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Nottingham Maternity Research Network

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IN THIS ISSUE:

- Report from our recent meetings
- Inclusive public involvement
- Patient perspectives as knowledge
- Meet Catrin Evans

Nottingham Maternity Research Network seeks to include the views of a range of local maternity service users.

If you know anyone who might be interested in joining us, please share this newsletter with them and encourage them to get in touch.

We'll be happy to hear from them!

HS-nottsmaternity@nottingham.ac.uk



Our recent meetings

We have met twice since the last newsletter, in July and September. Meetings continue online and have been well attended. It has been a pleasure to welcome some new members to the group over the past few months.

We have talked about a number of new projects in maternal health and wellbeing. Topics include induction of labour, green prescribing and risk pathways in pregnancy. The ideas and feedback from the Network has been vital in shaping these new research ideas. We are now waiting to hear the outcome of several applications for research funding. We'll keep you posted!

Our new online posters are now complete and ready to share. We recently shared some ideas about local community groups that we would like to link with, especially those that work with communities under-represented in the Network. If you have any ideas or can help with spreading the word, please email us.

Save the date

Our next meeting will be online on 24th November 11.30am—1pm. More details will be sent by email nearer the time.



We can all make a difference to maternity research

**Nottingham
Maternity Research
Network**

Use your own experience and ideas to improve research

Talk about pregnancy, childbirth and the first few weeks with a new baby

Our flexible group works to fit around your family and working life
(We're currently meeting online)



Find out how to get involved: nottsmaternity.ac.uk

It is important that research is informed by a wide range of people and perspectives. Network members come with different backgrounds and experiences of maternity care. Everyone is welcome and everyone makes a difference to the research we do.

We know there is more to do to make our group truly inclusive. With funding from the University of Nottingham's Institute for Policy and Engagement, we formed a small team of researchers and public members. The team was Julie, Amy, Pearl, and Helen. We made links with others who work in public involvement to share ideas about diversity and inclusion. We worked with a freelance designer, Gill Williamson, to design new materials for the Network. The poster above was designed with input from people with experience of using maternity services. We talked to current members and people outside of the Network to shape the key messages and design.

"I've learned so much in this short space of time and gained a lot of insights around inclusivity which I can see being so useful in my other roles. It's been a privilege to listen to such a wide range of perspectives for the poster design. It's really underscored for me just how important it is to have more than one or two people from underrepresented groups in any context where diversity is sought. It's so important to speak to as many people as possible...It's been a real pleasure, and so rewarding to be involved in this project, and it's on my CV!"

Pearl Agyakwa, public co-applicant

We still need your help.

The poster is ready to share online. Please help us spread the word by sharing with groups you know. You can visit our Facebook page and share from there. Or ask us for versions suitable for Twitter or Instagram.

We have seen how powerful it can be when our public members share information about the group. If everyone shares this just once, it could make a big difference. **Share our pinned post: <https://www.facebook.com/nottsmaternity>**

Visit our website: www.nottsmaternity.ac.uk

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

Find us on Facebook. Search for Nottingham Maternity Research Network

Why does the perspective of the patient counts as knowledge?

Alison Edgley, Andrew Grundy, Janet Betnis, Claire Jenkins & Debbie Butler

We conducted 10 individual, face-to-face interviews with participants drawn from our School's Public Patient Involvement database. We wanted to hear stories from those who could articulate ways in which their experience and narrative of their 'condition' or care was different from those of their health care professionals and/or their carer. In other words, we were seeking stories to demonstrate that the service user's standpoint is different (perhaps fundamentally so) to the standpoint of the health care professional and/or the carer. This helped us to draw out and illustrate philosophical principles, in particular standpoint epistemology. We worked with a second PPI group who supported the study design and the analysis of the data.

Participants told stories about an experience of health care which had not gone as expected or as wanted. They told us about times when diagnosis or treatment was not straightforward or took a long time, or where health problems were not identified correctly.

People perceived that health care professionals' privilege medical knowledge at the expense of other relevant knowledge. Yet patients turned to forms of knowledge beyond the medical model to make sense of their health needs and their experience of care. This could be body knowledge, phatic knowledge (communication which serves a social function – e.g. social pleasantries), societal and system knowledge. This was used to fill in perceived gaps left by the focus on medical knowledge and contributed to a belief that outcomes could have been different for them. The majority were left with a range of feelings from lack of trust, self-doubt, self-blame and in some cases trauma and psychological distress.

Meet Catrin Evans

Catrin is a Nurse and Associate Professor in the School of Health Sciences. She is an enthusiastic member of the Maternal Health and Wellbeing Research Group. Before starting her career at the University in 2003, she worked in overseas health and development, having lived in India (where she also found a husband!), Nepal and Thailand. Catrin has three children and is passionate about promoting women's health. Her research has covered a range of topics including HIV prevention, female genital mutilation, migrant women's healthcare, Midwifery Practice Guidelines and health workforce development. Catrin is also co-Director of the University of Nottingham's Centre for Evidence Based Healthcare which is part of a global effort to ensure that health policy and practice is based on the best available evidence. When not at work, Catrin enjoys singing, travelling, films – and her two cats!



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