



Scottish  
Perinatal  
Network

# Newsletter



Issue 2 December 2020



Welcome to the second issue of the Scottish Perinatal Network's newsletter.

We hope you find it useful for keeping up to date with the work of the network and wider developments, conferences, training and other opportunities.

As we approach the end of a very unexpected and challenging year, we reflect on the progress we have made in establishing the connections and relationships that are the very fabric of our networks. We are very grateful for your time and commitment to working with us to build the new national maternity and neonatal networks and collaborate around the perinatal elements which span both. Thank you.

Together, we have been able to assist the Covid-19 response across maternity and neonatal services. Working in partnership with the wider clinical community, professional bodies and Scottish Government we have delivered national support to the rapid implementation of new ways of delivering care, including clinical guidance for professionals, webinars and health information for women and families. We developed our digital platforms to support the work and used them to connect with each other and share learning and experiences. There will be many more opportunities to connect and share as all of our work progresses. We very much look forward to building on this foundation and continuing to work together as we develop our key priorities for the network in 2021.

Wishing you all a very happy Christmas and New Year.

*Carsten Mandt*

*Senior Programme Manager, Scottish Perinatal Network*

# National Maternity Network Festive Summary

Lead Clinicians Dr Tara Fairley and Mary Davie

2020 has been a memorable year for us all, often for the wrong reasons, but on a positive note it marks the birth of the National Maternity Network. The new national network aims to build on the great work of the maternity community in Scotland to support the development of new models of improved care for women and their families, and together with the National Neonatal Network, to make the perinatal journey as seamless as possible.

Our team has grown over the year with Laura Brown joining as Programme Manager just before lockdown and us, as clinical leads, and our Project Support Officer, Lana Cathro, joining in August.

In the early part of the year the network had a key role in supporting the implementation of NHS NearMe across maternity services and the introduction of home blood pressure monitoring for suitable women. Both initiatives helped safeguard women by reducing unnecessary travel and attendance at antenatal clinics during the pandemic and have demonstrated sustainable benefits.

An important part of our work has been to identify our many stakeholders and start to engage with the maternity community across Scotland. Unfortunately due to COVID this engagement has been through virtual rather than local visits. Nonetheless, meetings so far have been very useful and have given us significant food for thought as we seek to understand your key priorities, which will help inform the network's programme of work over the next few years.

We have already identified themes for improvement, such as around pathway development, especially for women who need to move between care settings during pregnancy; supporting effective working between units, especially around Significant Adverse Event Reviews (SAERs); and ensuring an accessible platform for sharing learning across Scotland.

As we move into 2021 we hope to engage with an increasingly broad range of stakeholders to help define and prioritise our workplan and begin to progress some key areas.

We are very conscious that the success of the network in supporting services to deliver the best possible care across Scotland lives and dies with your support and collaboration. If we're doing it right please tell your friends, if not . . . please tell us!

We hope to be able to come and visit you in your units in the coming year and very much look forward to working with you all.

We wish you all a happy Christmas and a brighter New Year.





# National Neonatal Network

## Festive Summary

Lead Clinician Dr Lesley Jackson

2020 has been a unique and challenging year across all Health Services. In neonatal care we were fortunate Covid-19 rarely infected our babies and the very small number that were infected did not become unwell. However, it has been a major change in how we have all worked, particularly dealing with restrictions around parental access and wearing PPE. The national weekly and more latterly fortnightly calls hosted by the network from March enabled a real sense of collaborative working and sharing of experiences during the pandemic. We worked closely with our colleagues in BAPM and Scottish Government and helped directly shape guidance on testing and risk status. I hope this sense of working as one neonatal service will be a platform for ongoing work in 2021.

The Network held its first Steering group meeting virtually in late 2020, agreeing priorities for the work plan, thank you to all that have contributed to the work to date.

Other notable achievements of 2020 have been the Network hosted vCreate developmental pilot looking at innovative ways of using asynchronous video in development assessment, working with the West of Scotland Innovation Hub. This pilot is now live and we look forward to sharing the evaluation in 2021.

A priority for 2021 will be the first meeting of the repatriation working group, processes and pathways that will underpin effective patient flow across neonatal units. Progressing work on capacity and escalation pathways has also been prioritised as ensuring capacity for the smallest and sickest babies is fundamental to the new model of neonatal care .

Thank you to all that have worked with the network team over 2020, adapting to new ways of working and communication.

Wishing you all a happy, healthy and safe festive period.



# Perinatal News

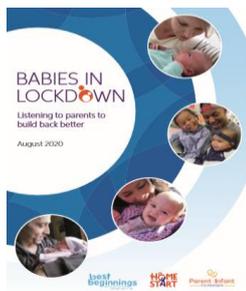
## Signs of Life

UK clinical guidance was released on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020. This guidance is to support health care professionals in the assessment and documentation of signs of life in extremely preterm births. It aims to increase the consistency of the registration of births and deaths and reduce the confusion and distress experienced by parents.

Link: [Signs of Life](#)



## Perinatal and Infant Mental Health



**Babies in Lockdown: listening to parents to build back better (2020), Best Beginnings, Home-Start UK, and the Parent-Infant Foundation**

Full report link: [PMHN Website](#)

## BAPM

Please note the following recent publications available from the British Association of Perinatal Medicine website:

### **Antenatal Optimisation Toolkit**

<https://www.bapm.org/pages/194-antenatal-optimisation-toolkit>

### **Optimal Cord Management**

<https://www.bapm.org/pages/197-optimal-cord-management-toolkit>

### **Maternal Breast Milk Toolkit**

<https://www.bapm.org/pages/196-maternal-breast-milk-toolkit>

### **Therapeutic Hypothermia for Neoantal Encephalopathy**

<https://www.bapm.org/resources/237-therapeutic-hypothermia-for-neonatal-encephalopathy>



**British Association of  
Perinatal Medicine**



## Bliss

### Baby Charter Programme Changes

1. Bliss have created a new, digital tool to help units complete the Bliss Baby Charter.
2. Bliss have updated the Bliss Baby Charter to reflect current guidelines and practice.
3. Bliss have introduced different levels of award for each stage of the Baby Charter process.
4. Bliss have introduced suggested timescales to give an indication of how long it takes to complete the Baby Charter.
5. The Baby Charter self-assessment is free to access but we have introduced a fee to cover the cost of external assessment and accreditation from Bliss. **Units in Scotland will not be asked to cover this new cost, as the Scottish Government has agreed to fund in full in 2021/22.**

More information can be found on the Bliss website using the links provided and the Bliss Baby Charter team are available to answer questions via email [babycharter@bliss.org.uk](mailto:babycharter@bliss.org.uk).



40 years  
of change  
for babies

**We value your feedback to help us make the newsletter work for you.**

**Please forward any comments or suggestions to us at**

[nss.perinatalnetwork@nhs.scot](mailto:nss.perinatalnetwork@nhs.scot)

**Follow us on Twitter and please get in touch to let us know of anything you'd like us to support you with via Twitter**



[@ScotPerinatal](https://twitter.com/ScotPerinatal)

**Merry Christmas and a happy New Year  
from all at Scottish Perinatal Network!**



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