

DigiCP- Addressing Health Inequalities through the Digitalization of Perinatal Mental Health Care Pathways.

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DigiCP - Addressing Health Inequalities through the Digitalization of Perinatal Mental Health Care Pathways





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Introduction

Our technology will facilitate the work to all service providers and mothers, looking for Mental health support, helping them navigate the details of the care offered, and locate the appropriate services in a timely manner.

Our solution will be made accessible to under served groups by localizing it for service users from ethnic communities. We are focus upon Arabic speaking mothers in South Yorkshire and service providers in the same area.

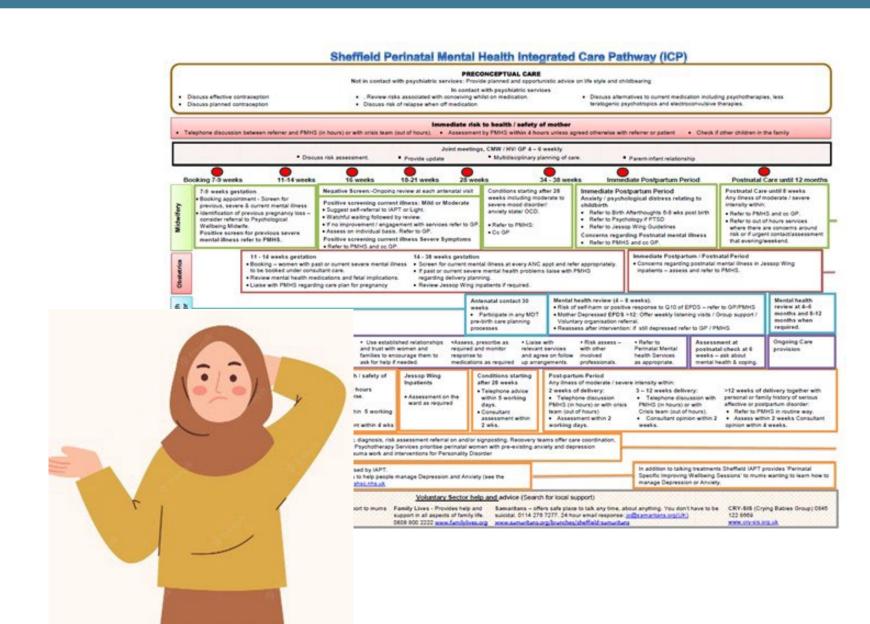
Aims

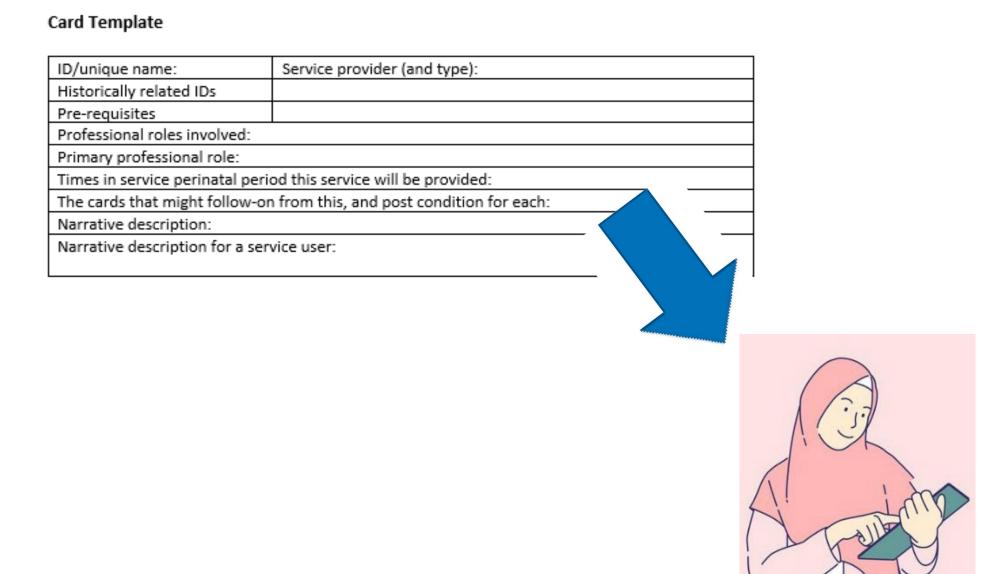
Develop a digital online tool for a PMH integrated care pathway, in an interactive way.

Propose a methodology to transform a traditional PMH pathway into a digital format.

Reduce the lack of engagement with mental health services and reduce the stigma about having mental health difficulties during pregnancy and after birth.

Problem and solution



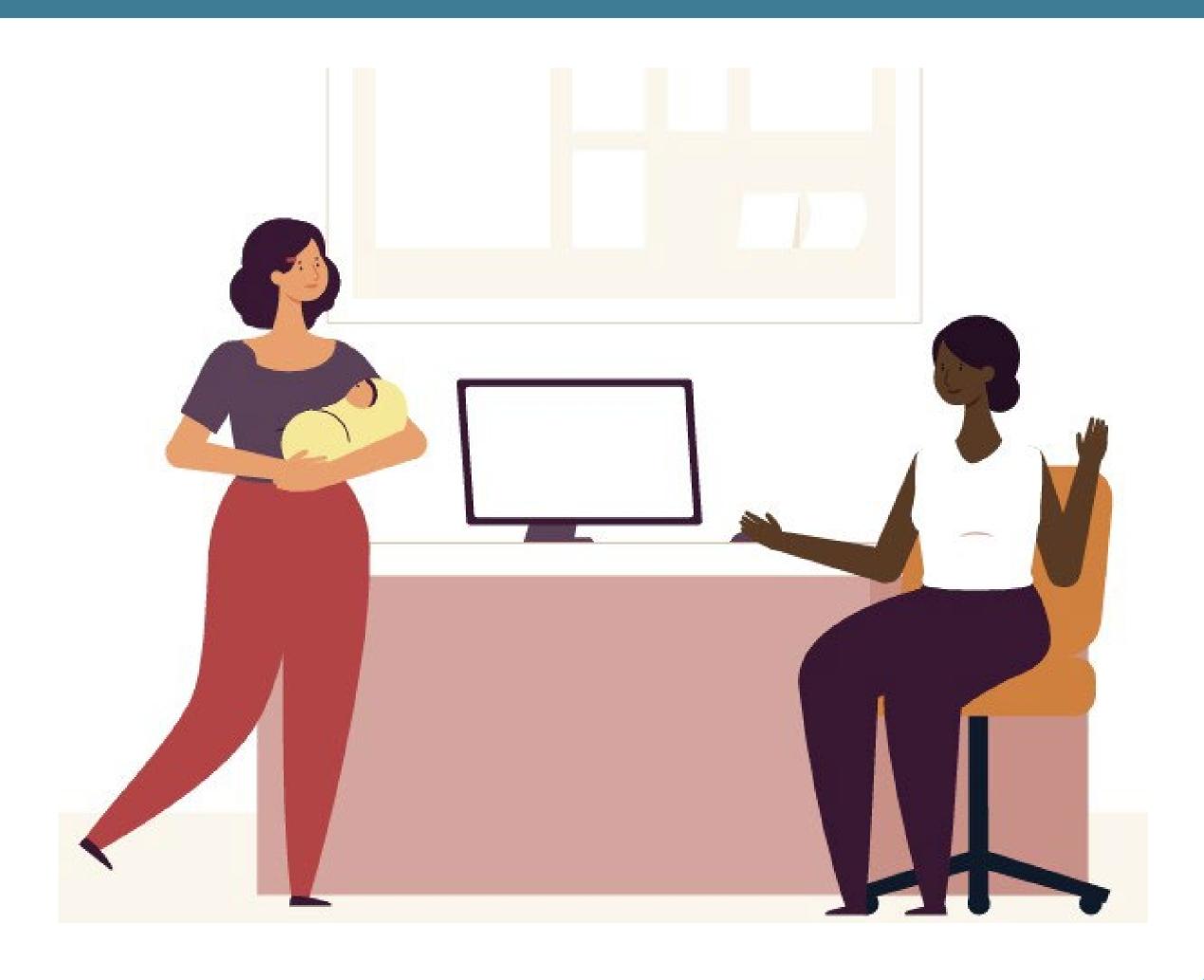


Navigating and understanding perinatal mental health (PMH) services is a challenge, particularly for mothers from ethnic minority groups making less effective their access to PMH services. The resulting health inequalities had a high adverse societal impact from PMH as one of the UK's leading causes of maternal death (1)(2)(3).

We propose a methodology for analysis and identification of prerequisites and interaction between actors in the Pathway, with the use of a *Cards*. *Cards* are a transitional representation between the traditional Pathway and their digital format. Using *cards* provide a consistent format for articulating pathways.

Conclusions and Future Work

- Through community engagement, we reached out to Arabic speaking mothers and explored their experiences of seeking help for PMH and their views about a simple online tool for PMH guide.
- This prototype is work in progress as a first stage to develop an initial tool for providers and mothers to help in navigating the care offered, and locate the appropriate services in a timely manner. Further development of this simple online tool, depends on future funding opportunities.
- . We believe that this methodology could also be applied to any care pathway for any community, including health provision in other territories.



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References

(1) Jankovic, J., et al. Differences in access and utilisation of mental health services in the perinatal period for women from ethnic minorities—a population-based study. BMC Med 18, 245 (2020). (2) https://maternityaudit.org.uk/FilesUploaded/RCOG_Inequalities%20Report_Lay_Summary.pdf (3) Khalifeh H, et al. Suicide in perinatal and non-perinatal women in contact with psychiatric services: 15-year findings from a UK national inquiry. Lancet Psychiatry (2016)