

Maternity Voices Partnership - Social Action for Health engagement PPE outcomes 2018/2019

- The Newham MVP members agreed to focus on improving the following areas over the course of 2018/19;
- Increased use of Barking Community Birth Centre (BCBC) – a Newham University Hospital midwifery led unit
- Perinatal Mental Health support
- Infant Feeding services
- Ensure compassionate care as standard

The outreach information on Barking Community Birth Centre (BCBC) told us that 65% of women asked did not know about the existence of BCBC. Following a discussion at the MVP meeting with local mums and services, changing the name of the birth centre was suggested. The group felt that having the word Barking in the title is confusing for local women, resulting in women thinking that BCBC is only available to families from Barking. Discussions are on going with the Associate Director of Nursing for Women's and Children's Services at Newham University Hospital, to change the name and re-launch the birth centre to increase awareness and use.

The Perinatal Mental Health feedback resulted in a co-production sub-group with local mental health providers and mums with lived experience, working together to improve services. Priorities for the group are; information sharing, mapping perinatal mental health resources in Newham and supporting professionals and community groups to work together to improve perinatal mental health of local women.

The next meeting is in March 2019, the group have already mapped referral pathways into local services, started to look at how to incorporate role play into mental health training for midwives. Also, Newham Talking Therapies want to produce a video for their site about mental health and getting help involving local families from Newham.