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Health Board



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| <b>Meeting Date</b>             | <b>31 January 2024</b>   | <b>Agenda Item</b>                  | <b>2.4</b>                          |
| <b>Report Title</b>             | <b>Maternity &amp; Neonatal Independent Review Update Report</b>   |                                     |                                     |
| <b>Report Author</b>            | SBUHB Officer 3 redaction s40(2)   |                                     |                                     |
| <b>Report Sponsor</b>           | SBUHB Officer 3redaction s40(2)<br>SBUHB Officer 2redaction s40(2)   |                                     |                                     |
| <b>Presented by</b>             | SBUHB Officer 3redaction s40(2)<br>SBUHB Officer 2redaction s40(2)   |                                     |                                     |
| <b>Freedom of Information</b>   | Open   |                                     |                                     |
| <b>Purpose of the Report</b>    | The purpose of the paper is to provide the Board with an update on progress to commence an external review of maternity and neonatal services.   |                                     |                                     |
| <b>Key Issues</b>               | <p>Key issues include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In December 2023 we announced an Independent Review into Maternity and Neonatal Services, presenting an opportunity to assure ourselves and stakeholders about the quality and safety of our services and to implement any necessary improvements;</li> <li>• The Review will consider three areas, each led by relevant independent experts: clinical outcomes; patient and staff experience; and leadership and governance.</li> <li>• The Independent Review will involve a comprehensive engagement process with service users who will have the opportunity to input and provide details of their own experiences.</li> <li>• The patient and staff voice is an important part of the overall process and the Health Board is committed to ensuring it is heard.</li> <li>• The Chair to the Oversight Panel has been appointed, Margaret Bowron KC.</li> <li>• Oversight Panel Chair is now in the process of appointing panel members.</li> </ul> |                                     |                                     |
| <b>Specific Action Required</b> | <b>Information</b>   | <b>Discussion</b>                   | <b>Assurance</b>                    |
|                                 | <input type="checkbox"/>   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|                                 |  |                                     | <b>Approval</b>                     |
|                                 |  |                                     | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

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| <i>(please choose one only)</i> |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Recommendations</b>          | <p>Members are asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>NOTE</b> the progress made towards commencement of the external review and appointment of the Oversight Panel Chair; and</li> <li>• <b>APPROVE</b> regular updates to be submitted to Board on progress and key milestones and findings.</li> </ul> |  |  |  |

# **Maternity & Neonatal Independent Review Update Report**

## **1. Introduction**

The purpose of the paper is to provide the Board with an update on progress to commence an external review of maternity and neonatal services.

## **2. Background**

Over the past few years, there have been several reviews of maternity services, both internal and external. Each of these reviews has reflected favourably on dedication of our staff, the culture and approach to patient safety and learning within the service but we acknowledge there is more to do. This is reflected in the comprehensive improvement plan which aims to address the issues identified in the recent HIW inspection. The safety of our mothers and babies remains our paramount concern and therefore whilst the Health Board is confident that the service is a good one with a strong safety culture, we continue to look at ways to improve the quality of the care provided. To this end in December 2023 we announced an Independent Review into Maternity and Neonatal Services. This presents an opportunity to assure ourselves and stakeholders about the quality and safety of our services and to implement any necessary improvements, thereby maintaining confidence in the services and learning any lessons that might be identified.

## **3. Present Position**

Today we are pleased to provide an update on the work that is a necessary precursor to the work of the Review commencing, including the appointment of a Chair to the Oversight Panel, Margaret Bowron KC.

The Review will consider three areas, each led by relevant independent experts:

- Clinical outcomes;
- Patient and staff experience; and
- Leadership and governance.

An expert and experienced team of maternity and neonatal clinicians from outside Wales have already been appointed to carry out the review of clinical cases and feedback to the engagement process.

At the heart will be an in-depth analysis of the mortality figures published as part of the MBRRACE (Mothers and Babies: Reducing Risk through Audits and Confidential Enquiries across the UK) report for 2021 as well as their 2022 report that is expected to be published soon. Preliminary internal data for 2023 will also be reviewed and triangulated with health board data.

Users of Swansea Bay's maternity and neonatal services will be invited to share their experiences as part of the review as will staff within the service. This element of the review will be led by an independent Patient Engagement Lead.

Finally, external experts on leadership and governance will review how the service is run and how it reports to the wider health board.

The Independent Review will involve a comprehensive engagement process with service users who will have the opportunity to input and provide details of their own experiences as per the draft Terms of Reference.

The patient voice is an important part of the overall process and the Health Board is committed to ensuring it is heard. Information on how this will be facilitated will be provided once the Oversight Panel and review teams are fully established.

The progress of the Independent Review will be overseen by an Oversight Panel. The appointed Chair (Margaret Bowron KC) is independent of, and unconnected to, the Health Board. The Oversight Panel will also have a role when the Review concludes and will be part of the oversight process to ensure that appropriate plans are put in place by the Health Board to address the Review's findings, reporting back directly to formal Health Board meetings.

The members of the Independent Oversight Panel will be appointed by the Chair of the Oversight Panel, not the Health Board, and will include an independent patient representative body to ensure patient voices are heard within this forum. We will be announcing the makeup of the Oversight Panel shortly and information on how individuals can provide information / feed-in to the engagement process will be provided thereafter.

The draft terms of reference for the Review have been drafted by the Health Board and made available to the public, but importantly will be reviewed and revised as necessary by the Chair of the Oversight Panel (in conjunction with the other members of the Panel).

For clarity, the appointment of the external Review team and the establishment of the Independent Oversight Panel are precursors to the patient engagement outlined above.

It is important that we in the Health Board and all its staff fully support the Independent Review and the work of the Oversight Panel, ensuring information is provided when requested and support given to work undertaken, but it is equally important that we support the Review team and Oversight Panel's independence so that we can learn everything we can from their expertise to improve our services for the people we serve.

#### 4. RECOMMENDATION

Members are asked to:

- **NOTE** the progress made towards commencement of the external review and appointment of the Oversight Panel Chair; and
- **APPROVE** regular updates to be submitted to Board on progress and key milestones and findings.