



The University of
Nottingham

UNITED KINGDOM • CHINA • MALAYSIA

Nottingham Maternity Research Network

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 3

SEPT 2015

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Report on our July meeting
- Opportunities to get involved
- Research Café
- Looking for views on birth plans
- Meet Denis Walsh, 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!

NEXT MEETING:

Thursday 8th October

6.45-9.30pm

Tower Building

University of Nottingham

NG7 2RD

Light refreshments provided

Welcome!

A warm welcome to the third issue of our regular network newsletter. Here you'll find a summary of our recent network meeting, opportunities to get involved in specific projects as well as a call for participants, and a report about a pop-up research café.



REPORT ON THE JULY NETWORK MEETING

Members of the network met on 7th July at the University of Nottingham. We discussed progress in the development of the network, as well as current and future research:

- ◆ The Website—nottsmaternity.ac.uk—and the Facebook group—www.facebook.com/nottsmaternity—are active. Please share widely.
- ◆ Denis has secured funding from the NIHR for a project looking at why midwifery-led units are well used in some geographical areas and not in others. The project will use a case-study approach. Helen will form a sub-committee of the Network to support this project over the next two years.
- ◆ Updates on other projects including: fathers and early labour, anaemia in pregnancy, being 'overdue', birth plans and preparation for labour.

OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED

Could you help with our research? We are urgently looking for volunteers to support projects in the following topic areas:

- ◆ Use of midwifery-led units
- ◆ Telephone calls in early labour
- ◆ Anaemia in pregnancy
- ◆ Anxiety in pregnancy

Every project is different but there are opportunities to help write funding applications, advise on projects, and facilitate focus groups. No research experience is necessary but you should have experience of using maternity services. Contact us to find out more:

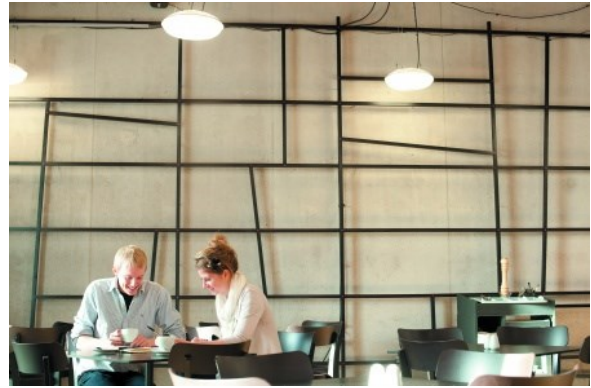
HS-nottsmaternity@nottingham.ac.uk

Report on Pop Up Research Café

Our maternity researchers participated in a University of Nottingham Research Café. The event was led by members of the School of Psychology and included a range of activities for members of the public, including opportunities to participate in research studies about emotions and drinking, and coping and wellbeing, as well as experience multi-sensory illusions in which the public could participate.

We took the opportunity to provide information about the Nottingham Maternity Research Network, and to talk informally about current and planned studies.

There was a steady flow of visitors throughout the two days and we enjoyed this great opportunity to talk about our work with members of the public, who came from Nottingham and much further afield. Over the coming weeks we will be following up with people who expressed an interest in our Network and we look forward to welcoming some new members!



Project underway: birth plans



We're currently looking for opinions and experiences of writing and using birth plans for labour. Over on Mumsnet and Netmums, we've posted a question, and you're welcome to join this conversation. Check out the birth plans page at www.nottsmaternity.ac.uk, and you'll see a link to both Mumsnet and Netmums - we're getting some interesting views.

What do you think? Did you write a birth plan? Do you think they're useful? All opinions welcome, and the discussion threads will be active until Sunday, 20th September - spread the word!

Meet a Member of the Network



Denis Walsh, Associate Professor in Midwifery

I was born in Queensland, Australia and moved to England in my mid 20's. I have been a midwife nearly 30 years, and involved in research for the past 15. My research interests are in place of birth, normal labour and midwifery models. These are the areas that I publish in as well. I strongly believe that childbirth research should reflect feminist values and methods. For me, service user involvement in all aspects of research is important. In the past, research in maternity care has been dominated by childbirth professionals, which may have led to study priorities, research methods and outcome measures not necessarily being what women would think the most important. Genuine collaboration with service users means that the most appropriate research questions will be asked and investigated, producing findings that will really have an impact on women's and their families' lives.

Get in Touch, Spread the Word!

Visit our website: www.nottsmaternity.ac.uk

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