

Sue Tranka
Prif Swyddog Nyrsio
Chief Nursing Officer
Cyfarwyddwr Nyrs GIG Cymru
Nurse Director NHS Wales



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

To:
Executive Nurse Directors
Executive Medical Directors

13 May 2022

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing to update you on the planned oversight arrangements and performance monitoring for Maternity and Neonatal services together with an update of mechanisms to support service delivery and outcomes.

National reports and assurance

Maternity and Neonatal services across the United Kingdom have, for many years been subject to increasing scrutiny, with a series of commissioned high profile reviews published including:

- Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG) Review of Maternity Services at Cwm Taf Health Board (April 2019)
- Health Inspectorate Wales (HIW) Phase One of its National Review of Maternity Services in Wales (November 2020)
- CTM UHB Independent Maternity Services Oversight Panel (IMSOP) Thematic Stillbirth Category Report (October 2021)
- CTM UHB Neonatal Deep Dive Review (February 2022)
- Findings, Conclusions and Essential Actions from the Independent Review of Maternity Services at Shrewsbury and Telford Hospitals NHS Trust (SaTH) chaired by Donna Ockenden (March 2022)

These reviews have resulted in both local targeted improvements and or assurance against the large number of recommendations or actions included in the reports. The Network has previously summarised these recommendations into a single report at the request of yourselves



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to enable ease of reference and a process for assurance. This document has now been updated and attached to include the IMSOP thematic reviews and the Ockenden recommendations to aid internal health board assurance mechanisms. I would ask as part of this process that following initial internal review and assurance you provide any immediate red and amber flag alerts to my office by 27 May 2022 as agreed at the last EDoN meeting on 28 April 2022.

Following initial health board assurance, on 7 July 2022, the Maternity and Neonatal network have been asked to host on my behalf a National Assurance workshop to bring together all your self-assessments and related learning to inform national priorities and future direction. This will include maternity and neonatal leads, governance and clinical representatives from multi-professional fora.

Finally, I will be hosting together with Deputy CMO a National Safety summit on 6 September 2022, this will form a national conversation embracing feedback from the IMSOP intervention programme and the important learning and improvements delivered by the health board. This will be integrated into the national programme of work for the Maternity and Neonatal safety support programme. More details will follow for both events.

Performance Boards

We have been reviewing the current architecture of assurance and performance meetings related to the Maternity policy area. We note that there has been a separation of Performance meetings for maternity outside of our current governance structures. As the NHS Exec is getting ready to stand up, we have agreed that this area should then move into that oversight and monitoring function, so we are therefore standing down the July Performance board and are now including Maternity into the IQPD meetings, JET meetings and then the Quality Delivery Boards as of now.

We will conclude the performance meetings with one last self -assessment exercise in July, ready to be shared with the NHS Executive to be able to progress their oversight. We will provide details of this process in the coming weeks.

Service pressures and closures

I recognise that during the course of the pandemic maternity has continued to provide an essential service, however in recent months staffing pressures have escalated and you have needed to consolidate services to continue to provide safe and effective care. On discussing

this with my Chief Midwifery Officer we feel it would be proactive to work with your Heads / Directors of Midwifery to scope future service provision and workforce requirements in relation to current vacancies, student graduates and ability to provide choice in place of birth across various settings. A meeting has been arranged for 30 May 2022, with HEIW and health board representatives to discuss these issues and provide recommendations for discussion and agreement at EDoNs.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Rankin'.

**CHIEF NURSING OFFICER
NURSE DIRECTOR NHS WALES
PRIF SWYDDOG NYRSIO
CYFARWYDDWR NYRS GIG CYMRU**