



Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust

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Our Ref: AD/JN/KW

26th April 2017

Penny Griffiths,

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Email to:

Dear Ms Griffiths,

Thank you for your email dated 8th March 2017, in which you request more information about how the National Maternity Review and Better Births Report fits into our work.

I can confirm that the Better Births Report forms the Trust's maternity strategy and we have undertaken a gap analysis to measure our performance against the vision outlined in the report. We are monitoring our progress on this in collaboration with the South West Clinical Network for Children and Maternity Services and also our clinical commissioning group (NHS Northern, Eastern and Western Devon CCG), who support us through detailed commissioning specifications.

We do have both expert and patient representation at the meetings which are taking place as part of the review of acute services across Devon. The directors or heads of midwifery of each of the four NHS trusts within the STP (Sustainability and Transformation Partnership) have been present, along with representation from the Royal College of Midwifery and recent service users. The focus of the discussions at these meetings has been clinical care, quality of care and the safety of mothers and babies, and therefore the discussions have been entirely clinically led by senior midwives and consultant obstetricians.

In addition, NHS NEW Devon CCG has recently appointed to the role of lead nurse for quality assurance and the lead nurse has been assigned to the maternity worksteam of the acute services review. The lead nurse recently held a senior midwifery post at NDHT and represented the Five Year Forward View from a commissioning quality and safety perspective.

You have asked for more information about the mandatory national maternity tariff, which was set in 2012/13 by the Department of Health for all maternity services in England. I have attached some background details from the Department of Health which explain why this was introduced.

I am proud to say that we have a fully functioning perinatal mental health service in North Devon, run by our partners, Devon Partnership NHS Trust, as commissioned by the CCG in 2013. We have expanded our services recently based upon the success of detection and treatment of perinatal mental health in North Devon and we now provide a fully integrated inpatient and outpatient service, with provision up to four month postnatal. Our team has just won a national award for their continued success and excellence for improved outcomes.

I do hope this helps to answer your questions.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alison Diamond". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Dr Alison Diamond
Chief Executive