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Rochdale and Oldham Maternity Voices Partnership **–** What’s it all about? (FAQ)

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

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

All service users in our local area should be able to participate in the Rochdale and Oldham Maternity Voices Partnership Group whether by giving feedback or being more actively involved as a volunteer advocate.

Through the ROMVP -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 the local MVP’s ensuring that they are supported to offer strong representation in their areas alongside Healthwatch Oldham.

The ROMVP is an NHS working group.

**The 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.

**The 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 four main things:

* Help to gather and evaluate feedback from maternity service users
* 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 and Oldham, follow the Nolan’s Principals of governance.

* + **Selflessness**
	+ **Integrity**
	+ **Objectivity**
	+ **Accountability**
	+ **Openness**
	+ **Honesty**
	+ **Leadership**

Q. **What do ROMVP Advocates need to know?**

A. **The role of an ROMVP Advocate is Voluntary**. ROMVP voluntary members, known as “ROMVP Advocates” need a mixture of knowledge and skills. Some ROMVP advocates will have a good knowledge of maternity, health, or care services and some will have on the ground experience of local communities. All ROMVP advocates will need to be passionate about local maternity services.

 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 ROMVP Advocates?**

A. We expect ROMVP Advocates 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 – we ask an initial 6 month commitment to the role.
* Attendance and participation in ROMVP Meetings.
* Task and action reporting on findings and feedback from service users as and when appropriate.
* Participation in ROMVP training and development activities, where necessary.
* 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 ROMVP’s agreed position on a range of topics.
* Always acting selflessly, in the best interests of Healthwatch and the ROMVP, in line with standards of accountability in public life.

Q. **How will Rochdale and Oldham MVP Advocates be supported?**

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

Each year the knowledge and skills of the ROMVP 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, and the Rochdale and Oldham MVP Chair is also available to support ROMVP Advocates, especially those who are new to their role.

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

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

 Travel Expenses will be reimbursed. (45p per mile / public transport ticket expense.)

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

 The opportunity for ROMVP Advocates 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, Rochdale and Oldham Maternity Voices Partnership membership is open to all individual people, professionals, and organisations especially if:

1. They live within Rochdale and Oldham
2. They are maternity care or services ex-professionals
3. They have had access to Maternity or prenatal services within the Greater Manchester area
4. Are birthing families including men, grandparents and partners
5. Have a passion for Maternity services and Better Births

**The information pack for Rochdale and Oldham Maternity Voices Partnership members provides more detailed information.**

**For more information or informal chat please contact info@healthwatchrochdale.org.uk or telephone 01706 649 275**