

DonnaOckenden

Testimonials further to Donna's departure from the role of Co-Clinical Director for the London Maternity Clinical Network. July 2017.

'After more than four years of successfully providing a passionate and ambitious midwifery perspective in her role as Co Clinical Director for the London Maternity Clinical Network, I am sad to have to let you know that Donna Ockenden will be stepping down as of June 2017.

Donna and I were appointed as Co-Directors at the establishment of the London Clinical Networks in April 2013. For me it has been a real delight to work with such a dedicated, energetic and fun person and has gone a long way to ensuring a genuinely multidisciplinary approach to improving London's maternity services. She has undoubtedly been instrumental in helping to create a vision to improve the quality and experience of care across London. She has given great warmth in delivering this role, and helped partners to establish fantastic connections to improve outcomes for women, babies and their families.

Donna had led the Network in establishing the Maternal Morbidity and Mortality Working group, and developed an expert panel to support investigations as well as a thematic review of deaths with an annual report and work plan for London. She leaves a wonderful legacy, ready to embrace the future as described in Better Births.

I thank Donna her for the huge contribution that she has made to improving maternity services in London. I for one will miss her enormously.

Professor Donald Peebles
Co-Clinical Director Maternity Clinical Network
NHS England (London Region)

'It's been a joy to work with Donna, her clinical knowledge and experience shines through, she thinks strategically yet is down to earth and totally practical, a wonderful combination! Her professional leadership on the Maternity Bereavement Experience Measure has been sincerely valued, always responsive to queries and ready to tackle challenges proactively. I have no hesitation in recommending Donna to colleagues to lead or support programmes of work, she is highly regarded'

Kath Evans
Experience of Care Lead – Maternity, Infants, Children and Young People
NHS England

'I totally agree with all the words that have been written about Donna. She has been an inspiring co-chair and led on some many projects and across London; so much has been achieved by the network in reducing clinical variation, improving outcomes and women's experience under the leadership of Donna. We must mark Donna's immense contribution.'

Wendy Matthews, Deputy Chief Nurse /Director of Midwifery
Barking, Havering and Redbridge University Hospital NHS Trust

'Donna, you have been great as a chair and have really managed to get things moving across London with changes and enthusiasm.'

**Helen Knower, Director of Midwifery
Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust**

'Donna has shown exceptional leadership over the years and I am very sorry to see her step down. I will miss her greatly and feel that much of what we have accomplished has been down to the joint leadership (with Donald Peebles) and the confidence you both placed in those of us leading sub groups. I would hope that in considering replacing her as co-chair the appointment panel would note the great strength gained by the London SCN in having a multidisciplinary leadership which I believe is unique. I would also like to suggest that we as a leadership group thank and mark Donna's immense contribution in some way.'

**Florence Wilcock, Consultant Obstetrician
Kingston Hospital NHS Foundation Trust**

'Just wanted to say a personal thank you for your leadership of the network and to wish you all the best for the future.'

**Dr Kate Harding
Guys and St Thomas' NHS FT**

'Donna has been an inspiration to us all. She has always energised the group and her warm and friendly outlook has always enabled inclusivity at the meetings.'

**Ann Morling, Director of Midwifery
Croydon Health Services NHS Trust**

'Just a quick note from my side to say that I'm sorry to see you go, as I've enjoyed working with you. I do hope our paths cross in the future again; you have done so very much since the beginning of the Maternity Clinical Network that I've seen, and I wish you the best in your future endeavours!'

Andrea, NHS England

'I wish you all the very best for future and once again thank you for all your input in progressing this very important program for London.'

Malti, NHS England

'I have been so impressed by the way that you and Donald have co-chaired the group so successfully. You keep the meetings going inspirationally, and I really believe have led to some truly exciting innovations in the way we care for mothers and their babies. You will be sorely missed!'

**Katrina Erskine, Consultant Obstetrician
Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust**