

### **Action taken since the publication of the first Ockenden Report**

- Following the publication of the first Ockenden Report in December 2020, we have been focussed on implementing the actions set out within that report as part of our wider commitment to deliver our Maternity Transformation Programme.
- There were 52 actions (both SaTH specific and for Trusts across the NHS) contained in the first report. We have now delivered on every action on which we were asked to lead.
- In total, 86% of total actions are completed, with the remaining actions on track for delivery, dependent on other organisations.
- We have implemented a rigorous, thorough, and executive-led set of governance and assurance processes to test and ensure that actions have been delivered, can be evidenced, and are working as they should be.
- Progress against actions is reviewed and scrutinised at our monthly Ockenden Report Assurance Committee, which is independently chaired, live-streamed to the public, and includes full participation from relevant external stakeholders to maximise openness and transparency.
- Building on the additional funding the Trust has received, some of the specific improvements made through the implementation of these actions include:
  - Significant additional recruitment which means the midwifery establishment is now funded to the latest Birthrate Plus national standard. This includes:
    - Additional 29 WTE Midwives
    - Two additional sonographer midwives
    - Two new specialist foetal monitoring lead midwives alongside a lead consultant to focus and champion best practise in foetal monitoring
    - The Trust's first Consultant Midwife, focusing on maternity pathways
    - A new Director of Nursing & Director of Midwifery, as well as an additional Deputy of Director of Midwifery, focused on quality and safety
  - Eight new consultant obstetricians giving the Trust 24/7 resident senior doctor presence on our maternity wards – one of the only Trusts in the country to have this staff level of staffing
  - Improvement partnerships with University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust and, specifically in relation to maternity, Sherwood Forest NHS Trust
  - A strong focus on listening to women and families, including a close relationship with our Maternity Voices Partnership and joint working on initiatives such as the User Experience system – a way for those we care for to provide feedback, which then shapes improvements and developments in our Maternity Services – and a visual birth preferences card produced to enable women to easily identify and communicate their birth preferences

- Improved management of birth options for women and associated risk management, including the introduction of birth option clinics and a review of birthing plans at every contact, a named consultant for 'high risk' pregnancies, and a 100 midwives and doctors undertaking extended training to manage women with complex pregnancies
  - Significant investment in staff training, including improved and more regular multidisciplinary training and a strong focus on CTG (Electronic Foetal Monitoring) training
- We are very clear that there is more that still needs to be done to improve the care that we provide, and we are committed to approach any new actions set out in Donna Ockenden's second report with the focus and we resolve brought to the initial recommendations.
  - The improvements made in our maternity services have been recognised by our regulator, the Care Quality Commission (CQC), as well as those using our services.
  - Following its inspection of the Trust last year, the CQC highlighted in its report (Nov '21) *"outstanding practice"* in Maternity Services and set out how maternity staff *"showed immense levels of resilience as they were able to continue to provide high levels of care to women and babies and maintained a positive and caring attitude during extremely challenging circumstances."*
  - Additionally, the latest CQC Maternity Patient survey – which is based on direct feedback from those who receive care at the Trust – showed SaTH was one of only seven Trusts, out of the 122 in the survey, which was performing at a "better than expected" level. This means that the proportion of women who answered positively to questions about the care they received at the Trust during labour and birth was significantly higher than the average for the other Trusts in the survey.