

Health Scrutiny Committee

15 July 2021

Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust Maternity Services

Report of the Head of Legal and Governance

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To consider the progress made by Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust to introduce improvements following the Care Quality Commission's rating of maternity services as 'Inadequate'.

2. Action required

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to review the work that has been undertaken, and to identify what work still needs to be carried out to address failings, since representatives of Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust reported to the Health Scrutiny Committee in January 2021.

3. Background information

- 3.1 Following the publication of the Care Quality Commission (CQC) report published in December 2020 which re-rated Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust (NUH) maternity services from 'Requires Improvement' to 'Inadequate' along with a warning notice, representatives of NUH attended the 14 January 2021 meeting of the Health Scrutiny Committee.
- 3.2 At its meeting in January the Committee discussed the CQC findings of poor risk management, leading to a threat to safety, and actions which had been taken and which were planned to address the identified failings.
- 3.3 The Committee welcomed the commitment of NUH to improving maternity services, but also expressed concerns about the long standing problems, which existed prior to the CQC inspection but had not been fully addressed.
- 3.4 NUH representatives gave a full public apology to the Committee.
- 3.5 In April 2021, the CQC inspected NUH maternity provision at the Trusts Queen's Medical Centre (QMC) and City Hospitals sites to assess whether NUH had met the conditions of the warning notice, and published its report on 28 May 2021.
- 3.6 The CQC found that the Trust has responded to some of the issues raised in the warning notice following its previous inspection of its maternity services, but that there is more work to do regarding how the Trust captures, records and uses patient information so that staff have a full picture of people's healthcare needs. This includes ensuring information about women who may be affected by serious mental health issues is appropriately escalated.
- 3.7 As the April inspection focused exclusively on whether the Trust had complied with the warning notice served last year, it was not wide ranging enough to update any

ratings. The Trust remains rated 'Good' overall and its maternity services remain rated 'Inadequate'. The CQC will continue to monitor the Trust closely, including through future inspections.

- 3.8 Following the April inspection, the CQC has instructed NUH to make two improvements in maternity services at QMC and City Hospital:
- the Trust must ensure risk assessments and risk management plans are completed in accordance with national guidance and local trust policy and documented appropriately; and
 - the Trust must ensure information technology systems are used effectively to monitor and improve the quality of care provided to women and babies.
- 3.9 Michelle Rhodes, Chief Nurse, and Sharon Wallis, the new Director of Midwifery, NUH, will attend the meeting to discuss the progress which has been made to implement improvements since the last meeting and ongoing plans to tackle outstanding actions required to improve the quality and standard of maternity services, including the two improvements detailed in paragraph 3.8.

4. List of attached information

- 4.1 Briefing from Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust

5. Background papers, other than published works or those disclosing exempt or confidential information

- 5.1 None

6. Published documents referred to in compiling this report

- 6.1 CQC Inspection Report 20 December 2020_QMC
CQC Inspection Report 20 December 2020_City Hospital
CQC Inspection Report 28 May 2021_QMC
CQC Inspection Report 28 May 2021_City Hospital
- 6.2 Reports to and minutes of the Health Scrutiny Committee, 14 January 2021

7. Wards affected

- 7.1 All

8. Contact information

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