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2.4.3 Countess of Chester Hospital

The Trust alerted commissioners to concerns raised by members of the Neonatal Team, which included higher than expected mortality. Commissioners, NHSI and the Neonatal Network agreed a plan to downgrade three neonatal cots to Level 1, whilst a comprehensive investigation is carried out. There is a coordinated approach in place across the network to manage neonates in the interim.

The Trust are providing weekly dashboards to commissioners for review and an external investigation has been carried out at the beginning of September; the Trust brief following immediate high level feedback states no immediate safety risks identified. The reviewers recommended a forensic deep dive into the identified incidents, to be undertaken by an independent external consultant and this is currently being arranged. The final external report is due beginning of October 2016.

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