MATERNITY SERVICES

NINE ACTIONS WE COULD TAKE TOMORROW

From 14 Inquiries to Nine Actions

Drawn from 14 major maternity inquiries and almost 900 recommendations, including Cumberlege, Kirkup, Ockenden (Shrewsbury), East Kent, Morecambe Bay, Amos and Nottingham.

1 ONE NATIONAL RECOVERY PLAN

Replace hundreds of recommendations with one mandatory national maternity safety programme covering staffing, listening, escalation, investigation, training, leadership and transparency.

2 NAME ACCOUNTABLE LEADERS

Every Trust Chair and Chief Executive should sign a public maternity safety covenant. If they cannot assure safety, they should say so.

3 PUBLISH A LIVE SAFETY DASHBOARD

Real-time reporting of staffing, serious incidents, stillbirths, neonatal deaths, emergency Caesarean response times, complaints, inequalities and family feedback.

4 FUND SAFE STAFFING

Agree and fund minimum safe staffing levels. Midwives, obstetricians, anaesthetists, neonatologists and sonographers are safety interventions, not optional extras.

5 TRIGGER EARLY INDEPENDENT REVIEW

When families repeatedly raise the same concerns, an external review should begin automatically. No more waiting for campaigners to exhaust themselves.

6 SEPARATE LEARNING FROM BLAME

Create psychological safety for staff to speak up, while holding leaders accountable for suppressing, minimising or ignoring concerns.

7 MAKE INEQUALITY MEASURABLE

Record outcomes, complaints, escalation delays, interpreter use and experience by ethnicity.
Measure it.
Publish it. Act on it.

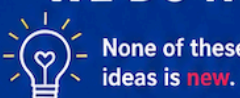
8 CONTINUITY OF CARE

Wherever possible, provide care through a small, dedicated team with a named midwife. Continuity builds trust, improves communication and helps spot deterioration sooner.

9 HELP MIDWIVES CREATE MEMORIES... NOT NIGHTMARES

Give staff the time, support and resources to deliver the kind of care they came into the profession to provide.

WE DO NOT LACK KNOWLEDGE. WE LACK EXECUTION.



None requires another inquiry.

None waits on another review.

The NHS already knows what to do.

SAFER MATERNITY SERVICES • SAFER FUTURES • BETTER FOR EVERY FAMILY

Nine Actions for Safer Maternity Services from Roy Lilley