

## **Rochdale and Oldham Maternity Voices Partnership – What’s it all about?**

### **Q. What is the Rochdale and Oldham Maternity Voices Partnership (MVP)?**

A. The Rochdale and Oldham Maternity Voices Partnership (or ‘MVP’) is a multidisciplinary Independent Advisory Group to the commissioner and Local Maternity System (LMS for short).

All women (and partners/ co-parents) in our local area should be able to participate in a Maternity Voices Partnership Group whether by giving feedback or being more actively involved.

Through the MVP users of maternity services, their representatives and professionals aim to work together to improve local services. This is known as co-production.

MVP’s are an important part of current national maternity policy. Healthwatch Rochdale has been asked to facilitate these local MVP’s ensuring that they are supported to offer strong representation in their areas.

It is an NHS working group.

**MVP purpose** is to champion the voices of women, birthing people and their families in the development of maternity services in Rochdale and Oldham. MVPs exist to ensure the voices of women, partners and families are heard, communicated and responded to.

**MVP vision** is improving experiences of maternity for women, birthing people and their families, through multi-disciplinary collaboration and co-production that brings service users’ voices to the centre of planning and strategy.

### **Q. What does the Rochdale and Oldham MVP do?**

A. The Rochdale and Oldham MVP does three main things:

- Meaningfully contribute to maternity service networks to make certain the quality improvement of local maternity services. They do this by ensuring the patients voice and lived experiences are shared with providers, commissioners, and residents of the boroughs of Rochdale and Oldham.
- Ensure that breadth of opinion is sought from users of maternity services to represent the diversity of the local areas.
- Make recommendations to the local Clinical Commissioning Group and Northern Care Alliance so that its decision-making processes can be built upon and enhanced.

### **Q. What are the core principles of the Rochdale and Oldham MVP?**

A. The Rochdale and Oldham MVP’s, like Healthwatch Rochdale, follow the Nolan’s Principals of governance.

- Selflessness
- Integrity
- Objectivity
- Accountability
- Openness
- Honesty
- Leadership

**Q. What do MVP members need to know?**

A. MVP members need a mixture of knowledge and skills. Some MVP members will have a good knowledge of health and care services and some will have on the ground experience of local communities. All MVP members will need to have experiences with local maternity services from within the last three years.

We expect every MVP member to have something to contribute to one or more of these areas, but we recognise that a range of backgrounds and experiences is valuable - it helps the group to make balanced, well informed decisions and be representative of their diverse local populations.

**Q. What is expected from MVP members?**

A. We expect MVP members to be committed, to be passionate about promoting better outcomes in maternity services and to hold services to account in order to ensure good quality maternity health and care services for people in Rochdale and Oldham.

In addition to this, there are some specific expectations:

- Commitment to the Group.
- Attendance and participation in MVP Meetings.
- Preparation for feedback to multi-disciplinary meetings - Task and action reporting on findings from service users as and when appropriate.
- Participation in MVP training and development activities.
- Encouraging feedback from local people on their experiences of maternity services throughout Rochdale and Oldham.
- Acting as an ambassador for Rochdale and Oldham Maternity Voices Partnership - including respecting and representing the MVP's agreed position on a range of topics.
- Always acting selflessly, in the best interests of Healthwatch and the MVP, in line with standards of accountability in public life.

**Q. How will MVP members be supported?**

- A. All new MVP members will complete an induction programme and agree to a code of conduct, this will help them to understand what MVPs are expected to do and what their role is as a member of the group.

Each year the knowledge and skills of the MVP will be analysed, and a training programme organised to make sure that members have the information they need to be confident in their role and develop their own skills.

The Healthwatch Rochdale staff team is also available to support MVP members, especially those who are new to their role.

**Q. What else do we offer our Rochdale and Oldham MVP members?**

- A. Alongside the initial induction programme we will continually work to up-skill our MVP members, with the appropriate training and developmental opportunities that they require throughout the year.

Healthwatch Rochdale are committed to ensuring the sustainability of the Maternity Voices Partnership so their dedicated staff member will work continually to support the MVP's.

The opportunity to represent the Rochdale and Oldham people's voice regarding Maternity Services.

**Q. Who can join the Rochdale and Oldham MVP group?**

- A. Broadly speaking, Maternity Voices Partnership membership is open to individual people who meet one the following requirements:

1. They live within Rochdale and Oldham
2. They have had access to Maternity or prenatal services within the Greater Manchester area in the past three years
3. Have a passion for Maternity services and Better Births

**The role description and person specification for Maternity Voices Partnership members and the Maternity Voices Partnership Chair provides more detailed information.**

**Please note, applications must be received by 12 noon on the 10<sup>th</sup> May 2021. Interviews will be held on the 14<sup>th</sup> May 2021**