

Context Paper for Dr Gray's Hospital Safety Review Report

NHS Grampian is in receipt of an invited externally led review of Maternity services at Dr Gray's Hospital in Elgin. The Board has accepted its recommendations, and further work is now underway to fully understand the findings and determine the future safe and sustainable model of maternity services. It is noted that the report found no evidence of harm, but recommended further steps be taken to confirm this.

This report was received by NHS Grampian in November 2019. There are three main themes identified in this report, relating to: culture, behaviours and attitudes; the hybrid model of the service and Governance. Safety concerns relating to the hybrid model and behaviours were identified and addressed prior to receiving the report. Governance systems have now changed and are appropriate. I would like to assure woman, families and the wider community of Moray that maternity services across Grampian deliver excellent care and will continue to do so. The nature of this review and its findings identify that, whilst there are improvements for us to progress with, we have acted to prevent harm.

I would also like to acknowledge how difficult receiving this report has been for a range of people and commend in particular the clinical teams in Moray and Aberdeen Maternity Hospital. The report was shared and discussed with staff and public representatives to allow the time and support necessary to positively move forward. Support will continue and be extended for staff and for women and families who now may have additional concerns and questions.

It is important to note that the context of how maternity services are delivered has changed over recent years. Additional scrutiny of maternity services across the UK have identified key learning that has resulted in an understanding that previously acceptable delivery models do not meet standards and expectations of safe maternity services. This has resulted in updated guidelines from professional clinical bodies, and in tandem with new health and care staffing legislation requires us to think differently.

The impact on staff has been significant and far-reaching and I would like to commend the positive and forward-looking response, not only from Dr Gray's maternity unit, but in the wider hospital staff who all rightly recognise their hospital as part of the community. The teams at Aberdeen Maternity Hospital have also been providing additional support and will continue to do so. We must also thank the maternity team at Raigmore for their support too. In acting to stabilise the service we will ensure that any further service transition is fully risk assessed, and understood in terms of safety implications

Part of the very reasonable response we have seen from the Dr Gray's teams has been in the way that local clinicians have stepped forward to undertake leadership roles and focus on building relationships, so from that perspective work is already underway to address what the report highlights. Our staff groups and many in the local community want to move forward positively to achieve our main focus of delivering services as locally as possible. We all want Dr Gray's and Elgin to be seen and acknowledged as a fantastic place to work and live.

STAFF

A confidential Staff Helpline has been set up should any staff members have issues or concerns that they wish to raise – tel: 01224 556705 – and this will be available to staff week of 24th February 2020 during working hours. Alternatively staff can speak to their line manager.

PUBLIC

If you feel you might have been affected by this we have set up a special telephone number for you to raise any concerns about care. The helpline can be contacted on 01343 567443, and will be manned by Senior Midwifery Staff from 10am to 11am and 2pm to 3pm daily, 7 days per week. The aim of the helpline is to answer any questions you may have about the recent publication of the Dr Gray's maternity review paper. If your call is related to a clinical concern please contact your community midwife directly on the numbers supplied to you by your named midwife. If the call is urgent please contact Ward 3 on 01343 567220