

Maternity Oversight Meeting Monday 11 March 2019

1. Attendance

The Chair raised concerns regarding the lack of attendance at the meeting and noted that the group wasn't quorate therefore any formal decisions to be made would be escalated for ratification by Trust Board. It was also noted that a number of papers had not been circulated prior to the meeting. Members were reminded of the importance of the meeting as a Tier 2 committee and the requirement to provide papers to administration support six working days prior to future meetings. It was noted that future meeting times have been rescheduled and the meetings moved to PRH to facilitate improved attendance.

Assurance Level: N/A

2. Imagined Future

The first vision building meeting 'Your vision – the Future of Maternity Services' was held with a wide range of staff members on 26 February 2019. Two further similar meetings are planned. Within the Quality Improvement Plan the timescale for delivery of a final 'Imagined Future' has been cited as September 2019 with a draft proposal provided to this group in May 2019.

Assurance Level: Low

3. Maternity 3 year plan

The 3 year business case for additional staffing to ensure minimum safe staffing levels in line with Birthrate Plus remains in draft format awaiting finalisation of financial assumptions and has not yet been submitted for consideration as part of the 2019/20 planning round. Although the recruitment of 10 additional midwives is in progress with successful appointment to a number of the posts, low staff morale and further vacancies mean that staffing levels have been escalated as a high risk.

Assurance Level: Low

4. MLU Culture

The Care Group have been taking action to improve the culture within Wrekin MLU, which is being well received and it is planned that the cultural improvement measures will go on to be rolled out across the whole of Maternity Services. Following a recent Trust Board walkabout, two meetings have been held with staff on Wrekin MLU to address issues raised, the majority of which have now been resolved fully. The visibility of Head of Midwifery and Director of Nursing, Midwifery & Quality has improved and regular staff engagement meetings are being scheduled.

Assurance Level: Moderate

5. Head of Midwifery

The committee wished to highlight the high level of risk to Maternity services in relation to senior nursing leadership. Sarah Jamieson, Head of Midwifery will be leaving the Trust with plans regarding interim cover yet to be finalised. In addition the Director of Nursing, Midwifery & Quality and Deputy Director of Nursing will also be leaving the Trust within the coming months.

Assurance Level: Insufficient

*Mandy Edwards
NED/Deputy Chairman for the meeting
11 March 2019*