

**Maternity and Neonatal National
Assurance Assessment**
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Maternity and Neonatal Assurance Assessment

Assessment of the Quality & Safety of Maternity & Neo-natal Services Workstream (Desktop Analysis)

Terms of Reference

Oversight Panel Lead: Prof Mary Renfrew

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1. Background

This workstream forms part of a national programme to assess perinatal (maternity and neonatal) services across Wales for assurance purposes. Commissioned by the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Services, the assessment seeks to understand and evidence quality, safety, and the lived experiences of those people accessing perinatal services.

The overall programme covers elements of the National Quality Statement for Maternity and Neonatal Services, ensuring the breadth of perinatal care is included in this assessment. While not every standard is reflected within every workstream, there is effective coverage of available standards across the programme as a whole.

2. Aim

In line with the agreed overarching All Wales Perinatal (Maternity and Neonatal) Assurance Assessment Terms of Reference, this Workstream is responsible for

- Workstream 1: Assessment of the data and evidence related to maternity and neonatal services, and
- Workstream 2: Reviewing previous maternity service reviews from across the UK in the last 10 years.

The aim of this workstream is to establish a clear and comprehensive understanding of the current national maternity and neonatal – perinatal available data to inform the quality and safety of care landscape and assessment.

It will also undertake a thematic assessment of available recommendations as a consequence of inspections, coroner cases, independent assessments, and National learning reports. This will provide a consolidated understanding of existing intelligence, highlighting recurring themes, risks, and strengths across England, Wales and Northern Ireland to ensure learning is maximised and duplication is avoided.

These findings will inform the national assurance assessment by identifying strengths, gaps, and opportunities for improvement.

This will be conducted and concluded in line with the agreed timescales of the independent assessment panel.

This workstream reflects the requirements of the Safe, Effective, Equitable

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and Information Quality Standards (*Health and Care Quality Standards 2023 (WHC/2023/013)*).

3. Scope and Methodology

The following methodology will be applied to the analysis process:

Stage one

Assess **available** maternity and neonatal data to inform the assessment of the quality and safety of perinatal services.

Stage Two

Undertake a desktop thematic review of recommendations from HIW inspections, Regulation 28, national reviews into maternity/neonatal services (England and Wales).

Both stages will be achieved by:

- Document collection and mapping - identification of and collation of relevant national, regional, and local reviews, evaluations, policies, and strategic reports, including workforce data.
- Content analysis - thematic analysis of the aims, recommendations, implementation plans, and reported outcomes from each review to assess alignment, variation, and delivery impact.
- Evidence and data appraisal - assessment of supporting evidence, metrics, and datasets associated with each review to determine the robustness of findings, identify performance trends, and highlight areas with insufficient or absent data.
- Comparative assessment - cross-referencing findings to identify common themes, gaps, duplications, and divergence between reviews and current system priorities.
- Analysis and reporting - The Task & Finish Group will analyse outputs and develop a summary report for the Independent Chair and Oversight Panel, with a completed product during December 2025. To note: It is anticipated the Panel will wish to receive iterative insights at the half-way juncture.

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4. Key Objectives

This will be achieved through delivering the following objectives:

- Gathering **available** National maternity/neonatal data into one agreed set.
- Provide a thematic review of recommendations of previous relevant national and regional perinatal data and maternity reviews (England and Wales), including their stated objectives, recommendations, implementation status, and measurable impact.
- Identify and assess associated evidence, performance metrics, and available data sets to assess effectiveness, identify recurring themes, highlight areas of unmet need or limited progress, and surface any duplication or inconsistency.

5. Workstream Governance

This workstream will report progress to the Assurance Assessment Programme Group via the Operational Workstream Lead, providing regular updates on progress, risks and any issues that require escalation. A RAID (Risks, Assumptions, Issues, Dependencies) approach will be established for the workstream.

The Operational Workstream Lead will also report progress to the Independent Chair and Oversight Panel, via Panel Lead, as agreed by the Senior Responsible Officer (SRO). The Terms of Reference will be approved by the Independent Chair and Oversight Panel.

Any changes to the terms of reference or delivery timeframe will need approval from the Senior Responsible Owner, Oversight Panel Lead and the Independent Chair.

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The workstream will be administratively supported by the NHSPI Quality Safety Assurance Team, to include:

- ✓ Arranging meetings
- ✓ Compiling agendas for the meetings in consultation with the Chair
- ✓ Collecting and preparing documents for the meetings, as required
- ✓ Producing notes, including maintaining an action log
- ✓ Maintaining a Risk & Issues Log
- ✓ Maintaining the Workstream Project Plan

Workstream meetings will be held weekly for 1 hour via MS Teams.

Workstream outputs and progress updates will be reported to the Assurance Assessment Programme Group, prior to consideration by the Panel Lead, and submission to the Independent Chair and Oversight Panel.

6. Budget

There is no requirement for additional budget for this workstream. People delivering the outputs of this workstream have been allocated from NHSP&I.

7. Key Stakeholders

Mapped stakeholders and engagement is part of the wider communication plan.

8. Alignment to Existing Work

- Findings will be shared with workstream leads within the programme to ensure collaboration and alignment via the Assessment Assurance Programme Group
- Findings will feed into the NPNAA report.

9. High-level Timeline

Refer to overall critical path and detailed Gantt chart, that covers workstream delivery timelines.