

Independent Thematic Review of NUH Maternity Services Update 1 February 2022

This is the latest update on the Independent Thematic Review of NUH Maternity Services which is jointly commissioned by NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire CCG and the Midlands Regional team of NHS England and Improvement.

We are committed to ensuring that we provide regular and routine updates to those interested in the review. You can find information on the background of the review and read our previous updates [here](#). If you do not wish to receive these updates please contact us on ncccg.nottsmaternityreview@nhs.net

Independent Thematic Review of NUH Maternity Services – latest progress

Lead Neonatologist – we are pleased to announce that Dr Alison Bedford Russell, Consultant Neonatologist at Liverpool Women’s Hospital, is joining us as our Lead Neonatologist.

This means that the full review team is now in place and we are actively working within the agreed [Terms of Reference](#). The thematic review approach will follow the ‘Windrush’ methodology and aims to be complete by November 2022.

Some **useful documents** about how the thematic review is working are now available on our website, please note that these will be reviewed and updated when necessary:

- [Governance structure](#)
- [Methodology](#)
- [Privacy notice](#)

Families – Hilda Yarker, Family Liaison Facilitator has been engaging directly with families since mid-November to build relationships. Dr Teresa Kelly and Debbie Graham also met with families on video calls, at the end of November, to introduce themselves and set out the purpose of the review.

- There are currently 67 families who have contacted us to register on our database. There have been more than 430 individual email exchanges, face-to-face meetings with seven families (national guidance on Covid has impacted this), phone calls with 12 families and 22 video calls.
- The first phase of confidential listening sessions has been taking place since 10th January but we need to hear from many more families to inform the review so please do contact us.
- A dedicated family telephone number has been set up and you can contact us on 07500 940481 to book a listening session or if you have any questions about the review. Alternatively you can [book a listening session online](#).

- All families who have agreed to share their experience have been sent a consent form to complete prior to taking part in a listening session. So far, listening sessions have taken place over video call and we have also received written submissions from some families.
- The review team is collaborating with the mental health commissioner from the CCG to scope out a proposal to commission bespoke, specialist psychological and emotional support for families, siblings and extended family members. The service will be delivered by mental health experts who specialise in dealing with trauma and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. This is in line with the terms of reference for the review (item 16).
- An Equality Impact Assessment has been put in place to ensure full adherence with the public sector equality duty as defined in the Equality Act 2010, Section 149.
- We are contacting families on our database this week to find out their views around setting up a family group so that this group can be formed in the way that families will find it most useful.

Staff - Dr Teresa Kelly and Debbie Graham, lead clinicians, have met with staff on site at NUH to talk about the purpose of the review. Meetings have also taken place with the Trust Chair, Chief Nurse, Director of Midwifery, and Non-Executive Director and Chair of the Quality and Assurance Committee. Invitations have been sent to all maternity services and neonatal staff, through regular newsletters and Facebook groups, to raise awareness of the confidential listening sessions.

- The first phase of confidential listening sessions have been taking place since 10th January – 4th February 2022. Further sessions will be offered until March as we need to hear from as many members of staff as possible to inform the review. The listening sessions are open to all staff (non clinical and clinical) that work in or with the maternity services and neonatal teams.

Data – Ian Razzell, Data and IG Manager, has been focusing on finalising the platform to house data from the Trust in a secure environment for authorised license holders only. Once this platform, and the necessary data protection policies, assessments and consent are in place, data can be transferred. Other data progress includes:

- Preparation of a deeper engagement portfolio that will allow wider data collection for use in benchmarking and development of themes. This includes Royal Colleges, Coroner's Office, Specialist commissioners and other NHS Trusts.
- Publishing of Nottingham University Hospitals board papers on their website – papers are now available from 2012/13 to 2021/22. We will continue to request that papers dating back to 2006 are also published.
- A specific request has already been submitted to the CCG for information and papers on NUH maternity services, dating back to 2016 - 2018, to support the review. The

CCG have confirmed they will share the information requested and are fully committed to supporting the review.

Raising the profile of the independent thematic review – Meetings have taken place with local MPs and Councillors with a special interest to respond to concerns on behalf of their constituents and residents. We want to raise the profile of the review to ensure that we hear from families and staff who wish to share their experience with us. During the next few weeks we will be:

- Using social media to raise the profile of our website:
www.independentmaternityreviewnotts.nhs.uk
- Contacting voluntary groups related to maternity services
- Reaching out to community and faith groups to reach under represented groups
- Briefing local and interested national media
- Visiting Nottingham University Hospital sites to hand out information flyers to staff

The review will start its detailed work this month and is expected to complete by the end of November 2022. We will be making recommendations throughout the review and the commissioners of the review will ensure that these are implemented at pace.

Details on the review process

A reminder of the purpose of the thematic review.

The review will consist of four areas of work, that will interconnect and overlap:

- **Data & Analytics:** a review of all relative data, trends and management information at the Trust since its inception in 2006, in order to assess patterns of incidents over time, correlating themes or trends, and potential causal factors (not limited to clinical activity). External reports and information will also be considered.
- **Detailed Review & Key Lines of Enquiry:** examining current and recent concerns with maternity services at the Trust and investigating specific themes and trends in order to gain insights into practice, culture and processes
- **Listening to Women, People who give Birth and Families:** ensuring that the review incorporates the learning and experience of those with lived experience of maternity services at the Trust
- **Review of the Governance & Oversight of Maternity Services at the Trust:** looking at the levels of assurance to ensure the safety and quality of service provision

Support Available

We appreciate this must be an extremely difficult time for women and families affected by their experience of maternity services and we have information on our website which can offer support and help. You can find all the details [here](#).

To request this information in another language or format please contact the Engagement Team at: ncccg.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.

Yours faithfully



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