

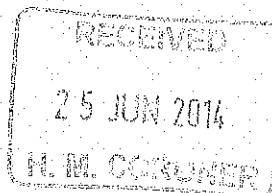
Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group

Ref: WCCG/PN/CC/JS/

24th June 2014

Mr André Rebello
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NHS Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group
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Your Ref: DR 01441/2012

Dear Mr Rebello,

We are writing in response to the Regulation 28 report received in relation to Samarjit Natasha Singh, on behalf of NHS Wirral CCG. The response primarily focusses on Point 1 of your report, namely:

There was no Specialist Community Perinatal Mental Health service in the Wirral to meet both her son's and her needs. The treatment that was available was sub-optimal.

With regards to the second point that you raise, the commissioning of mother and baby units is within the commissioning responsibility of Specialised Commissioning, which sits with NHS England. NHS England has set up Strategic Clinical Networks and [redacted] had been appointed as Clinical Network Lead (Maternity Services) for Cheshire & Merseyside Strategic Clinical Network for Maternity Children & Young People; we are in the process of contacting [redacted] along with [redacted] to ensure that your second concern, regarding the commissioning of inpatient units, is discussed at the next available regional Perinatal Group, and that the commissioning of these units is discussed in light of this incident and the risks highlighted. We will continue to work with NHS England to ensure a partnership approach to this issue, with the aim of achieving seamless patient care across the whole pathway.

In response to notification of the serious incident, and pending the outcome of the full investigation by all partners, in March 2013 a working group was established to review the current perinatal mental health pathway on Wirral. It was ascertained that there had been a wide number of individuals and teams involved in the care of perinatal women, including:

- consultant psychiatrist,
- staff grade psychiatrist,
- perinatal specialist midwife,
- clinical consultant specialist nurse,
- perinatal mental health midwife,
- specialist perinatal midwife

After reviewing guidance issued by the Joint Commissioning Panel for Mental Health (2012) on commissioning perinatal mental health services, the working group undertook a gap analysis against existing service provision:

Table reviewing current provision against Joint Commissioning Panel for Mental Health (2012) on key commissioning principles for perinatal mental health services

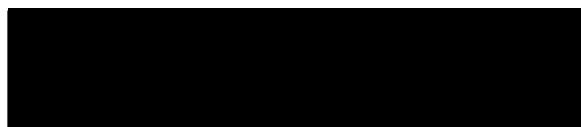
	National guidance	Local provision



Tier 4	Specialised in patient mother and baby units	Commissioned regionally by NHS England with beds available in a Mother and Bay Unit in Manchester.
Tier 3	Specialised community perinatal mental health teams	Teams providing input individually, but not in a co-ordinated way
Tier 3	Parenting and infant mental health teams	In place between CWP and Local Authority
Tier 3	Clinical psychological services linked to maternity hospitals	Led by [REDACTED] (in hours- CWP) and the Liaison Psychiatric team (out of hours - CWP).
Tier 2	Specialist skills and capacity within Maternity services	One Perinatal Midwife and a Perinatal Health Visitor (WUTH and Community Trust)
Tier 2	Specialist skills and capacity within general adult services	Consultant Psychiatrist and Staff grade psychiatrist and specialist nurse within Liaison Psychiatry.
Tier 1	Specialist skills and capacity within IAPT	IAPT providers are to provide an urgent response to perinatal women but there is no requirement for specialist skills. Shortly out to tender for IAPT services and will be requiring staffing complement to include specialist skills within this area).
Tier 1	Specialist skills and capacity within general practice and the extended primary care team.	There are no identified GPs with specialist skills within primary care. Support within the extended primary care team is led by Specialist Perinatal Midwives
Tier 1	Specialist skills and capacity within Health Visiting.	Led by Specialist Perinatal Health Visitor
	Clinical Networks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NHS England have set up a regional Perinatal Interest Group which is chaired by [REDACTED] (WUTH) Merseyside Special Interest Group which is chaired by [REDACTED] <p>Wirral CCG is working with both of these Chairs and their groups to agree how to improve the provision for the perinatal pathway particularly between Tier 3 services and those of Tier 4.</p>

Despite these individuals coming together in a multiagency special interest group chaired by an Adult Psychiatrist, along with representation other mental health services, midwifery providers and family nurse partnerships, it was clear that there had been a lack of co-ordination and integration of pathway.

The most significant gaps appear to be the lack of co-ordination between tiers, the single Perinatal Midwife, and the lack of identified specialist skills within primary care. As such, the working group made the following priority recommendations to the CCG:



- an additional Perinatal Midwife should be recruited as a secondment opportunity for 6-12 months on a rolling basis from within existing workforce to skill up all midwives and to allow for postnatal appointments to be given, continuity of care, annual leave, teaching and clinical supervision to be undertaken. Thus supporting the Tier 2 provision and allowing post natal care to be also given.
- All individuals involved in perinatal care to be part of a co-ordinated, integrated pathway, and for full understanding of each professional's role within a woman's care.
- Additional Consultant Psychiatrist input to be recruited to provide authority and clinical leadership to the team and would develop and co-ordinate the Wirral Perinatal MH pathway.

Progress made to date

NHS England has set up a regional Perinatal Interest Group which is chaired by [REDACTED] and a Merseyside Special Interest Group which is chaired by [REDACTED]. Wirral CCG is working with both of these Chairs and their groups to agree how to improve the provision for the perinatal pathway particularly between Tier 3 services and those of Tier 4.

The additional post of a perinatal mental health midwife was approved by the CCG Operational Group on 15th October 2013; this post has now been recruited to (May 2014) and is employed by Wirral University Teaching Hospital. In total there are now two perinatal mental health midwives employed. These posts will provide further support and will be on a rotational basis from the existing workforce in order to skill up all midwives in this specialised area, and to provide full cover throughout the year.

The provision for urgent access to psychological therapies was already included in IAPT Provider contracts; however, this case has been raised and discussed with the IAPT providers, who have been informed of the need to liaise with the other professionals who are likely to be involved with the other professionals involved in the lady's care. The requirement for specialist staff has been included within the new specification for IAPT, which is due to go out for tender with a new service starting in April 2015.

Actions in Progress

We are currently revising the service specification for the Liaison Psychiatry service commissioned for Wirral patients. This will include provision for dedicated consultant psychiatrist time to develop and oversee the perinatal mental health pathway.

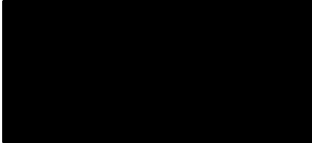
It is acknowledged that progress has not been made as quickly as originally anticipated, and as required by the gravity of this case. As such, following this Regulation 28 notice, the CCG can provide assurance to the Coroner and to all parties involved that the development of an integrated pathway will become a high priority for the CCG during 2014/15. We will require this integrated pathway to be in place, led by the Consultant Psychiatrist, by the end of the calendar year 2014.

I hope that this response provides you with assurance that the CCG has identified that there is potential to improve the pathway for care of perinatal women, and has taken steps to start to address this. As a CCG we are committed to continuing and enhancing the pace of this piece of work, with the aim of an integrated pathway for the mental health care of perinatal women by 2015.



Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any further information.

Yours sincerely



Acting Chair
NHS Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group

Chair: Dr Phil Jennings
Chief Clinical Officer: Dr Abhi Mantgani