



Nottingham  
City Council



**Georgia Power**  
Labour

**Councillor for Bestwood**  
LH Box 28  
Loxley House,  
Station Street,  
Nottingham.  
NG2 3NG  
07730685330  
georgia.power@nottinghamcity.gov.uk  
www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk

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Dear Sir/ Madam,

**RE: Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust**

I am writing as Chair of the Nottingham City Council Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee, in relation to the Committee's concerns about Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust (NUH).

As you will be aware from your own inspections, a number of failings in the way in which maternity services are provided by the Trust and how the Trust as a whole is led have been identified. You will also be aware that NHS England and NHS Improvement and Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group have jointly established an independent thematic review into Nottingham University Hospitals maternity services, due to report in November 2022. In the Committee's view, these are significant independent judgements about services received by residents of Nottingham City and something that the whole system needs to proactively and rapidly respond to.

As you will know, health scrutiny committees have a role in publicly holding commissioners and providers of NHS funded services to account for the services that are received by citizens of their area. Since December 2020 the Nottingham City Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee has taken steps to try to understand the circumstances, encourage and support improvement and publicly hold the Trust to account for the quality and safety of the services that it is providing, particularly in relation to maternity services but aware that the failings identified by the CQC with regards to how the organisation is led will impact on the range of services provided by the Trust. These steps have included:



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- Speaking to, and considering information from the Trust, this has included:
  - The Trust's Medical Director, Chief Operating Officer and Acting Chief Nurse, at that time, attending a meeting of the Committee in January 2021 to discuss the CQC's findings in relation to maternity services and actions being taken by the Trust to address identified failings.
  - The Trust's Chief Nurse and Director of Midwifery attending a meeting of the Committee in July 2021 to report on progress.
  - The Trust's Interim Chief Executive, Chief Nurse and Director of Midwifery attending a meeting of the Committee in November 2021 to discuss the CQC's findings in relation to how the organisation is being led and actions being taken by the Trust to address identified failings.
  - The Trust's Interim Chief Executive, Medical Director, Director of Communications and Engagement and Chief People Officer attending a meeting of the Committee in January 2022 to report on progress, with a particular focus on how the organisation is being led and cultural issues.
  - The Trust's Chief Nurse and Director of Midwifery attending a meeting of the Committee in February 2022 to report progress in improving maternity services.
- Considering lived experience of a range of parties, through:
  - Consideration of written information from the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Maternity Voices Partnership (a group that aims to improve maternity services by putting the experiences of women and their families at the centre).
  - Consideration of information provided by Healthwatch Nottingham and Nottinghamshire.
  - An informal meeting with a parent whose child had died whilst in the care of NUH's maternity services to hear their perspective.
- Speaking to, and considering written information from Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group.
- Speaking to the NHS England Regional Medical Director for the Midlands.
- Speaking to representatives of trade unions representing employees of the Trust.
- Speaking to and considering written information from the Programme Director and Clinical Lead for Midwifery of the Independent Thematic Review of Nottingham University Hospitals Maternity Services.

Based on the information and evidence available to it, the Committee is concerned that the Trust has been unable to demonstrate necessary improvement is taking place at sufficient pace to provide the Committee and, most importantly, the citizens of Nottingham with assurance on the safety and quality of services provided. It is a situation that is causing significant anxiety for the public and service users. Therefore, today I have written to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to escalate these concerns. As the relevant inspectorate, I

want to make you aware of the Committee's concerns. Please find enclosed a copy of the letter that I have sent to the Secretary of State.

I am sending this correspondence to you so that the CQC is aware of the Committee's concerns, and I would be willing to meet with the relevant individual(s) to discuss this matter further if that would be helpful. I would also welcome an update on the Commission's work in relation to the Trust.

I look forward to receiving your response on these matters.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Georgia Power  
Chair of the Nottingham City Council Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny  
Committee

/

CC Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust