

**14 June 2022**

**Agenda Item: 6**

## **REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

### **REVIEW OF MATERNITY SERVICES AT NOTTINGHAM UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS NHS TRUST – UPDATE AND IMPLICATIONS**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To inform the Committee of the decision announced by NHS England and NHS Improvement to draw the current Independent Thematic Review of maternity services at Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust (NUH) to a close and to undertake a new national review to be led by Donna Ockenden. The report also explains the implications for the Committee and its work programme.

#### **Information**

2. The Health Scrutiny Committee has been closely involved with scrutinising the NUH improvement programme in relation to maternity services following the Care Quality Commission (CQC) rating of inadequate published in December 2020, discussing the issue in detail on 5 occasions between March 2021 and March 2022. The Committee Chairman has also raised the Committee's concerns directly with the Secretary of State for Health.
3. In response to ongoing concerns, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), NHS England and NHS England Improvement established a local Independent Thematic Review of maternity incidents, complaints and concerns. The Committee was scheduled to receive a first briefing from the Thematic Review Team at its June 2022 meeting.
4. However, NHS England and NHS Improve has now acted upon concerns expressed by some affected families and stakeholders about the scope and nature of the local Review, and has announced a new national Review, to be chaired by Donna Ockenden, author of the Ockenden Review of maternity services at Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust. The local Review is to end, and its findings considered as part of the new national Review. The letter from the Chief Operating Officer of NHS England and NHS Improve announcing the new Review is attached at Appendix 1 to this report.
5. The Health Scrutiny Committee has delivered upon its statutory responsibilities in helping to highlight, scrutinise and refer upwards serious concerns about the provision of maternity services for Nottinghamshire residents as delivered by NUH. Now that the new national Review has been established, it is appropriate that the Committee steps back and lets the new Review get on with its vital work.

6. It is also appropriate that the Committee no longer considers the Care Quality Commission's (CQC) latest report on its re-inspection of maternity services, which has just been published and was scheduled for discussion at its July 2022 meeting. Rather, the CQC report will also inform the national Review. However, the progress of the national Review will be monitored, and the Committee will have the opportunity to consider its findings, once published.
7. Members are requested to consider and comment on the information provided.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Health Scrutiny Committee:

- 1) Consider and comment on the information provided.
- 2) Note that it will have the opportunity to consider the findings of the national Review, once published.

**Councillor Sue Saddington**  
**Chairman of Health Scrutiny Committee**

**For any enquiries about this report please contact: Noel McMenamin – 0115 993 2670**

### **Background Papers**

Nil

### **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All