

### Appeal for service users to become study advisors

City University has been successful in securing funding for a two-year research project on:

**Births and their outcome:** analysing daily, weekly and yearly cycles and their implications for the NHS in England and Wales, a collaborative research project funded by NIHR – Jan 2014 – Dec 2015. The principal investigator (PI) is Professor Alison Macfarlane, City University.

**Project team members/collaborators:** Alison Macfarlane, Mario Cortina Borja, Miranda Dodwell, Rod Gibson, Nirupa Dattani, Mary Newburn. NB: Mary Newburn is the NCT's named collaborator. NCT has responsibility for some PPI activities: Budget for two PPI meeting (one in 2014 and one in 2015) £3,200.

We are seeking an MSLC/Labour Ward forum member to sit on the study advisory group. The advisory group will meet face-to-face in London three times in 24 months. Full (second-class) travel expenses will be paid for attendance. There will also be some expectation of communication in addition by email, phone and/or Skype. If you would be interested, please email Mary Newburn by 21 January (-----) stating:

- 1) Where you live and the maternity services you know
- 2) Your years of experience on an MSLC/Labour ward forum/other relevant body
- 3) What interest you have in this research (see aims below) and what you could bring to the advisory group. (The full protocol is also available on request.)
- 4) Details of your availability and any particular needs (disability, childcare, etc). If you would need additional expenses, such as cost of childcare, please let us have details.

The meetings are scheduled to be held in: 1) April/May 2014, 2) Nov 2014, 3) Nov 2015. This is an opportunity to work collaboratively, to extend your research knowledge and experience, and to represent the needs and interests of parents, women, babies and wider families. It may be useful for your CPD and developing your portfolio of interests and knowledge for further academic study or to support your career development in employment.

#### **Aims**

To compare daily, weekly and yearly variations in spontaneous and other births by time, day and season of birth and to compare variations in rates of adverse outcome. To do this, we will analyse linked maternity and neonatal data for England and Wales about births in the years 2005 to 2011, or if possible 2012, building on work in a previous project to link data from civil registration, notification of birth to allocate NHS Numbers to Babies and data about care during delivery.

The project will answer the following questions:

1. How do numbers of births vary according to time of day, day of the week and time of year of birth and how does this relate to methods of onset of labour and delivery and multiplicity?
2. Subject to the availability of data, how do patterns of birth vary between maternity services in relation to variations in medical and midwifery staffing, patterns of intervention and size of unit?
3. How does the outcome of pregnancy in terms of rates of cause specific intrapartum stillbirth and neonatal and infant mortality and rates of morbidity recorded at birth and at hospital admission in the first year of life vary according to time of day, day of the week and time of year in relation to gestational age, and intervention in the onset of labour and delivery?
4. Have the patterns observed changed over the years 2005 onwards?