

Collaborate to improve maternity care: Speaker biographies

Dr Denise Chaffer, Director of Safety and Learning, NHS Resolution



Dr Denise Chaffer is a registered nurse and midwife and currently holds the post of Director of Safety and Learning at NHS Resolution. Her PhD is in health care leadership and she has a master's degree in management and social care. She also has a first class undergraduate degree and a higher education teaching qualification. Denise is a professional clinical nursing leader with multiple years' of executive and board level experience. Denise has been an executive Director of Nursing in two acute trusts and was a Director in commissioning a Primary Care Trust organisation.

Dr Chaffer was previously Director of Nursing for the North West London area team at NHS England and also led on patient safety across the London region. She has significant experience of working at regional, national and international level in acute and community settings, nursing, midwifery, education, and on major change and reconfiguration initiatives. Denise published a book in 2016; 'Effective Leadership, A Cure for the NHS?' which draws on the personal experiences of a range senior health care leaders.

Chair – Professor Dame Lesley Regan, Non-Executive Director, NHS Resolution Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Imperial College London

Professor Dame Lesley Regan is Non-Executive Director at NHS Resolution, Professor of Obstetrics & Gynaecology at Imperial College London and Consultant at St Mary's Hospital in London. She is also the Womens' Health Ambassador for England, Honorary Secretary of FIGO, and Chair of the Charity Wellbeing of Women. She was the 30th President of Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG) (2016-2019). During her tenure as PRCOG she co-chaired the National Women's Health Task Force with Jackie Doyle-Price MP (then Health Minister) and authored "Better for Women", a hard hitting RCOG report which promotes a life-course approach to the delivery of women's health services.



Having graduated from the Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine, London in 1980, Professor Regan pursued her training at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, where she first became enthused by clinical and laboratory research, completing her MD on miscarriage. She went on to set up the world's largest recurrent miscarriage clinic at St Mary's Hospital in London.



**Chair - Gill Walton, Chief Executive,
The Royal College of Midwives**



Gill Walton is Chief Executive and General Secretary of the Royal College of Midwives (RCM). Gill is an experienced and acknowledged midwifery leader. Her focus at the RCM is to advocate for members as both a trade union and a professional association, ensuring that members are supported throughout their career and ensure their voices are heard by policy makers, employers and other stakeholders. Her passion for promoting a multidisciplinary respectful working through One Voice, with the RCOG and other partners, is role modelling an approach essential to maternity safety and improvement.

Before joining the RCM, she was the Director of Midwifery and Maternity Services at Portsmouth Hospitals and held similar posts at the Royal Berkshire Hospitals, Barking and Havering and Redbridge, and the John Radcliffe in Oxford. Gill has led many NHS transformation programmes for maternity services and has been involved in national strategic policy developments including work with the Nursing and Midwifery Council, Department of Health & Social Care and other regional strategic bodies. In 2015 she received a Doctorate of Science from University College London for her contribution to women's health. In 2020 she was awarded a DBE for her services to women's health in the Queen's New Year's Honours List.

**Professor Tim Draycott, Professor of
Obstetrics and Gynaecology and Senior
Clinical Advisor, NHS Resolution**

Tim Draycott, MD, BSc, MBBS, MRCOG, is a Consultant at Southmead Hospital and the University of Bristol. Professor Draycott trained in London and the South West of England, with valuable time spent working in France, Sweden and South Africa. He has been a Consultant Obstetrician at Southmead Hospital since 2002 and a Health Foundation Improvement Science Fellow since 2012. He jointly developed the obstetric training programme: the PRactical Obstetric Multi-Professional Training (PROMPT) course prepares unit level staff to improve their management of intrapartum emergencies and has been associated with significant improvements in clinical outcomes to some of the lowest rates in the global literature, particularly hypoxia and brachial plexus injuries.

The programme and its improvement tools have been recognised by prizes from NHS Innovations, NICE, and the BMJ. He was also awarded Hospital Doctor of the Year for his intrapartum emergencies work. He has been recognised as an NHS Hero, and in 2014 he and the PROMPT team were awarded the Queen's Anniversary Prize for Excellence, followed by the International Prize for Resilience in Healthcare in 2016. Tim is working with NHS Resolution as a Senior Maternity Clinical Advisor.



**Sangita Bodalia, Head of Early
Notification (Legal), NHS Resolution**



Sangita Bodalia was successfully appointed as Head of Early Notification (Legal) in May 2019. Sangita joins us having recently led the Legal Services Department at the highly prestigious Guy's & St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust as their Head of Legal Services where she provided a range of legal advice including complex patient discharge, consent and capacity and children matters. Sangita managed the claims function with a range of complex clinical and non-clinical claims whilst also advocating and preparing cases for the coroner's court for this Trust which delivers a range of acute and community healthcare services and employs over 16,000 staff with an annual turnover of nearly £1.5 billion. Sangita championed patient safety, raising awareness across the Trust, frequently to front line staff, including the role of NHS Resolution in claims management utilising the Trust Scorecard, advising on the rising costs of claims to the NHS and contributions made by the Trust to The Clinical Negligence Scheme for Trusts.

Sangita qualified as a solicitor in May 2008 and spent time in the travel industry managing claims prior to moving into the healthcare sector in 2014 having secured a role with Virgin Care where she managed a variety of litigation and commercial contracts. Sangita was promoted to Senior Legal Counsel before moving to Guy's & St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust in October 2017.

**Jyoti Sidhu, Consultant Obstetrician &
Gynaecologist,
Barking, Havering and Redbridge
University Hospitals NHS Trust**

Ms Jyoti Sidhu is a Consultant Obstetrician & Gynaecologist at Barking, Havering and Redbridge University Hospitals NHS Trust. She trained within the London Deanery and took time out of clinical training to work as a National Obstetric Clinical Fellow at NHS Resolution. Here she formed part of the Early Notification team, reviewing and triaging Early Notification cases in addition to administering year 2 of the Maternity Incentive Scheme and supporting development of the updated safety actions for the 3rd year of the scheme.



Jyoti is an avid educator, teaching on local and national courses, and is a qualified instructor for the Advanced Life Support Group's MOET (Managing Obstetric Emergencies and Trauma) course. Jyoti is passionate about clinical risk and safety and is the Obstetric Safety Champion for her trust. She passed the Capsticks' Diploma in Clinical Risk and Claims Management with distinction and is the course organiser for the RCOG course Risk Management and Medico-legal Issues in Women's Healthcare.



Dr Katie Cornthwaite,
*ABC Clinical Fellow, Royal College of
Obstetricians & Gynaecologists*



Dr Katie Cornthwaite is an Obstetrics and Gynaecology Registrar and Clinical Fellow at the RCOG as part of the Avoiding Brain Injuries in Childbirth (ABC) collaboration. She has recently completed a mixed-methods PhD investigating impacted fetal head at caesarean section and will shortly be commencing an Academic Clinical Lecturer post at the University of Bristol. Katie is passionate about improving outcomes for mothers and babies through high-quality research and multi-professional, evidence-based training. She is also a member of faculty for PROMPT maternity foundation and the RCOG Operative Birth Simulation Training (ROBuST) course, delivering multi-professional training nationally.

**Mrs Pauline Hewitt - RCM Impacted
Fetal Head Project Midwife & Lead
Midwife for Delivery Suite,
Gloucestershire Royal Hospitals NHS
Foundation Trust**

Pauline Hewitt is a Lead Midwife for Delivery Suite at Gloucester Royal Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. She has been a qualified midwife for 25 years and has recently completed a 12 month secondment to the Royal College of Midwives as the Impacted Fetal Head Project Midwife as part of the wider Avoiding Brain Injury in Childbirth (ABC) collaboration.

Pauline has a specialist interest in complex antenatal, intrapartum and postnatal care, and alongside her substantive clinical role acts as a midwifery expert witness producing court compliant medicolegal reports for clinical negligence cases within maternity care.



**Dr Jo Mountfield, Vice President for
Workforce and Professionalism,
Royal College of Obstetricians and
Gynaecologists**



Jo is a consultant obstetrician in Southampton also working in education. Her specialisms include supporting women negotiating substance misuse in pregnancy and she is also Director of Education and Workforce at her hospital.

Her current work leading the workforce agenda at the college includes the introduction of initiatives such as the certificate of eligibility for locums in Obstetrics and Gynaecology and scoping the requirements for safe staffing within the specialty. She is also leading RCOG work to update the advanced training and subspecialty curricula.



**Lynn Tilley, Safety and Learning Lead
(Early Notification), NHS Resolution**

I qualified as a midwife in 1991. I have a broad range of experience across midwifery practice, and have held a number of posts in both clinical and managerial capacities.

I was seconded to NHS Resolution as a National Clinical Midwifery Fellow with the Early Notification (EN) team in June 2020 and was successful in securing my current position as Safety and Learning Lead (EN team) in June 2021. I am the regional lead for London.

I am passionate about patient safety and enjoy the opportunities my role provides to share learning from EN incidents. I have been involved with the establishment of our Maternity Voices Advisory Group, have written case stories which have been published on NHS Resolution's website. I'm currently involved in a project with our Obstetric and Neonatal clinical fellows, our Academic partners and colleagues across NHS Resolution to develop an immersive e-learning maternity module. I'm very excited about this piece of work and really looking forward to seeing the finished product.



**Dr Eleanor Rayner, MRCOG, National
Obstetric Clinical Fellow, NHS Resolution**



Eleanor currently works 2 days a week as a National Obstetric Clinical Fellow within the Early Notification Scheme Team and works the rest of the week as an ST6 Obstetric & Gynaecology Specialist Trainee in the South West Peninsula Deanery.

She is undertaking her Labour Ward Lead Advanced Training Skills Module and hopes to continue working for NHS Resolution alongside her training.

**Rachel Walsh, Consultant
Neonatologist/National Neonatal Fellow,
NHS Resolution**



Rachel held the role of national neonatal clinical fellow with NHS Resolution's Early Notification Team between April 21 and April 22. She has recently taken up a neonatal consultant post and has been able to continue working with NHS Resolution on a part time basis in order to undertake a review of claims relating to Group B Streptococcal infection in neonates.



**Annette Anderson, Head of Early
Notification (Clinical), NHS Resolution**



Annette Anderson is a senior Midwife who has worked in the NHS since 2002. She has extensive experience in midwifery and patient safety gained from working in all areas of maternity working as a senior midwife at Homerton University Hospital (now known as Homerton Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust) in London.

As well as a professional midwifery qualification, she holds masters in Risk from the University of Leicester. Her dissertation focused on sharing learning from serious incident investigations across four maternity services in London. Annette also holds a Capsticks diploma in Clinical Risk and Claims Management. Annette was appointed Head of the Early Notification Clinical team in June 2019; her role involves providing clinical leadership and strategic direction to the midwives, obstetricians and neonatologists working in the Early Notification Team as well as providing clinical leadership to the Maternity Incentive Scheme. Annette's role is extremely varied and involves working nationally with NHS organisations to drive improvements across maternity, in line with the national ambition. Annette is passionate about improving safety in maternity services, as well as improving the post incident experience for families and staff.

**Professor Neil Greenberg, Professor of
Defence Mental Health, Kings College
London (BM, BSc, MMedSc, FHEA,
MFMLM, DOccMed, MInstLM, MEWI,
MFFLM, MD, FRCPsych)**

Professor Neil Greenberg is a consultant academic, occupational and forensic psychiatrist based at King's College London. Neil served in the United Kingdom Armed Forces for more than 23 years and has deployed, as a psychiatrist and researcher, to a number of hostile environments including Afghanistan and Iraq. At King's Neil leads on a number of military mental health projects and is a principal investigator within a nationally funded Health Protection Research unit. He is a past chair of the Royal College of Psychiatrists (RCP) Special Interest Group in Occupational Psychiatry and is leading the World Psychiatric Association position statement on mental health in the workplace. Neil has published more than 300 scientific papers and book chapters and has been the Secretary of the European Society for Traumatic Stress Studies, the President of the UK Psychological Trauma Society and Specialist Advisor to the House of Commons Defence Select Committee. During the COVID19 pandemic, Neil worked closely with various government organisations and published widely on psychological support for healthcare, and other key workers. As well as running March on Stress Ltd, a psychological health consultancy, Neil also is a trustee with the Society and Faculty of Occupational Medicine and is part of NHS England's expert reference group on staff wellbeing.





**Dawn Benson, Parent/researcher,
Systems Safety Ltd**



Dawn is a sociologist who specialises in safety investigation within health, social care, and education. She spent almost 20 years as an academic researching and teaching at the universities of Northumbria, Aberdeen, and Oxford. Her work in Human Factors and patient safety was born from personal experience when her first child was birth injured. She is particularly interested in how we improve services by engaging patient/service user perspective. She currently works as a National Investigator at the Healthcare Safety Branch Investigation Branch (HSIB) where she was recently seconded to establish the education function and developed the concept of Investigation Science. She also undertakes consultancy through Systems Safety Ltd and is currently growing her portfolio in mental health and learning disability research and investigation. She takes an inclusive approach to her work and is passionate about foregrounding the perspectives and experiences of people who are often unheard.

**Dr Angela Kerrigan, Consultant Midwife,
Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS
Foundation Trust**



I have been a midwife for 20 years, with most of my career being intrapartum care and research. My current role as Consultant Midwife has a remit focussing on normality and public health. My role involves striving to optimise women and birthing people's experience of pregnancy and birth and supporting them in their birth choices. It also focusses on the maternity public health agenda aiming to optimise health during pregnancy, including smoking cessation, mental well-being and weight management. I am also a Professional Midwifery Advocate, supporting midwives in their professional practice.

My academic career includes my BSc (Hons) degree, MA in Midwifery Studies and my PhD, graduating from University of Stirling in 2018, with my thesis 'Care of obese women during labour: The development of a midwifery intervention to promote normal birth'. I live in Lancashire with my partner and two children.



Catherine Cumberlidge, Quality & Safety
Lead, *Wirral University Teaching Hospital*
NHS Foundation Trust



I have been a midwife for 14 years. I have worked in a variety of settings: community, inpatient complex care, midwife led unit, clinical research and clinical governance.

I studied a Master's Degree in Clinical Research, at the University of Manchester My research focussed on fathers' qualitative experiences of their partners' pregnancy following the loss of a child from stillbirth or neonatal death.

My career in clinical governance has incorporated audit, clinical effectiveness, clinical research, patient safety, risk management, health & safety and quality improvement. I have provided this support to all divisions: acute care, surgical, pharmacy, medical, paediatrics, care of the elderly, and maternity.

I currently work as a Quality & Safety Lead for the Women & Children's Division at Wirral University Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

Marianne Rowntree, Labour Ward
Midwifery Team Lead,
University Hospitals Plymouth NHS Trust

My name is Marianne and I have worked at University Hospitals Plymouth NHS Trust since 1998 as both a nurse and subsequently as a midwife. I have been a CDS co-ordinator since 2013. I have a strong interest in psychological first aid in the workplace and also work as faculty on our Human Factors training.





Dr Helen Halls, Perinatal Principal
Clinical Psychologist,
Livewell Southwest PMHT and MMHS



I am a Perinatal Clinical Psychologist working in a community Perinatal Mental Health Team and a Maternal Mental Health Team in Plymouth. In this role I have been supporting Maternity Services with Compassion Focussed Staff Support in the aftermath of Covid and I am tasked with disseminating Trauma Informed Care to improve the patient and staff experience.

Dr Matt Julian, Consultant Anaesthetist,
University Hospitals Plymouth NHS Trust

I am a Consultant Obstetric Anaesthetist with interests in Regional Anaesthesia, Clinical Safety and Health Informatics. I have been an Army Medical Officer. Within that role I was aware of the service's duty of care to support personnel around challenging events.

