

Briefing paper

Maternity & neonatal care data hub for Scotland

Background

'*The Best Start – A Five Year Forward Plan for Maternity and Neonatal Care in Scotland*'¹, published in January 2017, reports the findings of the Scottish Government's Review of Maternity and Neonatal Services in Scotland. Recommendation 70 of '*The Best Start*' is to develop a **national maternity and neonatal care data hub** and recommendation 67 is "...national level maternity and neonatal dashboards should be developed to facilitate benchmarking and reduce variations in care".

Engagement in 2018 with the maternity and neonatal services community allowed us to agree what a data hub should include, and to develop the following vision statement for the MatNeo Data Hub:

To ensure the Best Start for mothers and babies in Scotland, a maternity and neonatal data hub should be established to: coordinate collection and verification of all Scottish related neonatal and maternity data; streamline data collection; reduce duplication of data entry; ensure access to relevant data, and support data use to commission, operate and improve services.

The hub was established in 2019 as a collaboration involving five delivery partners (Public Health Scotland, the Scottish Strategic Perinatal Network, Healthcare Improvement Scotland, Scottish Government, and National Records of Scotland), with close links to UK-wide audits and IT system suppliers.

Scottish Government are funding a programme with five work streams:

1. **Manage a visible Maternity and Neonatal Data Hub for Scotland partnership**
2. **Align Maternity and Neonatal data collection, extraction, and data flow**
3. **Establish new all-Scotland maternity data returns**
4. **Routine collection of data on specialist neonatal care.**
5. **Data displays showing maternity and neonatal CORE measures**

Further information on each programme work stream is included on the following pages.

Staying informed

We provide regular updates to stakeholders to keep you informed on progress. This includes short briefings like this, a 'one-place-to-go' web presence (at <https://www.perinatalnetwork.scot/data/>) and quarterly e-mails (most recent Summer 2022). To subscribe contact phs.matneodatahub@phs.scot.

For **further information** please contact: Alastair Philp, Programme Lead (Alastair.Philp2@phs.scot)

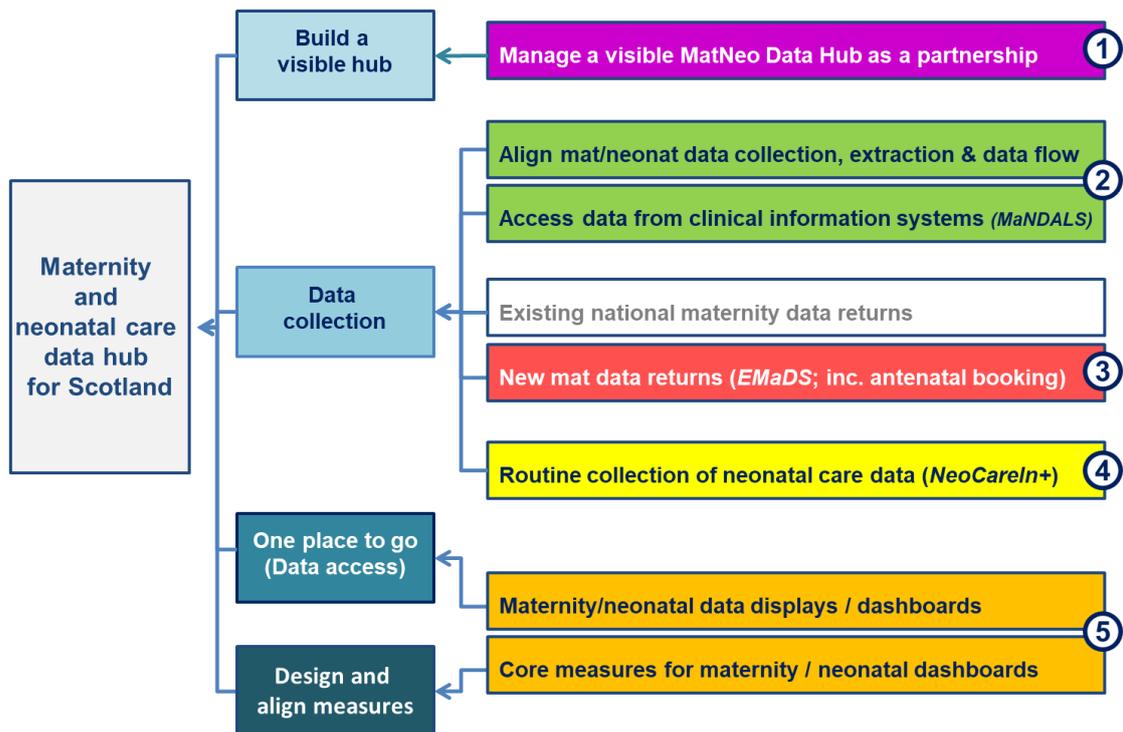
COVID-19 & the MatNeo Data Hub

To respond effectively to the COVID-19 pandemic, work during 2020, 2021 and early 2022 differed from what we originally planned, allowing PHS to meet urgent demands for surveillance data on maternity, neonatal and paediatric care. However, the MatNeo Data Hub programme have now resumed all planned activities.

As part of our COVID-19 response, Public Health Scotland created a [data dashboard showing wider impacts of COVID-19](https://scotland.shinyapps.io/phs-covid-wider-impact/) at <https://scotland.shinyapps.io/phs-covid-wider-impact/>. This continues to be updated each month and includes data on many aspects of maternity care in Scotland including: breastfeeding; stillbirths, neonatal and infant deaths; antenatal bookings (numbers and average gestation; from the new Antenatal Booking Collection data return); terminations of pregnancy (numbers and average gestation); deliveries (gestation, mode (including C-section) and whether induced); term+ singleton births that have a 5 minute Apgar score of <7, and extremely preterm deliveries at sites with a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU).

¹ See <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/People/Young-People/child-maternal-health/neonatal-maternity-review>

Components of the MatNeo data hub programme



Quick progress update (July 2022) on each work stream

① Manage a visible Maternity and Neonatal Data Hub for Scotland partnership

As well as managing the inter-dependencies among the projects described below, we have stabilised a partnership involving collaboration among the five delivery partners (the [Scottish Perinatal Network](#), [Healthcare Improvement Scotland](#), [Scottish Government](#), [National Records of Scotland](#), and [Public Health Scotland](#)). We are also developing links to colleagues undertaking similar national work in England (NHS Digital) and Wales, to UK-wide audits and with IT system suppliers.

A MatNeo Data Hub **Programme Board**, with representatives from each delivery partner, continues to meet quarterly (most recently in late June 2022) to discuss programme activities and plans. The MatNeo Data Hub continues to be overseen by the **Evidence & Data sub-group** of the Best Start Programme Board.

We circulated a quarterly **e-mail update** on hub activities to our mailing list in early July 2022. With the assistance of the [Scottish Perinatal Network](#) (one of the five delivery partners) we have established a web presence at <https://www.perinatalnetwork.scot/data>. Each of the hub's workstreams is described, and links are provided to the resources that the hub has already developed. These include data dashboards and a [Topics Index](#) showing where maternity and neonatal data is already available.

② Align Maternity and Neonatal data collection, extraction, and data flow

The Maternity and Neonatal Data Access Liaison Group for Scotland (**MaNDALS**) was established to share updates from multiple parallel conversations involving organisations who require all-Scotland-consistent data for national purposes from clinical information systems (mainly BadgerNet), and to align these conversations. The group met for a sixth time in April 2022.

We continue to work with National Services Scotland Digital and Security (DaS) colleagues, with colleagues in NHS Boards, and with Clevermed – who provide the BadgerNet systems – to bring nationally-consistent maternity and neonatal data from clinical systems in to Public Health Scotland (PHS). We are continuing to consider with digital midwives, and others, how data quality (completeness and consistency) can be ensured when data is sourced from clinical systems.

We are progressing commercial negotiations with Clevermed to agree a subscription-service contract to allow access to maternity and neonatal data that they hold on behalf of Scottish NHS boards, where boards ask them to do so.

③ Establish new all-Scotland maternity data returns (Enhanced Maternity Dataset for Scotland - EMaDS)

Throughout 2019 we reviewed the national maternity data return (SMR02) and the national baby data return (SBR), with a view to developing enhanced future maternity and baby data returns that align to current service delivery, and provide more consistent data on maternity care, births and babies.

With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic we refocused our [Enhanced Maternity Dataset for Scotland \(EMaDS\)](#) work to capture close-to-real-time data on aspects of antenatal booking. We were already proposing to separate the collection of antenatal booking data from collection of data on delivery (and other ends-of-pregnancy). We decided to dramatically accelerate that, and developed an [Antenatal Booking Collection \(ABC\)](#) data return (as an early implementation of a module of EMaDS). We established weekly reporting for antenatal booking data, and received historic data back to April 2019, so we could report on all women pregnant in March 20 (and thereafter).

We have now established the Antenatal Booking Collection as a routine and enduring all-Scotland data return. This allows us to know how many women are pregnant at a point in time and therefore eligible for antenatal screening and immunisations. Numbers of women booking for antenatal care, and average gestation at booking, are published monthly in the pregnancy section of the [wider impacts dashboard](#) already mentioned.

The ABC data is being used by the [COVID-19 in Pregnancy in Scotland \(COPS\)](#) study to identify a dynamic cohort of pregnant women. COPS aims to find out how COVID-19 infection during pregnancy affects mothers and babies. Data from COPS on COVID-19 infection in pregnant women and neonates, and COVID-19 vaccination in pregnancy, has also been presented (most recently on 11 May) in some [PHS COVID weekly reports](#). Post COVID we wish to maintain this dynamic pregnancy cohort and we are exploring how we can.

We are finalising an expanded version 2 of the Antenatal Booking Collection (ABC). We are also developing a Delivery and Baby (DeB) dataset, which will, in the initial version 1, be deployed alongside the existing SMR02 to gather additional data on deliveries and babies that is not included in SMR02. We will be testing both through one-off data transfers over the next six months. We are also exploring how we can capture data on early pregnancy events (including miscarriage) from early pregnancy centres.

④ Routine collection of data on specialist neonatal care (NeoCareIn+)

We are working to establish routine collection of a new national (all-Scotland) minimum dataset on specialist neonatal care. In November 2019 we received a one-off extract of data from BadgerNet Neonatal and we analysed this to see what we could learn, and what changes we might need to make to the draft dataset we developed in 2018/19. We now have a dataset suitable for routine submission. We are still discussing with Clevermed (and NHS Boards) how we can have this dataset routinely available, how data will be stored in PHS and planning how data should be presented. We are working with the National Neonatal Network to support their needs.

⑤ Data displays showing maternity and neonatal CORE measures

We have continued developing **CORE maternity measures** for incorporation into maternity dashboards. This supports Commitment 67 in Best Start: “*National level maternity and neonatal dashboards should be developed to facilitate benchmarking and reduce variations in care*”. Such measures, using all-Scotland-comparable data, will support individual services and regional collaborations to learn from each other’s experience.

As part of a consultation in 2020 we developed a dashboard demonstrator, which provided links to existing data displays. **This has now been retired**. We are, however, continuing to maintain a “[Topics Index²](#)”. This catalogues individual maternity and neonatal measures already available, including those on the [wider impacts dashboard](#), [Discovery](#), [NMPA](#), [NNAP](#) and [PHS websites](#). The Topics Index also includes a list of CORE maternity measures. Members of the programme team are continuing to work with a National Neonatal Network Data Group, to develop a companion neonatal dashboard CORE.

We have been developing additional data displays for maternity CORE measures to add to post-COVID dashboards. These include time series charts to allow comparison (for a particular measure) across Health Board areas, and a multi-indicator board comparison to display multiple indicators for health board areas. We have agreed a proposal for open-access post-COVID dashboards that incorporates these ideas with our Programme Board. We are also considering with Programme Board partners how new displays we produce can be maintained, and reviewed regularly by relevant national organisations. In the meantime we have made some changes to the access-controlled [Discovery](#) dashboard, including using ABC data for monitoring gestation at booking.

Our colleagues in the maternity analytical team in Public Health Scotland published the annual [Births in Scotland](#) publication at the end of November 2021, and a [new annual report on Antenatal Booking](#), based on ABC data, was published at the end of March 2022. This includes data on numbers of pregnancies booked, maternal smoking status and gestation at booking. The annual [Termination of pregnancy](#) publication was released in late May 2022.

² See https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1iAcRF8qc1-k7341JyqofiSUmsvmKJ_OxUPyE07XVTPU/edit#gid=277533606