



From literacy to legacy - supporting genomics in the maternity workforce

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Background:

Genomics is emerging within everyday healthcare. In maternity care, a family's access to the advancing abilities of genomic investigations relies on an informed workforce. As part of the Fetal Genomics Transformation Project (FGTP) across North East & Yorkshire (NEY), we wanted to demonstrate the current understanding of genomics in the maternity workforce and support interventions to increase the current offer and referral rate into perinatal genomics services.

Objectives:

- ✓ To understand baseline genomics literacy levels in a tertiary maternity unit in the North-East and Yorkshire (NEY).
- ✓ To develop practical training resources to improve genomics literacy within maternity in NEY and to promote existing training materials.
- ✓ To deliver mechanisms to increase early perinatal genetic referrals to the clinical genetics teams in NEY

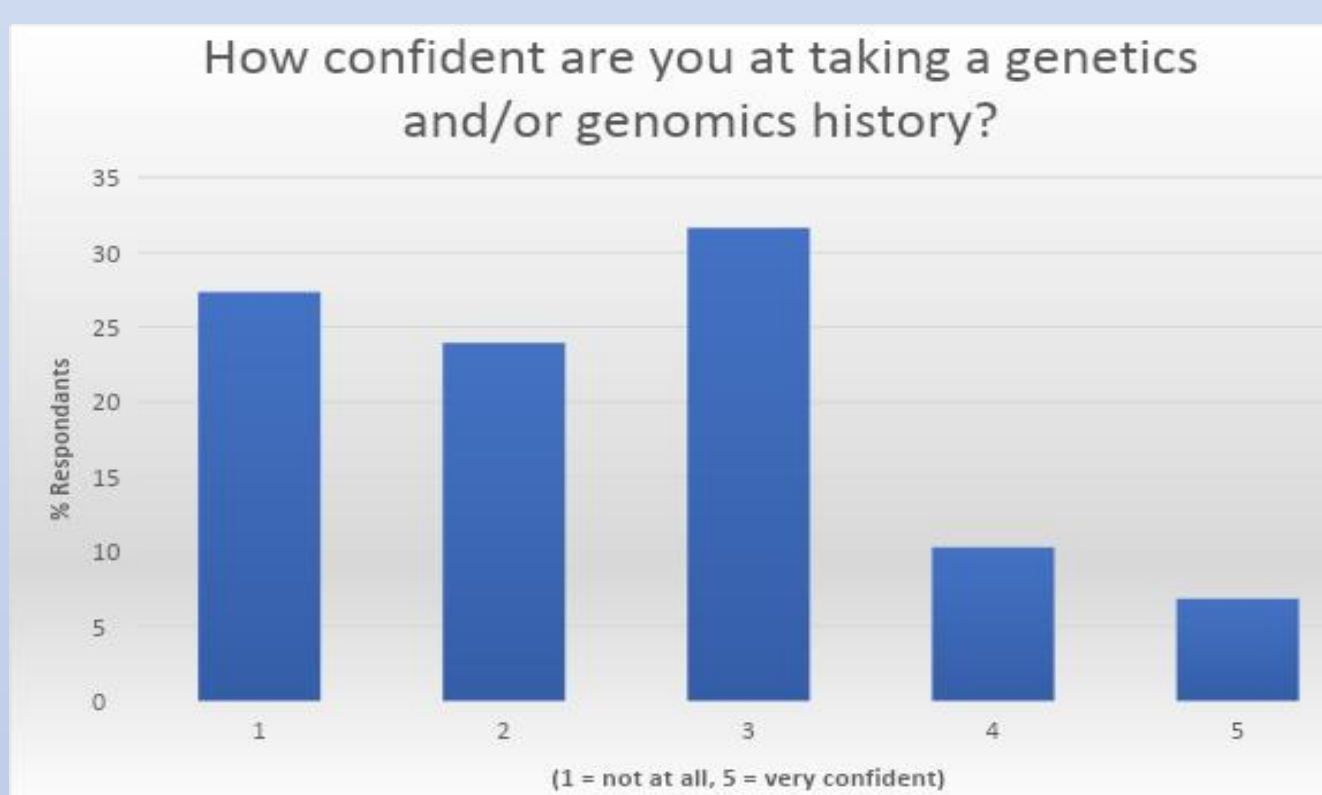
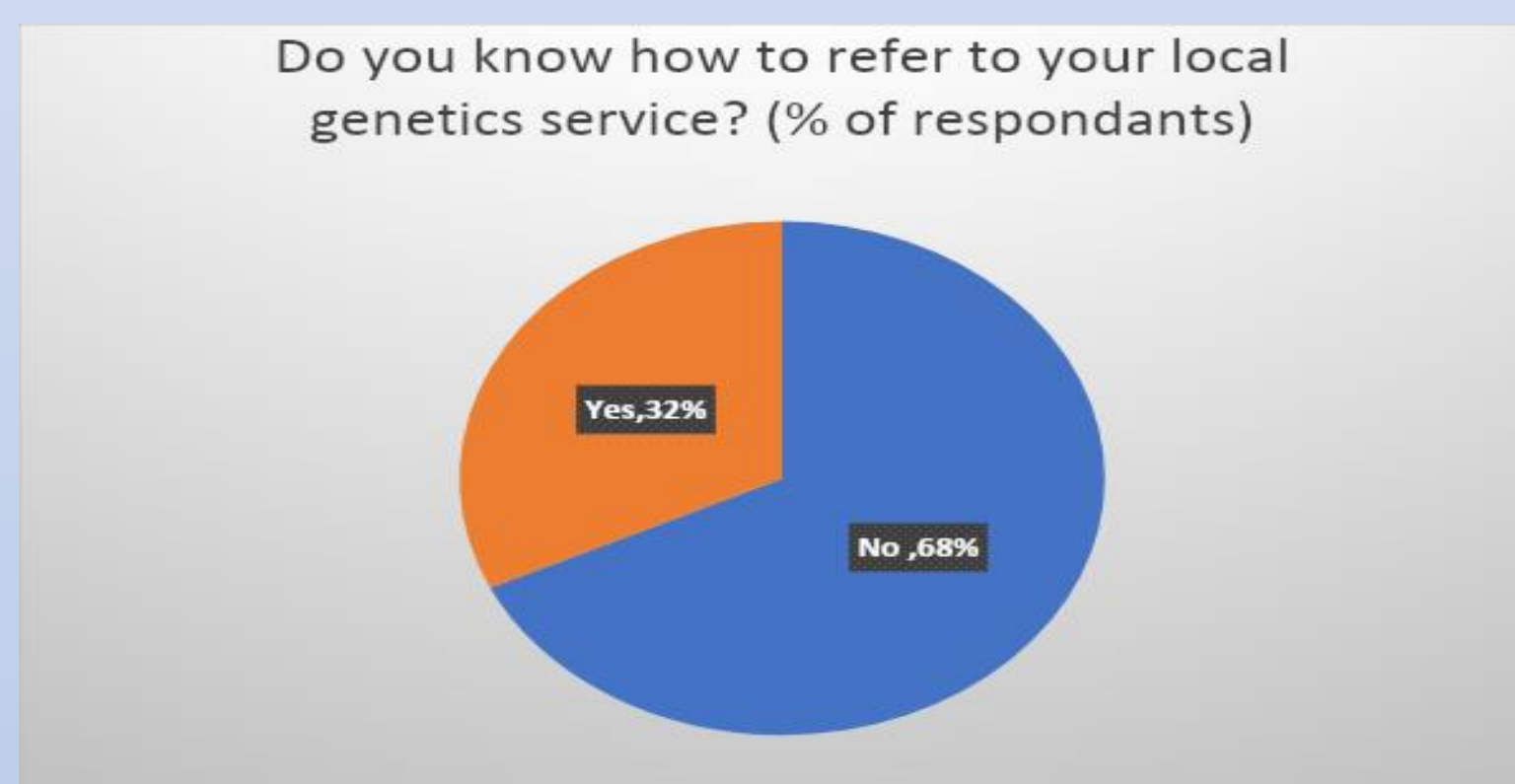
Design:

The NEY Fetal Genomics Transformation project (FGTP) developed a literacy survey to assess the current level of understanding of genomics for those working in a tertiary level maternity unit. The results were used to identify areas to target, to improve the genomics literacy within maternity services.

A multidisciplinary focus group was created to develop a suite of resources. The professionals included community midwives, fetal medicine midwives, obstetricians, genetic counsellors, and clinical geneticists.

Methods & Results:

10 questions were sent to maternity staff to establish current literacy in genomics. Close working with a Continuity of Care team helped to further understand the challenges felt by maternity staff. 117 responses were received revealing 91% were aware of genomics and 76% felt it was relevant to their speciality.



94%
were interested
in learning more!

Resources:

In response to the survey, a suite of resources were created to support an increase in staff awareness and knowledge around genomics services.

The acronym **GAP** was created to be used as the subject title in email enquiries to clinical genetics. The aim is to empower staff with a 'gap' in their knowledge to seek the information they need.



Genetics

Advice in

Pregnancy?

*Send a **GAP** enquiry email to
clinical genetics*

Resources cont.



Concepts and scripts for **3 bitesize training videos** were devised to demonstrate genetic red flags in booking consultations. They were created around 3 familiar clinical situations for midwives, and are less than 4 minutes in length to increase accessibility.

Midwives from the 'continuity of care' team requested a quick reference **flashcard** that they could keep in their diaries as an aid memoir regarding genetic red flags. A **poster** was also created for use in the clinical area.



All resources were reviewed by the working group before final approval by the FGTP SRO's. They have been launched on the NEY Genomic Medicine Service website for widespread use in the region.

Discussion:

Awareness and utilisation of genomics provides staff the ability to prepare for situations in pregnancy and provide more responsive, personalised care. Being able to acknowledge the direct learning needs of the staff, allowed us to validate the resources created. We plan to monitor the impact of these interventions by collecting data related to the offer and referral to clinical genetics, and to repeat the genomics literacy survey.