

Annexe – Information provided following the extraordinary LSA review

**Princess Elizabeth Hospital,
Health and Social Services
Department, Guernsey
01–03 October 2014**

Information provided following the extraordinary LSA review on 1-3 October 2014

Following the concerns identified in the extraordinary review, the NMC has engaged extensively with both the LSA (NHS England) and the States of Guernsey (HSSD). This annexe provides information on what we have been told has been or is being put in place to mitigate risks to public protection and improve maternity services in Guernsey.

LSA response

We have been told that the LSA responded to the situation in Guernsey once it was brought to their attention, ensuring that supervisors of midwives had a leave of absence from their role pending a review of their competence. In addition it put in place alternative interim measures to ensure the maintenance of a safe service for women and babies. We also understand that the LSA commissioned reviews to recognise what had happened. The LSA is also instigating the necessary investigations of individual midwives and their practice. Supervisory investigations started on week commencing 20 October 2014 but we do not know the outcome of this.

The LSA is also intending to undertake its own review, to ensure learning from the issues raised in relation to the LSA's management of the situation in Guernsey. It is also looking at the reasons why the LSA audit that was carried out in March 2014 did not ascertain the supervision issues subsequently uncovered.

The NMC has been told about these events from the LSA. The NMC has not yet been able to evaluate the impact of these actions in terms of public protection and compliance with the NMC's midwives rules and standards. In delivering the LSA role, NHS England has informed the NMC that it has done all that it needed to in response to the concerns raised.

The NMC recognises that a number of the measures taken by the LSA are interim and are being carried out in a period of transition.

HSSD response

The HSSD has shared with us a draft action plan, which seeks to address the concerns outlined in the NMC reports. We have provided comment to the HSSD action plan but are not in a position at this stage to assess its impact on improvement of maternity services in Guernsey. We are keen to continue to work collaboratively with HSSD to assess improvements and address the concerns raised in our review.

We understand that the HSSD fully accepts the issues outlined in our report as matters of utmost importance and urgency. We have been told that their priority is

to stabilise the organisation, focus on resource and leadership and actively recruit. HSSD updated us on progress against that recruitment to improve maternity services overall.

We also understand that HSSD is keen and committed to carrying out an independent review of maternity services in the near future.

We have been told that the preceptorship programme that was in draft during the review period has now been implemented.

We remain committed to assessing the impact of the measures and actions HSSD is putting in place and we cannot be confident that these measures will have the desired effect of improving services and protecting the public until that assessment has taken place.

NMC 28 October 2014