

## **Infant and Family Centred Developmental Care Framework Working Group - Terms of Reference**

### **Purpose**

This document outlines the terms of reference for a BAPM working group to develop a Framework for Infant and Family Centred Developmental Care.

### **Background**

Most neonatal units in the UK broadly support generic developmental care. The rights of the baby and parent are considered, for example reducing separation, sleep protection, and provision of breastmilk. Specific therapeutic approaches known to protect the developing brain including skin to skin holding, breastfeeding and environmental modifications. These therapeutic approaches are often based on guidelines and protocols and use a gestational age as a main aspect of decision-making regarding care regardless of the infant's medical status.

Infant and family centred developmental care (IFCDC) is a framework that incorporates all of the themes above, supported by evidence-based theories and concepts of neurodevelopment and neuro-behaviour.

There is no current IFCDC framework in the UK; European Standards are available and have been incorporated into legislation in several European countries.

This BAPM framework will provide evidence-based standards that can be adopted by all neonatal units and will include suggestions on education pathways to support their implementation.

### **Group Outputs**

- A Framework for Practice

### **Group Members:**

**Chairs:** Beverley Hicks and Joanne Wright

- 1 NICU Consultant
- 1 LNU / SCU Consultant
- 1 Trainee
- 1 ANNP
- 1 Nurse
- 1 Midwife
- 1 Nursery Nurse
- 1 Dietician
- 1 Occupational Therapist
- 1 Physiotherapist
- 1 Speech and Language Therapist
- 1 Psychologist
- 1 Neonatal ODN Care Coordinator
- 1 Education Nurse
- Up to 6 Parents / Carers to form a separate 'Parent Panel'

### **Stakeholder Groups Representation**

- PEEPS

- For Louie
- Ickle Pickles
- SANDS
- Bliss
- Adult Preemie Advocacy Group
- NNA
- Paediatric Critical Care Society

## Meetings

It is envisaged that this work will take approximately 6-9 months and involve 6 virtual meetings. Following completion of a draft Framework for Practice agreed by the working group, there will be a period of consultation with BAPM membership and relevant stakeholders before the final document is published on the BAPM website. It is expected that the Chair of the working group and/or other members will participate in an educational webinar to publicise the final Framework for Practice.

## Expected Timetable

Please note that BAPM working groups are run and managed by volunteers so dates may be changed if work or personal circumstances make this unavoidable.

Milestones	Date
Meeting 1 - Intros and scope (60 mins)	2 July 2025
Meeting 2 - Contents and responsibilities (90 mins)	9 July 2025
Meeting 3 - Check in, troubleshooting (60-90 mins)	August/September 2025
Meeting 4 - Review of first draft (60-90 mins)	October/November 2025
Meeting 5 - Review of second draft (60-90 mins)	December 2025
Meeting 6 - Post consultation (60-90 mins)	January/February 2026
Publication and webinar	TBC

## Responsibility and Accountability

The group is responsible to the BAPM Executive Committee and accountable to the BAPM membership.