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Nottingham Maternity Research Network

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 1

FEBRUARY 2017

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Report on our January meeting
- Public engagement & involvement in the School of Health Sciences
- Notts Maternity at Newark Library
- Ongoing project: the midwifery units study
- Meet Samantha Foulke, Network member

Nottingham Maternity Research Network aims to include the views of a range of local maternity service users. If you know anyone who might be interested in joining us, you can give them our email address or direct them to the website. We'll be happy to hear from them!



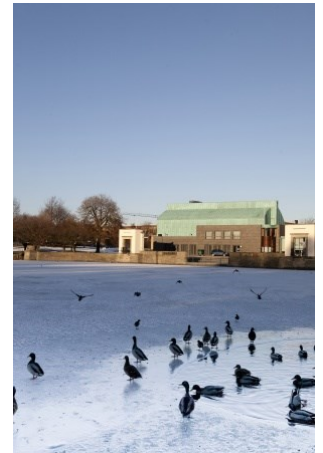
Join us on Facebook - just search for Nottingham Maternity Research Network and hit the like button!

Welcome!

A warm welcome to the latest issue of our regular network newsletter. Here you'll find a summary of our most recent meeting, a call for involvement from the School of Health Sciences, and an update on the ongoing midwife units study.

REPORT ON THE JANUARY NETWORK MEETING

Network members met at University Park on January 24th. The meeting was devoted to the research study 'Televising Childbirth'. This is a research development project funded by the Wellcome Trust which aims to develop research into the impact of birth shown on mainstream television on women's experiences. Network members watched an episode of One Born Every Minute together and then discussed the programme, their views on birth on television, and shared ideas about how to take the research agenda forward. It was great to hear a range of views on the topic, from those who enjoyed watching the series (even if they saw some issues with the way birth was represented), to those who avoided it and felt it could be damaging to women. Many thanks to Sara (Research Fellow) and Melissa (Network member) for facilitating. The discussion will inform the design of the next stage of the research.



Public Engagement & Involvement in the School of Health Sciences

The Network sits within the School of Health Sciences, University of Nottingham. After a recent review of public engagement and involvement in the School, a new agenda has been launched to take this work forward. Network members may be interested in the following opportunities:

- ◆ New members sought for the committee to oversee the school-wide agenda. Members of the Network with experience of involvement in research or teaching may be interested in this role. Role Description enclosed. Contact Theo Sticklely to find out more: Theo.Sticklely@nottingham.ac.uk
- ◆ Join the new committee for public engagement in research. Contact Debbie Butler for more information: Debbie.Butler@nottingham.ac.uk

These committees are concerned with engagement and involvement throughout the School, covering nursing, midwifery and physiotherapy, but Network members' views and experiences will be highly relevant and valued.

Notts Maternity at Newark Library

We had a good day at Newark Library in mid-December, talking about Notts Maternity and hearing women's opinions of childbirth on TV and Internet-based research. We had lots of visitors, particularly as we managed to hold the event just after a parent and baby singing session! The mums enjoyed some mince pies, while the little ones ate biscuits and played with pens and paper. Katie Greenfield, a local Notts Maternity member, came along to talk about what involvement means to her - it was great for new members to hear from someone who's been with the Network from the beginning. We even made it into the local newspaper!

Outreach has been a significant part of Notts Maternity's work during the past year, and we've been lucky enough to receive funding to visit areas beyond Nottingham. We'll be heading out and about again during 2017, publicising the Network at community engagement events in Mansfield and Worksop. Watch this space for further details, and maybe you'd like to come along to one of the events to help spread the word.

Project in Progress: the midwifery units study



This research is looking into why some maternity services offer care in a midwife-led unit to women in labour, while others do not. The study also explores why some midwife-led units are better used by women than others.

The study is now well underway, with the research team (led by Denis Walsh) visiting areas where midwife units have been highly successful, and others where they have not - and also NHS trusts where such units are not even an option for women. A number of Notts Maternity members have been involved in this study from the outset, and are currently helping to run focus group interviews with women, looking at their views and experiences of local maternity care provision.

Data collection is due to be completed by late Spring, after which there will be a stakeholders' meeting to discuss findings. We'll be producing summaries of the research in due course, which of course will be made available to all Notts Maternity members. In the meantime, here's a link to

the latest from the study, as reported by ITV: <http://www.itv.com/news/central/2017-02-13/university-of-nottingham-lead-birthing-study/>

Meet a Member of the Network



Samantha Foulke, Network member

I have been involved with the network since 2015. Someone mentioned the network to me in passing, and that prompted me to have a look at the website. The role of the network in involving service users to inform and contribute to upcoming research sounded really interesting, and maternity services were already something I had a keen interest in, so I dropped one of the team an e-mail to find out more.

Fast forward to 2017 and I have been going along to the quarterly network meetings when I can (work and children permitting!) which I really enjoy as you get to find out about the progress of the various research studies. The meetings

also ask for the input of the network members too - at one meeting we were asked to think about ways to increase the profile of the network, and the most recent meeting was centred around televising childbirth on TV, where everyone attending watched an episode of *One Born Every Minute*, and we were able to voice our thoughts on how that could affect women's ideas and expectations of birth.

Get in Touch, Spread the Word!

Visit our website: www.nottsmaternity.ac.uk

Email us at: HS-nottsmaternity@nottingham.ac.uk