

# **Maternity Strategy 2015-2020: Briefing for Scrutiny to accompany hard copies of the strategy (July 2015)**

Author Dr Jane Mischenko

## **1.0 Introduction and Background**

This is a five-year maternity strategy that sets out the vision and ambition in the city for high quality, safe and personalised maternity services. The delivery of this strategy is integral to the delivery of the Best Start Plan, a key priority in both the Children and Young People's Plan and the Leeds Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

The development of the strategy, commenced in September 2014; it is strongly informed by a robust maternity health needs assessment (Erskine, 2014) that has previously been discussed at Scrutiny, as well as local and national policy, clinical evidence and importantly the input of women and families of Leeds. There have been direct face-to-face conversations with women at events and workshops and a survey where more than 800 responses were received. The approach to the strategy development and engagement was discussed in detail at Scrutiny in January of this year.

Membership of the strategy development steering group included lead clinicians (obstetrics, midwifery, Director of Nursing, and GP), the lay chair of the Maternity Services Liaison Committee (MSLC), statutory and third sector partners, university representation, public health and commissioners.

## **2.0 Strategy Overview**

There are 9 key priorities within the strategy:

### **1. Personalised Care**

*All women will receive care that is personal to their needs, where professionals work with them to plan and deliver care throughout pregnancy, birth and after the baby is born.*

### **2. Integrated Care**

*We will ensure that every woman feels that each stage of her care is coordinated, consistent and delivered in an integrated way.*

\*This priority includes a commitment to delivering continuity of care; models of care, such as case-loading, will be reviewed to develop this

### **3. Access**

*Services will be easy to access to help women have their first midwife appointment early in pregnancy and to continue to receive all the care and support that they need throughout their pregnancy.*

### **4. Emotional Health**

*We will support the emotional and mental wellbeing of women who are pregnant and ensure that those who experience any emotional problems during and after their pregnancy are well supported and offered the best care.*

\*Perinatal mental health is a priority for 2015/16

### **5. Preparation for Parenthood**

*We will support all parents to have a healthy pregnancy and to feel well prepared and confident for the birth and subsequent care of their baby.*

### **6. Choice**

*Women and their partners will have all the information that they need to make informed choices about their pregnancy and care.*

\*Digital technologies will be explored to support this

\*There is an ambition to develop a Midwifery Led Unit

### **7. Targeted Support**

*We will ensure that those families who need it, receive targeted support during their pregnancy and after the baby is born.*

\*Priority for 2015/16 is women with learning disabilities/difficulties

### **8. Quality & Safety**

*We will strive to ensure that all women receive high quality, safe and responsive maternity care throughout their pregnancy, birth and post-natal care.*

### **9. Staffing**

*We will work in partnership to provide well-prepared, trained and confident staff in all our services to meet the needs of women and families.*

## **3.0 Governance and Next Steps**

A programme board has been established to oversee the deliver of the strategy and will have its first meeting in August; this reports through to the CCG Boards and LTHT Board. A programme plan to underpin the strategy is in development and will be signed off by the programme board.

The strategy is going to the Health and Wellbeing Board in September.

Key working groups will be established during August/September, such as,

- The perinatal mental health task group (to be co-chaired by the lead commissioner for children and maternity services and the strategic lead commissioner for adult mental health services)
- A pathway group to develop early identification and support for women with learning disabilities
- An ensuring personalised care task group
- And a group to ensure the local offer and choice available for women and families is clearly set out and communicated

In addition there is an exciting development for Leeds to become part of a national pilot of the Best Beginnings Baby Buddy app.

There is a national maternity review underway, chaired by Baroness Cumberlege; this will report later this year. The national review is looking at choice, culture and accountability, incentives and levers and models of care. The programme board will review and consider the report once published.