



## EQUITY & EQUALITY

At our monthly meeting we were joined by members of **Deaf-initely Women**, a charity that brings together deaf, deafblind and hard of hearing women in Derbyshire.

Rachel gave us some insight into Deaf-initely Women's work to help **improve the well-being of deaf, deafblind and hard of hearing women** through health education, raising awareness and empowering women who have experienced discrimination due to hearing loss.

We are looking forward to having Deaf-initely's input in our projects going forward and also **organising a dedicated feedback event** together soon to make sure the voices of deaf, deafblind and hard of hearing women are represented in the development of maternity and neonatal services.



We also had a presentation from **Jessica Smith** of Birth Companions, a charity offering **emotional and practical support** to **pregnant women**, new mothers, and those who are separated from their babies at **Foston Hall Prison**, Derby. We heard about the unique challenges that these women face during their maternity journeys and we are very excited to work with Jessica to **start gathering feedback** on their experiences very soon.

Many thanks to those who attended our meeting on Thursday the 28th of April! Here is a summary of what we discussed & latest news. If you have any questions or would like more information, don't hesitate to get it touch!  
 Very best wishes,  
 Anne Marie, Chair of DMNV



**Maria Howe**, midwife at Chesterfield, Chair of the Royal Cultural Community staff network and our very own **DMNV Equity and Equality Volunteer Lead**, shared the results of a survey she conducted as part of the Chief Nurse Fellowship Programme.

The survey focused on the **experiences of maternity care at Chesterfield of Black, Asian, minority ethnic women and birthing people**.

Among other aspects, the survey highlighted the need for **improved information and communication**, particularly when wishing to raise concerns about experiences of care. As our Equity volunteer lead, Maria is helping us to reach out to local community groups and we have lots of exciting projects in the pipeline.



## VISIT TO ROYAL DERBY HOSPITAL

On Monday the 25th of April we visited Royal Derby hospital and had a great **meeting with Director of Midwifery, Patricia Paine, and Head of Midwifery Lorraine Purcell**. We were also joined by Jen Docherty, **MVP Lead for Staffordshire and Stoke** to continue with our joined-up working for the **Burton** area.

We had some very good discussions about our projects and future work together and discussed feedback we had received from service users.

Together we are aiming to hold our first **15 Steps for Maternity** events at both Derby and Burton at the beginning of July. We also discussed organising a **feedback event in Burton** particularly aimed at reaching out to Eastern European families to better understand their experiences and needs.

Lorraine Purcell gave us a tour of the Labour Ward, the Birth Centre and Ward 314, and it was lovely to **meet some of the staff at work and see the maternity facilities**. We also are looking forward to visiting Queen's Burton Hospital in the near future.

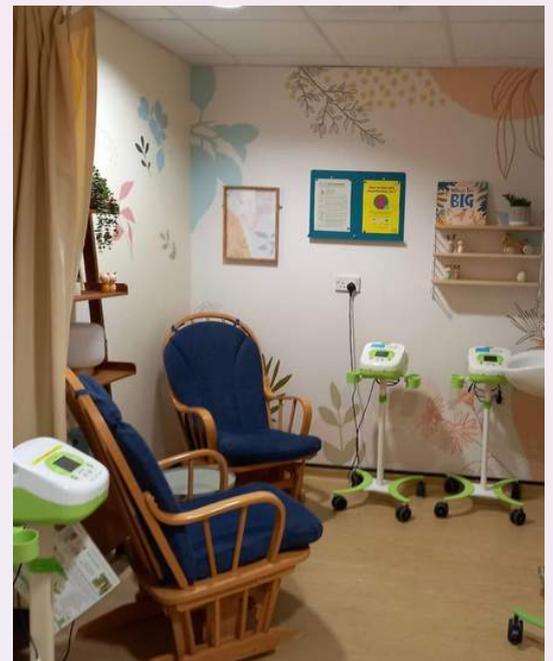


## NEONATAL UPDATES

This week DMNV volunteer Faye **visited the UHDB neonatal units with the East Midlands Neonatal Operational Delivery Network**. She was able to speak to some parents and get some feedback on their experiences. **Parents had lots of praise for the nursing teams** and felt they had good communication from staff.

Parents particularly liked the idea of having a practical information booklet available virtually (as opposed to a paper version), which we look forward to working on together in the future. **We look forward to reporting back with more neonatal news soon**

Sadly, Faye will be stepping down as our Neonatal Volunteer Lead, but are very glad she will be remaining a DMNV member and continue to contribute to the group! We are **extremely grateful to Faye** for all her time, enthusiasm and ideas!



Do you have **experience of neonatal care**? Do you have an interest in the development and improvement of neonatal services in Derbyshire? **DMNV is looking for a new Neonatal Volunteer Lead!** For more information, send us an email at: [ddccg.derbyshirematernityvoices@nhs.net](mailto:ddccg.derbyshirematernityvoices@nhs.net)

## PREGNANCY LOSS

This month we held our second working group meeting on **bereavement, loss and mental health** which was attended by bereavement midwives, bereaved parents, antenatal screening coordinators, teams from the Women's Health Unit and psychologists from the Maternal Mental Health Service.

The **focus of the meeting** was on experiences of **miscarriage**, following the results of a survey on loss that we conducted in November, in which stories of miscarriage featured prominently.

The discussions revolved around **improving information, support and spaces** for people experiencing miscarriage as well as discussing **training for staff** and **communication with services users** on this issue. The **needs of people from ethnic minority backgrounds** in relation to loss was also discussed and it was agreed that **DMNV will organise a feedback event** on this topic in a **community space in Derby** to help reach out to local communities. DMNV will also review and provide feedback on existing leaflets on miscarriage.

At the end of April we also joined the first meeting of the **UDHB Miscarriage workstream** which brought together a team of clinicians involved in caring for people experiencing miscarriages. It was a great opportunity to meet and talk with health care providers who are all **passionate about improving the experience of women and pregnant people**.

DMNV **shared service user feedback** on miscarriages and we are looking forward to the continuing work of this group to improve service user experience.



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## HOME BIRTHS

The **first DMNV home birth working group** meeting took place on April 8th and was very well attended by a mixed group of midwives, providers, service users and doulas. The general aim of the working group is to help **raise the profile of homebirths** and improve information and communication on this topic.

The first meeting provided an overview of the home birth service in Derbyshire over the past few years and in the next meeting we will look at gaining a better understanding of this, **commence planning to gather service user feedback** and narrowing down the scope and priorities of the group. We welcome participation in this group and would particularly **benefit from involvement from obstetricians**.





## Events

We are hosting a **feedback event** with DCHS aimed at **parents under the age of 20** to understand their **experiences of infant feeding** on the **25th of May in Birdholme**, North Derbyshire, contact us for more details!

We are aiming to host **monthly coffee mornings in Derby** with Derby Community Parent Programme very soon! Keep your eyes open for upcoming dates. We are also **exploring different venues for a Chesterfield** coffee morning & meet the DMNV event.

## Feedback

**Thank you** to all those who shared their stories for our **feedback request** on the impact of **reduced mobility** on the ward. We will be presenting our report at upcoming meetings with the Trusts and look forward to reporting back on this issue.

**Many thanks** to all those who provided **feedback on UHDB's new admission and discharge videos** -your comments were very valued and appreciated.

Would you like to help us by **reviewing UHDBs handheld notes**? Send us a message at [ddccg.derbyshirematernityvoices@nhs.net](mailto:ddccg.derbyshirematernityvoices@nhs.net)

**Any questions or comments?**

**Want to find out more?**

**Get in touch!**

[ddccg.derbyshirematernityvoices@nhs.net](mailto:ddccg.derbyshirematernityvoices@nhs.net)

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