



BRISTOL, NORTH SOMERSET & SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Maternity & Neonatal Voices

Working in Partnership to improve maternity & neonatal services

MATERNITY & NEONATAL VOICES PARTNERSHIP

ANNUAL REPORT

2023-24



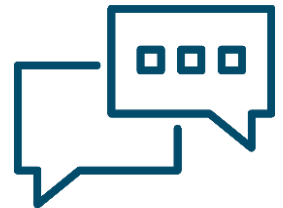
Cheryl Baines, Interim Chair, MNVP BNSSG working with Donna Butland, Maternity and Neonatal Service User Lead, NHS England Southwest

Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire's Maternity and Neonatal System is a partnership of local organisations working with women and birthing people, families, commissioners and healthcare staff to improve maternity and neonatal services in the region. It aims to make them safer, more personal, more inclusive and kinder for the people who use them.

Our Chair

Cheryl stepped up from her deputy chair role and piloted the ship by becoming the MNVP's Interim Lead in Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire in 23/24. She managed this while juggling family commitments to two young children and a master's degree at UWE. Her MNVP year saw her working on representing service users, communicating to the BNSSG community, MNVP members and being a partner to maternity and neonatal services.

MNVP heard from **262** mums, birthing people and families and these stories were collected in to themes which were shared with system partners.



We sent newsletters to our membership & involved them in Facebook Live webinar events '**Meet the Midwife**' & '**Meet the Obstetric Anaesthetist**'.



Our MNVP **involved representatives from charities and other organisations**

that support local families, such as Ladybird (perinatal) Black Mothers Matters, Mother4Mothers, and breastfeeding groups



In 23/24 MNVP represented service users at:

HSIB risk assessment meetings, Safety Champions meetings Mendip Birth Centre & Percy Philips Ward Saving Babies Lives meetings, The NHS England 3-year delivery group, and the South West maternity and neonatal strategy group.



Cheryl recognised there was a need for **online peer support for dads** and promoted this provision in BNSSG.



In **2023 there were CQC inspections** of our acute trusts. Cheryl passed on service user themes. The acutes received a 'Good' rating, which praised Patient Partners such as MNVP and the Project Smile feedback from mothers from minoritised communities.



In **Maternal Mental Health Week**

MNVP connected with South Glos mums and birthing people to local support via the Rockabye organisation and Bluebell Care for perinatal mental health support, and advice on newborns to crawling, especially for those with exhaustion, depression & anxiety.



Anti-racism training

Cheryl joined a six-week action-learning set with midwives and nurses, run by Black Mothers Matter and the Innovate Healthier Together Programme to learn about racism, empowering staff to make improvements in their workplaces.



Cheryl supported a **preterm birth study** at UHBW and NBT by finding local parents of babies born at 34 weeks or less to be part of a video about their experiences.

Introduction of Badger net – paperless maternity notes

Mum's feedback themes were important to meetings supporting the introduction of a new system. MNVP collected service user feedback on how they interacted with the digital notes part and the changes in ways to access maternity information.

MNVP highlighted a call for evidence around birth trauma for the UK Parliamentary enquiry in 2023 and launched information about **the Birth Loss Certificate**, a Department of Health provision in 2024.

MNVP antenatal education survey

In 2023 MNVP launched a survey across Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire asking for experiences of antenatal education, the quality and availability locally. Over 300 people gave helpful insights. The findings are being analysed before being collated into a report to help design improved services.

Ockendon mandated two-day Insights visits

MNVP took part in visits to clinical areas of Southmead Hospital and St Michael's University Hospital Bristol and Weston where they held focus groups with the trust teams (the first once since 2022). This scrutinised the culture of the organisations, enquired into what it's like to work there and listened to recommendations from service users about ways to improve services.



Our plan for next year is to continue to deliver the priorities we identified in 23/24 once our capacity has been expanded to include roles for people for our engagement and project work.

- We will grow an active membership of volunteers.
- We will create an engagement collection form that includes demographic questions.
- Set up a database that allows the sharing of anonymous data and insights with partners effectively.
- Focus on the experiences of black and minority ethnic groups and deliver a research project hearing their voices.
- Hear from more women from areas of deprivation in the BNSSG area.
- Report on the Antenatal education survey.
- Hear from women who have diabetes about their experiences of care pathways during maternity and delivery.
- Complete 15 steps visits at both Acute Trusts.

Our budget

MNVP staff and meeting costs 23/24	£29,876.03
Exec support	£4,680.00
Management cost: MS Office 365, website laptop & equipment, HR and finance, Insurance, DBS, IT support	£17,500.00
Total:	£52,056.03

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