



# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

May 2025



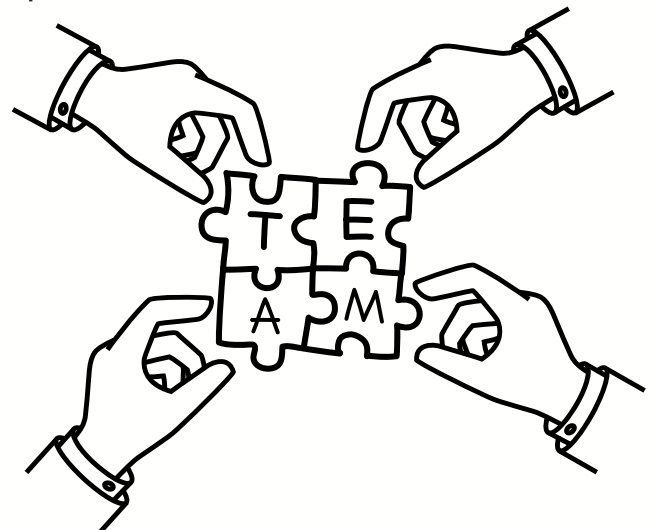
## HELLO!

Dear Neonatal Families,

Welcome to the May edition of our newsletter! This month has been all about strengthening partnerships, listening to families, and planning for even more parent involvement. Thank you to everyone who continues to support this work and bring the voice of families to the centre of neonatal care.

## Neuroprotective FiCare Planning

The NTIF group met to continue their work on embedding trauma-informed practices in neonatal units across the country. This approach recognises the emotional and psychological impact of neonatal care on families and aims to make every interaction and environment sensitive to that experience. It was encouraging to see how family stories are shaping this national work and influencing how we train, support, and communicate with parents.



## Maternity Action

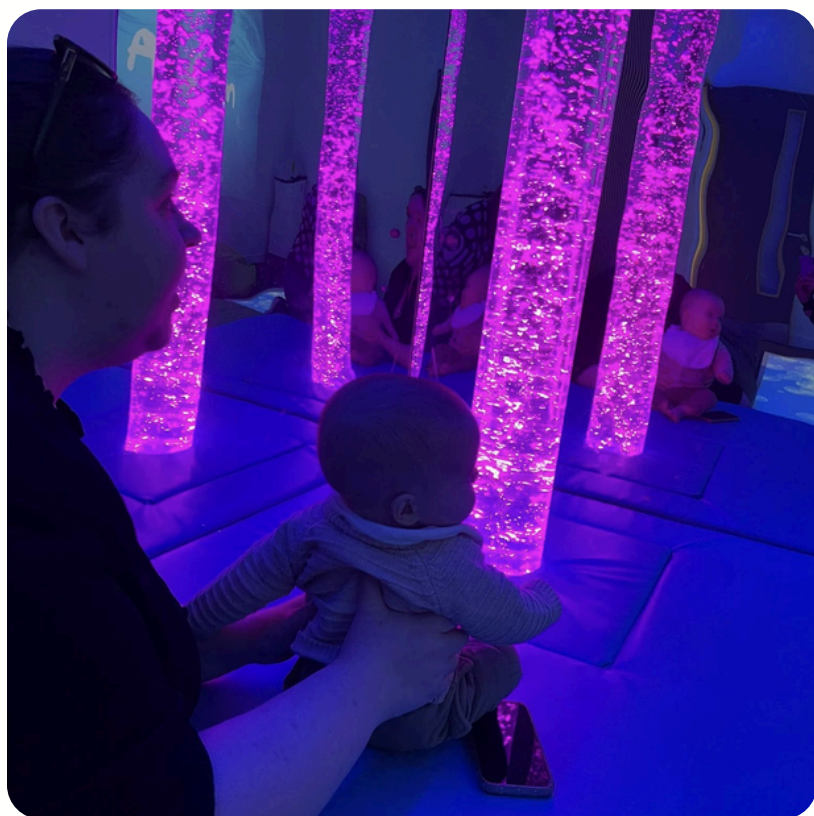
We had an initial meeting with Maternity Action, a national charity that supports pregnant women and new parents with advice, rights, and advocacy. More details on this collaboration will follow, but we're looking forward to learning how we can support families facing barriers within the maternity and neonatal system.

## Network Steering Group (NSG) – Representation from Families

Sarah Fullwood attended the Network Steering Group (NSG) this month, continuing to advocate for the voice of families and the principles of Family Integrated Care (FiCare). Her presence ensures that discussions about service planning, priorities, and performance are grounded in the lived experience of families, reinforcing the importance of partnership in neonatal care.

## Family Listening Event – Seashell Trust

We held our first in-person listening event at the Seashell Trust, where a group of parents shared their neonatal journeys in a relaxed, supportive setting. Huge thank you to PAG member Rebekah Browning for attending and to all families who took the time to participate. Your voices are already helping us shape our priorities.



## NWNODN Team Away Day

We joined the wider NWNODN team for a full-day session focusing on values, vision, and team development, supported by coaching from Jana Kennedy. It was a valuable space to reflect on our shared goals and how to deliver consistent, family-centred care across the network.

## SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

PAG members can get involved in the development work undertaken by the NWNODN. Currently, there are parent representatives who are members of:

**Infant Feeding Group:** The Infant Feeding SIG is a collaborative group dedicated to improving infant feeding practices across the North West Neonatal Network. Together, healthcare professionals and families are working to increase the number of babies receiving their mother's milk while supporting mothers who wish to breastfeed or express as well as discussing broader feeding practices. If this is something you would like to be involved in, please contact [Samantha.Parry@alderhey.nhs.uk](mailto:Samantha.Parry@alderhey.nhs.uk)

**Palliative Care Group:** This group operates collaboratively to provide influence and leadership in the development and delivery of high-quality neonatal palliative and end-of-life care across the NWNODN region. For more information, please contact either [sarah.fullwood@alderhey.nhs.uk](mailto:sarah.fullwood@alderhey.nhs.uk)

**ROP (Retinopathy of Prematurity) Task and Finish Group:** A new task and finish group is being formed to develop services with the help of parents' experiences. Meetings will be held bi-monthly. If you would like to share your experiences and get involved, please contact [claire.arnold@alderhey.nhs.uk](mailto:claire.arnold@alderhey.nhs.uk)

**Repatriation:** The North West Neonatal Operational Delivery Network (NWNODN) works tirelessly to ensure the highest standards of care for over 8,000 babies admitted annually across 22 neonatal units. These units include two neonatal surgical centres and two cardiac centres, all supported by the dedicated 24/7 neonatal transport team, Connect NW. Our mission is to ensure effective clinical flows, facilitate system-wide collaboration, improve multi-professional engagement, and maintain consistent guidance and service standards. This holistic approach is pivotal in achieving better outcomes, increased productivity, and robust governance within neonatal services. We are looking for parents to be part of a repatriation working group aimed at improving the repatriation process across the NW Network. If you are interested and would like to contribute to this important initiative, please contact [samantha.parry@alderhey.nhs.uk](mailto:samantha.parry@alderhey.nhs.uk)



## Upcoming Events

Coming Up in June & July – Get Involved!

Here's what's coming up, and you're warmly welcome to attend or join in:

- BAPM Transition to Paediatrics Framework – Parent & Carer Focus Group – shaping care beyond NICU
- FiCare SIG Meeting – 5 June – a great way to get involved in service improvement
- NWNODN Full Board Meeting – 5 June – open to PAG members
- Lancaster Neonatal Study Day – 13 June – still time to join us as a speaker or observer
- Cheshire & Merseyside Perinatal Mental Health Meeting
- Liverpool MNVP Meeting – 16 June – CM PAG members encouraged to attend
- NWNODN Away Day – 19 June – joint session with AHPs, Psychology, Pharmacy and Care Coordinators
- National PEL Meeting
- Blackpool Neonatal Unit Annual Visit
- Liverpool MNVP 15 Steps – 30 June – focus on improving signage, open to parent input
- Lancaster Neonatal Study Day – 1 July, 10am – we'd love more parent voices!

Thank You

As always, thank you for being part of this work. Whether you're sharing your story, attending meetings, or just keeping up to date—you make a difference. If you'd like to take part in any of the opportunities above, just drop me a message.

Warmest wishes,

Victoria Walsh  
Parent Engagement Lead  
North West Neonatal Operational Delivery Network



Special Care  
Baby Unit

South Lakes Birth Centre  
Furness General Hospital  
Barrow in Furness  
Cumbria  
LA14 4LF



Have you and your family been cared for by the team at Special Care Baby Unit Barrow?

Please search for our Facebook page



**Special Care Baby Unit - FGH**

And look for updates when we are holding our monthly 'Tea & Tots' sessions.

This is a closed group for families in our local area.

We would love it if you could come along to our group, meet other families and catch up with the team.

And what better way than having a hot cup of tea and a biscuit whilst we catch up :)