

## **FM's Hot Issues Brief: Health, Social Care & Early Years**

**18 February 2025**

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### **6. Maternity and Neonatal Care Quality Statement**

#### **Background:**

The Maternity and Neonatal Quality Statement with accompanying Perinatal engagement framework was published on 11 February, with an accompanying oral statement by the Minister for mental health and wellbeing.

The Quality statement sets out the Welsh Government's high-level policy ambition for maternity and neonatal care across Wales. This work builds on the national Maternity and Neonatal Safety Support Programme (MatNeoSSP), establishing expectations and linking with MatNeoSSP actions to set the direction for local and national improvements to be delivered. The Perinatal engagement framework with accompanying commitments for health boards, sets out what is required as a key action within the quality statement to improve service engagement and experience outcomes.

#### **Key Objectives:**

The key objectives for the maternity and neonatal quality statement are:

- To establish a clear and integrated policy direction for maternity and neonatal services in Wales.
- To support NHS Wales in delivering high-quality maternity and neonatal care and treatment aligned to the Health and Social Care Standards.
- To support NHS Wales in delivering improved experiences and outcomes from maternity and neonatal care.
- To establish clear expectations for service delivery which will support effective oversight and scrutiny of performance including experience and outcome measures.

#### **Lines to take:**

- I welcome the publication of this Quality statement and engagement framework setting out 'what good looks like' and providing a mechanism to measure quality of services and set the expectations to all who use these services.
- The perinatal engagement framework sets out clear expectations on engagement with service users, enabling feedback and learning, hearing all voices regardless

of background. This will only improve the quality of services ensuring coproduction in developing services and optimising both experiences and outcomes.

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