

Independent Thematic Review of NUH Maternity Services Update - 25 March 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 updates to those interested in the review. You can find information on the background of the review and read our previous updates on our website: <https://independentmaternityreviewnotts.nhs.uk/updates-and-useful-documents>

If you do not wish to receive these updates please contact us at:
ncccg.nottsmaternityreview@nhs.net

Latest progress

New psychological support available for families

From 1 March 2022, families who are involved in the review can access new dedicated specialist emotional and psychological support, if they wish. This support is provided by Trent PTS and will be in place initially for two years from the start of the review. Any family wishing to be part of the review will be sent further information about this service and how they can access it.

In addition, whether or not families choose to take part in the review, they can access support from Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust's Let's Talk service or crisis line. More information about these services can be found [on our website](#).

New Clinical Lead Neonatologist



Dr Alison Bedford Russell, Consultant Neonatologist at Liverpool Women's Hospital, has joined the review team as Clinical Lead Neonatologist.

Alison has over 28 years' experience as a Neonatal Intensive Care Consultant and is currently Neonatal co-Clinical Director at the Liverpool Neonatal Partnership. Prior to this, Alison was Deputy Chief of Neonatal Services in Qatar where she set up a neonatal surgery service in a new women and children's hospital. Other roles Alison has held include Neonatal Clinical Director and then Medical Director of Birmingham Women's Hospital, Clinical Director of the West Midlands Strategic Clinical Network for Maternity and Newborn and Clinical Lead for the South West Midlands Maternity and Newborn Network (SWMMNN).

Alison has been involved in several clinical service reviews and is passionate about involving families in developing and delivering the highest quality maternity and newborn services.

Maternity Investigators being recruited

We have asked for expressions of interest from midwives, doctors and neonatal nurses who are interested in joining the Independent Investigation Team (IIT), which is an extension of the review team. Any cases identified as part of the review that require further investigation will be passed on to the IIT. All members of the investigation team will not have previously worked at NUH to ensure that they are fully independent.

Update on family engagement

Thank you to all families who have shared their experience with us. Your feedback is invaluable. We are continuing to engage with families and arrange confidential listening sessions with a member of the review team. Sessions can be held either by phone or video call. Alternatively, families can choose to write about their experiences, if they prefer.

New Family Liaison Facilitator



Katie Mullard has been appointed as the new Family Liaison Facilitator and will start her role on 1 April 2022.

Katie has almost 20 years' experience as a registered nurse, working in critical care and assisting with clinical research trials, before specialising in Xeroderma Pigmentosum (a rare genetic skin condition), Pulmonary Hypertension (a condition affecting the right side of the heart), and most recently Endocrinology (hormone-related disorders).

As Family Liaison Facilitator, Katie will draw on her extensive experience of supporting patients and their families. Katie will be writing to families as soon as she starts to introduce herself as the main contact.

Latest activity

- The number of families who have come forward to be part of the review has increased from 84 on 9 March to 387 on 22 March. This is directly linked to social media advertising which encouraged families who wish to share their experience of maternity services to contact us through our website.
- We are undertaking various activities to target underrepresented groups. This includes:
 - Contacting faith leaders and community and voluntary groups to ask for support in raising awareness of the review and the offer of attending community meetings/ groups with interpreters, where required.
 - Attending antenatal clinics and other forums across Nottinghamshire (with interpreters where necessary) to talk to a wide range of women and families, including those who have a higher risk of poor pregnancy outcomes and women with social vulnerabilities.
 - Exploring opportunities for raising awareness of the review through community radio stations.

- Family Group survey - In February we wrote to families asking if they would like us to set up a Family Group and, if so, what they would consider the Family Group to be, for example, communication by email or online or face-to-face meetings. Unfortunately, we had a low response rate and, now that we have a much larger group of families on our database, we are planning to resend the survey to find out people's views.

Update on staff engagement

Thank you to all staff who have taken part in a confidential staff listening session so far. We are continuing to hold sessions over the phone and via video call with staff across maternity and neonatal services. However, we still would like more staff to come forward.

- We are continuing to promote the staff listening sessions through giving out flyers at City and QMC hospitals, sharing messages via the intranet and staff Facebook groups and including articles in maternity staff newsletters. We are also writing to all maternity staff to update them on the review and encourage particular staff groups to get in touch. You can access the staff flyer [on our website](#).
- If you are a member of staff working in maternity and neonatal services and would like to share your experience, please book onto a listening session on our website: <https://independentmaternityreviewnotts.nhs.uk/support-for-staff/>. If you have any queries or would like to discuss this first, please contact our Clinical Lead Midwife, Debbie Graham on 07551 011 451.

Data and Governance update

- Data and IG Manager, Ian Razzell, is continuing to pursue (and receive) data from a wide range of organisations regarding complaints, incidents, investigations, compliments, board papers, committee reports and internal / external reviews.
- Contracts have now been completed that will allow patient identifiable data (where consent has been provided) to be viewed and analysed independently, along with a further digital platform that can accommodate and analyse large volumes of publicly available data. All of this is underpinned by appropriate Data Protection Impact Assessments, Data Sharing Agreements, Data Management policies and informed consent.
- Nottingham University Hospitals' board papers from 2012/13 to 2021/22 are now available on their website.
- We are continuing to work with the CCG to access information and papers on NUH maternity services.
- Following a bid process, Niche has been selected to undertake a review of the governance and oversight of maternity services at Nottingham University Hospitals, in accordance with our Terms of Reference. We will provide further information in the next update.

Raising the profile of the independent thematic review

In our last update, we reported that we were planning a range of communications activity to help raise awareness of the review. Below is a summary of the results of this activity:

- Social media advertising on Facebook and Instagram targeting women aged 16-55 across Nottinghamshire. This reached over 60,000 women and resulted in over 1,500 click-throughs to our website.
- Communication sent to the CCG, Healthwatch and Nottingham Community and Voluntary Service to cascade through their channels.
- Article in the CCG's engagement bulletin which is sent to over 80 stakeholders, including patient leaders, Patient Participation Groups (PPGs) and community and voluntary groups.
- Information sent to 125 GP practices across Nottinghamshire to upload onto their patient screens.
- Increasing our stakeholder database to now include over 120 stakeholders.

In addition, the review team attended Nottingham City Council Health Adult and Social Care Scrutiny Committee on 17 February to provide an update on the review and are attending the Nottingham County Council Health Scrutiny Committee meeting in June. We are also meeting with local MPs next week.

For more information about the review, visit our website:
<https://independentmaternityreviewnotts.nhs.uk>

Yours faithfully,



Cathy Purt
Independent Programme Director



Dr Teresa Kelly
Independent Obstetric Lead



Ms Debbie Graham
Independent Midwifery Lead