



Parents' Active Role & ENgagement in Their Stillbirth/perinatal death review

Aim: To evaluate parents' opinions of the pilot of parental involvement in the perinatal mortality review process (PNMR) at North Bristol NHS Trust and Central Manchester Foundation Trust.

Focus group participants: There will be two focus groups, one at North Bristol NHS Trust and one at Central Manchester Foundation Trust. We will recruit five to ten parents at each site.

Facilitators: Researchers with experience in interviews with bereaved parents will facilitate the focus group discussions. A research midwife will also be present to co-facilitate the focus groups. Researchers will welcome the participants and offer them an opportunity to introduce themselves and offer them opportunity to share brief details about their experience if they wish. Ground rules respecting the circumstances and experiences of each participant in the room will be established. The co-facilitator will help monitor and moderate group dynamics (i.e. help the facilitator bring in individuals who are less vocal and keep control of those who dominate discussion). Focus groups will be held in a quiet private space within each unit. Parents who experience emotional difficulties will be directed to appropriate services e.g. Sands (who provide support services for staff as well as for bereaved parents) or occupational health. Each focus group will run for approximately 90 minutes.

0 – 10 minutes: - Scene setting

Introductions - Brief outline about focus and 'rules' for the discussion

Brief exercise to help focus everyone's minds on experience and context.

Example opening question:

- What was your experience of being involved in the PNMR process?

10 – 50 minutes: Barriers and Improvements

Example prompts:

- In your opinion, what do you think worked well in the pilot of parental involvement in the PNMR process?
- What elements of the pilot of parental involvement in the PNMR process did not work so well?

50 - 75 minutes: Improvements

Example prompts:

- How could involving parents in the PNMR process be improved?
- Is this something that should be implemented permanently for other parents?

75 – 90 minutes - Any other issues

Facilitator to invite participants for any further comments and suggestions

Summary

Co-facilitator to summarise main discussion points and check that participants agree and whether they wish to add anything else.