

A WORD FROM THE CHAIR

By Shirley Jones

These last few months have been difficult for everybody but not least for those families expecting babies, where planning has been difficult and, where plans existed, they have been hard to implement. Members of the MVP, both lay and professional, have been aware of how difficult it has been for women to attend scans and appointments without their partners. Also, for those who have had their babies, the issues around partners being not present until labour was established and not being able to stay afterwards; then anxiety about whether advice and support would still be available.

I am very grateful to Justine Jeffrey, in particular, for her willingness to be a key player in the Ask the Midwife Zoom sessions, for her clarity in answering the questions and creating a picture of what the services have looked like. She has swiftly picked up any issue that we have raised with her and her staff members have done a sterling job in keeping women, babies and their families safe.

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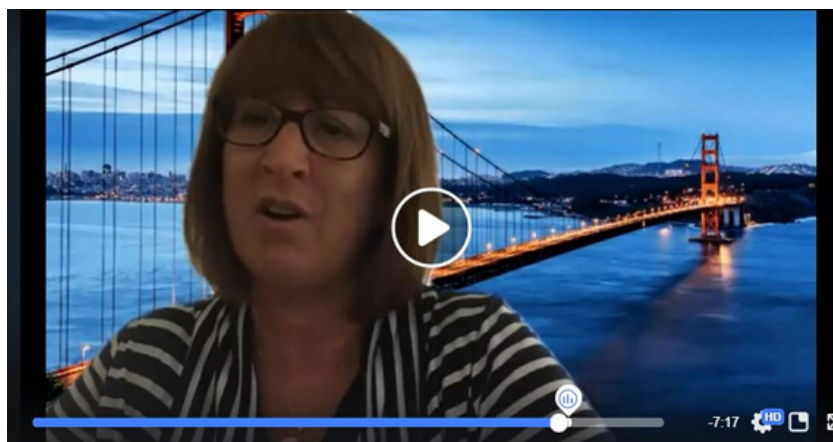
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SUPPORT TO STOP SMOKING STILL AVAILABLE

CURRENT FOCUS: BIRTH CHOICES

CONTINUING THE WORK OF THE MVP: OVERCOMING THE CURRENT RESTRICTIONS

By Becky Schofield - Vice Chair



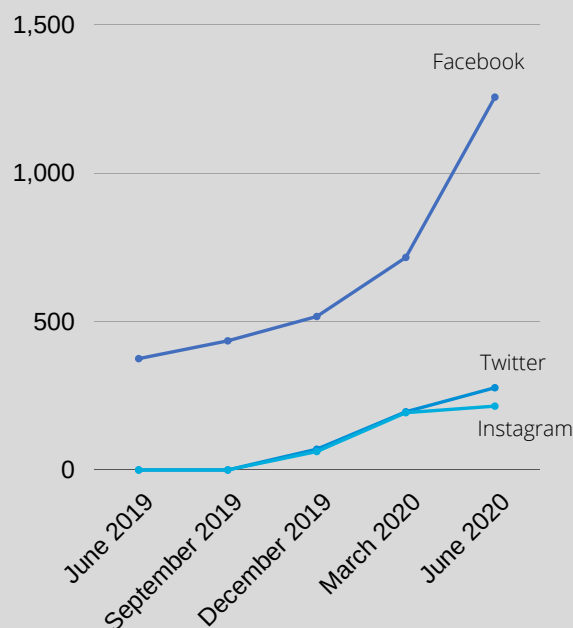
The MVP has played a key role in disseminating information about the impacts of Covid-19 on service delivery and gaining real-time feedback from service users. Our growing social media presence means we are well placed to share updates from health care services. We have also hosted three **Ask the Midwife** sessions on zoom, posing questions direct from service users to Justine Jeffery (Divisional Director of Midwifery & Gynaecology Nursing).

Each session has been attended by more than 30 service users, with many more viewing recordings shared on social media. The key themes raised through these events were:

- involvements of partners in scans, appointments and during labour;
- how home births are being supported;
- whether water birth and active labour are being supported on delivery suite; and
- support in relation to breastfeeding and tongue-tie.

Perinatal mental health lead Sian Westaway also joined one of the sessions giving details of how mental health services are continuing to operate. These sessions have been very well received. As a result of the positive feedback we are considering running these monthly in the future, with a spotlight on other services too. If you would like to be involved as a HCP or there are services you'd like to know more about as a service user please get in touch.

Growth in MVP social media followers



June MVP Meeting

Due to current restrictions we were unable to meet face-to-face for our June meeting, so we shifted our meeting to Zoom. We were unsure about how this meeting would run so we did not follow a formal agenda. I am pleased to say that the meeting was well attended by health care professionals and service users and we were able to discuss a range of issues.

Service users are understandably anxious about the current uncertainties and pace of change, however feedback about services during the Covid-19 pandemic has been largely positive.

The theme of the March meeting was around Induction, with some really powerful experiences being shared. It was great to hear that work in this area is continuing. To feed into this work we have decided that **the theme for the September MVP meeting will be around birth choices.**

Service user reps will gather feedback and encourage service users to attend.

SERVICE USER EXPERIENCE THEME FOR SEPTEMBER: BIRTH CHOICES

Did you feel empowered and confident in your birth choices?

Did you understand the benefits and risks of any choices or suggested interventions?

Did you know what the alternatives were and what benefits and risks there might have been?

Did you feel this information was tailored to your circumstances?

Did you feel free to weigh up the information and follow your intuition?

We would be very grateful if you could share your experiences: What went well? What would you change? How did you feel?

Any emails sent to **worcestershire.mv@outlook.com** will be dealt with by service user representatives and can be anonymised before being discussed with Service Providers and Commissioners in the MVP.

SUPPORT TO STOP SMOKING

On behalf of Claire Mitchell - Advance Public Health Practitioner

Due to social distancing restrictions midwives are no longer able to offer CO tests to women at their booking appointments and referrals to the service have dropped.

It is more important than ever for pregnant smokers to quit due to the increased risks associated with Covid-19 for smokers. If you are pregnant, or live in a household with someone that is, you can still access the Worcestershire stop smoking service.

It is usually a face to face service but support is currently being delivered over the phone. Service users can access free NRT that will be delivered to them.

For more information or to refer, the contact details of the service are below:

Worcestershire Midwifery Smoking Cessation Service referral email:

wah-tr.smokingcessationteam@nhs.net

Individual advisor details:

Worcester: Liz Hammond 07568 601711

Redditch: Shelley Halford 07568 601710

Kidderminster: Heidi Hulbert 07568 601709

