

Board of Directors' Meeting: 10 August 2023

Agenda item	093/23a		
Report Title	Ockenden Report Assurance Committee 30 May 2023 – Co-Chairs' Summary Highlight Report		
Executive Lead	Director of Governance		
Report Author	Keith Haynes, Independent Governance Consultant		
CQC Domain:	Link to Strategic Goal:		Link to BAF / risk:
Safe	√	Our patients and community	BAF1, BAF4
Effective	√	Our people	
Caring	√	Our service delivery	Trust Risk Register id: 970, 1083, 1930, 2027, 2065
Responsive	√	Our governance	
Well Led	√	Our partners	
Consultation Communication	N/A		
Executive summary:	<p>The twentieth meeting of the Ockenden Report Assurance Committee was held on 30 May 2023 and was livestreamed in public. This brief report provides a summary of key points/issues that were discussed at the meeting and highlights any matters the Co-Chairs wish to draw specifically to the attention of the Board of Directors.</p>		
Recommendations for the Board:	<p>The Board is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note the contents of the report. 		
Appendices:	None.		

Ockenden Report Assurance Committee

30 May 2023

Co-Chairs' Summary Highlight Report

1. The twentieth meeting of the Ockenden Report Assurance Committee was held on 30 May 2023 and was livestreamed in public.
2. This brief report provides a summary of the key themes discussed and highlights any particular matters which the Co-Chairs feel should be drawn to the attention of the Board of Directors. Ms Maxine Mawhinney chaired the meeting on this occasion.
3. Following our agreed approach to review progress of the implementation of the Ockenden Reports actions and to focus on a service improvement area arising out of the report actions, we heard from Ms Kim Williams (Deputy Director of Midwifery) on progress in implementing actions from the first and final Ockenden Reports. We also had a detailed presentation from Ms Carol McInnes (Divisional Director of Operations) and Ms Sarah Whitehead (Antenatal and Postnatal Manager) about Postnatal Care. Finally, we also had an update on the very successful Maternity Open Day which had been held on Saturday 13 May.
4. **Progress Update in implementing the actions from the Ockenden Reports**

Ms Williams provided an update on the position of the 210 Ockenden Report actions. She confirmed that from the combined Ockenden reports, 172 of the total 210 actions (82%) had now been implemented, comprising 148 actions (70%) that have been 'evidenced and assured' and 24 (11%) 'delivered and not yet evidenced'. Of the 38 actions not yet delivered, five remain from the first report and 33 from the final report; all of these are in progress and ten of the 'not yet delivered' actions have been 'de-scoped'. Ms Williams also provided an update on delivery status of the actions following the May meeting of the Maternity Transformation Assurance Committee (MTAC).

By individual Ockenden Report, Ms Williams confirmed that for the First Ockenden Report 47/52 actions have been implemented (90% overall) with 43 actions 'evidenced and assured', 4 'delivered, not yet evidenced' and 5 actions 'not yet delivered' including one 'de-scoped' action (IEA 2.4). For the Final Report, Ms Williams confirmed that 125/158 actions have been implemented (79% overall) with 105 actions 'evidenced and assured', 20 actions 'delivered, not yet evidenced' and 33 actions 'not yet delivered' including 9 'de-scoped' actions.

5. Ockenden Theme – Postnatal Care

Ms McInnes and Ms Whitehead gave a detailed presentation on the improvement work being undertaken in relation to postnatal care. As a reminder, the Ockenden Reports called out some specific actions and standards in relation to postnatal care including the need for all Trusts to ensure consultant review of all postnatal readmissions and unwell postnatal women (IEA 12.1). It was noted that this action was evidenced and assured.

The range of postnatal services available was described and, in particular, the role of services in the community. We heard about a range of improvements being made in postnatal care and specifically the role of 'Maternity Support Workers'. The Maternity Support Worker (MSW) is a member of staff providing support to the Trust's maternity teams and their families on the postnatal ward and in community settings. They undertake specific duties for which registration is not required under the direction and supervision of a registered midwife, providing valuable support and complementing the care given by the midwifery team to women and families. We learnt that the role was introduced in the Trust in 2021 when 15 Band 2 Women Service Assistants who already possessed the required skills and qualifications were recruited into the Band 3 Maternity Support Worker role and given six months on the job training. Six other Women Support Assistants were also supported to complete the MSW apprenticeship programme through Birmingham City University.

We also heard about developments in the pelvic health service and the role that 15 Steps had played in improving environmental issues in the postnatal ward.

6. Maternity Open Day – 13 May 2023

Ms McInnes provided an update on the very successful Maternity Open Day. Recognising the importance of regaining the confidence of the communities we serve, the Open Day provided an opportunity for the local community to attend the unit to meet the team and ask any questions relating to their care and experience first-hand. This also provided an opportunity for the team to share and discuss the many improvements the Trust has been making to care and services over the last few years.

There were several stalls available on the day, offering information on a range of subjects such as antenatal and postnatal care, labour and birth, community services, smoking cessation, maternity 'Badgernotes', maternity voices partnership (MVP), perinatal pelvic health and birth reflection services.

More than 150 people attended the day. There was such interest in the hospital tours that staff needed to increase the number of tours and/or increase the numbers in the group.

Initial feedback from the day has been overwhelmingly positive. The Trust has an ongoing post on its maternity Facebook page, and via the MVP team, inviting feedback and ideas for improvements for the next open day.

7. Discussion and Reflection

In discussion there were several issues that it was felt should be specifically drawn to the attention of the Board of Directors, as follows:

- The success and very positive feedback received following the Maternity Open Day on 13 May. The Maternity team should be congratulated for taking and making this positive initiative such a success. They should be encouraged to hold further similar events.
- The valuable Maternity Support Worker role that has been developed since 2021. It was heart-warming and encouraging to hear such positive feedback from our registered midwives and women about the contribution of the role.
- Following a discussion in the meeting, we were made aware of the ongoing work to ensure that sustainable funding is identified to support the next stages of the important maternity service improvement work. Having previously acknowledged the momentum of the service improvement work that is underway, the Committee wished to wholeheartedly support and commend the initiatives to ensuring future sustainable funding.

8. Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting is Tuesday 27 June 2023 at 2.30pm (livestreamed).

**Ms Maxine Mawhinney & Dr Catriona McMahon
Co-Chairs, Ockenden Report Assurance Committee
7 June 2023.**

