

To: NHS Trust and Foundation Trust Chief Executives

NHS England and NHS Improvement
Skipton House
80 London Road
London
SE1 6LH

cc. Trust Chairs and Directors of Nursing
ICS, CCG, LMS Leaders,
Regional Directors,
Regional Chief Nurses,
Regional Chief Midwives,
and Regional Obstetricians

25 January 2022

Dear colleagues,

Ockenden review of maternity services – one year on

Thank you for all your efforts in response to the [Emerging Findings and Recommendations from the Independent Review of Maternity Services at the Shrewsbury and Telford Hospitals NHS Trust](#) published in December 2020, and for your continued focus on the Immediate and Essential Actions (IEAs) despite the sustained pressure on your services throughout the pandemic. As well as ensuring progress continues, we need to prepare for the publication of further reports into maternity services during 2022.

The national response to the Ockenden report included a £95.6M investment into maternity services across England including funding for:

- 1200 additional midwifery roles,
- 100 wte equivalent consultant obstetricians,
- backfill for MDT training
- International recruitment programme for midwives
- Support to the recruitment and retention of maternity support workers

In our letter of [14 December 2020](#), we asked you to use the [Assurance Assessment Tool](#), which includes the recommendations from the Morecambe Bay investigation report and the Ockenden report, to support a discussion at your trust public Board. One year on, we are asking that you again discuss progress at your public Board before the end of March 2022.

We expect the discussion to cover:

- Progress with implementation of the 7 IEAs outlined in the Ockenden report and the plan to ensure full compliance,
- Maternity services workforce plans,

Ensuring local system oversight of maternity services was a key element in the Ockenden review and therefore you should ensure progress is shared and discussed with your LMS and ICS. Progress must also be reported to your regional maternity team by 15 April 2022.

As you will no doubt agree, women and families using our maternity services deserve the best of NHS care. We recognise the huge efforts being made across the system and thank you for your continued commitment and support in driving the improvements required.

Yours faithfully



Sir David Sloman
Chief Operating Officer
NHS England and NHS Improvement



Ruth May
Chief Nursing Officer, England
NHS England and NHS Improvement