



NATIONAL

Maternity Voices

Networking Maternity Voices Partnerships in England

Newsletter 1 | August 2020

Message from Hannah Lynes, Acting Chair, National Maternity Voices



I am really pleased to be able to bring you our first ever National Maternity Voices newsletter to help us connect with you and support your MVP work. This is the first time we've communicated directly with Maternity Voices Partnership (MVP) Chairs across England, rather than relying on social media.

We are really grateful to everyone who gave us their contact details and made this possible, and to Louise who has compiled the database. We now have email addresses for 90% of MVP Chairs but we would love to be able to send this newsletter to everyone, so if you know of any MVP Chairs who haven't received this, please feel free to share it with them, and encourage them to send us their details so we can add them to our mailing list.

We would never sell your data or use it for anything you haven't agreed to, but we would love to be able to send future editions of this newsletter to everyone in our network.

We hope you find this newsletter useful and informative. If you have any ideas for content, please share them with us by emailing comms@nationalmaternityvoices.org.uk.

With best wishes,

Hannah



NMV's Response to the Coronavirus Pandemic

This has been a busy few months for everyone involved with Maternity Voices Partnerships. It has been a time of rapid change, creating increased anxiety for families and additional demands on MVP Chairs.

We, as MVP Chairs and Service User Voice (SUV) reps, have supported each other in a number of ways including:

- at regional level facilitated by the NHS England regional SUV reps
 - on the National Maternity Voices Facebook groups
 - through the regular MVPs and COVID calls co-hosted by NHS England and National Maternity Voices.
- During this time, National Maternity Voices has contributed to national policy development on behalf of MVPs. We have particularly emphasised the role that well-supported MVPs can play in facilitating communication, coproduction and providing constructive challenge, and the need for MVPs to be properly funded to ensure that this work can happen in all parts of England. Amongst other things, we have:
- submitted [evidence](#) to the Health and Social Care Select Committee
 - contributed to discussion about what can be learnt from the pandemic at the Maternity Transformation Programme's Stakeholder Council
 - provided regular feedback to the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists regarding their evolving Information for Women and Families
 - written, jointly with Birthrights and other charities, to the Society of Radiographers to challenge their policy on partners not being able to attend antenatal scans.

The Nova Network

Black, Asian and ethnic minority MVP Chairs have come together to form the Nova Network, a WhatsApp peer support group, supported by National Maternity Voices.

Members of the Nova Network are increasingly being invited to participate in policy development and research and will have two representatives at the Maternity Transformation Programme's Stakeholder Council.

If you'd like to join the Nova Network, please contact Toyin Adeyinka on

mvp.lewisham@gmail.com.

Diversity Survey

A key priority for National Maternity Voices is helping MVPs to be diverse and inclusive groups where different people can influence the direction of maternity services. To this end, we ask every MVP Chair and Co-Chair to please complete our first diversity survey. Your response will help us to create a baseline, to measure progress in the future.

Survey responses are anonymous and we aim for no personally identifiable information to be published or retained. The survey will take about 5 minutes to complete; please submit ONE response per person.

Please email Louise for a link to the survey on:

secretary@nationalmaternityvoices.org.uk

NMV's Structure

We have been reviewing our structure and governance with three aims:

- it should be as simple as possible to explain,
- it should be possible for any MVP chair to get involved and
- NMV should be effective and well governed.

We are working on the details and MVP chairs can expect an invitation to join National Maternity Voices CIC (community interest company) as members in September. We will be recruiting new 'council' members at that time and possibly also new members of our workforce.

See the '[about](#)' page on the website for more information or email Louise on secretary@nationalmaternityvoices.org.uk.

Maternity Voices Training

Since leaving her role as co-chair of the London MVP strategic group at the end of May, Laura James has been busy developing and refining a National Maternity Voices training offer for Maternity Voices Partnerships, including working out how to take it online!

Thank you to the 75 people who completed the training survey in June, which really helped.

The first online multidisciplinary training sessions will be taking place for the Humber, Coast and Vale Local Maternity System this summer.

If your MVP or LMS is interested in purchasing the training, designed to support collaborative working and help ensure MVPs are effective as possible, or would like to talk more about your training requirements, please email training@nationalmaternityvoices.org.uk

Changes to NMV Committee Membership

Toyin Adeyinka, Chair of Lewisham MVP, and Jenny Hamilton, Chair of East Kent MVP, have recently stepped down from the National Maternity Voices Committee in order to spend more time on their other maternity work (including, in Toyin's case, the Nova Network).

Thank you so much Toyin and Jenny for all the time you've contributed to supporting MVPs through National Maternity Voices.

We are delighted to welcome Mo Ade, Chair of Ashford and St Peters MVP, to NMV's Committee.

Mentoring Report

National Maternity Voices mentors have so far supported 22 Service User Voice reps and MVP chairs. Feedback includes

'.....is a complete star, she is amazing to chat to about the challenges of the role.'

'It's very helpful to have someone to help me to navigate the system'

'It's just wonderful having that guidance and sounding board'

We are looking to train a cohort of mentors with ethnic minority backgrounds soon. Mentoring will be available for funding bodies to purchase for their chairs/reps and there is a little of the initial funding left to cover urgent ad hoc sessions and for reps/chairs from ethnic minorities.

Anyone interested in either becoming a mentor or having one can contact mentors@nationalmaternityvoices.org.uk

Resources and Upcoming Events

Many of us find it difficult to keep up with all the maternity activities, so we have listed some resources and up and coming events that you may be interested in.

Maternity Transformation Bulletins - these were really useful when things were changing rapidly. If you aren't yet getting these you can sign up and see all the back copies [here](#).

NHS Futures is a collaboration and resources platform to support the NHS Long Term Plan. It's full of information and you can access workshops and webinars. If you have some spare time it's worth signing up to the Workspace dedicated to the PPV Partner Network. Click [here](#) to find out more. All MVP chairs should also be able to register for the [Maternity Transformation Hub Workspace](#).

Using Microsoft Teams - lots here including an hour-long session on [Running Effective Meetings Using Teams](#)

Jenny Whatling has created this Google [Calendar of Maternity Special Events](#) that you may want to refer to. This is a collaborative document and Jenny has asked that we all add any dates that we are aware of. Thank you Jenny!

Bespoke training from NMV: click [here](#) to find out more.

NMV Webinars - currently Participatory Appraisal, Create Safe Spaces for All. Click [here](#) to find out more.

Black Mum Magic Project

Tisian Lynskey-Wilkie from Merseyside Women's and Children's Service Partnership created the [Black Mum Magic Project](#) in response to the unacceptable inequalities highlighted by the MBRACE report. There are 2 more virtual listening sessions (Tuesday, August 18 and 25, from 1 - 2.30pm) to hear lived experiences of women from ethnic minority groups, and consider the coproduction of relevant improvements in the maternity services. These sessions can be booked [here](#).



1. Lived experiences of BAME mothers
2. Implicit Bias and making a change
3. Birthing while BAME – Breaking the stereotypes/what does culturally sensitive care look like?
4. Breastfeeding while BAME – Cultural practices/experiences/what makes it unique?/how can the NHS help?
5. BAME Babies – Inequalities of BAME babies(MBRACE)/ BAME infant loss – supporting BAME families
6. Supporting BAME fathers – invite BAME fathers to hear their voices
7. BAME midwifery – workforce representation and supporting continuity of carer
8. Beyond Maternity – sustaining BAME voices within our communities

Please email any questions for discussions to: info@improvingme.org.uk

REGISTER FOR OUR ONLINE EVENTS AT:

[HTTPS://WWW.EVENTBRITE.CO.UK/E/BLACK-MUM-MAGIC-PROJECT-IMPROVING-ME-PROGRAMME-TICKETS-109304187768](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/black-mum-magic-project-improving-me-programme-tickets-109304187768)

Never Gonna Beat You

Online training - working with traveller and gypsy communities and their abuse survivors
Friday 21st August 2020, 3pm - 4.30pm

More dates will be added to the link in the near future and The Traveller Movement are always happy to organise group sessions.

<https://travellermovement.org.uk/advocacy-support/training-consultancy/upcoming-training>