Feedback Analysis of a Dedicated Training Programme in Maternity Care within Her Majesties Prison

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Objectives

Nationally it is estimated that 600 women receive antenatal care in prison and 100 babies are born.

There have been recent high-profile cases within Her Majesties Prison (HMP) whereby a lack of prison officer education contributed to poor maternity outcomes. As a result, a dedicated maternity service was established providing midwifery care and a tailored education programme to prison officer staff within a local prison.

The primary objective was to explore the feedback received by officer staff within HMP. The secondary objective was to describe how the training programme was delivered.

Study Design and Methods

Study Design:
A qualitative research study with the use of feedback questionnaires.

Methods:
In a training period between July-September 2021 all prison officer staff were provided with post course open ended answer feedback questionnaires. These questionnaires were then subject to analysis.

Results

A total of **30** prison officers were trained during the study period. There were 6 one-to-one sessions and 4 group based training sessions. The training aims were to educate upon signs and symptoms in a pregnant woman requiring midwifery or hospital care, strategies to support women during emergency births in HMP and post-partum care.

Training tools includes the use of lectures, manikin demonstration of birth, case-based discussions, patient information leaflets and the HMP flow chart for unexpected deliveries **(figure 1).**

97% **(29/30)** of prison officers felt that the training met their training needs, 1 was unsure but found this informative. 100% of staff found the training enjoyable with 87% **(26/30)** providing no suggested areas of improvement. Suggestions included more of group sessions, time, videos and audience participation. 80% **(24/30)** of staff felt they did not need further information following the programme. Further information was requested for updates, first aid training, access to taught content and a leaflet to guide officers receiving maternity transfers **(figure 2).**

Figure 1. HMP flow chart created for display within prisons in the event of an unexpected emergency birth

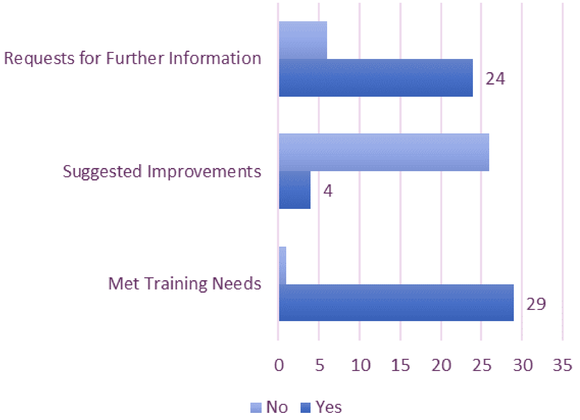

Figure 2. A Bar chart to illustrate outcomes of the questionnaire completed by the prison officer staff

Conclusions

A recent RCOG Position Statement recommended that all women have access to antenatal care and that prison staff receive annual mandatory training in maternity care to improve maternity outcomes.
This training programme was exceptionally well received and addressed key areas to improve maternity care within HMP following recent high-profile cases with adverse maternity outcomes. This programme together with the provision of a dedicated weekday midwifery service aims to prevent such events through the education and support of staff within HMP and is a fine example as to how nationally other units can implement such changes to achieve the recommendations detailed within the RCOG Position Statement.

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