

	Invited Reviews Programme
	TERMS OF REFERENCE

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

Review of the Neonatal Unit at the Countess of Chester Hospital NHS FT, under the Invited Review Mechanism of the RCPCH

The RCPCH will conduct a review of the COCH Neonatal unit against standards, evidence and guidance to examine

- Is the service provision compliant with current professional standards?
- Are staffing numbers and competencies appropriate for the acuity of the infants cared for?
- Does the unit have
 - clear and engaged leadership,
 - good team working
 - a culture of safety and proactive risk assessment
 - sound governance processes
 - a positive relationship with the neonatal network and transport service?
- To consider concerns about the Neonatal Unit with specific reference to:
 - Are there any identifiable common factors or failings that might in part, or in whole, explain the apparent increase in mortality in 2015 and 2016?
- Are there any areas of concern for which potential development would improve outcomes?

The reviewers will then make recommendations for the consideration of the Chief Executive and Medical Director of the Hospital as to:

- whether there is a basis for concern about the Neonatal Unit in light of the findings of the review;
- possible courses of action which may be taken to address any specific areas of concern which have been identified.

August 2016