

## MEDIA RELEASE

6<sup>th</sup> July 2023

### Families and Donna Ockenden to give their reaction to the NUH Annual Public Meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2023

*Joint media release on behalf of Donna Ockenden and the NUHT Family Group*

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Nottingham University Hospitals Trust is holding its Annual Public Meeting on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2023, 12.00–3.30pm at Nottingham Trent University, City Campus. At this meeting there will be an update on the ongoing independent review and the work the Trust is doing to improve maternity services.

Donna Ockenden and several of the families affected by the failures in maternity care will be present at this meeting to hear what the Trust has to say, however ahead of the meeting the Trust have issued a statement saying that they will be publicly committing to a new honest and transparent relationship with the families whose lives have been affected by maternity failings at the Trust.

At a previous meeting with Trust representatives held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May, families had also called for the Department of Health, NHSE, Mr May and Mr Carver to change the review from 'opt in' to 'opt out'.

The review in Shrewsbury and Telford was opt out and had over 95% of families included. In Nottingham, an 'opt in' approach is currently in place, and there is concern that this methodology is failing to attract a representative number of affected individuals, despite the best efforts of the Chair of the Review, Donna Ockenden, and the wider Review team. An 'opt-out' methodology would ensure that data from people of all ethnicities and deprivation indices could be utilised by the Review, providing a more realistic picture of maternity care at NUH.

Opt in: It means that to take part in the review, individuals must respond to formal letters from NUH to say they will take part in the review. Families who attended the meeting said that when they received their letter, they felt unable to open them as they were so scarred by previous NUH correspondence they had received.

Opt out: The method used in the Shrewsbury and Telford review. Everyone contacted is given information and time to decide if they *do not* want to take part. If they don't want to take part,

they won't be included in the review and families fully support and understand this. If they *do* wish to take part in the review, they will be automatically included, leaving them to do as much or as little as they feel able to. Just giving access to their medical records with out ever needing to speak to the review will give vital information.

The Trust has released an Agenda stipulating that the Maternity Services update will take place between 12.10pm-1.00pm by:

- Nick Carver OBE, Chair
- Anthony May OBE DL, Chief Executive,
- Michelle Rhodes, Chief Nurse, and
- Donna Ockenden, Chair of the Independent review into maternity services

Both Donna Ockenden and the following parents are available for interview after the meeting:

- Dr Jack and Sarah Hawkins
- Gary and Sarah Andrews
- Ama and Sharma Maduako
- Kim Errington
- Natalie Needham

Requests for interview can be made to both:

[NatalieRodgers@scala.uk.com](mailto:NatalieRodgers@scala.uk.com) and [Caitlin@donnaockenden.com](mailto:Caitlin@donnaockenden.com)

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## NOTES TO EDITORS

1. For further information about this release or **to request interviews please contact Natalie Rodgers, Marketing Director: natalierodgers@scala.uk.com / 0114 4070159/ 07881 780608**

