

NMPA

National Maternity & Perinatal Audit

GROWING WOMEN AND FAMILIES' INVOLVEMENT SINCE 2017

Women and Families Group

"...my experience with [the group] has been thoroughly positive. You are always so welcoming and I want to thank you for doing such a great job."

- The Women and Families Involvement Group is the NMPA's overarching patient and public involvement group and has been in place since the start of the audit
- We hold several meetings a year (this number has increased significantly during COVID as we have capitalised on remote working), with up to 15 members to discuss the strategy and work of the audit, to explore how families' voices can be heard throughout the reports and to act upon requests for ways to scrutinise the data, or to investigate particular topics of interest
- As a direct result of a request from this group, a new output of the audit is currently being co-created - see *NEW* toolkit section below.

The group is kept up to date by regular email with progress on current workstreams and future plans, and visual summaries of NMPA impact are provided annually. The group is also directly involved in dissemination of NMPA news and outputs so that we can most effectively communicate with the public, this includes how the NMPA uses Twitter, the accessibility of our website and how best to mobilise stakeholder networks.



NHS Maternity Care for women with a Body Mass Index of 30 kg/m² or above

Lay Summary

Based on births between 1 April 2015 and 31 March 2017 in England, Wales and Scotland



"We were able to provide valuable insight to the researchers in a number of ways. They were very respectful of our views and experiences"

"This might be the best example of patient voice being in an audit report that I have ever read - it is absolutely equal to the statistical analysis and really brings out the richness of the data"

NMPA Clinical Report 2019 Lay Summary

Based on births in 2016/17 and the 2017 organisational survey

What did the NMPA find?

Services and facilities available

Most maternity services offer women a range of different places to give birth, including support to give birth at home.

Obstetric units provide midwifery and medical care to women with uncomplicated pregnancies as well as to those who have existing conditions or who develop complications during pregnancy or birth.

Midwifery units provide midwife-led care to women at low risk of complications, either on the same site as an obstetric unit (alongside midwifery units) or at a geographically separate location (freestanding midwifery units).

National guidelines recommend that women at low risk of complications are advised that planning birth in a midwifery unit (or at home if this is not their first baby) would be particularly suitable for them, and that women with certain health conditions or pregnancy complications plan birth in an obstetric unit.



Percentage of obstetric units co-located with an alongside midwifery unit in 2017.

- The NMPA produces a number of topic-specific sprint audits, all of which involve an advisory group consisting of lay advisors, recruited for their lived experience of the topic
- The publication of the sprint audit focusing on maternity care for women with a BMI of ≥ 30 involved a lay advisory group from the beginning, shaping the direction of the audit, the measures included, the presentation of the report including the language used, and the coproduction of the NMPA's first sprint audit lay summary. This lay summary has been shared by email with all stakeholder groups and on social media to broaden its reach
- Lay involvement in our sprint audit on inequalities in maternity care has provided useful discussion around the interpretation of the findings and invaluable lived experience voices within the final report. A lay summary is also being coproduced with this group
- Working with lay groups on our sprint audits has directly impacted the way the NMPA team have used inclusive language in our outputs, in particular with reference to gender and topic specific terms such as 'BMI>30' instead of 'obese'

Sprint audits

"Really pleased to have been invited to be involved with this, and think our awesome lay group was able to have some meaningful input that will hopefully have real world benefits for people experiencing pregnancy with a high BMI. Thanks for listening to us @nmpa_audit!"

"It was great to have the opportunity to put my negative experiences to good use. I'm very much looking forward to the next phase of this work"

NEW Toolkit

"Great to be involved in making sure women and families' voices are heard at a national level"

- This 'toolkit' will act as a resource specifically for families, providing accessible and relevant information about their maternity care and local services through a range of online mediums
- The "toolkit task to finish working group" was convened for coproduction. This event was advertised through the vast networks of the Women and Families Group members as well as through social media
- The group is made up of members of the Women and Families Involvement Group, but also external members of local Maternity Voices Partnerships (MVPs)
- The involvement of MVPs enables local change champions are involved in this work and can facilitate implementation and dissemination at a local level to families using maternity services
- Dissemination of meeting notes is made via visual poster, rather than written notes, helping to improve accessibility and engagement