

# **SOUTH WARWICKSHIRE MATERNITY SERVICES LIAISON COMMITTEE**

## **ANNUAL REPORT JANUARY 2007 - EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

South Warwickshire Maternity Services Liaison Committee (MSLC) continues to meet bimonthly with regular attendance by user representatives, midwifery staff and members of the Primary Care Trust (PCT) and other affiliated organisations.

The Annual Report of the South Warwickshire MSLC gives an overview of the work carried out by the committee since the publication of the last Annual Report of 2004/05. This Executive Summary gives a brief overview of the report.

Over the past 18 months the MSLC have been involved with the work of the Acute Services Review (ASR) and the safeguarding of maternity and paediatric services at Warwick Hospital. The user representatives of the committee especially have worked hard to canvass local parent's views of the services and have reported these findings back to the ASR Board. These documents can be seen in the full annual report.

Other work of the MSLC is detailed in our Work Plan and includes Service User Involvement, Maternity Staffing, Improving the Birth Environment and Women's Mental Health. The work carried out by members of the MSLC in these areas is documented in the full report.

Members of the MSLC have also been involved with the South Warwickshire Maternity Services Strategy and the Warwickshire County Council Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee Access to Maternity Services Report. We have been made aware of the function of Children's Centres and the future provision of maternity care through these centres. We have also been made aware of the Community Review of Maternity Services which has raised concerns about the cessation of the antenatal labour ward tour.

The MSLC continue to be concerned about the staffing shortages in the maternity unit and especially after the publication of the 'Birthrate Plus' report showed a shortage of 20 Full Time Equivalent midwives. User members have also expressed their concern about the high intervention rate and as can be seen on the labour ward statistics the caesarean rate has increased overall by 2.2% and now stands at 24.2%. The labour ward statistics are included in the full report.

The MSLC is represented on several committees relating to maternity including the Labour Ward Forum, the South Warwickshire Breastfeeding Strategy Group and Parentcraft Steering Group; the Leamington Sure Start/Children's Centres Strategy Group; South Warwickshire Infant and Child Nutrition Group; the Maternity Unit Screening Committee and the newly formed Community and Hospital Information Exchange Forum.

The MSLC has published their own information leaflet for parents and has so far received positive feedback about the service. We have also been involved with producing an information service to be used in the antenatal clinic via a plasma screen. It is hoped that this information service will be up and running during 2007.

We are pleased to note the introduction of a drop-in breastfeeding sessions on Swan Ward but were concerned about the use of beds by gynaecology patients during 2006. These and other areas of work are all detailed in the full report.

The MSLC members have shown great commitment over the past year to help improve links with parents throughout South Warwickshire and help improve their experience of pregnancy and early parenthood.

Hilary Schmidt-Hansen  
Chairperson to the Maternity Services Liaison Committee