

Neonatal Steering Group

Terms of Reference

1. Purpose

It is expected that the Neonatal Steering group (NSG) will provide expertise, direction and advice to NHS England, service providers, and the wider NHS community to improve the quality, safety and effectiveness of neonatal care across Cheshire and Merseyside Neonatal Network.

2. Guiding Values and Principles

2.1 The **VALUES** underpinning the ODN are taken from the NHS Constitution:

Respect and dignity;

- Commitment to quality care;
- Compassion;
- Improving lives;
- Working together for patients;
- Everyone counts.

2.2 The **OPERATING PRINCIPLES** for the NW Neonatal ODN are adapted and adopted from NHS England's values:

- We will put the interests of patients (and their families and carers) at the centre of our activities
- We will have a clear sense of purpose with a focus on improving quality and outcomes for babies;
- We will be clinically led with an equal voice for babies, their families and carers alongside clinicians and managers
- We will foster energised and proactive organisations (organisational structures) offering system leadership and direction
- Our work will be open, transparent, using evidence to inform the full range of our activities
- We will work across boundaries – independent of professional and organisational interests - ensuring opportunities for quality improvement are maximised;
- We will be flexible to the changing needs of our babies their families and carers, professionals and member organisations remaining relevant
- We will be accountable for successfully delivering agreed programmes of improvement and advice, demonstrating effective use of our resources; by developing advice on the most effective and appropriate services across care pathways
- We will be a learning organisation that will work effectively and efficiently

3. Aims

- Provide assurance of the highest standards of care for babies and their families by monitoring performance across Cheshire and Merseyside to include activity, quality monitoring, benchmarking and audit