

# Improving maternal and neonatal safety

**The National Maternity and Neonatal Safety Improvement Programme (formerly the Maternal and Neonatal Health Safety Collaborative) is working to improve the safety, outcomes and experience of women and babies using maternal and neonatal care services across England. The programme contributes to the National Maternity Transformation Programme.**

Locally, the 15 patient safety collaboratives (PSCs) provide additional expertise, coaching and support to the maternity and neonatal teams, helping them build capacity and capability for quality improvement, which assists with project delivery. This contributes to the national ambition to reduce the rate of stillbirths, maternal and

neonatal deaths and brain injuries occurring during or soon after birth across England.

The focus is on:

- Quality improvement support and coaching for teams undertaking improvement projects.
- Providing expertise and practical support in measurement for improvement.

- Supporting teams to carry out and debrief from safety culture surveys.
- Hosting and coordinating 19 local learning systems across the country to support system level improvement and the 44 local maternity systems.

## National priorities

- Increasing rates of smoke free pregnancy
- Detection and management of diabetes in pregnancy
- Early recognition and management of deterioration of mother or baby
- Optimisation and stabilisation of the very preterm infant
- Detection and management of neonatal hypoglycaemia

Support/enablers – safety culture, learning from errors and excellence, reliable systems and processes, involving women and families.



## Local Learning Systems

**In Wessex, the PSC team host the Wessex Maternal and Neonatal Local Learning System (LLS) in collaboration with local partners. The LLS is a forum bringing together the local maternity system, maternity and neonatal networks, royal colleges, multi-disciplinary clinicians delivering care, managers and women and families.**

The LLS includes staff at all levels across organisations and professions across the maternity and neonatal pathway and has a focus on safety and improvement.

The LLS enables shared learning and creates an opportunity to tackle system-level improvement on topics such as supporting smoke free pregnancies and the stabilisation and optimisation of the very preterm infant.

The team also supports this improvement work with coaching and helping build capability in quality improvement across maternity and neonatal care.



**“We are delighted to be part of the LLS. It has given us the opportunity to bring clinicians of all professions together to share their achievements and gain support with the more challenging elements of their quality improvement journey. The range of projects being talked about is undoubtedly going to contribute to the safety improvement we are all working towards.”**

### **Suzanne Cunningham**

Director of Midwifery and Lead for Neonatal Services Southampton, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Dorset Local Maternity System and participant of the Wessex Local Learning System