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# Nottingham Maternity Research Network

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 1

MARCH 2016

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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!

## NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday 19th April

6.45-9.30pm

Tower Building

University of Nottingham

NG7 2RD

Light refreshments  
provided

## Welcome!

A warm welcome to the latest issue of our regular network newsletter. Here you'll find a summary of our most recent network meeting, news of recently funded and ongoing research, an introduction to another of our network members, and a link to a project which has been looking at researchers' experiences of working with service users.



## REPORT ON THE JANUARY NETWORK MEETING

Members of the network met on January 20th at the Poppy & Pint. Despite some issues with the accommodation, the meeting was well attended and productive. We were very happy to welcome some new members attending a meeting for the first time.

- We discussed ongoing studies and ways of updating the group regularly about these. We will now circulate a table providing an overview at each meeting;
- We reviewed the way we advertise opportunities to get involved in studies and agreed to make these more colourful and easier to read;
- We discussed ways of reaching new Network members and growing the group;
- Melissa shared her experiences of being part of an advisory group for the midwife-led units project;
- We celebrated the first birthday of the Network with cake and some reflections on progress so far.

## JUST FUNDED

We've been awarded some funding by the Economic and Social Research Council, which will help us to increase local knowledge about the research we undertake here at the University.

The objective of this project is to build relationships with a network of community groups who have the potential to use our research in their work. We'll achieve this by holding a launch event to introduce our work, and then visits to groups to find out how our research might be useful and relevant to them. Groups we hope to be engaging with include the Nottinghamshire Breastfeeding Mums' Network, Mumsnet Nottingham, The Fatherhood and Women's Institutes, faith-based groups, and the Home Birth Group. We'll also be building on existing connections with, for example, NCT, the Positive Birth Movement, and Birthing for Blokes.

## Researchers' experiences of public involvement

HealthTalk have launched a new series of videos about what researchers think about patient and public involvement in research. You might find them interesting. We especially like the section on the value and impact of involvement, where researchers gave lots of examples. You can find out more on researchers' experiences of involvement here:

<http://www.healthtalk.org/peoples-experiences/medical-research/researchers-experiences-patient-public-involvement/topics>



Some of the reasons given by researchers for involvement: generating new research ideas; improved participant information; designing better interventions; making research easier and more acceptable for people taking part; more patient-centred data collection and outcomes; enriching data analysis; supporting dissemination of results; and avoiding wasteful or pointless research.

## Study underway: Women's experiences of being 'overdue' in pregnancy

At the last meeting we talked about the study that Denis and Julie are conducting about women's experiences of being pregnant beyond their estimated due date. We are pleased to report that data collection is well underway. Thank you to all the Network members who shared the link to the call for participants. We had an overwhelming response from women who wanted to tell us what prolonged pregnancy was like for them. We ran an online focus group for one month (12 participants) and this is now complete and ready for analysis. We are also doing telephone interviews (15 participants) with women and these should be complete soon after Easter. This certainly seems to be a topic that women feel strongly about. Watch this space for more on the results and next steps.



Photograph by Herman Blake

## Meet a Member of the Network



### **Bernie Divall, Research Fellow in Maternity Care**

I was a professional musician, before I became a midwife in my early 30s, and I've been working as a research fellow for the past two years. My research interests lie in the professional identity of midwives, and also communication between women and healthcare professionals.

I'm really enjoying being part of the team that's working to establish Notts Maternity, as it represents something I believe in passionately: that services will always be better if the people accessing them have a voice, which applies as much to healthcare research as it does to service provision. I find it interesting to be part of the network from my perspectives as midwife, mother and researcher - it gives me plenty to reflect upon!

**Get in Touch, Spread the Word!**

Visit our website: [www.nottsmaternity.ac.uk](http://www.nottsmaternity.ac.uk)

Email us at: [HS-nottsmaternity@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:HS-nottsmaternity@nottingham.ac.uk)