Parenting and Disability
Evidence base and best practice for disabled parents (7 hours)

It is important for all healthcare professionals to understand the importance of the evidence underpinning many of the policies relating to disability and communication in order to apply this to a work place setting. The following activities will enable you to understand the context and evidence underpinning some of the guidelines and policies, as well the consequences of making ‘uninformed’ decisions relating to many of the factors affecting disabled new parents to use health care services appropriately.

N.B. Do make sure you undertake the preparatory reading on Evidence base before commencing these etivities.

e-tivity 1 (1 hour)

Purpose
To reflect on how patients currently perceive health care professionals responding to the needs of a person living with a disability

Task
1) Listen and read the podcast by a woman who describes her experiences in different clinical settings.

Parenting and Disability - Lack of joined up thinking - Evidence.mp3

Parenting and Disability - Lack of joined up thinking - Evidence.pdf

2) Comment on her experiences, particularly her views regarding health care professionals’ attitudes towards disability…(Note to facilitator - suggest a blog or discussion board) (75 words)

3) Give two practical suggestions on how care offered in your own clinical area can be improved. (30 words)
Respond
Respond to suggestions made by at least two other colleagues from a different profession...(Note to facilitator – suggest a blog or wiki) (30 words each)

e-tivity 2 (2 hours)

Purpose
To appraise the evidence /guidelines on disability to your practice setting

Task
1. Read the summary 6.1 and conclusion 6.2 on page 24 of the RCN Pregnancy and Disability document. Pregnancy and Disability - RCN Guidance

2. Read the following presentation entitled ‘Evidence based best practice for disabled parents’

3. Review the Royal College of Nursing Guidelines Pregnancy and Disability 2007 Effective Care – general practice points on page 13

4. Consider the following:
   - How many of the points are achieved in your practice setting?
   - How many are you working towards?
   - Which ones are not met?
   List the action points for your practice setting...(Note to facilitator - suggest a wiki)(100 words)

Respond
Comment on two action points that your colleagues have made in the …(Note to facilitator - suggest a wiki)(50 words)
How are different professions taking this agenda forward?

**e-tivity 3 (2 hours)**

**Purpose**
To appraise the consequences of inappropriate provision of appropriate services to parents with disability

**Task**
1) In the podcast (from e-tivity 1), reflect on what the service user said about communication with families and carers.

2) Comment on the suggestions the service user has made regarding communication. (...suggest a BLOG or discussion board). (75 words)

Do the suggestions made by the service user ‘fit in’ with the policies you have in your current practice setting? Post your comments …*(Note to facilitator - suggest a wiki or discussion board) (50 words)*

**Respond**
How can the interprofessional team improve communication?

Respond to suggestions made by at least two other health care professionals …*(Note to facilitator - suggest a wiki) (50 words)*

**e-tivity 4 (1 hour)**

**Purpose**
To reflect on communication between health care professionals in relation to new parents living with a disability

**Task**
1) How could you improve the communication between the members of the MDT you liaise with when you have a case where the service user is disabled. Post at least two suggestions …*(Note to facilitator - suggest a wiki) (50 words)*

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2) Comment on how your suggestions could benefit the family of the service user in e-tivity 1 (30 words)

**e-tivity 5 (1 hour)**

**Purpose**
To appraise the consequences of inappropriate provision of facilities and communication for disabled parents

**Task**
Reflect on all the activities in this section. Write a reflective account (approx. 200 words) on how you as a health care professional could be accountable as a result of poor procedures and processes in relation to disabled parents and their families/carers.

**Respond**
Your account should include what you have learnt from, with and about the other health care professionals from the activities done in this learning set.