

Independent Thematic Review of NUH Maternity Services Update
10 September 2021

We are writing to provide an update on the Independent Review of NUH Maternity Services which is being jointly commissioned by the CCG and the Midlands Regional team of NHS England/Improvement.

We understand and appreciate that this will be ongoing difficult time for families affected by their experiences of NUH Maternity Services, and are committed to ensuring that we provide regular and routine updates to those interested in the review.

Independent Thematic Review of NUH Maternity Services – Recap

As you will be aware, NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and NHS England / Improvement (NHSE/I) are currently working with families to finalise a Terms of Reference for an independent thematic Review of maternity incidents, complaints and concerns at Nottingham University Hospitals (NUH).

The aim of this Review, which is due to commence in October, is to drive rapid improvements to maternity services in Nottingham by focussing on issues where change is urgently needed. The Review will analyse a broad range of information from complaints, incidents, concerns and family experiences, but will also have a clear focus on current practice to ensure that the appropriate standards of safety and quality are being delivered.

Critically, we want to make sure that we listen to and acknowledge areas of concern, and that these are put right, so that services are safe and provide high quality care for future families.

The Review will be completely independent of NUH, will include involvement from families and the findings and report will be made public when complete.

Your Involvement

The Review continues to evolve and engagement is underway with families to shape the Review's Terms of Reference. In addition, we intend to set up a Reference Panel for the duration of the Review, allowing families to share their experience as part of the Review process. We would be pleased to receive names of people who may be willing to sit on that group; if families would like to share their experiences as part of the Review, they can register by sending their contact details to ncccg.nottsmaternityreview@nhs.net.

We are committed to ensuring that you are kept up to date and involved in whichever way you prefer throughout the Review. This will include monthly meetings for families who are part of the Reference Panel and a written monthly update to all families and interested parties who register with us. In addition to this, we will ensure that any new concerns raised throughout the Review by families who believe they, or their babies, were harmed during their care at NUH are given full attention and thoroughly investigated through the appropriate processes.

Terms of Reference

A draft set of Terms of Reference (ToR) have now been drawn up and shared with those families who have asked to be involved in shaping the scope and approach of the Review. Our immediate priority is working with the families to reach a consensus. We are anticipating to complete a final version of the ToR by the end of the month, which will be published shortly afterwards.

The ToR will describe the overall approach of the Review, its operating model, the areas of focus, how the families will be involved, its timescale and how the findings will be published. Any affected families who wish to contribute to support us in shaping the Terms of Reference are still able to get involved by contacting nccg.nottsmaternityreview@nhs.net.

Following the finalisation of the ToR at the end of the month, the Review itself will commence its work at the beginning of October.

Key Appointments

A Programme Director has been appointed to support the Independent Review Team, who has the appropriate skills, experience and qualifications to undertake the work required and demonstrates clear independence from NUH.

Programme Director: Catherine Purt. Catherine has extensive NHS experience in commissioning, acute hospitals and primary care as well as private sector roles. The majority of her experience is in the North West of England but also across the South West and West. Catherine is currently Non-Executive Director, Shropshire Community Health NHS Trust.

Over the coming week the appointment of two clinical leaders for the Review Team will also be finalised and we will share their details in the next update.

Support Available

We appreciate this must be an extremely difficult time for women and families affected by their experience of maternity services and would like to share a number of organisations that are in place to offer support, including:

- Completing an online self-referral for Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Let's Talk Wellbeing Service: <https://www.nottinghamshirehealthcare.nhs.uk/letstalkwellbeing> or contact 0300 300 2200. Please outline on the referral that the referral is in relation to care provided at NUH Maternity so the team are able to prioritise the request.
- SANDS (helpline@sands.org.uk or visit www.sands.org.uk) supports anyone who has been affected by the death of a baby before, during or shortly after birth.
- Birth Trauma Association enquiries@birthtraumaassociation.org.uk or visit www.birthtraumaassociation.org.uk supporting anyone traumatised by childbirth and campaigns for improvements.

We are sharing this update with you as you will have contacted us previously about the Review. If you would prefer not to receive these email updates please contact us at nccg.nottsmaternityreview@nhs.net

To request this information 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.

If you have any further questions or concerns about the Review, please do not hesitate to contact us at the email above.



Nottingham and Nottinghamshire
Clinical Commissioning Group

Yours faithfully

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