



Jargon buster (Explanation of Terms)

Autonomous - having the freedom to make decisions and act independently

Better Births - the report of the National Maternity Review published in 2016 which proposed a number of interlinked changes in maternity care to make it safer and more personalised.

CCG - Clinical Commissioning Group; formerly the commissioners of local NHS health services, including maternity services (but not neonatal services, health visiting or children's centres).

Chair - the presiding officer of a group or organisation, such as an MVP or LMNS.

Clinical Network - a network of specialist doctors e.g. obstetricians who collaborate to improve care in their area.

CNST - Clinical Negligence Scheme for Trusts; handles all clinical negligence claims against member NHS bodies. NHS Resolution's [Maternity Incentive Scheme](#) is designed to support safer care by giving Trusts financial incentive to achieve 10 safety actions; action 7 requires Trusts to demonstrate they 'listen to women, parents and families using maternity and neonatal services and coproduce services with users'

Co-chair - a person who shares the role of chair jointly with another or others (Co-chairs share responsibility equally unlike a chair and vice-chair - see definition of vice-chair below).

Commissioner - An organisation which holds money for NHS care and contracts with providers to provide care for a given population. For maternity care the commissioner is an Integrated Care Board which pays for the care of mothers and babies in their area. Neonatal care is commissioned by NHS England regionally.

CQC - Care Quality Commission; an executive non-departmental public body of the Department of Health and Social Care, responsible for inspecting the quality and safety of health and care services

GDPR - General Data Protection Regulation, introduced in 2018 to govern how personal and/or sensitive information is processed and controlled

ICS - Integrated Care Systems; partnerships of organisations that work together to plan and deliver joined up health and care services. A total of 42 ICSs were established across England and formalised in July 2022. ICSs comprise Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) and Integrated Care Partnerships (ICPs)

Independent - free from outside control, not subject to external authority. An MVP chair should be independent of the organisations that commission and provide maternity services.

LMNS - Local Maternity and Neonatal System (previously known as a LMS, Local Maternity System), formed in response to the Better Births (2016) report. LMNSs are partnerships of local maternity and neonatal provider and commissioner organisations, who work with service users to improve local maternity and neonatal services

This is a working document. Please email suggestions for additions or amendments to

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Maternity Transformation Programme (MTP) - a change programme led by NHS England, working through Local Maternity Systems, which aims to achieve the vision set out in Better Births. Also used to denote the team at NHSE/I who support this.

MVP or MNVP - A Maternity (and Neonatal) Voices Partnership is an NHS working group of women, birthing people and their families, commissioners and maternity service staff collaborating to review and develop local maternity care. It is led by an independent lay (service user) chair who ensures service users are represented.

Neonatal - Neonatal services care for premature and sick newborn babies: Neonatal Intensive Care (**NICU**) for highest needs, Special Care Baby Units (**SCBU**) for lower needs.

NHS Region - The NHS in England has 7 Regions which are North East and Yorkshire, North West, Midlands, East, London, South East and South West. Each has a regional maternity team who liaise with providers and clinical networks in their Region and with the national maternity team. There is also a Service User Voice rep in each region who links up the MVPs in that region.

NHSE - NHS England, which provides national leadership for the NHS in England, and comprises national departments and seven integrated regional teams

NMV - National Maternity Voices, the association of independent lay chairs of MVPs in England, which supports and networks MVPs. NMV is not a national MVP.

ODN - Neonatal Operational Delivery Network ODNs exist to ensure all babies and families requiring neonatal care receive high quality care that is accessible and fair. Each ODN comprises a group of neonatal units within a locality working together

Provider - an organisation e.g. a hospital or group of hospitals who provide health care

PPV - Patient and Public Voice. NHS PPV partners include patients/service users, carers, families, people with lived experience and other members of the public who are involved in NHS work in different ways

Safety Action 7 of the Maternity Incentive Scheme specifies aspects of working with service users, including that MVP chairs should be remunerated. (see **CNST**)

SUV rep - Service user voice representative - a representative of service users on a board, working group or committee.

ToR - Terms of Reference; a document used and developed by MVPs to outline their guiding values, principles, roles and activities. A template is provided by NMV for MVPs to adapt for their ToR if they wish to do so.

Vice-chair - a person who assists a chair and/or acts as their deputy.

Volunteer - a person who helps a group or organisation without being paid. (MVP service user members may be volunteers, but MVP chairs and vice-chairs should not generally be described as volunteers as these are intended to be paid roles.)

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