

**BIRMINGHAM LINK – Women’s Health & Maternity Working Group**  
**Minutes from meeting held Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2010**

**PRESENT:**

- Salma Banu (SB)
- Emma Borg (EB)
- Elsie Gayle (EG)
- Helen Oxtan (HO)

**FACILITATORS PRESENT:**

- Meanaz Akhtar – Gateway Family Services (MA)
- Yvonne Perkin – Gateway Family Services (YP)

**APOLOGIES RECEIVED:**

- Gurjit Kaur (GK)
- Amanda Smith (AS)

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**1. WELCOME / APOLOGIES / SIGN IN SHEET**

Introductions were made and MA welcomed the Group. MA informed the Group that EG is the Chair and GK is Deputy Chair of the Women’s Health & Maternity Working Group.

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**2. MINUTES AND ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS WH&MWG MEETING HELD 22/02/2010**

- All accurate and correct.

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**3. UPDATE ON WH&M EVENT – MARCH 9<sup>TH</sup> 2010**

MA confirmed the venue will be held at St Pauls Centre, 405b Belchers Lane, Bordesley Green, B9 5SY from 10am – 2pm. She suggested that from 10 – 12.30pm we should have the event open to the public then break for lunch, after which it would be for the women only. HO stated that she will not be able to attend the event as she is on annual leave but she will confirm via email who will attend on her behalf.

— **Promotions** – Article in WomenZone, leaflet dropping and mail shot to generate public knowledge of the event. EG recommended Newstyle Radio to promote the event, she was then asked if she could contact them. Leaflets and flyers should hopefully be printed and ready for distribution within 24 hours.

— **Contents for day** – MA informed the Group that she will be meeting with GK meeting up to arrange the agenda for the day. Hopefully this should be sent out week beginning 01/03/2010.

— **Guest speakers** – MA informed the Group that there are 2 definite guest speakers at the moment namely Ashram and Acacia; they will each do a 10-15 minute presentation which will consist of showing a DVD on domestic violence, talking and answering any questions.

— **Promotional Material** – organisations will bring along their own promotional material.

— **Entertainment** – SB will do mendhi, she also informed the Group that she can do head and shoulder massages also. Other suggestions were balloon animals, fruit basket raffle and face painting. MA we have 12 – 15 stalls for use and approximately 80+ people attending.

SB informed YP and MA and she will need to purchase the mendhi equipment, it was then suggested that Birmingham LINK give SB the monies to make the necessary purchase and was advised that we will need the receipt for finance, SB was happy with this arrangement.

- **Collating info/registration** – MA suggested 2 people (host and volunteer) to be on front desk to register all attendees/visitors as they arrive. Also for all who register with Birmingham LINk, they will receive a raffle ticket out of which 1 person will win the fruit basket at the end of the event.

**Actions:**

- HO to email YP / MA with confirmation as to who will be attending on her behalf.
- EG to get in touch with Newstyle Radio about promoting event and liaise with MA.
- MA to send out finalised agenda of the day.
- YP to get the monies over to SB for the mendhi equipment.
- YP & MA to sort out fruit basket for raffle.

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#### **4. AMANDA SMITH – PPI OFFICER**

MA informed the Group Amanda Smith was meant to attend the meeting to report on the consultation results; however after speaking to her line manager she was advised not to attend until their meeting had taken place on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2010. MA will find out if AS will be able to attend the next WH&M Action Group meeting.

**Action:**

- MA to contact AS.

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#### **5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- a) Scrutiny Meeting held on 12/02/2010 – EG informed the Group there was a discussion between the Joint OSC for Solihull and the HoEFT about their unconsulted decision to close Solihull Maternity Unit in April. The Trust's plan for the maternity unit at Solihull Hospital should be closed for 3 months and then reopened as a Midwifery Led Unit, and as the explanations given were not relevant, the Councillors decision was made for it to remain open until August 2010.

They felt that the matter should have been at the scrutiny before a decision had been made by the Trust to temporarily close the unit.

The decision of the Trust to close the Unit was based on the safety issues, following advice from various external and internal clinical experts.

For those expectant mothers in the Solihull area to travel from Solihull to Heartland Hospital, arrangement would be made to accommodate them at Heartlands and elsewhere, but the Councillors felt it would not be practical, especially in congested traffic. They spoke on behalf of the Solihull residents who wanted to maintain a full service in Solihull.

The councillors had highlighted that in their own meeting with the public and staff it was found that the staff had not been fully consulted. There was representation from all services except from Front Clinations, midwives and nurses are not being heard. It was suggested that a letter be written to the Scrutiny Committee asking what has been done to consult staff.

Elsie felt that it was within the remit of the link to ask about this. But it would have to be sensitively done as staff are vulnerable and it would be important not to cause friction.

**Action:**

- MA to draft letter and send to EG for approval

- b) EG informed the Group that Amy Maclean (Women's Hospital – MSLC and National Childbirth Trust) would like some information about Birmingham Link and is interested for LINK to work with the maternity services. EG and MA will attend a meeting with Amy in March.

**Action:**

- MA to feedback to the Group

- c) It was suggested to the Group that it would be a good idea to see if Julia Brown, Breast Feeding Co-ordinator for HOB could attend one of the WH&M meetings to give a talk.

**Action:**

- MA to contact Julia Brown to try and arrange for her to do a talk.

- d) MA informed the Group that on the follow up of the Heartland consultation in January 2010, Birmingham LINK will be going into Heartlands Hospital, Maternity Ward, to find out the views of the patient's and staff. This will hopefully be on 12<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup> April. She also asked if any of the Group wishes to volunteer and come along please let us know.

- e) EB asked if she could have copies of previous minutes via her email.

**Action:**

- YP to email all previous minutes of WH&M Action Group meetings to EB

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## 6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

**12<sup>th</sup> April 2010 at 10:00am – 12noon, Venue TBC.**

HO informed to the Group that it would be fine to hold meetings at the Women's Hospital; this was agreed by the Group. HO stated that she will check the availability for the 12<sup>th</sup> April and email YP.

**Action:** HO to check availability and contact YP.