

Chair of the Maternity and Neonatal Delivery and Programme Board

Job description

The Maternity and Neonatal Delivery and Programme Board are pleased to invite interested individuals to indicate their interest in this high profile role by 9am on the 21st August 2023.

The work of the Maternity Neonatal Programme is overseen by the newly refreshed Maternity and Neonatal Delivery & Programme Board, which brings together key partners across health and care. The Board will provide oversight and direction for the implementation of the recently published [Three Year Delivery Plan for Maternity and Neonatal Services](#) (hereafter referred to as “the plan”), and accountability to NHS England’s Executive Board on progress against it. The plan sets out how the NHS will make maternity and neonatal care safer, more personalised, and more equitable for women, babies, and families in response to the challenges facing the sector, including as set out in the Ockenden and Kirkup reports.

NHS England engaged a wide range of stakeholders throughout the development of this plan. This included women and families who have used or are using maternity and neonatal services, members of the maternity and neonatal workforce, leaders and commissioners of services, NHS systems and regional teams, and representatives from Royal Colleges, charities and other organisations.

There was clear agreement on what the plan’s focus should be, and so for the next three years, services are asked to concentrate on four themes:

1. Listening to and working with women and families, with compassion
2. Growing, retaining, and supporting our workforce
3. Developing and sustaining a culture of safety, learning, and support
4. Standards and structures that underpin safer, more personalised, and more equitable care.

NHS England is now looking to appoint a new chair following a refresh of the programme’s governance structure, which sees the Board take on a role in supporting service recovery following the pandemic and delivering a programme of change as set out in the plan. The Board will meet quarterly and be supported in its functions by three executive committees: the Strategy & Policy Committee, the Programme Delivery Committee, and the Quality, Performance & Surveillance Committee.

The Chair will work alongside the Senior Responsible Officer (SRO), Dame Ruth May, Chief Nursing Officer for England, to represent the programme at the most senior levels of the NHS. You will be responsible for championing maternity and neonatal service improvement and achieving the national safety ambition. In addition, you will advocate on the behalf of maternity and neonatal services across the health sector, and with professional leadership bodies and cross-governmental departments.

As Chair, you will provide advice, scrutiny and constructive challenge to drive the three-year delivery of the Maternity Neonatal Programme, and the wider ambitions for maternity and neonatal care within NHS England.

The Chair will work with the SRO and quadrumvirate (Chief Midwife, National Clinical Director, National Specialty Advisor for Neonatal Care, and Programme Director) to ensure the work of the programme has strong and clear leadership ensuring vital lines of accountability to the aims and objectives of the Three Year Delivery Plan for Maternity and Neonatal Services.

The Board welcomes and values the voices and experiences of service users. As such, the Board includes two Service User Voice Representatives who play a vital role in ensuring that national policy and decision making considers the lived experience of those who use and access maternity and neonatal services. As Chair, you will be responsible for liaising with these Service User Voice Representatives and ensuring that their voices are heard.

The Maternity Neonatal Programme is committed to improving equity and reducing inequalities, as reflected within the Three Year Delivery Plan. Again, hearing the voices of lived experience is highly valuable in this context.

This is a high-profile and strategic role focusing on achieving sustained improvements to outcomes and experience. As such, it requires a chair with:

- extensive experience at the most senior level of the NHS, and
- significant board level experience including providing constructive challenge to improve service user outcomes and experience and reduce inequalities;
- excellent understanding of the NHS operating framework and a background in driving a complex agenda across organisational boundaries;
- strong knowledge of the maternity and/or neonatal sector and wider NHS and governmental context;
- commitment to and a track record of working with service users and empowering them to shape NHS services; and
- a strong track record of partnership working and influencing with a range of stakeholders
- Experience as an NHS trust or ICB CEO providing maternity and neonatal services would be an advantage.

We welcome those candidates from the healthcare sector and beyond with the relevant skills and experience. We welcome applications from diverse backgrounds, and from those with experience of improving outcomes and care experience for diverse communities.

The Chair will be required to attend quarterly Board meetings and a monthly meeting with the Programme Leadership. It offers the individual invaluable experience of chairing the Board of a high-profile, national programme, as well as joint working across NHS England, Government and wider organisations to make maternity and neonatal care safer, more personalised and more equitable.