



Action Plan Update 01

April 2013

Kia ora!

This is the first newsletter update on how Counties Manukau Health is acting on the Maternity Review Panel's recommendations for improving our Maternity Care system.

My name is Margie Apa, Director, Strategic Development and Chair of the Project Board that is overseeing our response. We support the Review Panel's recommendations and will be working hard with you to implement as many actions as possible by December 2014. In the process, we aim to implement service improvements that will better join up care and strengthen capacity where its needed to meet the needs of our women and their babies – especially those most vulnerable to poor health outcomes. If you want a reminder of what the Review said and copies of other reports that have informed this work, you can access the report on the publications page on our website www.countiesmanukau.health.nz or [click here](#).

The Review concluded that, when adjusted for age, deprivation and ethnicity there were *minimal differences* between the perinatal mortality rates in Counties Manukau compared with other Districts. We do, however, agree that there is much we can do to join up care between our primary/community and hospital based services. The work to improve the care of mothers and their babies is critical to changing the life course of our most vulnerable families. To do this, we all need to rise above our individual parts and join up what we do to ensure care is connected and integrated for our women. This is what we mean when we talk about being “whole of system”.



Margie Apa, Director Strategic Development

My aim is to provide you with an update at a minimum monthly, though more frequently as we progress key initiatives. I am mindful that there are many colleagues and consumers in our District who may have ideas and observations to share that will be useful to inform improvements and development. Below are contact details where you can send those ideas or comments on what we are doing.

In this update, I am outlining a summary of the actions we plan to undertake to address the issues the independent panel recommended.

Summary of Actions

Maternity Care Consumer Panel Registration of Interest

Gwynette Ahmu, Portfolio Manager Women's Health will convene the Consumer Engagement workstream. We would like to establish a panel to provide a patient or service user perspective on what we do over the next 12 months. We are looking for women who have had experience of maternity care within the last 4 years from our District. We want the panel to be reflective of women in our District who use our maternity services – Maori, Pacific, Asian, English as second language speakers, young/teenage mums, mums with many children.

Are you willing to share your observations and experiences in a way

that will help us improve how we provide care? We want to hear what works as well as what we need to improve on. We are looking for women who can reflect on their whole pregnancy experience – both hospital, community and home based services – not on the practices of individual health professionals.

If you would like to register or nominate someone whom you think would be able to contribute constructively please email Gwynette.ahmu@cmdhb.co.nz by 30 April, 2013. The Consumer Panel will meet a minimum of 6 times during the next year.

Summary of Actions - *continued*

Vulnerable and High Needs Women

Studies suggest that Counties Manukau's proportion of highly vulnerable women are greater than 80% when considering social and clinical factors that increase risk of perinatal death.

While many women in our District have healthy pregnancies and deliveries, we will be considering the support available for women who have medical conditions that are amenable to intervention. This project will consider what additional social support and clinical capacity is required to ensure that our most vulnerable women receive the care they need when they need it. This project will, among other things, look at how other DHBs support vulnerable women and consider what we need to do to meet the needs of the women in our District.

Maternity Workforce Development

Thelma Thomson, Director, Midwifery Practice will convene a Workforce Development Project Group to oversee action on Workforce Development. Self employed midwives and/or their representative groups will be invited to join this Project Group. We have a lot of activity on the go currently including scholarships for Maaori/Pacific midwives and supporting entry to practice with new graduates.

The initial focus will be on the midwifery workforce with the aim to extend our development to others e.g. medical, social workers, nursing, support workers etc. Ko Awatea's Workforce Development team will support this work. This project will also consider how we expand training and professional development to ensure all our workforce are equipped with the appropriate skills.

An example of a project that we expect will support new graduates into practice is the "**Integrating Self-Employed Midwives with Family Health Practice**". We are pleased to have **Ady Priday**, a self employed

midwife to lead this work with us and she is also on our Project Board for implementing the Maternity Care Review Panel's recommendations. This project aims to integrate maternity care with primary care and encourage early engagement for women and their families.

This will be achieved by partnering three new graduate midwives and three experienced midwives to support each other with their individual case loads. There will also be collective support for the whole group when individuals are on leave, support for recertification and compulsory registration commitments. Each midwife will be located and integrated with a primary care practice in the Otara or Mangere areas where GPs can refer directly to midwives. This will enhance early engagement in antenatal care as the midwife will be available from when a woman has her pregnancy confirmed. The self-employed midwife can also follow up women with the support of the Whaanau Ora or community teams attached to the primary care practice.

Family Planning, Contraception and Sexual Health

Dr Sarah Tout, Clinical Director Women's Health, is convening a group of experts to consider the needs we require in the family planning and sexual health services. The members of this group comprise **Tanya Wilson** (Charge Midwife Manager), **Ady Priday** (Self employed Midwife), **Dr Juliet Walker** (GP), **Margaret Abercrombie** (Regional Medical Advisor, Northern Region Family Planning), **Maya Bachu** (Nurse Specialist, Early Pregnancy Assessment Clinic), **Senia Kelemete** (School Based Nurse), **Yvonne Lake** (Women's Health Consultant).

The experts represent the whole continuum of care and can advise from their respective clinical perspectives. This project will consider options on how we can improve access to contraception for all our population especially for teenagers and women post nataally.

Other Initiatives

We know there are many service improvements that are occurring in our maternity care sector that will support connecting care for women. Not all improvements were recommended by the review but we will profile them here over the coming months.

On that note, on the 15th April Counties Manukau Health launched a drop in service at the Dawson Road Maternity Clinic in Otara where hospital employed community midwives will be co-located with general practice to offer easier access and enrolment with a midwife.

For more information, please see our Counties Manukau Health website or contact us at the places below. I look forward to working with you.



Would you like to comment or share your ideas and views?

Email us on: everybody@middlemore.co.nz

For more information, please see our Counties Manukau Health website: www.countiesmanukau.health.nz