

## Update on Maternity and Neonatal Services Public Board

30 January 2025

<b>Presented for:</b>	Information and Assurance
<b>Presented by:</b>	Professor Phil Wood, Chief Executive
<b>Author:</b>	Esta Innes-Limbachia, Assistant Director Chief Executive's Office
<b>Previous Committees:</b>	None.

<b>Our Annual Commitments for 2024/25 are:</b>	
Reduce wait for patients	✓
Reduce Healthcare Acquired Infections by 15%	✓
Reduce our carbon footprint through greener care	✓
Use our existing digital systems to their full potential	✓
Strengthen participation and growth in research and innovation	✓
Deliver the financial plan	✓
Be in the top 25% performing Trusts for staff retention	✓

<b>Trust Risks (Type &amp; Category)</b>				
<b>Level 1 Risk</b>		<b>Level 2 Risks</b>	<b>(Risk Appetite Scale)</b>	<b>Risk</b>
External Risk	✓	<b>Legal &amp; Governance Risk</b> We will operate the Trust in a compliance with the Law and UK Corporate Governance Code, where applicable	Averse	↔ (same)
External Risk	✓	<b>Regulatory Risk</b> We will comply with or exceed all regulations, retain its CQC registration and always operate within the law	Averse	↔ (same)
External Risk	✓	<b>Strategic Planning Risk</b> We will deliver Our Vision 'to be the best for specialist and integrated care' through the delivery of a set of Strategic Goals and operating in line with Our Values	Cautious	↔ (same)

<b>Key points</b>	
1. To provide an update following the CQC inspections of our Maternity and Neonatal services	Information and Assurance

## **1.Summary**

The Trust has recently undergone unannounced on-site CQC inspections of our maternity services at the LGI and St James's Hospital in December 2024 as well as an on-site inspection of our neonatal services in January 2025.

## **2.Background**

The Trust's maternity services were rated "Good" following the last CQC inspection in June 2023. Following the December inspection of maternity services, the Trust received some initial verbal feedback and there were no significant patient safety concerns raised by the inspection team at the time.

The Trust is continuing to work with the CQC inspection team following the inspection of our neonatal services, including providing a range of documents for assurance.

The Trust received a communication from the BBC on 2 January 2025, summarising the proposal to publish a story in the news about maternity and neonatal care in response to contact they had received from families and two members of staff. The Trust responded to the comments from the BBC, setting out the context and providing details related to the data that was referenced, including the processes in place for reviewing this to inform improvements to the service.

The story was published in the media on 17 January 2025, including a response from the Trust with an apology to those families for their experiences. Support was also provided to staff in maternity and neonatal services and a communication shared with people who use our services through the Trust's social media channels. The Trust has written to people who use our services, to reassure them about the safety of maternity and neonatal services in Leeds together with contact details for further information related to these services and guidance on how to raise concerns. The letter is included in the appendix to this report.

## **3.Proposal**

It is expected the Trust will receive draft reports from the CQC inspection in quarter 1 2025/26 along with a rating for maternity services and neonatal services for LGI and SJUH. The Trust will implement the recommendations from the report when this is received. In the meantime, steps have been taken to reassure both patients and staff further, summarised in section 2 (above).

## **4.Financial Implications**

None at present.

## **5.Risk**

The Risk Management Committee provides assurance oversight of the Trust's most significant risks, which cover the Level 1 risk categories regulatory, legal & governance and strategic planning risks. There are no material changes to the risk

appetite statements related to the Level 2 risk categories and the Trust continues to operate within the risk appetite for the Level 1 risk categories set by the Board. Quality Assurance Committee will provide oversight of the findings of the CQC inspection of maternity and neonatal services and receive assurance on any improvement actions that are agreed.

#### **6.Communication and Involvement**

The Trust communications team have liaised with the media in response to the enquiry and partner organisations and stakeholders have been included in this. The Trust will continue to engage with the CQC to support the inspection process.

#### **7. Equality Analysis**

No additional Equality Impact Assessment have been conducted.

#### **8. Publication under the Freedom of Information Act**

This paper has been made available under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

#### **9. Recommendation**

The board note the contents of this report.

#### **10. Supporting Information**

The following papers make up this report:

- 9.1(ii) Copy of Patient Letter

**Professor Phil Wood**  
**Chief Executive**