

Board of Directors

6 May 2021

Report Title:	Transforming Perinatal Safety, Ockenden Assessment Assurance
Executive/NED Lead:	Giles Thorpe, Chief Nurse
Report author(s):	Giles Thorpe, Chief Nurse
Previously considered by:	Previously reviewed by Board February 2021.

Approval

Discussion

Information

Assurance

Executive summary

Following the publication of the Ockenden Report and introduction of the Transforming Perinatal Safety Programme (also taking into account previous reports such as Kirkup and Morecombe Bay), all Trusts have been asked to assess their current position against the 7 Immediate and Essential Actions (IEAs) in the Ockenden Report and provide assurance of *effective* implementation to their boards, Local Maternity and Neonatal System Board (LMNSB) and NHS England and NHS Improvement regional teams.

The 7 Immediate & Essential Actions (IEA's) are:

1. **Enhanced Safety:** Safety in maternity units across England must be strengthened by increasing partnerships between Trusts and within local networks. Neighbouring Trusts must work collaboratively to ensure that local investigations into Serious Incidents (SIs) have regional and Local Maternity System (LMS) oversight.
2. **Listening to Women & Families:** Maternity services must ensure that women and their families are listened to with their voices heard.
3. **Staff Training & Working Together:** Staff who work together must train together
4. **Managing Complex Pregnancy:** There must be robust pathways in place for managing women with complex pregnancies
5. **Risk Assessment Throughout Pregnancy:** Staff must ensure that women undergo a risk assessment at each contact throughout the pregnancy pathway.
6. **Monitoring Fetal Wellbeing:** All maternity services must appoint a dedicated Lead Midwife and Lead Obstetrician both with demonstrated expertise to focus on and champion best practice in fetal monitoring.
7. **Informed Consent:** All Trusts must ensure women have ready access to accurate information to enable their informed choice of intended place of birth and mode of birth, including maternal choice for caesarean delivery.

The assessment and assurance tool has been provided by NHS England/Improvement to enable the Trust to critically evaluate the current position and identify further actions and support requirements in a structured response. Evidence of the assessment will be submitted in the coming months and according to guidance when issued, and with the support of the Maternity Voices Partnership as required.

<p>NHS England/Improvement have reviewed the Trust's initial response and provided further guidance on evidence required as part of the Trust's final submission on compliance with the standards or action being taken to do so. This work will ensure that the 7 IEAs and the associated 12 clinical priorities will be implemented with the pace and rigour commensurate with the findings and ensure that pregnant people and their babies are safe.</p>		
<p>Action Required of the Board Whilst the Board reviewed the Trust response to the 7 IEAs at its meeting in February 2021, the Board is asked to note there is a requirement for the Trust Ockenden report response to be considered at a meeting of the Board held in public.</p> <p>The Board is asked to receive the assessment and response following recommendation by the Chief Nurse and NED responsible for the oversight of maternity services.</p>		
Link to Strategic Objectives (SO)		Please tick
SO1	Keep people in control of their health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SO2	Lead the integration of care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SO3	Develop our centres of excellence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SO4	Support and develop our staff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SO4	Drive technology enabled care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Risk Implications for the Trust <i>(including any clinical and financial consequences)</i>		A failure to ensure that sufficient assurance is provided against the key recommendations of the Ockenden review may lead to pregnant people coming to harm.
Trust Risk Appetite		The Board has a cautious view of risk when it comes to patient safety, patient experience or clinical outcomes and places the principle of "no harm" at the heart of every decision it takes. It is prepared to accept some risk if, on balance, the benefits are justifiable and the potential for mitigation actions are strong. When taking decisions involving choices between a wide range of outcomes, it will prioritise the option resulting in the greatest benefit for the most patients.
Legal and regulatory implications <i>(including links to CQC outcomes, Monitor, inspections, audits, etc.)</i>		A failure to provide assurance of the Trust's commitment to achieve the standards required as set out in the Ockenden review may place the Trust in breach of the provision of Safe Care and Treatment of patients, as outlined in the Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Regulated Activities) Regulations 2014.
Financial Implications		There may be future financial implications in the delivery of all actions required as outlined in the Ockenden review, which will be monitored through internal governance processes.
Equality and Diversity		In order to ensure that we do not directly or indirectly discriminate we have considered the needs of patients and staff in accordance to the Equality Act 2010. Consideration has been given to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • age. • disability. • gender reassignment. • marriage and civil partnership. • pregnancy and maternity.

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