

# Response ID ANON-FQ94-PUQV-G

Submitted to **NHS Maternity Review**

Submitted on **2015-10-29 12:01:32**

## Tell us about you

**1.1 If you wish to be kept informed of the progress of the maternity review, please enter your email address here:**

**Email address::**

sarah.carnwell@nhs.net

**1.2 Please enter your postcode.**

**Postcode::**

ST4 6QG

**1.3 Which of the following describes your involvement with NHS maternity services?**

Charity/representative group (please answer questions in section 4)

**Other::**

## Section 4: Comments from representative groups, charities and other interest groups

**4.1 Which users/groups/organisation do you represent?**

**Which users / groups / organisation do you represent?:**

Staffordshire, Shropshire and Black Country Newborn and Maternity Operational Delivery Network, Patient and Public Involvement Group

**4.2 What do you think are the barriers to providing high quality maternity services?**

**What do you think are the barriers to providing high quality maternity services?:**

Lack of maternity staff and time to provide consistent and high quality breastfeeding support provided to all.

The National Picker Survey and our members identified a lack of neonatal staff, time and appropriate counselling training to communicate and provide emotional support to parents.

The National Picker Survey and our members identified not having beds on an appropriate ward away from mothers with their babies available for mothers who have experienced a loss, stillbirth or early neonatal death, who need to grieve away from those who have their babies with them. How is giving them a private room where they can still hear babies crying any better?

Lack of communication and joined up working between maternity and neonatal services due to funding being allocated from separate organisations.

**4.3 What do we need to do to make maternity services better?**

**What do we need to do to make maternity services better?:**

A more compassionate and empathetic service, where staff have the time to spend with mothers/parents providing information, emotional support and breastfeeding support.

Mothers who have had a stillbirth or whose baby is extremely sick on the NNU should be cared for on another ward to those mothers who have their baby with them, as this can be deeply psychologically stressful at an already emotional time, when mothers need to grieve for the loss of their baby or the birth/baby they had hoped for.

Organisations that fund neonatal and maternity services to be required to work together to make sure cots for babies and beds for mothers are funded in the right place, in order that where possible baby and mother are together receiving the appropriate level of care.

**4.4 Do you wish to submit your response?**

Yes - I wish to submit my response