

# PREGNANCY & BABY CHARITIES NETWORK

## TERMS OF REFERENCE



### Who we are:

The Pregnancy & Baby Charities Network is a group of 27 UK charities committed to improving outcomes and reducing inequalities by working together to:

- Reduce the number of babies who die during pregnancy, birth or in the early weeks of life
- Reduce morbidity in newborn babies and improve care for these babies and their parents
- Improve care\* throughout the path to parenthood; before, during and after pregnancy and after losing a baby or pregnancy

### DEFINITIONS:

\* **'care'** includes physical and mental health and access to optimal information - covering preconception, pregnancy and birth and immediately after birth

\*\* we use the term **'parent'** to denote all expectant mothers and their partners, all parents and carers of newborn babies, and all bereaved mothers, fathers and partners including those who have experienced a miscarriage or ectopic pregnancy

### We share a mission to:

- Make the UK the safest place in the world in which to have a baby
  - Ensure every woman and baby receives excellent care\* which respects parents'\*\* choices and is appropriate to the level of risk at each stage of their pregnancy, birth and post-natal period
  - Ensure every parent receives excellent, equal and personalised bereavement care at whatever stage they lose a pregnancy or baby
- We all want to ensure the best possible outcome and experience of pregnancy, birth and early parenthood

### We collaborate to:

- Influence Governments (England, Scotland, Wales, NI) policy including:
  - setting and achieving targets for reduction of poor pregnancy outcomes, including a reduction in infant morbidity and mortality
  - improving support for parents throughout their path to parenthood - before, during and after pregnancy and after losing a baby
  - improving care of new born babies (including sick babies) and support for their parents/carers
- Influence the NHS in all UK countries to improve care for parents and babies nationally and reduce the inequalities in outcomes by geographic location and socio-economic group

## We contribute:

- Leadership of initiatives and our time to input into initiatives led by others
- Resources including funding (by agreement) and the time of our policy teams
- Support for the group's initiatives through our respective organisation's endorsement

## Membership:

Membership is open to CEOs (or nominated Trustees) from any UK charity that shares our mission and wishes to collaborate on the stated objectives

Please see the current list of organisations and representatives with contact details overleaf

## Meetings:

- Four times per year at the offices of the Chair or Deputy Chair (or another agreed place). They are responsible for organising the dates and times of the meeting. We aim to have each calendar year's dates arranged before December of the previous year
- Taking and distributing the minutes is the responsibility of the Chair and Deputy Chair who may ask for help from other members

## Rules of the meeting:

- The meeting is quorate if half the members or more are present in person or by phone
- Topics and initiatives are restricted to the Terms of Reference (ToR)
- The group members can decide to change the ToR by majority agreement

## Our tasks include:

- Working collaboratively with Governments/NHS to help achieve, and holding Governments/NHS across the UK to account for:
  - targets of reduction of stillbirth, pre-term birth, neonatal death, maternal death and brain injury during or shortly after birth
  - implementing the neonatal care transformation plan
  - ensure National Bereavement Care Pathway is implemented so it is available to all parents who experience pregnancy or baby loss
  - Maternity improvement teams work with services which are identified as poor performing by clinical audit or the CQC
- The inclusion of *making the UK the safest place in the world in which to give birth* into the main political party manifestos before elections are declared

## Chair/Deputy Chair:

- A Chair is selected by the group after asking for nominations and then the members voting by secret ballot. The choice with the most votes will become Chair and the second choice will be Deputy Chair.
- Their term of office will last for one year after which the Deputy Chair becomes the Chair and nominations are sought for a new Deputy. If both the Chair and Deputy wish to stand down at the same time nominations will be sought and selection will be as above.

- Each member will support initiatives undertaken by the group that are relevant to their charity's mission; support can be given in several ways depending on capacity/resources as well as proximity to cause.
- Each member can contribute by leading an



## Rules of the meeting (continued)

initiative or inputting or adding other resources to initiatives

- Chatham House rules apply
- We aim to build good relationships between members, so they can collaborate on initiatives outside the remit of this group
- We will treat each other and our various views with respect and seek to reach consensus. Where consensus cannot be achieved about taking forward a specific activity together, we will vote in the meeting and the majority will carry the vote
- We recognise that each organisation member's first loyalty is to their own charity and this group relies on voluntary co-operation and discretionary effort

## Current members of the network

Charity Name	Representative	Email Address
Aching Arms	Leanne Turner	leanne@achingarms.co.uk
APEC	Marcus Green	mg@marcusgreen.org.uk
ARC	Jane Fisher	jane@arc-uk.org
Baby Lifeline	Sara Ledger	sara@babylifeline.org.uk
Best Beginnings	Alison Baum	alison@bestbeginnings.org.uk
Birth Companions	Kirsty Kitchen	kirsty@birthcompanions.org.uk
Bliss	Caroline Lee-Davey	carolined@bliss.org.uk
Borne	Mei Li Powell	meili@borne.org.uk
Child Bereavement UK	Ann Chalmers	ann.chalmers@childbereavementuk.org
CMV Action	Caroline Star	caroline@cmvaction.org.uk
The Ectopic Pregnancy Trust	Munira Oza	munira@ectopic.org.uk
Genesis Research Trust		
Group B Strep Support	Jane Plumb	jplumb@gbss.org.uk
ICP Support	Jenny Chambers	jennychambers@icpsupport.org
Kit Tarka Foundation	Sarah de Malplaquet	info@kittarkafoundation.org
Lullaby Trust	Jenny Ward	jennyw@lullabytrust.org.uk
Mama Academy	Heidi Eldridge	heidi@mamaacademy.org.uk
Miscarriage Association	Ruth Bender Atik	ruth@miscarriageassociation.org.uk
Multiple Births Foundation	Jane Denton	jane.denton1@nhs.net
NCT	Nick Wilkie	nick.wilkie@nct.org.uk
The Pelvic Partnership	Sarah Fishburn	contact@pelvicpartnership.org.uk
Petals	Karen Burgess	karen@petalscharity.org
Pregnancy Sickness Support	Karen Lodge	support@pregnancysicknesssupport.org.uk
Sands	Clea Harmer	clea.harmer@sands.org.uk
Together for Short Lives	Andy Fletcher	andy.fletcher@togetherforshortlives.org.uk
Tommy's	Jane Brewin	jbrewin@tommys.org
Twins Trust	Keith Reed	keithreed@twinstrust.org