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Sent: 25 June 2024 09:57

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Subject: Urgent - Official sensitive: Informal briefing on Swansea Bay UHB Independent review of maternity and neonatal services oversight panel

You will wish to be aware that at 10am this morning Swansea Bay UHB are announcing a new interim chair of the oversight panel for the Independent review of maternity and neonatal services in Swansea.

We understand that at the end of last week the chair Margaret Bowron, informed the health board she was standing down with immediate effect citing her belief that her presence had become an unwelcome distraction from the work of the review. The health board have acted swiftly with the oversight panel and appointed Dr Denise Chaffer on an interim basis, whilst a substantive appointment process is undertaken.

Dr Denise Chaffer is a highly experienced midwife and existing member of the panel overseeing the review. Her appointment has been made to ensure the oversight panel can continue to make decisions and discharge its responsibilities until the role is appointed to on a substantive basis.

The oversight panel is an additional tier of governance and its role is to undertake an ongoing assurance process and to provide independent scrutiny to ensure the Review is completed in line with its Terms of Reference. The Review comes in three parts: a review of clinical outcomes, a review of patient and staff experience and a review of leadership and governance. The Review is supported by an engagement lead who will ensure that service user and staff voices are heard throughout the review process.

The Oversight Panel is beginning the next phase of its work following the publication on 12 June of revised Terms of Reference which were strengthened following the input of service users and staff during an extended listening period.

The health board have assured us this will not affect the review which has now commenced and will gather pace over the next few weeks.

Dr Chaffer is an Executive Clinical Nursing / Maternity Patient Safety Leader with over 15 years Executive Director Board Level Experience. This includes working for Providers, Commissioners, two Acute Trusts, a London Teaching Hospital and a recent national role for Patient Safety. She was also a Director Lead for the Early Notification Scheme (ENS) in maternity and the Clinical Negligence Scheme for Trusts (CNST) maternity incentive scheme. Previously Dr Chaffer was the President of Royal College of Nursing (RCN) from July 2021 to December 2022.

A copy of the press notice including the resignation letter is attached for your information and a link to the revised terms of reference can be found below:

External Independent Review of Maternity and Neonatal Services of Swansea Bay University Health Board: Terms of Reference - Swansea Bay University Health Board (nhs.wales)

Lines to take:

- We are aware that Margaret Bowron has resigned as Chair of the oversight panel for independent review of maternity and neonatal services in Swansea and note the appointment of Dr Denise Chaffer as interim chair.
- They have acted swiftly to appoint an interim chair to ensure there is continuity and no delay enabling the oversight panel to continue its role.

Happy to discuss

Many thanks

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Y Grŵp Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol - Health and Social Services Group

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