



## Improvement

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Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2019

Dear Colleague,

As a board level maternity safety champion you have a critical role to lead improvements in the care of mothers and their babies in your trust. Thank you for taking on this responsibility.

The 2017 neonatal critical care transformation review made recommendations to support the delivery of high quality, safe, sustainable and equitable models of neonatal care across England that are currently being implemented. The vision is to provide a seamless, responsive and multidisciplinary service built around the needs of newborn babies and their families, but delivered through networked care, across sites with differing expertise. NHS England has accepted the review recommendation to develop perinatal safety champions at Board level, thereby expanding your role as maternity safety champion.

We are writing to ask you to work with your clinical director of neonatal services (or equivalent) to appoint a neonatal safety champion whose role includes championing the care of the newborn and therefore the neonatal service while providing local leadership for implementation the recommendations of the review. This additional appointment to the trust's safety champion team emphasises NHS England's commitment to improving perinatal outcomes. It also extends your own role to being a board level perinatal safety champion.

NHS England and NHS Improvement are working together to maintain a data base of safety champions so that we can provide you with support. Once you have made this new appointment please inform us at [nhsi.maternitysafetychampions@nhs.net](mailto:nhsi.maternitysafetychampions@nhs.net) of the names and contact details of your neonatal safety champions and any changes to your obstetric and midwifery champions contact details.

Please also inform the chairs of your Local Maternity System, Clinical Network and Neonatal Operational Delivery Network about the details of your safety champion team.

Please accept our thanks in anticipation of your support for both maternity and neonatal safety in your trust.

Yours sincerely



**Professor Jacqueline  
Dunkley-Bent OBE**

National Maternity Safety  
Champion

Head of Maternity Children  
and Young People, NHS  
England



**Mr Matthew Jolly**

National Maternity Safety  
Champion

National Clinical Director,  
Maternity & Women's Health  
NHS England



**Professor Neil Marlow**

Chair, Neonatal Critical  
Care Transformation review

Chair Neonatal Clinical  
Reference Group

NHS England Specialised  
Commissioning