



DERBYSHIRE

Maternity and Neonatal Voices

Working in partnership to improve maternity services

NOVEMBER 24TH 2021

# DMNV Committee Meeting Update

Many thanks to everyone that took part in our meeting on Monday, it is great to see new people continuing to join us. Thank you for all of the interesting discussions! Below please find a summary of the meeting:

**Pregnancy and baby loss.** The following survey <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/VWD5V5C> was developed with the bereavement midwives at CRH and UHDB. We are also holding a **focus group on the 30th of November** from 1 to 2.30 via Teams. Representatives from Chesterfield and Derby SANDS will be attending, as well as other bereaved parents, to discuss the results of the survey and ideas for the future. Chesterfield SANDS will also hold a 30min listening and support session at the end of the focus group for anyone that needs it. If you are interested in attending, let us know and we will send you the link. Thank you to Julie & Angela for their support!

**Neonatal.** We welcomed Faye as the new DMNV Neonatal volunteer lead! We have started discussing ways of reaching out to and involving parents with neonatal experience to make sure their voices are represented. There are lots of exciting ideas brewing, starting with a specific focus group to take place in January and open to anyone interested in contributing to this topic. A big welcome and thank you to Faye for her time and enthusiasm!

**Perinatal Practitioner Feedback Group.** A big thank you to Nicola who has volunteered to set up and manage our DMNV Perinatal Practitioners Feedback group, which will be a closed group on Facebook. This will be a place for anyone that works with women, birthing people and families in the perinatal period to share the feedback (or feedback themes) they receive. This will include doulas, birth workers, people who run baby classes, ante/postnatal personal trainers etc. We hope to set this group up very soon. All recommendations are very welcome!

## Highlights

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PREGNANCY & BABY LOSS

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NEONATAL

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PERINATAL PRACTITIONER FEEDBACK GROUP

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CONSULTANT ON BOARD

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INCLUSION & DIVERSITY

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ENGAGEMENT

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INFORMED DECISIONS

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VOLUNTEERING

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**Consultant on board!** We had a great talk a couple of weeks ago with UHDB consultant Becky Robinson who has a particular interest in mental health, as well as other issues affecting people in their maternity journey, and who will be joining DMNV and supporting our work. Welcome Becky and thank you!

**Inclusion and diversity.** Positive steps forward have been made: we are meeting soon with the **BME Forum** <https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/council/have-your-say/community-involvement/bme-foroums/black-and-minority-ethnic-bme-forum.aspx> to help us engage and work with local community groups. We included a diversity questionnaire in our pregnancy & baby loss survey, and preliminary results indicate that we still have a long way to go in making sure that the feedback we receive is representative of the diversity of Derbyshire's population. We will work hard to make sure this will be the case!

We also have some exciting projects underway, such as collaborations with the Birth Companions charity <https://www.birthcompanions.org.uk/pages/20-prison-services> that work with pregnant people at **Foston Hall prison** and a new project with Derbyshire Community Health Services looking at engaging with younger parents.

Our Co-Chair Anne Marie is attending a two day training on **LGBTQ+ Competency in Birth and Beyond** <https://queerbirthclub.co.uk/#Workshop> More updates to come on this in the future, but if anyone would be interested in us organising a DMNV specific training on LGBTQ+ issues and inclusiveness, let us know! If there is sufficient interest, sometime in the new year we may be able to arrange this.

—> If you have any ideas relating to inclusivity and diversity, any useful contacts you may have in the community or with health care providers, please do let us know!

**Engagement.** We discussed our next face to face events. We originally wanted to organise an event in Chesterfield in early December, but due to time constraints we aren't sure if this will be possible. This has highlighted a need for particular support with engagement i.e. helping to make contacts within the community and where to gather feedback & support in organising meet ups. We have also realised that we need to work on expanding our reach in the Chesterfield area in particular, so any help with any of this would be much appreciated.

**Informed Decisions.** Lastly, we had a great discussion on the poster 'Making Decisions About Your Care'. We discussed where the poster might be displayed/distributed for maximum coverage, whether the language was accessible, inclusive, whether it was clear where people could turn to for extra support and that they could ask for a second opinion and withdraw consent at any time. If you have any comments you would like to make on this document, please send them to us ASAP via email. We will keep you informed on next steps.

**Volunteering.** Please don't forget we are still keen to find people to support us in our social media work and with the treasurer role, but any area you would be keen to be involved in and any time you can devote to it would be hugely appreciated.

Thank you all for reading and for your time & support. As always, for any questions, comments or concerns, don't hesitate to get in touch.

All the best,  
Anne Marie & Shilpa

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