

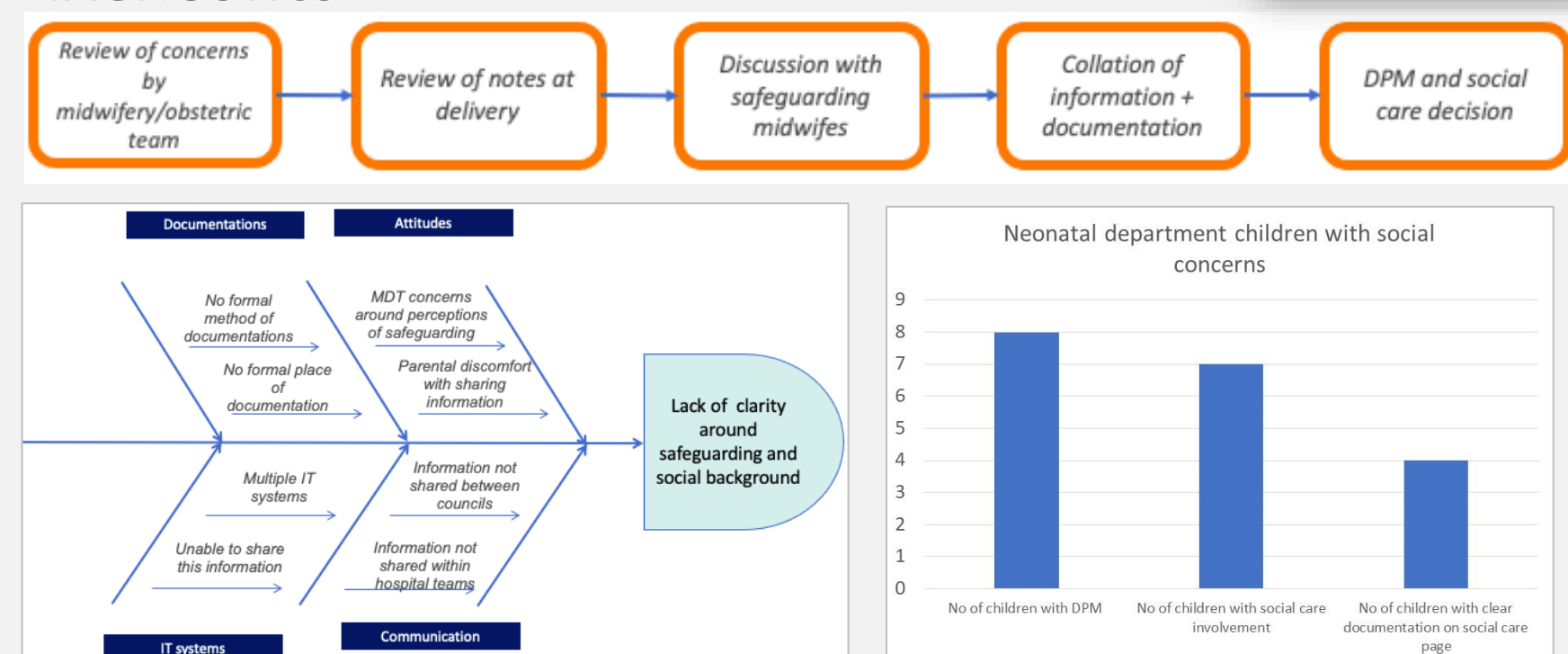


### BACKGROUND

Of 9 children identified across our neonatal unit with social concerns only 4 had necessary documentation in the notes. This risks miscommunication, distress to patients and discharge delay.

Safeguarding is a core tenet of paediatric care. The complex nature of how this information is obtained in our trust can lead to near misses and challenges in optimising care. Our trust covers many boroughs, utilises multiple information systems and accepts transfers from other hospitals. We need a way to provide essential information to allow professionals to make informed decisions regarding the care of infants AND enable us to communicate discussions to parents in a timely manner to prevent distress during challenging situations.

### DIAGNOSTICS



### AIM

All children admitted to NICU/SCBU should have a detailed social history documented to prevent harm by the end of February 2026

#### Chosen measure

Documentation of the social background in the new safeguarding proforma. Total score given with 1 point for every section of the proforma filled in (maximum 8).

#### Inclusions

Babies admitted to NICU/SCBU as assessed at specified points between Dec 2025-Feb 2026

#### Exclusions

Babies not admitted to NICU/SCBU

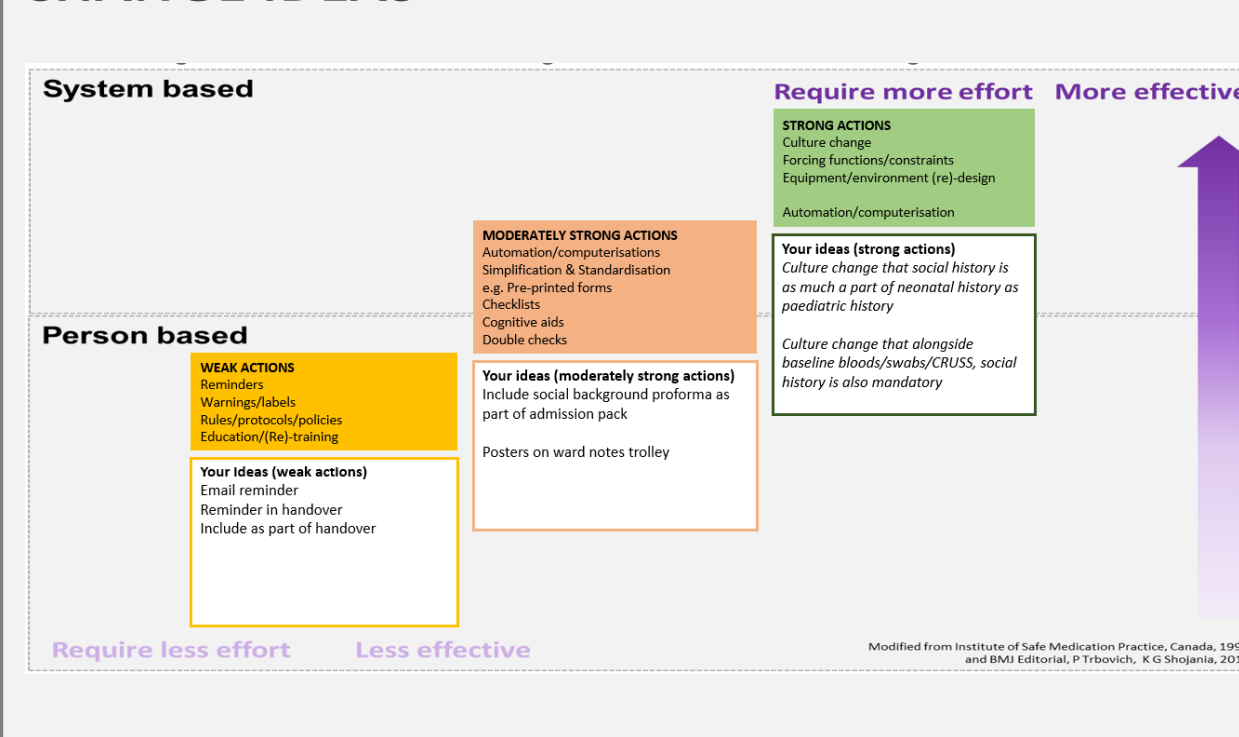
Babies without any identified social concerns within their social background

Babies admitted for short periods and not present on the unit on Thursday of every week

#### Sampling method and frequency

Review of list following interventions (5 times over 3 month time frame) and subsequent review of all patients in NICU/SCBU's paper notes to assess completion of safeguarding proforma

### CHANGE IDEAS



### PDSA cycles

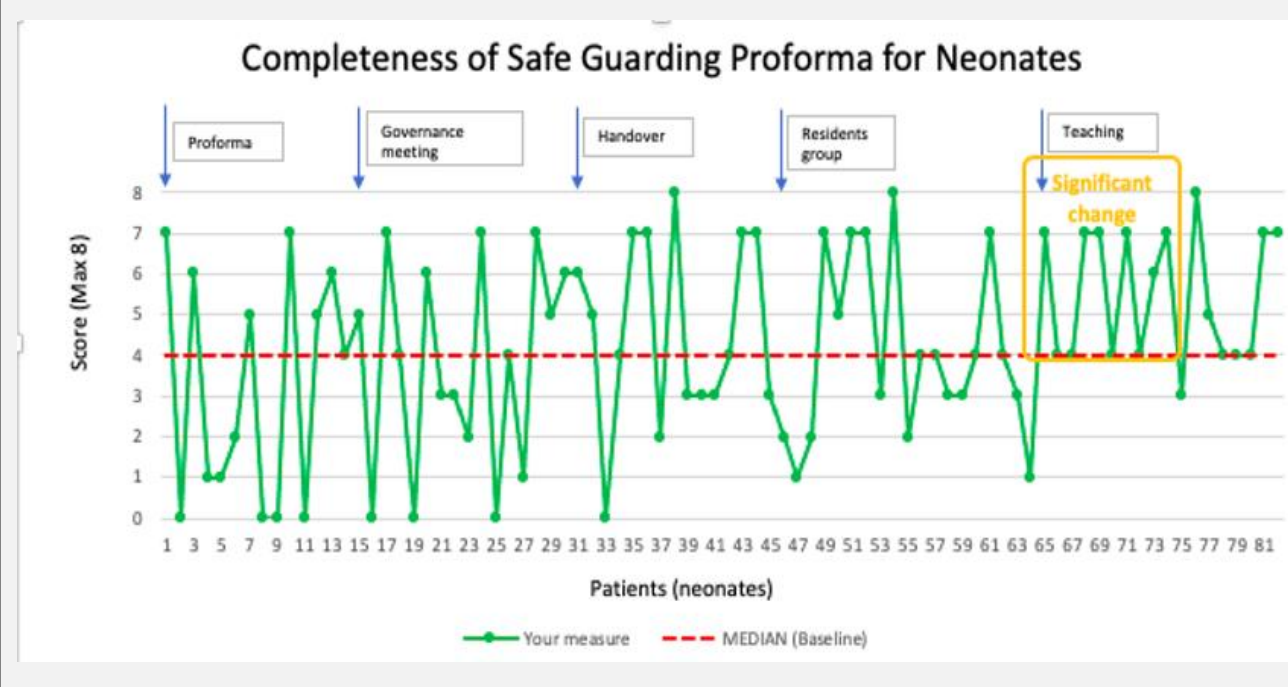
| PDSA Test # | PLAN                                                                                 | Do                                                                   | STUDY                                                                                                             | ACT                                                                                                      |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1.1         | Create Safeguarding proforma                                                         | Common relevant social background identified and proforma introduced | Feedback identified benefits of standardisation of documentation to avoid missing infants at risk                 | <b>Adopt + extend</b> – enables easy location of background and encourages identification of information |
| 1.2         | Proforma discussed with neonatal and paediatric safeguarding teams/junior colleagues | Elements for proforma chosen by safeguarding leads                   | Good feedback from colleagues and identified best sources to identify social information                          | <b>Adapt</b> – final proforma identifies core elements of social background                              |
| 1.3         | Ask admin team if willing to include in admission pack                               | Form shared with admin team and copies incorporated into pack        | Feedback from colleagues that it ensures we remember to complete proforma but identified challenges with workload | <b>Adopt + extend</b> – act as regular reminder to gather social background                              |
| 1.4         | Email disseminated informing team of new proforma                                    | Email sent on 12/11/2025                                             | 10/14 proformas completed but many details missing                                                                | <b>Adopt</b> – ensure all doctors reached but not all emails read                                        |

### PATIENT RECORD



| PDSA Test # | PLAN                                                                  | Do                                                        | STUDY                                                                                                     | ACT                                                                                |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2.1         | Discussion in clinical governance meeting                             | Summarised new proforma and when to use it                | Paediatrics registrars who cross-cover grateful for the update, consultants noted to be reminding Juniors | <b>Adapt</b> – Only reached small doctor group due to staffing, emailed            |
| 2.2         | Dissemination in clinical governance email                            | Email flagging new proforma                               | 13/17 proformas filled in and key details still missing                                                   | <b>Adopt</b> – include in other meetings to increase reach of doctors              |
| 3.          | Highlight in handover                                                 | Mentioned in Monday morning handover                      | 14/15 proformas filled in and key details still missing                                                   | <b>Adapt</b> – needs to be included in many handovers to ensure >5 doctors reached |
| 4.1         | Message in SHO group                                                  | Highlighted proforma completion rate and need to complete | SHOs grateful for reminder but identified registrars would benefit                                        | <b>Adapt</b> – to message in whole Whitt group to include regs/locums              |
| 4.2         | Message in Junior doctors group                                       | Highlighted need to complete proforma                     | All proformas filled in and key details still missing                                                     | <b>Adopt</b> – reported to be missed amongst many messages                         |
| 5           | Provide teaching for the team on data so far and how best to document | Highlight completion rate and where to obtain information | All proformas filled in and more key details included                                                     | <b>Adapt</b> – to incorporate into induction                                       |

### RUN CHART



### CONCLUSIONS & LEARNING

- The run chart identifies a significant change following a teaching session (6 data points above the baseline median) which detailed initial data on proforma completion and how best to improve completion. This change is likely to be a culmination of our previous changes with training reinforcing these.
- After the significant change, I observed one data point below the median baseline and as trainees rotate, there is doubt if the change will be sustained in the long term.
- The project may benefit from repeating teaching (as new trainees join) or working on other contributory factors and testing new change ideas. A longer period of testing and data collection will be needed to establish this.
- Whilst I did not achieve my aim that ALL children admitted to NICU/SCBU have a detailed social history documented to prevent harm, 94% (17/18) of babies had >50% of the proforma completed and 50% (9/18) had >75% of the proforma completed.
- All babies on the unit had some safeguarding information documented after our changes

### REFLECTIONS

- The interventions that rely on changes in individual behaviour may have caused short term improvement but do not show reliable change. Moreover the rotational nature of training means that data collection with a time span able to show meaningful change will rely on continuation of the project through recruitment of colleagues.
- Engaging and involving colleagues who have a permanent role in the department in steps such as incorporating the proforma into admission packs leads to more sustained change.
- Multiple changes aggregate their impact to lead to sustained change.

