

# Birthrights Clinical Advisory Network

## Terms of reference

Birthrights was founded eight years ago and has traditionally relied on our maternity care Trustees to provide strategic clinical input to our work. In response to our inclusion goals, the challenging external environment, the complexity of needs we see in our advice work, and the evident appetite from a wider range of healthcare professionals to contribute to our mission, we are keen to establish a new clinical advisory network to shape our future direction, with a focus on strategy and policy. Some initial thoughts on ways of working are set out below.

### Purpose

- To provide clinical advice and expertise to inform Birthrights' future organisational strategy, policy objectives, and delivery of our core mission
- To bring a broad, inclusive group of healthcare professionals, with expertise beyond maternity care, operating at different levels in the NHS hierarchy, and from a diverse range of backgrounds, into the wider Birthrights family
- To operate as a network of champions to increase Birthrights' profile and influence within the wider NHS and other relevant audiences
- To advise on, and input to, content aimed at healthcare professionals and to advise on how Birthrights can best support healthcare professionals more generally for example, through creating peer support networks.

### Working arrangements

- Chaired by a Birthrights healthcare trustee – responsible for reporting back to the Board of Trustees on the group's work and strategic recommendations
- Four formal meetings per year (mix of online and face to face), focussed on strategy and policy
- Informal consultations on an ad hoc basis via phone/email (by mutual agreement)
- Short-term, specific project groups when needed (for example, when the pandemic hit we could have established a Covid group to guide our response)
- Birthrights is keen to collaborate with existing groups of healthcare professionals in addition to the CAN where possible for example, the British Intrapartum Care Society, and the Consultant Midwife Network, to ensure that Birthrights work is informed by a wide range of healthcare professionals.

### Membership

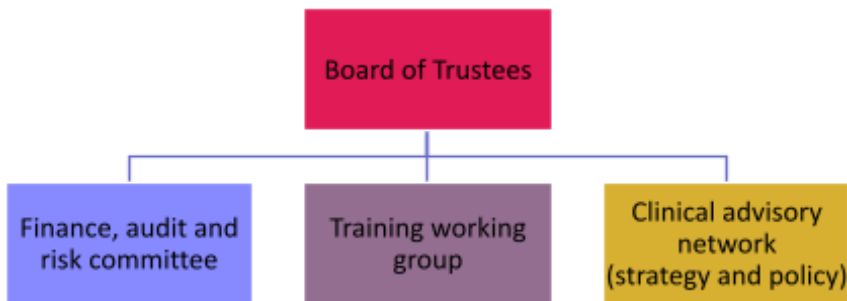
- A wide and broad network starting with around 12 members to co-produce the direction of the group and working arrangements but potentially growing up to 20 members, to be chaired by one or more Birthrights HCP Trustees
- Representative of a range of healthcare expertise including maternity, primary care, mental health, community health and social care, public health
- All levels welcome – from students and trainees through to senior leaders
- Reflective of Birthrights' inclusion goals with good representation across race, sexuality, age, gender, disability

### Expectations of members

- Actively contribute to discussions about Birthrights' overall strategy and high-level policy goals, drawing on specific area of expertise and professional experience
- Share knowledge of good practice in protecting the rights of a broad range of communities and providing equal access to safe, respectful care
- Attend four formal meetings per year, and contribute when possible at other times via phone/email (as preferred – no more than one hour per month)
- Operate as a supportive community, with respect for different views, experiences and perspectives, and consider how Birthrights/the network could support and empower a wider group of like-minded healthcare professionals
- Champion Birthrights via online and in-person professional networks

## Birthrights governance

The Board of Trustees is responsible for Birthrights' strategy, financial sustainability and delivery of charitable activities to achieve our mission. The Board has agreed to create other groups with a focus on specific areas: finance, training and clinical input. Each of the groups includes Trustees among its members, to provide a conduit for two-way feedback.



# Recruitment

## Job description for member of the Birthrights Clinical Advisory Network

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Role Purpose	<p>To work with other members of the Clinical Advisory Network (CAN) to co-produce terms of reference which at a high level should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Proving clinical advice and expertise to inform Birthrights' future organisational strategy, policy objectives, and delivery of our core mission</li><li>• Operating as a network of champions to increase Birthrights' profile and influence within the wider NHS and other relevant audiences</li><li>• Advising and inputting on content aimed at healthcare professionals and on how Birthrights can best support healthcare professionals more generally for example, through creating peer support networks.</li></ul>
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Supported by	Senior Leadership Team - Chief Executive, Programmes Director, Engagement Director
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Compensation	Voluntary role although out of pocket expenses will be reimbursed
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Time commitment	Four formal meetings a year (no more than 2 hours and a mix of online and face to face depending on appetite from the group), plus ad hoc contributions (at a mutually agreed time). No more than an hour per month.
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Term	2 years with the possibility of extension
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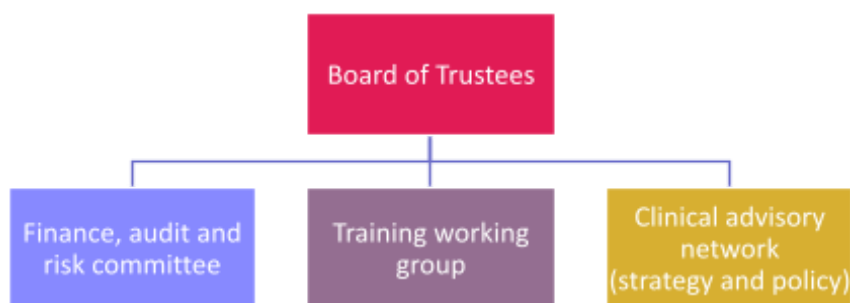
### About Birthrights

Birthrights champions respectful care during pregnancy and childbirth by protecting human rights. We provide advice and information to women and birthing people, train doctors and midwives, and campaign to change maternity policy and systems.

**Our vision is that everyone receives the respect and dignity they deserve in pregnancy and childbirth.** Our mission is to be the authority on human rights in pregnancy and childbirth in the UK and use that influence to improve services and practice throughout the maternity system.

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## About the role

We pride ourselves on having BOTH the perspective of women and birthing people and also the perspective of healthcare professionals at the centre of our work. We have had healthcare professionals on our Board since Birthrights was founded in 2013. However as a growing charity our Board is now rightly focusing on governance but we are keen to ensure that there is a forum to ensure that healthcare professionals continue to drive our work. We are keen that healthcare professionals should be involved in deciding exactly how this should work in practice. Therefore we would like to recruit an initial cohort of around 12 current NHS healthcare professionals to coproduce the terms of reference for the Clinical Advisory Network with us over the first two meetings (6 months apart) before potentially expanding the group.

## Network specification

### Across the group we are looking to recruit:

- A diverse range of healthcare professionals including midwives, obstetricians, anaesthetists, maternity support workers but also potentially GPs, psychologists, psychiatrists, health visitors, social workers, physiotherapists, counsellors or any other healthcare professional that has regular contact with pregnant women/birthing people and new parents within an NHS setting.
- A broad range of career stages. We are keen to have students represented on the group as well as mid-level managers for example, birth centre leads, matrons, doctors in training, as well as senior leaders.
- Experience of co-production, or at least willingness not just to bring your own perspective but to work collaboratively with others to create a well functioning team that will make a real difference to Birthrights' work.

- Ability to draw on the perspective of colleagues outside the network, whether that is through membership of other groups/forums, or informal networks.
- Reflective of Birthrights' inclusion goals with good representation across race, sexuality, age, gender, disability
- Commitment to our values, to inclusion and to working on own biases and beliefs.

Please note that this is not the only way that healthcare professionals are involved in our work at Birthrights. In particular we have a fantastic team of trainers who deliver our training to healthcare professionals and peer supporters. We are currently recruiting more associate trainers, you can find out more information about that role and how to apply on our website. Although being a member of the CAN does not preclude you from being a trainer or vice versa we are looking to ensure that a wide range of individuals can contribute to our work, so you may want to consider which role you would be most interested in before applying.

## How to apply

Please send your CV and a short covering statement (maximum two sides of A4) to [info@birthrights.org.uk](mailto:info@birthrights.org.uk). Please use the covering statement to tell us why you want the role, and what you think you will bring to it, highlighting any particular relevant skills or experiences. Please also provide the details of one referee as part of your application.

If you have any questions about the role and application process, please contact [info@birthrights.org.uk](mailto:info@birthrights.org.uk). We can offer an informal conversation to answer any questions you might have about the role before you apply.

Please let us know if you require additional support or reasonable adjustments for the application or interview, should you be invited. We really want the process to feel accessible.

Whilst we envisage being unable to appoint all applicants we would be keen to keep the details of applicants on file as a pool of experts to draw on for specific topics that require more in depth expertise. Please do let us know if you are NOT happy for us to keep hold of your details for this purpose.