

Independent Thematic Review of NUH Maternity Services Update 23 November 2021

This is the latest update on the Independent Review of NUH Maternity Services which is jointly commissioned by Nottingham and Nottinghamshire CCG and the Midlands Regional team of NHS England/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](#).

Independent Thematic Review of NUH Maternity Services – latest progress

The Review of Maternity Services at NUH is progressing as planned and the independent Programme Director, Cathy Purt, has now recruited the majority of the team needed to lead and support the thematic review. The Programme Director and Review Team members do not have any previous connection to Nottingham and Nottinghamshire or NUH; they have been recruited for their vast experience of the NHS and their considerable knowledge in their specialist clinical area.

The Terms of Reference (ToR) are now finalised and published after involvement from families and their legal representative.

A detailed set of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) have also been produced to accompany the ToR, in order to support wider understanding of the Review. These will be updated throughout the Review.

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

The Review will be dynamic in its implementation of learning ie recommendations will be made throughout the review and implemented.

Review Team – key appointments

Programme Director: Cathy Purt.

Cathy 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. Cathy is currently Non-Executive Director, Shropshire Community Health NHS Trust

Clinical Leads: Dr Teresa Kelly and Debbie Graham.

Dr Teresa Kelly is a Consultant Obstetrician at St Mary's in Manchester. She has extensive experience of management and of governance within the NHS and was part of the team that undertook the RCOG review of East Kent in 2015. She returned to East Kent on behalf of NHSE South East in 2020 as part of a team that reviewed the maternity service in East Kent. Teresa is a maternal deaths assessor for MBRRACE-UK, a Speciality Advisor for the CQC and is a Member of the Clinical Reference Group for Specialist Women Services. Teresa has worked as a Subject Matter Advisor for HSIB and a reviewer for the RCOG Each Baby Counts programme. In 2016, she was part of a team which undertook a focused review of North Manchester General's maternity service following a CQC visit. She worked clinically and managerially, as part of the improvement team in North Manchester from October 2016 until October 2017

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Debbie Graham is an Independent Maternity Consultant specialising in the safety, quality and modernisation of the maternity services in England. With over 30 years as a qualified midwife, Debbie has extensive experience in clinical practice, leadership, management and strategic posts in the NHS before becoming independent in 2007. Independent work carried out to date includes undertaking two high profile Serious Incident reviews on behalf of NHS England and reviews of the quality, safety, organisational culture and staff behaviours in maternity services at several trusts in England. Debbie is a systems thinker and utilises an appreciative enquiry approach to effect change to ensure that women and their babies receive safe, effective, compassionate and responsive care. Debbie holds an LLM Medical Law and Ethics and is currently a PhD candidate researching the impact of the statutory Duty of Candour on the safety of maternity services in England, an interest she brings to all of her work.

Support team:

Hilda Yarker – Family Liaison Facilitator
Leigh Griffin – Report writer
Ian Razzell – IG and Data Manager
Elise Barker – Communications Lead
Natasha Wrzesinski – Programme Manager
Administrative Support is currently being secured.

Operational progress

There have been more than 50 families that have contacted the review team via email to indicate a wish to engage, or not engage, with the review process. These families were written to last week and introduced to the Family Liaison Facilitator and written to again on 18.11.21 to invite them to meet the lead clinicians of the programme on 22.11.21 and 29.11.21 via Zoom and face-to-face with the Family Liaison Facilitator on 24th, 25th or 26th November. Alternative methods of contact are being offered and also sought from families. The purpose of these meetings is introductory and more structured, confidential listening exercises are being set up to start in January 2022.

Maternity staff at NUH are being written to week commencing 22.11.21 to introduce the programme director and lead clinicians. Similarly, listening exercises are being set up and will invite the wider maternity team to engage in the process. These meetings will also start in the New Year.

We appreciate that December will be a particularly busy time for families and staff however, we feel it important to listen at the earliest possible opportunity so that the review can continue 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

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- **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

Answers to key questions:

- The Review Team do not see the issues within maternity services at NUH are necessarily purely 'historical'. The Review Team will consider current practice as well as known issues in the past.
- The Review will cover the period since the formation of Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust in 2006. It is acknowledged that themes and trends may pre-date 2006; however, as 2006 represents the inception of the Trust, it is not possible to obtain or extract data and information prior to this date.
- At no stage will any recent or current NUH employees be involved in the set-up or delivery of the Review in any capacity, except to obtain or share relevant Trust information with the Review Team. This includes employees at every level within the Trust who may have moved on to work in other organisations, retired or left on health reasons.
- As the Review progresses, the findings and recommendations will be shared to ensure that timely improvements and changes are made. A final report of the Review will be published following completion.

Get involved - Family Group

The Review Team will work independently with women, people who give birth and families to establish a Family Group. The purpose of the Family Group is to ensure that women, people who give birth and their families can share their experiences of the Trust's maternity services with the Review Team, in order to inform learning, themes and recommendations.

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 ncccg.nottsmaternityreview@nhs.net.

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](#).

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 ncccg.nottsmaternityreview@nhs.net.

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

Yours faithfully



Cathy Purt
Independent Programme Director



Dr Teresa Kelly
Independent Obstetric Lead



Ms Debbie Graham
Independent Midwifery Lead