all4maternity
LEARNING • SHARING • CARING

ENGAGING WITH FREEBIRTH

Practical challenges and opportunities to improve maternity care

ONLINE SEMINAR & PANEL DISCUSSION

23 July 2024 09:00-12:00 (BST)

09:00-09:20

Welcome and introduction from All4Maternity, review of digital membership and seminar resources

All4Maternity Team



09:20-09:35

Definition and principles of freebirthing, including the social, cultural and historical context in which freebirth takes place.

Dr Gemma McKenzie



09:35-09:55

What motivates women to choose freebirth, why they perceive it as the safest option for themselves and their babies, and the 'soft' characteristics of these women, how to best engage when they seek assistance or transfer to hospital services.

Dr Melanie Jackson



09:55-10:15

Professional regulation and understanding the role of the midwife, addressing judgement and fear for midwives, clearing the space, tensions and conflicts, legal and ethical aspects of freebirthing.

Dr Anna Madeley



10:15-10:25

BREAK



10:25-11:10

Practice considerations; developing responsive and supportive strategies for engaging with women who choose freebirth. Comprehensive plans for operational response, accommodating changes in birthing decisions, collaboration between midwives, paramedics, and hospital staff to ensure coordinated and compassionate care during transfers. Navigating challenges with self notification, issuing of NHS numbers and birth registration.

Consultant Midwives Clara Haken, Lisa Sharpe and Kate Stringer



11:10-11:20

BREAK



11:20-12:00

Joining the speakers, panel members Sam and Debs represent the experiences of freebirthing families.

Doula Samantha Gasden and Independent Midwife Debs Neiger