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NHS
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd
Addysgu Powys
Powys Teaching
Health Board

Information Governance Team
Monnow Ward
Bronllys Hospital
Bronllys
Brecon
Powys LD3 0LY
Email: Powys.FOI@wales.nhs.uk
Tel: 01686 252159/01874 442071

Our ref: IG/FOI/23.R.157

7 June 2023

Sent via email to: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

I write further to your request for information which was received on 15 May 2023, to confirm, in accordance with S.1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, that Powys Teaching Health Board (PTHB) does hold the information that you require.

For ease of reference your request is set out below and our response follows:

Your Freedom of Information (FOI) Request:

I am writing to ask what steps your NHS Trust is taking to tackle the racial disparities in maternal health.

As you know, statistics around Black Maternal Health outcomes are harrowing. A recent revealed that Black women are 3.7x more likely to die than White women during pregnancy and childbirth, and Asian women are 1.8x more likely to die than White women. Additionally, it has been found that, compared to White European women, Black African Women are 83% more likely to suffer a 'near miss' in childbirth and Black Caribbean women are 80% more likely.

Further research has shown that Black babies have a 121% increase of stillbirth and a 50% increase of neonatal death. Asian babies have a 55% increased risk of stillbirth and a 66% increased risk of neonatal mortality. Black women have a 43% higher risk of miscarriage, and Black ethnicity is now regarded as a risk factor for miscarriage.

The racial disparity in maternal healthcare has been observed for over two decades, yet despite the statistics, the Government have persistently refused to set a target to end it, and while measures aimed at improving maternity

Pencadlys
Tŷ Glasbury, Ysbyty Bronllys,
Aberhonddu, Powys LD3 0LU
Ffôn: 01874 711661



Headquarters
Glasbury House, Bronllys Hospital
Brecon, Powys LD3 0LU
Tel: 01874 711661

Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth Gymraeg
Bwrdd Iechyd Addysgu Powys yw enw gweithred Bwrdd Iechyd Lleol
Addysgu Powys



We welcome correspondence in Welsh
Powys Teaching Health Board is the operational name of
Powys Teaching Local Health Board

services have been introduced, these have not acknowledged the role race and ethnicity may be having on quality of maternity care.

The lack of action and guidance of the Government has led to several NHS Trusts enforcing their own measures to address maternal health disparities, such as establishing a taskforce or introducing additional training for maternity care staff. I would therefore like to enquire as to whether your trust has plans to introduce measures to tackle racial disparities in maternity care, and if so, what these plans entail.

Any information you are able to share would be most appreciated.

Powys Response:

Powys Teaching Health Board maternity service (PTHB) will commence looking at implementing Welsh Government All Wales Anti-Racist Action Plan. Within the plan, Goal 4 directly relates to Maternity Services.

Goal 4 states that: We will identify and break down barriers, which prevent equitable access to healthcare services for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic people. The two main actions for maternity services are-

4:1 Ensure PTHB plans align with the Maternity and Neonatal Safety Support Programme, which will detail and implement specific changes to maternity services that will improve outcomes and experiences of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic women and families who experience health inequalities

4:2 Identify patient and carers barriers to healthcare services for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic people and agree priorities for action.

A specific action plan for Maternity Services will be drafted which will address all the actions in Goal 4 across Powys. The areas that will be included are as follows:

- Access to maternity services.
- Preconception advice.
- Staff training focused on cultural awareness, care of women with multiple vulnerabilities including isolation, medical conditions for example sickle cell, female genital mutilation (FGM) and increased risk factors.
- Improved continuity of carer.
- Peer support including working with Maternity Voices in partnership to ensure all women's voices are heard.
- Access to support with language and interpretation services, providing information in a variety of formats.
- Cross boundary working to include housing, social services, third sector and local support groups.
- Audit of local outcomes.

A group will be established which will include the Maternity & Neonatal Safety Champion, Assistant Head of Midwifery and Consultant midwife to ensure that these actions are progressed and embedded into day-to-day practice to ensure safety, equity and consistency for all women and birthing people in Powys.

PTHB currently book between 1000 and 1100 women and birthing people per year. Every client has a named midwife and continuous care from their midwife during their antenatal period, the local team during labour if within Powys and post natally from their named midwife. This affords us the opportunity to build relationships with families and identify from booking all of their health and psychological needs to ensure the optimum care pathway during their pregnancy. The plan of care is reviewed at each appointment with their named midwife.

Should you need any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at the address below.

If you are dissatisfied, with the way your request has been dealt with by PTHB, you have the right to request a review in which case you should write to:

Chief Executive
Powys Teaching Health Board Headquarters
Glasbury House
Bronllys Hospital
Bronllys
Brecon
Powys LD3 0LY

If you are still dissatisfied at the end of the review, you may complain to the Information Commissioner, who can be contacted at the following address:

Information Commissioner's Office - Wales
2nd Floor,
Churchill House,
Churchill Way,
Cardiff, CF10 2HH
Tel: 029 2067 8400 Fax 029 2067 8399
www.ico.org.uk twitter.com/iconews

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yng Nghymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb y fath ohebiaeth yng Nghymraeg ac ni fydd hyn yn arwain at oedi. We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. We will reply to such correspondence in Welsh and this will not lead to a delay.

Yours sincerely



Director of Operations/Director of Community & Mental Health