

## Cover Sheet

Trust Board Meeting in Public: Wednesday 9 November 2022

TB2022.096

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**Title:** Independent Investigation into East Kent Maternity and Neonatal Services

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**Status:** For Information

**History:** New paper

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**Board Lead:** Chief Nursing Officer

**Author:** Sam Foster, Chief Nursing Officer

**Confidential:** No

**Key Purpose:** Assurance

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## Executive Summary

1. This high-level summary of the Kirkup Report is for information and asks the Board to receive it as outlined in a letter from NHSE CNO, CMO, & COO. NHSE expect every Trust and ICB to review the findings of this report at its next public board meeting, and for boards to be clear about the action they will take, and how effective assurance mechanisms are at 'reading the signals'. [NHSE in a letter published on 20 October 2022](#)
2. [The Kirkup Report](#) is the latest Independent Inquiry into suboptimal maternity care in the United Kingdom. This follows Morecombe Bay investigation in 2015 and the Ockenden review (Shrewsbury and Telford 2020/2021). A further investigation led by Donna Ockenden into Nottingham maternity services is anticipated. Despite significant policy changes and investment, similar areas of concern run through all these reports.
3. Reviewers in the named reports referenced identified some failures and opportunities for improvement that required immediate and essential action or consideration on the part of all providers. The Kirkup, or East Kent Report outlines four areas for action:
  - To get better at identifying poorly performing units
  - Giving care with compassion and kindness
  - Teamworking with a common purpose
  - Responding to challenge with honesty
4. As part of our commitment to the delivery of high-quality care, under the umbrella of compassionate excellence, the Trust actively engages with staff and stakeholders. The trust has undertaken a range of assessment activities against the national reports and regulatory requirements such as [Ockenden](#), [Morecombe Bay](#), [CQC](#) and [Maternity Incentive Scheme](#); with concurrent consideration being given to East Kent findings and recommendations. The outcomes of these activities and associated learning have provided and will continue to provide reports for assurance evidence to the Trust Board, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire Local Maternity and Neonatal services (BOB LMNS), Health Oversight Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) and Care Quality Commission (CQC) as our regulators, regarding our current position that informs our single delivery plan for local maternity and neonatal services.
5. In 2021 OUH commissioned a two phased external review into culture and leadership of maternity and Neonatal services through an independent expert company, Ibex Gale. The Maternity report was received by the board in May 2022. The review of Neonatal services was received by the trust in October 2022 The response of the Trust has been to implement the Maternity Development Programme (MDP). The Neonatal programme is currently under development. The improvement activities for the Maternity & Neonatal Development Programme will

form part of the OUH assurance evidence required for the forthcoming NHSE single delivery plan.

### **Recommendations**

6. The Trust Board is asked to:

- receive The East Kent Report,
- to note that the findings of the East Kent report and any local actions required will be presented for discussion at the planned Board Seminar session on 30<sup>th</sup> November.