

Safe & compassionate care,

every time



Buckinghamshire Healthcare
NHS Trust

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Jenny Hughes
Regional Chief Midwife South East
NHS England & Improvement

Monday 15 February 2021

Dear Jenny

Further to our letter of 18 December 2020 in response to the publication of the Ockenden Review, I am writing as requested to provide assurance regarding:

- the Trust Assurance Assessment Tool; and
- our plan for implementation of the Birthrate Plus (BR+) standard

Please find appended a copy of our Trust Assurance Assessment Tool which was reviewed by Trust Board in Public on Wednesday 27 January 2021. Through this exercise we have identified some gaps in assurance at national, local maternity system and organisational level; plans are in place to address these, several of which are due to be completed by 31 March 2021.

We can confirm that a midwifery acuity review using the Birthrate Plus standard has been undertaken and presented to the Executive Management Committee prior to 31 January 2021. The timescale for implementation is financial year 2021/22. Please find appended a copy of this review.

In your letter of 11 January 2021 you also provided additional guidance regarding Immediate and Essential Action 2 – Listening to Women and Families. We look forward to receiving further information and guidance on this including the package for standard JD, training and principles for establishing a network.

We confirm that this response has been reviewed and signed off by Dipti Amin, Trust Non-Executive Director and Maternity Champion Board Lead, and Debbie Simmons, Chair of the Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire & Berkshire West LMS.

Your sincerely

Neil Macdonald
Chief Executive
Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust

Appendix 1: Assurance Assessment Tool

Appendix 2: Midwifery acuity dependency review against Birthrate Plus standard

CC: Hattie Llewelyn-Davies, Chair, BHT
Dipti Amin, Non-Executive Director and Maternity Champion Board Lead, BHT
Karen Bonner, Chief Nurse, BHT
Heidi Beddall, Head of Midwifery, BHT
Debbie Simmons, Chair BOB LMS
James Kent, Accountable Officer, BOB ICS
Sue Manthorpe, Director for Governance, BHT
David Williams, Deputy Director Quality, Buckinghamshire CCG
Fiona Dite, Co-Chair Bucks Maternity Voices Partnership
Helen Discombe, Co-Chair Bucks Maternity Voices Partnership
Aparna Reddy, SDU Lead, Obs and Gynae, BHT
Ian Currie, Divisional Chair, Women and Children, BHT
Ed MacFarlane, Divisional Director, BHT
Dan Gibbs, Chief Operating Officer, BHT
Tina Kenny, Medical Director, BHT
Lisa Cook, Care Quality Commission