

Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee

16 November 2023

Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust – Maternity Services and Well-Led

Report of the Statutory Scrutiny Officer

1 Purpose

- 1.1 To review the progress made by the Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust (NUH) in addressing the issues raised following the Care Quality Commission's (CQC's) latest inspection of maternity services at the Queen's Medical Centre and Nottingham City Hospital on 25 and 26 April 2023, and of NUH's leadership, governance and culture ('Well-Led') on 6 and 7 June 2023.

2 Action required

- 2.1 The Committee is asked:
- a) if it wishes to make any comments or recommendations in response to the report; and
 - b) if it considers that any further scrutiny of the issue is required (and to identify the focus and timescales).

3 Background information

- 3.1 In December 2020, the CQC published a report that re-rated the maternity services provided by NUH from 'Requires Improvement' to 'Inadequate'. Representatives of NUH attended the Committee's meetings on 14 January and 15 July 2021 to discuss the CQC findings and the actions being planned and taken to address them.
- 3.2 In September 2021, the CQC published a further 'Well-Led' inspection report, giving an overall rating of 'Requires Improvement' with an 'Inadequate' rating for whether services were well-led. NUH representatives attended the Committee's meetings on 11 November 2021 and 13 January 2022 to outline the action that had and would be taken in response to the findings. The Committee also heard from the NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group (as the then local commissioner) and, separately, gathered additional evidence from NHS England and the trade unions representing NUH employees.
- 3.3 On 17 February 2022, NUH representatives attended the meeting of the Committee to present the progress being made in improving maternity services. The CQC then carried out a further inspection of these services in March 2022 and NUH representatives attended the Committee meeting on 19 May 2022 to explain the action that had been taken since this visit. The NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) also submitted a report to the

Committee meeting on 15 September 2022 to set out the details of the assurance and oversight arrangements that it had put in place in relation to NUH, as the new local commissioner.

- 3.3 On 15 December 2022, NUH representatives spoke to the Committee on the progress made in addressing the issues identified by the CQC and subsequent improvement work. The NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care System (ICS) also provided its overarching perspective. As a result of concerns raised at this meeting in relation to the CQC's identification of a culture of bullying and potential racial discrimination, NUH's Chief Executive, the Chair of the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) Network and the Chair of the BAME Shared Governance Council attended the Committee meeting on 16 February 2023 to discuss the steps being taken to ensure a safe and inclusive workplace at NUH.
- 3.4 The CQC's latest inspection of maternity services took place on 25 and 26 April 2023, with a 'Well-Led' inspection carried out on 6 and 7 June 2023. NUH's Chief Executive, Chief Nurse, Head of Midwifery and Head of Maternity Services will be attending the meeting to present the key findings of these inspections, the action being taken and the future next steps, and an associated report from NUH is attached. The Chief Nurse for the ICB will also be in attendance at the meeting.

4 List of attached information

- 4.1 Care Quality Commission Update 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 [Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust Inspection Report](#) (Care Quality Commission, 13 September 2023)
- 6.2 Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee – reports to and minutes of the meetings held on:
- [14 January 2021](#)
 - [15 July 2021](#)
 - [11 November 2021](#)
 - [13 January 2022](#)
 - [17 February 2022](#)
 - [17 March 2022](#)
 - [19 May 2022](#)
 - [15 September 2022](#)
 - [15 December 2022](#)

- [16 February 2023](#)

7 Wards affected

7.1 All

8 Contact information

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