

HEALTH, SOCIAL CARE AND EARLY YEARS BRIEF FOR TREFNYDD – 24 SEPTEMBER 2024

1. INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF MATERNITY AND NEONATAL SERVICES IN SWANSEA BAY UHB

- There is considerable focus and oversight on the maternity and neonatal services in the health board and we have oversight of the current service which has been reinforced by the appointment of a new Director for the service.
- The decision to reopen the home birth centre is welcome and is already being used within the first birth within 24 hours of reopening.
- The health board has commissioned an independent review to assess the quality and safety of its maternity and neonatal services, and the terms of reference for the review have been published on the health board website, following a listening period with families and staff.
- Dr Denise Chaffer is a highly experienced midwife, and her appointment as interim Chair ensures the oversight panel can make decisions and discharge its responsibilities in line with the published terms of reference.
- The best way to examine the service and ensure that appropriate plans can be put in place is through the independent review into maternity services commissioned by the health board.
- The independent review has been commissioned by the health board to ensure that there is an in-depth analysis of maternity and neonatal services, including complaints, incidents, family feedback, and patient case note reviews. The review will look at clinical and governance issues coupled with families' experiences to ensure any systemic lessons are identified. Service users and families' experiences are key to the independent review commissioned by the health board and we encourage them to try and find a way to work with the review team.

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