MNVP played a crucial role in planning and shaping the garden to ensure it meets the needs of those who will use it. The team also ran surveys and listening events to gather service user feedback, with a key focus on consent, communication, bereavement and neonatal care.



MNVPs are independent teams supporting the co-production of maternity and neonatal services. They place service user voice at their heart, bringing together families and staff, wider Trust leadership, commissioners and other strategic stakeholders.

