

NHS England and NHS Improvement  
Skipton House  
80 London Road  
London  
SE1 6LH

**22 April 2022**

Dear families,

## **Independent thematic review of maternity services at Nottingham University Hospitals**

I would like to start by saying thank you to those of you who have shared your experiences and concerns about maternity services at Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust and the subsequent review underway. We are extremely grateful for the support of mothers and families, who have helped to set the direction of the review so far, and who continue to provide valuable feedback and experiences that will help to bring about meaningful changes to local maternity services.

I am writing to update you on immediate changes to how the independent review into the experience of families under the care of maternity services at Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust is being managed and delivered.

As you will know, a regional thematic review of failings at Nottingham University Hospitals was established to draw together learning from the experience of families, common themes, maternity incidents, complaints, and concerns to drive rapid improvements in maternity services delivered by Nottingham University Hospitals.

We have listened carefully to the concerns raised by local families about the leadership, pace and methodology of this review. Following discussions at both a regional and national level, it is clear that urgent changes to how the review is being delivered need to be made. A new chair needs to lead this review with sufficient senior experience to address the concerns and challenges faced at Nottingham University Hospitals, to speed up the process and to deliver a review that can bring about real change for women and babies in Nottingham.

It has therefore been agreed that the review will now have enhanced national oversight by NHS England and NHS Improvement and I am pleased to announce that Julie Dent CBE has agreed to take on the role of Chair for this review and she will begin this work with immediate effect.

Julie's experience of holding several chief executive, chair and non-executive positions across the NHS and wider public and third sector roles means she comes equipped with the skills, leadership and knowledge to provide an expert, independent assessment of the care previously provided, and how best to ensure improvements are made to the

quality, safety and overall standard of care provided to the women, partners and babies at Nottingham University Hospitals.

The review will seek to specifically address issues at Nottingham University Hospitals and, building on the work to date, the review team under Julie's leadership will consider what changes are needed to the methodology and Terms of Reference to ensure that families are listened to and able to see how their own experiences of poor care are being used to drive forward improvements in their local maternity service.

The NHS is committed to providing the safest possible maternity services for families, and I hope this will be an important step in restoring confidence in this review's process and ultimately improving NHS care and support for women and their families. I am determined to ensure the local NHS learns from this review and makes the changes identified to prevent other families suffering such devastating pain and loss.

I know that you will have questions and that each family will want the chance to discuss their experience further. We will provide further updates on the progress, scope and engagement plans for the review, as Julie undertakes her work. In the meantime, if you have any comments or questions you can contact us using [England.NUHTIndRev@nhs.net](mailto:England.NUHTIndRev@nhs.net).

We recognise the distressing impact this review can have on you and your family. We have put in place specialist psychological support, for more information please contact Trent PTS on [fpss@trentpts.co.uk](mailto:fpss@trentpts.co.uk) or 0115 200 1000.

Yours sincerely,



---

**Sir David Sloman**  
Chief Operating Officer  
NHS England and NHS Improvement