

## Case Study

**Date:** 2015

**Region:** Maternity Services across North West London

**Overview:** Review into the possible transition of maternity services unit

**The details:** In February 2015 NHS England requested independent advice on plans for transition of inpatient maternity, paediatrics and gynaecological services from a North West London Hospital.

The uncertainty over the future of the unit had already resulted in many staff resigning or requesting to move to other units. There was general unrest amongst midwives and 90 out of 120 had endorsed a letter to the Health Secretary outlining their concerns.

The plan was to centralise A&E and maternity services away from one unit thus reducing the number of sites providing inpatient maternity and paediatric care. Due to the unknown future staff of a high quality were hard to secure, patients were deciding not to choose the hospital to have their baby (numbers of which were down and continuing to drop), the quality of general standards were lowering and training was affected.

**Outcome:** Donna Ockenden Ltd provided Midwifery advice and worked as part of a team and they recommended the services should move no later than the summer 2015. Any further delay could result in increased staff retention issues, unplanned closure of the unit which would impact the continuity of care and increased risk at other sites. Further operational planning was essential to ensure effective delivery of the move.

The unit in question closed successfully and safely with all receiving units having prepared appropriately for the incoming numbers of pregnant women. Staff from the unit that closed were given a choice of unit and most were able to commence employment at the unit of their choice.