

Women's Health Taskforce

**Fiona Hanrahan
Director of Midwifery & Nursing
Rotunda Hospital, Dublin
6th November 2019**

Your Mission

“The Taskforce will tackle a wide range of issues impacting women’s health outcomes in Ireland which could include:

- **disadvantage and its impact on health outcomes**
- **women’s cardiac health**
- **women’s physical activity and wellbeing**
- **women’s neurological health, particularly in later life**
- **women’s mental health**

- **Maternal health**

Some of these issues will be specific to the needs of women in Ireland, many will represent health issues facing women all over the world”

Maternal Health

What is the definition of Maternal Health?

“Maternal health refers to the health of women during pregnancy, childbirth and the postpartum period”

Source: World Health Organisation (WHO)

”An umbrella term to cover all personal and physical factors, social and cultural issues, health conditions, policies practices and collective circumstances in a woman’s life and body that enable her to emerge from her pregnancy & birth thriving. Maternal health starts during adolescence- well before motherhood- and lasts throughout a woman’s reproductive life and beyond menopause”

Source: Every Mother Counts

Questions

1) You are a 17yr old girl and discover you are pregnant. You live in rural Leitrim. What are your options?

2) You are a 17yr old girl and discover you are pregnant. You live in Dublin. What are your options

3) You are a 45yr old woman and discover you are pregnant. You live in West Clare. What are your options

4) You are a 45yr old woman and discover you are pregnant. You live in Dublin. What are your options

#Sláintecare

A 10-YEAR VISION

FOR OUR HEALTH SYSTEM

MODERN

DEPENDABLE

AVAILABLE TO ALL

Universal healthcare

Comprehensive ROAD MAP

Political consensus on way forward

2017

Valuing healthcare staff

Training

for more doctors & nurses

Significantly reduced waiting times

Universal access to services for all based on need

Local improved primary care services in your community

Prevention promoting well being, mental health and children's health

CÁRTA SLÁINTE

Rolled out over five years

- * Free GP visits
- * Universal access to primary and social care
- * Lower cost prescriptions
- * Reduced out-of-pocket expenses – average family of four saves €1,140 per year
- * Guaranteed shorter waiting times for surgery, outpatient appointments, and A&E
- * A modern, local health service that is dependable and open to everyone

Investment

Annual & upfront for:

- * Primary care
- * Equipment
- * Training
- * More staff
- * Buildings
- * Hospital beds

National Maternity Strategy Implementation Plan

National Women and Infants Health Programme



CREATING A BETTER FUTURE TOGETHER

National Maternity Strategy
2016-2026

Questions

- **Can you describe the role of the Midwife?**
- **How do Midwives differ from Nurses?**

Meet Kayla



- **4yr BSc Midwifery**
- **Registered as a Midwife with NMBI**
- **Expert in the care of normal risk pregnant women (Supported care pathway)**
- **Part of the MDT caring for women on Assisted care pathway**
- **Part of the MDT caring for women on Specialised care pathway**

“Every pregnant woman needs a midwife, some need a Doctor too”

Health & Wellbeing

smoking

obesity

Antenatal Care

**Drugs &
alcohol**

nutrition

**Domestic
Violence**

Physical activity



Health & Wellbeing

Immunisations

Mental health

**Support &
nurturing**

Welfare

Breastfeeding

Education

New families

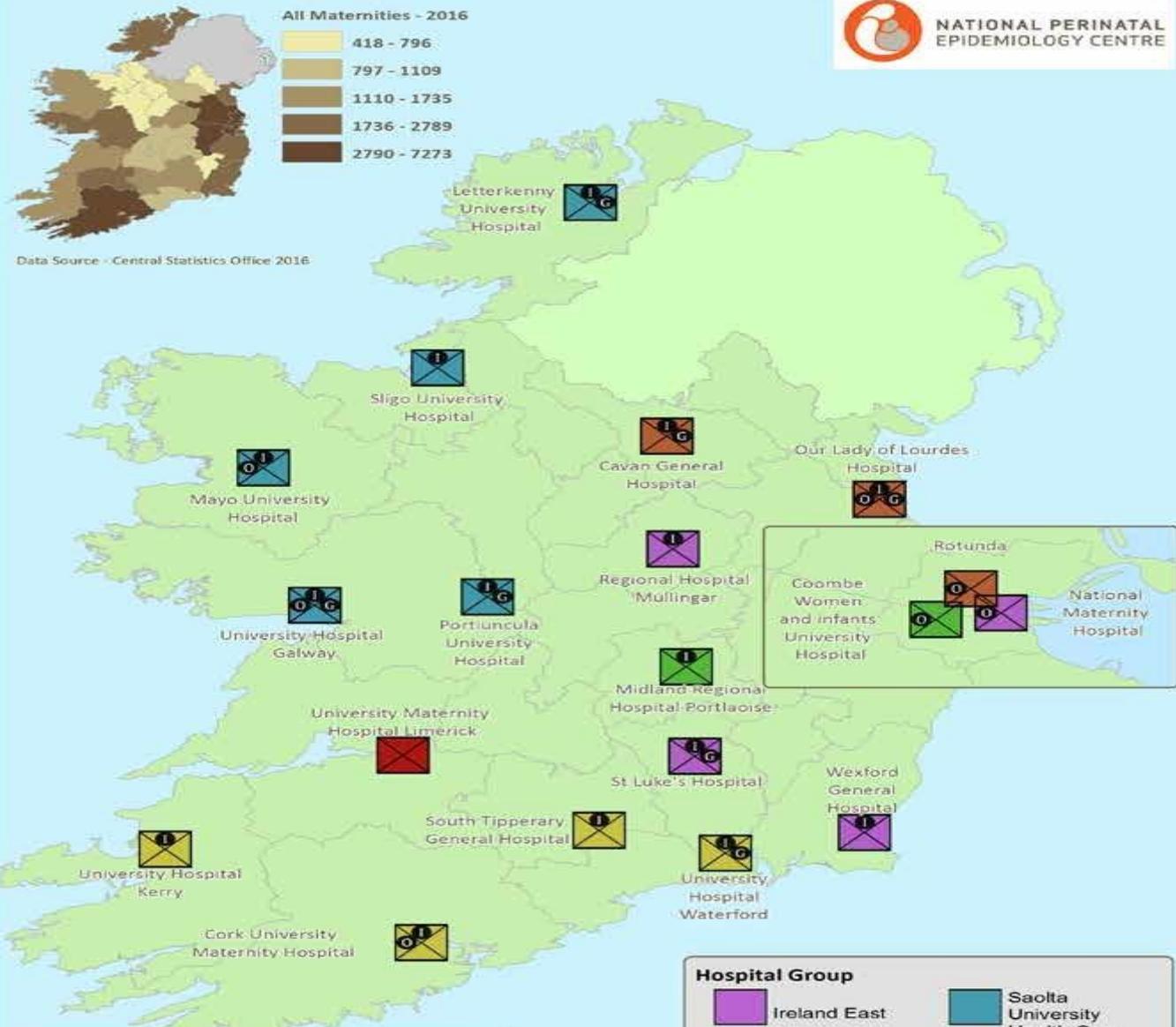


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Data Source - Central Statistics Office 2016

Messages from the 19 Directors of Midwifery (DOMs)

- **Recognise & promote the unique role of the Midwife**
 - **Safe and effective care for women & babies**
- **Appoint a Chief Midwife to DOH**
 - **to provide strategic vision & leadership for maternity services**
- **Resource and implement “Nat Mat Strat”**
 - **Midwifery as part of primary care**
- **Infrastructure investment required**

Infant Mental Health

Few of us can remember the first two or three years of our life. Despite this, we now know that the nature and quality of our early life experiences are very important and can have lifelong consequences. It is during this stage of our development that the foundations for positive mental health and wellbeing across the lifespan begins.

Our early experiences really do matter. Infants are very social beings who come into the world ready and expecting to establish a relationship. Therefore, it is important there is a significant adult person, most often the parent, ready and waiting to respond and attune to this relationship with them.

