



# Working Together to Optimise MBM: The AHP Perspective



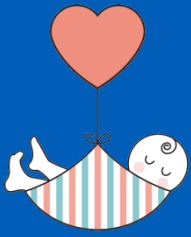
West Midlands  
Neonatal Operational Delivery Network



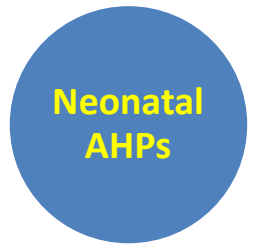
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# AHPs – who are they?



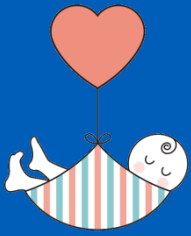
✓ 3<sup>rd</sup> largest workforce in the NHS

✓ Degree level professions

✓ Professionally autonomous practitioners

✓ Holistic approach to healthcare





# AHP Skills Iceburg



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Specialist profession  
specific  
interventions &  
therapies

Holistic,  
outcome driven  
care

Refined  
teaching skills

Share good practice  
& challenge poor  
practice

Collaborative peer  
working across  
professions

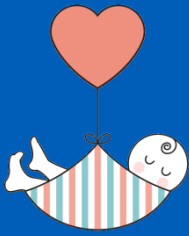
Translate  
evidence into  
practice

Extensive  
experience of  
MDT working

Matrix working  
across departmental  
boundaries

Clinical  
expertise





# AHP involvement:

**Table 1: Perinatal core elements that support the optimisation of early MBM**

**1 Parents as equal partners in their baby's care:**

Development of education packages and resources

Parents to know their baby and developing a close and loving relationship

Interventions by SALT, Physio, OT. Embedded practices

**2 Antenatal education:**

Educating families about the value of MBM in prematurity, importance and process of early expressing

Policy writing, BFI, pump evaluation, education & resources

**3 Initiation of expressing soon after birth (aim within 2 hours)**

Education & outside support

Easy access to support, training and equipment

**4 Early Colostrum (ideally within 6 hours of birth and always within 24 hours):**

MBM to be the first enteral feed given to baby, wherever possible

Guidelines, embedded practices, specialist support

**5 Early and regular parental physical contact with their baby:**

Delivery room contact, skin-to-skin early and often



# AHP's across the Network:



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- Network aims to reduce variability
- AHP - peer support groups
  - collaborating on projects
  - sharing resources
- Develop standardised guidelines, teaching packages and resources





# Summary

**AHPs embed practices to change CULTURE around breast milk on the NNU**

**Supporting breast milk is EVERYONE's responsibility  
-ALL contacts count**

