

Independent Thematic Review into Nottingham University Hospitals (NUH) maternity services

FAQ

These FAQs will be updated throughout the course of the Review.

Last updated – Friday 22nd October

What is a thematic review?

A number of maternity reviews have been undertaken nationally, including Ockenden. Learning from one of the most recent reviews stated: ‘there must be an end to investigations, reviews and reports that do not lead to lasting meaningful change’.*

NHS England and Improvement (NHSE/I) and Nottingham and Nottinghamshire CCG are trialling a new approach to Reviews – looking at themes and trends that are specific to NUH in order to support rapid and sustainable improvement.

The Independently led thematic review of incidents relating to maternity care at the Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust (the Review) incorporate learning from these national reviews and will look at themes and trends (common issues or challenges that repeatedly take place) and put in place detailed and measurable actions so improvements can be made fast.

This Review will look into the latest concerns with maternity services at the Trust, so they explore any connection to concerns that may have previously been seen as isolated or individual events. Throughout the period of the Review, NHSE/I and the CCG will work with and support the Trust to make sure improvements are made as fast as possible. Both organisations will examine and challenge the Trust’s progress to make sure the improvements are made in the timeframe agreed.

*Ockenden Report: Emerging findings and recommendations from the independent review of maternity services at the Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust (10 December 2020)

Why do we need a thematic review of NUH maternity services?

A number of concerns have been raised about the quality of maternity services at Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust (the Trust), most notably a recent CQC inspection of maternity services in 2020 which found the Trust to be inadequate. The report specifically raised issues between online and paper record-keeping and said there were multiple systems in place that led to duplication and errors at times. A further inspection in 2021 reported that there was still a lot of work to be done.

You can read the CQC press release [here](#) which links to the full reports.

NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE/I) and NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group are committed to improving the quality and safety of the services that parents and their families receive from the Trust. NHSEI and the CCG are therefore jointly commissioning an independent review to ensure that issues can be identified and improved as soon as possible.

Who is leading the thematic maternity review?

An independent Programme Director, Cathy Purt, has been appointed to lead the review and work with two independent clinicians who will jointly lead the clinical elements of the Review. The

Programme Director and Review Team members have been recruited for their knowledge and expertise in leading reviews as well as the fact they have who have significant NHS experience outside of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire, with no links or connections to NUH.

What assurance can you give to say this review is being done independently and not with NUH?

NHSEI and the CCG recognise that the independent nature of this Review is vital. A Programme Director and Review Team have therefore been appointed who have significant NHS experience outside of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire, with no links or connections to NUH.

At no stage have NUH been involved in the development of the Terms of Reference for this Review. No recent or current NUH employees will be involved in the delivery of Review in any capacity, except to provide information from the Trust at the request of the Independent Review Team.

What will happen and when in the thematic maternity review?

Throughout the Review, NHSE/I and the CCG will share the learning at regular intervals with the Trust so they can tackle areas that can be improved as soon as possible, rather than wait for the full review to be carried out before sharing widely and with the Trust. As and when the findings are shared with the Trust they will also be shared via the regular briefings with families, stakeholder and published on the website.

What difference will the Review make to services at NUH?

The Review will provide an independent assessment of what has happened with the Trust's maternity services and identify lessons and conclusions that will be turned into actions to improve the service.

NHSE/I and the CCG will make sure that the learning and recommendations from the Review are added to the maternity improvement programme and monitor the Trust's progress on any of the recommendations. You can read about the work the Trust are doing [here](#)

Will the Review be considering individual cases?

As part of the thematic Review, the Review Team will consider the detail of individual cases.

However, it is recognised that the Review Team may identify individual cases which require further action or investigation; such as retrospective significant events, complaints or concerns, and/or where professional referrals are required.

An Independent Investigation Team (IIT) will be set up to carry out these investigations. This Independent Investigation Team will only complete individual investigations identified as being required by the Review Team, and this will be completed in line with national guidance, policy and best practice. Once the team are in place we will share more information about them and their role. The Terms of Reference for the IT are being developed by the Programme Director and Review Team. More information will be shared with families in due course.

How long will the review last?

The Review will start its detailed work this month and is expected to complete by the end of 2022.

Will the Review Team be speaking to families?

As part of the Review, members of the Independent Review Team will welcome discussions with families to understand their experiences and concerns in more detail. Family listening groups may also be established around specific themes where necessary.

In addition, the Review Team will establish a Family Group. The purpose of the Family Group is to ensure that parents and their families are kept up to date on progress and can share issues or concerns directly with the Review Team.

The Family Group will be led by an independent Chair or representative from the Group, who will support the work of the Review Team and act as an independent advocate for families. In supporting the Review Team, the Chair will not have access to any patient-identifiable information.

The Review Team and Chair of the Family Group will seek to ensure that the Family Group is representative of the population served by the Trust's Maternity Services.

Families can join the Family Group at any stage throughout the Review process and further information regarding the Family Group will be shared by the Review Team in due course. If families would like to be part of the Family Group and share their experiences with the independent Review Team, they can register by sending their contact details to nccg.nottsmaternityreview@nhs.net

How is the Review engaging with a diverse range of families?

To support sharing information about the review as widely as possible with families that may be interested in the Review, the programme team is working closely with the Maternity Voices Partnerships (<https://www.nottsmvp.co.uk/>), community groups, stakeholders including MPs, councillors and our system partner organisations.

We will also continue to share our information on our website and provide information in a variety of languages.

To request this information or anything else related to the review in another language or format please contact the Engagement Team at: nccg.team.engagement@nhs.net or call or text 07385 360071. If texting or leaving a message, please provide your contact details and a member of the team will get back to you.

Get the latest information on the Review

To keep up to date with the progress of the Review you can read it [here](#)

Who should I contact if I want to be part of the Review?

Please contact nccg.nottsmaternityreview@nhs.net and the Independent Review Team will be in touch.

Terms of Reference

What is a 'Terms of Reference'?

Terms of Reference are to clearly explain what a Review aims to achieve and set out what will be involved and not involved.

The terms of reference are developed and agreed before a Review gets underway with all those interested in the outcome of the Review, which in the case of this review includes families who have registered their interest. This early work is really important to make sure everybody interested in the Review is clear about what will be achieved by the Review before it gets started.

Why does the Review need a TOR?

The ToR explains what the aim of the Review is and what it will do and by who to an agreed time. This means everybody involved in the [project](#) team and all those involved understand what they are trying to achieve and why so have a shared goal.

Who was involved in writing the Terms of Reference?

The NHSE/I and CCG Review team, the Independent Review lead and clinical leads, families who were interested in getting involved and wider interested partners such as Members of Parliament.

What do the TOR cover for the maternity review?

The TOR cover:

The purpose of the review – why the review is happening and what it aims to do

The scope – what the review will cover

Data and analytics – what information including data will be considered in the review

Key lines of enquiry – agreed areas of work the Review team will look into in detail.

Timescales – dates the Review team will aim to complete part and all of the Review by.

Set of principles – an agreed list of ways to behave and think about to make sure the Review Team do all they can to make sure the Review is carried out in a fair, considerate and open way.