

We Want to Give People Umbrellas!

Initiating a Weekly Perinatal Complex and Palliative Care Ward Round



Dr Lydia Bowden (Neonatal Consultant), **Anna Oddy** (Advanced Practitioner Complex and Palliative Care Rochdale), **Nadine Langley** (Paediatric Palliative Care Nurse Oldham), **Susannah McNulty** (Clinical Psychologist), **Allison Keys** (Discharge Coordinator), **Carly Munday** (Palliative Care Link Nurse), **Northern Care Alliance, Derian House Childrens Hospice Perinatal Team and Complex Pregnancy Team**

Northern Care Alliance NHS Foundation Trust, Stott Lane, Salford, M6 8HD

Background

- In October 2023, after several delayed complex discharges and challenging neonatal cases, a weekly palliative and complex care round began
- Early support at point of recognition of a palliative condition enables families time to consider choices, make decisions that are right for them, receive financial, emotional, spiritual and practical help
- Greater Manchester point prevalence data shows neonatal palliative cases increased from 11 in 2015, to 135 in 2023
- Palliative care needs are greatest in high deprivation areas, and in those with non-white ethnicity



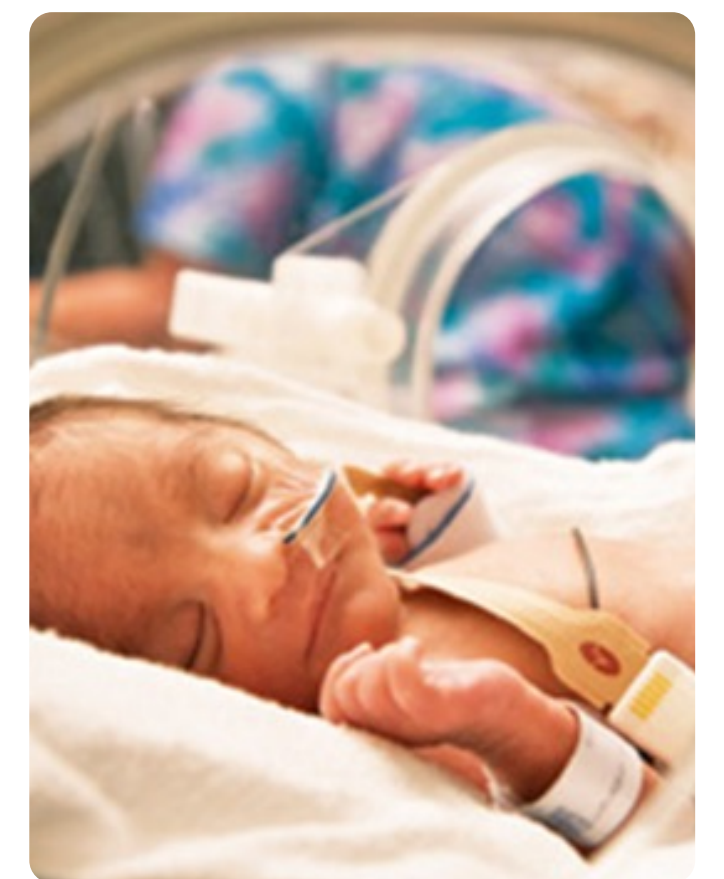
Aims & Objectives

- To ensure timely discharge and prevent unnecessary hospital stay
- All eligible families received offer of palliative support (Together for Short lives standard: palliative care support offered at point of recognition even if prior to birth)
- Signposting and referrals in a timely manner
- Early input from community and hospice teams, for smooth transition to home
- Choices offered at end of life.
- Improve awareness of advanced care planning and options for care



Method

- Weekly meeting: Palliative care specialist nurses from both local community teams attend, in-reach from Perinatal team at Derian house children's hospice, Neonatal palliative care Consultant, hot week consultant, discharge coordinator, clinical psychologist. Pharmacist, SALT, occupational health, dietetics and Rainbow Trust also attend when available.
- Attend Huddle and handover ward round. Team visit complex pregnancy unit for update on ongoing pregnancies, pending counselling sessions and pregnancy outcomes, the Paediatric ward to check if any known patients admitted and to alert to approaching complex or palliative discharges and share advanced care plans and 'This is Me' information.
- Face to face cotside round once monthly, with ad hoc visits for any families needing support and weekly on line meeting



Results

- From October 2023 to October 2024 over **107** families have been supported
- 27** babies sadly died
- 41** were discharged with additional **14** still under the care of the neonatal palliative care team
- 36** referrals to Derian house hospice, all families receive advice and support on unit as needed
- 18** current antenatal cases
- 21** advanced care plans and birth plans made.



Conclusions

- Complex discharge planning now done in a timely manner; few discharges delayed due to non-clinical reasons
- Weekly consultant meeting identifies complex patients, gives continuity of care and awareness of families needing or receiving additional care
- Improved communication antenatally ensures effective and timely neonatal counselling, and support at point of diagnosis and recognition of additional care needs.
- Families offered choice at end of life and support throughout their stay,
- We plan to further develop this model and look at formal parent and staff feedback in the next stage of the initiative.

