Improving care for refugee and asylum seeking women - Training for midwives

INTRODUCTORY COURSE

Overview
While the CEMACH report (2007) shows that maternal deaths in the UK are rare, there is a disproportionate number of maternal deaths amongst refugee and asylum seeking women. There are several factors that contribute to this. NICE guidance (2010) identifies asylum seeking and refugee women and those who do not speak or understand English as women with complex social factors who may need additional support. In addition to this, the sheer complexity of the asylum system and legislation can make it very difficult for practitioners to provide appropriate support. This course will examine the issues relevant to pregnant refugee and asylum seeking women and explore strategies that midwives can use to support them effectively.

Aim
The aim of this course is to provide an overview of issues relevant to refugee and asylum seeking women and to provide midwives with information and tools which can be used to support these groups more effectively.

Learning outcomes
After attending this one-day training course and using the resource materials, the participants will be able to:

- Differentiate between different types of immigration status and entitlements to health and other services and give a basic description of the asylum process
- Describe the experiences of refugee women
- Identify how negative attitudes impact on individual women and service provision
- Demonstrate an understanding of key issues when working with refugee women (dispersal, complexity of the asylum process, obstacles to accessing services, communication barriers, sexual violence, FGM, mental health issues, culture, etc)
- Demonstrate an effective use of own communication skills and interpreters
- Identify strategies for providing most effective support
- Identify how and where to make most appropriate referral/signpost

The course will be participatory and interactive with activities and exercises (individual, in pairs, small and large groups) used throughout the day.
Working with refugee and asylum seeking women - Training for midwives

INTRODUCTORY COURSE

Programme

9.15-9.30  Registration

9.30-9.50  Welcome and introduction

9.50-11.00  Maternity outcomes for refugee and asylum seeking women: latest research findings
Terminology: clarifying definitions of different immigration categories
The asylum process: a brief overview

11.00-11.30  Rights and entitlements of different immigration groups

11.30-11.45  Break

11.45-12.30  The refugee experience (in the country of origin, during the journey, in the UK)

12.30-1.00  Asylum and migration myths: exploring attitudes, impact on refugee women and implications for services

1.00-1.45  Lunch

1.45-3.00  Providing woman-centered care: case studies
Exploring key issues when working with refugee women
Identifying strategies for providing effective support
Identifying ways of making appropriate referrals and signposting

3.00-3.15  Break

3.15-3.50  Providing woman-centered care: case studies (continued)

3.50-4.20  Improving communication
Exploring ways of using interpreters effectively and improving own communication skills

4.20-4.30  Evaluation and close