

Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee
17 March 2022

Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust

Report of the Head of Legal and Governance

1 Purpose

- 1.1 To discuss the Committee's current conclusions in relation to its recent scrutiny of action being taken by Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust to improve its maternity services and the way that the organisation is led.

2 Action required

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to:
- a) consider the information and evidence that it has gathered to date; and
 - b) decide its next steps.

3 Background information

- 3.1 In December 2020, the Care Quality Commission (CQC) published a report which re-rated Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust (NUH) maternity services from 'Requires Improvement' to 'Inadequate', along with a warning notice.
- 3.2 Representatives of NUH attended the Committee's meetings in January and July 2021 to discuss the CQC findings and actions being taken and planned to address the identified failings. At the July meeting the Committee also considered evidence from the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Maternity Voices Partnership and Healthwatch Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. In addition, the Committee met informally with a parent whose child had died whilst in the care of NUH's maternity services to hear their perspective.
- 3.3 In September 2021, the CQC published a report of an inspection it carried out into how well NUH is led, alongside some specific service areas in July. Following this inspection, the Trust was issued with a Section 29a warning notice under the Health and Social Care Act 2008 and rated as 'Requires Improvement', with an inadequate rating in relation to whether services are well-led. Some of the failings identified by the CQC in relation to maternity services were also reflected in the findings of how well the Trust as a whole is led.
- 3.4 The Trust's Acting Chief Executive and Chief Nurse, along with other colleagues attending meetings of the Committee in November 2021 and January 2022 to discuss action being taken to address identified failings

in relation to how the organisation is led. In February 2021, the Trust's Chief Nurse and Director of Midwifery attended a meeting of the Committee specifically in relation to the progress being made in improving maternity services. Since that meeting, the Chair has met informally with the new Chair of the NUH Board.

- 3.5 During this period, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) has provided information to the Committee in relation to its role in supporting and holding NUH to account for improvement and the Chair has spoken to the NHS England Regional Medical Director for the Midlands about NHS England's role in supporting improvement.
- 3.6 In February 2021 the Committee heard from the Programme Director and Clinical Lead for Midwifery of the Independent Thematic Review of Maternity Services at NUH, which has been jointly established by the CCG and NHS England/ NHS Improvement. The Chair has also held an informal meeting with the Accountable Officer of the CCG about the review.
- 3.6 The Committee has held informal evidence gathering sessions with representatives of trade unions representing workers employed by NUH.
- 3.7 At its last meeting in February, the Committee concluded that it remains concerned about a lack of evidence that the necessary improvement is taking place at sufficient pace and agreed to consider its next steps.

4 List of attached information

- 4.1 None

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 Care Quality Commission Nottingham City Hospital Published 02/12/2020
- 6.2 Care Quality Commission Queens Medical Centre Published 02/12/2020
- 6.3 Care Quality Commissioning Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust Inspection Report Published 15/09/2021
- 6.4 Reports to, and minutes of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee held on 14 January 2021, 15 July 2021, 11 November 2021, 13 January 2022 and 17 February 2022.

7 Wards affected

7.1 All

8 Contact information

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