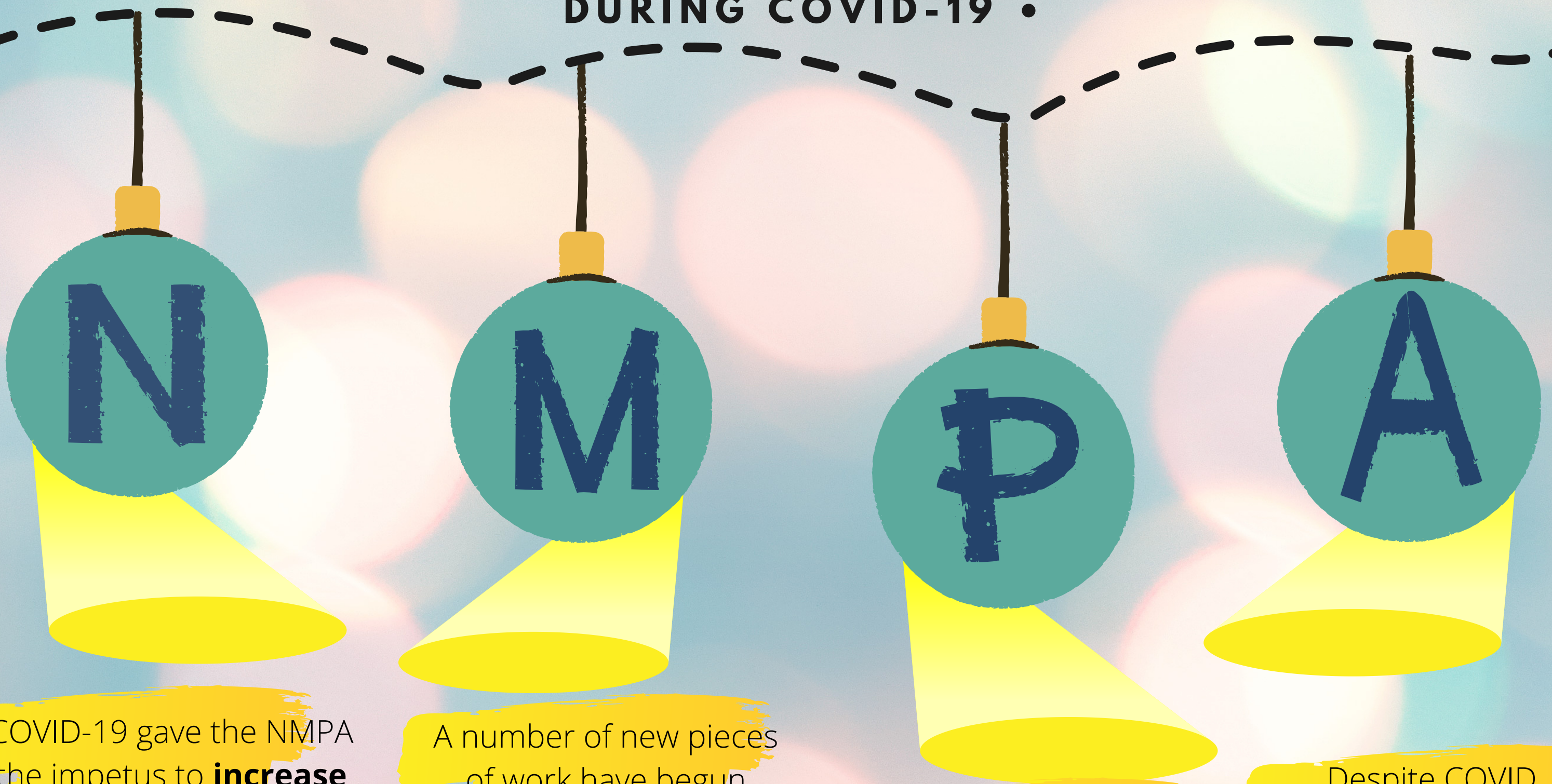


PARTICIPATION DURING A PANDEMIC

• SHINING A LIGHT ON THE SUCCESSES OF PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT DURING COVID-19 •



COVID-19 gave the NMPA the impetus to **increase** engagement with our user representatives. Our Women and Families Involvement Group (WFIG) now has **15 members** and meets **4 times a year** for shorter, more focussed meetings, instead of annually.

The necessity to use virtual meetings has **increased** attendance, meaning greater representation of the public and charities, enabling broader engagement and insight feeding into the work.

A number of new pieces of work have begun during the pandemic, involving the derivation of **advisory groups** with user representatives.

These new pieces of work include 'sprint audits' on maternity care for **women with a BMI>30** and examining **ethnic and socio-economic inequalities** in NHS maternity care.

The advisory groups bring unique **lived experiences** of maternity care to the heart of the work, informing and steering its direction.

WFIG meetings are now **co-facilitated by user representatives** from the group to ensure voices of lived experience are shaping and leading the agenda of the NMPA.

We are updating our website closely with the **views and input of the WFIG**, to inform how the functionality and design can increase reach to the public, becoming a more useful tool for them.

Despite COVID challenges, the NMPA have taken the opportunity to **improve public involvement** with the audit.

Engagement with new organisations - particularly those groups who support and engage with maternity service users who may have been marginalised - has enabled recruitment of individuals for participation in the audit, benefiting ongoing communication, dissemination and involvement opportunities.