Next Steps on Maternity Safety

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The challenge

• **England is a safe place to have a baby.** Maternity services in England are safe and high quality, and outcomes are improving. The stillbirth and neonatal mortality rates fell by 12% and 10% respectively between 2010 and 2015.

• However, evidence shows **there is more we can do:**
  • in 2015, the UK was ranked **24th out of 49** high-income countries for stillbirth rates.
  • our annual **rate of stillbirth reduction of 1.4% is much slower** than many other countries.
  • Over half of all term antepartum stillbirths had at least 1 element of **care that required improvement** and may have made a difference to the outcome.
  • **perinatal mental illness is one of the leading causes of death for mothers** during pregnancy and the year after birth. Between 10 and 20% of women develop a mental illness during pregnancy or within the first year.
What are we doing to meet the challenge?

National Maternity Ambition

In November 2015, a new ambition was announced to reduce the rate of stillbirths, neonatal and maternal deaths, and brain injuries occurring during or soon after birth by 50% by 2030; and 20% by 2020.

Maternity Transformation Programme

A cross-system programme set up to implement the vision set out in the National Maternity Review. DH is leading workstream 2 ‘Promoting good practice for safer care’.
The Maternity Safety Action Plan: key elements

**Movement building**

- **A common goal**
- **Build leaders**
- **Mobilise resources**
- **Give ownership**
- **Freedom to be creative**
- **Bring people on board**
- **Data and analytics**
- **Measure progress**

**Maternity Safety Action Plan**

- The appointment of Matthew Jolly and Jacqueline Dunkley-Bent as national maternity safety champions, and board-level champions in every Trust.
- New money for a multi-disciplinary training fund, taking the total available to £8m. Applications are open now, from HEE’s website.
- A new National Maternal and Neonatal Health Quality Improvement Programme to support maternity units to plan and implement concrete improvements.
- A new Maternity and Neonatal Safety Innovation Fund of £250,000.
- ‘Our Chance’ campaign, a public-facing communications campaign developed in partnership with Sands and Best Beginnings.
- All trusts will be mandated to submit data to the Maternity Services Dataset by 2018 and we welcome those who are already fast tracking this to achieve it earlier.
- The CCG IAF Maternity Indicators will measure progress in local areas and identify which areas have most scope for improvement.
Rapid Resolution and Redress

• Proposed system of learning and access to support and compensation for families who experience severe avoidable birth injury. It would provide an alternative to litigation for these complex and high value claims.

Three key objectives

Reducing the harm that occurs during labour • Improving the experience for families and clinicians when harm has occurred • Reducing the overall costs

• RRR is being developed in two stages:
  • **Stage One** will provide consistent and improved early investigations combined with improved learning and clinical practice;
  • **Stage Two** will provide an administrative compensation scheme as an alternative to litigation.
• International evidence indicates incidents of harm can be reduced by 18%-50%.

Next steps: we are preparing for consultation and hope to launch this before the end of the calendar year.
NHS England Saving Babies’ Lives care bundle

- NHS England are delivering the Saving Babies’ Lives care bundle, which is part of the ‘promoting good practice for safer care’ workstream.

- The care bundle focuses on four elements identified by experts as contributing to stillbirth rates and thought to be amenable to improvement:
  1. Reducing smoking in pregnancy;
  2. Detecting fetal growth restriction;
  3. Raising awareness of reduced fetal movement;
  4. Improving effective fetal monitoring during labour.

- Currently there are 49 early implementation and testing sites, partially or fully implementing the elements of the care bundle.

- An evaluation is being carried out and will inform the further development of the care bundle.
Any questions?

Form

Maternity safety innovation fund: application form

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Application form for NHS trusts and foundation trusts to apply for funding for innovative projects to improve their maternity services.


Maternity safety training funding

Health Education England (HEE) has announced plans to distribute £8 million across the country to support the vision of making NHS maternity services among the safest in the world.

hee.nhs.uk/our-work/developing-our-workforce/maternity-safety-training-funding