

To: Professor Phil Wood, Chief
Executive Officer
(philipwood1@nhs.net)

NHS England
Wellington House
133-155 Waterloo Road
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cc. Provider Trust:

- Rukeya Miah, Director of
Midwifery,
(rukeya.miah@nhs.net)
- Rabina Tindale, Chief Nurse
(rabina.tindale1@nhs.net)
- Magnus Harrison, Chief Medical
Officer
(magnus.harrison1@nhs.net)

15 July 2025

NHS England:

- Amanda Pearson, Lead Maternity
Improvement Advisor
- Scott Johnston, Maternity
Improvement Advisor
- Susanna Al-Samarrai, Maternity
Improvement Advisor
- Tracey Cooper, Regional Chief
Midwife

Dear Phil,

Maternity Safety Support Programme Entry

Following your CQC inspection on 10 September 2024, and subsequent published report on 20 June 2025, which resulted in the downgrading of the maternity services to a “inadequate” rating, the region led a multi stakeholder Rapid Quality Review (RQR) on 31 January 2025 in partnership with the Trust’s senior leadership team. Based on the outcome of this review, a Group Diagnostic took place on 17 March 2025. A QIG meeting took place on 24 June 2025 where entry to the programme was agreed.

In line with our commitment to supporting the improvement of maternity care provision in England, any Trust that has been through this process and meets the criteria, is invited onto the Maternity Safety Support Programme (MSSP).

About the MSSP

In 2018 the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care asked NHS England, to identify the most challenged maternity services in England, and assist these services to improve at pace and as a result the MSSP Programme was developed.

The programme approach is built on previous successful work in improving outcomes at maternity units across England and will employ a six staged approach:

- Initiation of entry to the programme
- Improvement phase
- Sustainability phase
- Formal exit from the programme.

We are aware that you and your teams are already working to provide sustainable quality improvements within your maternity and neonatal unit and response to the CQC. We will of course work in partnership with you to ensure that this programme incorporates and/or aligns with existing local and national quality improvement work for the development of your perinatal services.

Building on the intelligence gathered through the commissioned work from the Trust, the MSSP will work closely with you and your teams to support the development of a Perinatal Improvement Plan. Your engagement in this process will be crucial, as we intend the improvement phase to actively focus on building capability and capacity within your maternity unit to support the required sustainable changes.

The MSSP will be led locally by dedicated Maternity Improvement Advisors who will work alongside your senior team to support, facilitate and provide practical advice, identifying where you may benefit from additional support, as well as drive the overall programme.

We would like to formally onboard you on to the MSSP with a presentation to your Board, ICB, LMNS and regional colleagues on 31st July 2025 to give you further information about the process and give you the opportunity to ask any questions. Your dedicated MIAs will be Scott Johnston (scott.johnston2@nhs.net) and Susanna Al-Samarrai (susanna.al-samarrai@nhs.net).

Your MIAs will also arrange an initial site visit to commence introductions.

We look forward to working collaboratively with you to support the improvement of your Maternity Service and look forward to your response regarding your engagement with the programme. Please do not hesitate to make contact with your allocated Midwifery MIA, Scott Johnston, if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,



Kate Brintworth
Chief Midwifery Officer



Donald Peebles
National Clinical Director for Maternity

