

#MATSAFETY2026

THE NATIONAL MATERNITY SAFETY CONFERENCE 2026

16TH SEPTEMBER 2026, BIRMINGHAM

CONFERENCE

PROGRAMME

Next Steps for Safer Care:
From Insight to Implementation



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:
WWW.BABYLIFELINE.ORG.UK/CONFERENCE-2026



CONFERENCE PROGRAMME | 16TH SEPTEMBER 2026

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8.30 REGISTRATION, TEA & COFFEE

9.30 WELCOME & OPENING ADDRESS

Judy Ledger MBE - CEO & Founder, Baby Lifeline

Dr Eddie Morris CBE, Regional Medical Director and Chief Clinical Information Officer at NHS England (East of England Region). Chair of Baby Lifeline's Multi-Professional Advisory Panel.

9.45 KEYNOTE | FROM INSIGHT TO IMPLEMENTATION

Chaired by **Dr Denise Chaffer CBE**, Patient Safety and Maternity Leader

Speaker: **Sue Holden**, Chair, Advancing Quality Alliance (Aqua), and Member of the Maternity and Neonatal Assurance Assessment Oversight Panel for Wales.

10.25 DRIVING PROGRESS AFTER THE NATIONAL INVESTIGATION

Chaired by **Dr Clea Harmer**, CEO of Sands, and Member of the National Maternity and Neonatal Taskforce

Speakers include:

- **Cathy Brewster**, Chair of the Service User Voice Expert Reference Group, National Maternity and Neonatal Taskforce
- **Ngozi Edi-Osagie**, Clinical Director - Neonatal Care, NHS England
- **Benash Nazmeen MBE**, Co-Founder & Co-Director, Association of South Asian Midwives C.I.C (ASAM), and Member of the Health Equity Group for the National Maternity and Neonatal Taskforce
- **Shirley Peterson**, Chief Midwife/ Divisional Nurse at Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust
- **Gill Walton CBE**, Chief Executive, Royal College of Midwives, and Member of the National Maternity and Neonatal Taskforce
- **Dr Alison Wright**, President, The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, and Member of the National Maternity and Neonatal Taskforce
- **Rachael Buabeng**, Member of the Service User Voice Expert Reference Group; Founder of Mummy's Day Out



11.25 TEA & COFFEE, POSTERS

11.55 UPDATE ON NATIONAL WORK TO IMPROVE PERINATAL MORTALITY

Professor Alex Heazell, Professor of Obstetrics, Director of the Tommy's Research Centre, Manchester Academic Health Science Centre, Regional Lead Obstetrician for the North-West

12.15 IMPLEMENTING SAFETY, QUALITY, AND EQUITY

Chaired by **Dr Christine Ekechi**, Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist, Imperial College Health NHS Trust.

The Preventable Deaths Tracker | **Dr Georgia Richards**, Founder & Director of the Preventable Deaths Tracker, Senior Research Fellow, King's College London.

Embedding Anti-Racism and Anti-Discrimination in Quality Improvement | **Sarindi Aryasinghe**, Head of Implementation, NHS Race and Health Observatory & **Jennifer Carroll**, Continuous Improvement Clinical Fellow, Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation

Turning Insight into Action: Effectively Implementing (and Writing) Recommendations | **Sonia Barnfield**, Consultant Obstetrician and the Consultant Lead for Clinical Governance in Maternity at Southmead Hospital, Bristol.



13.00 LUNCH

14.00 KEYNOTE | SHE SEEMS FINE TO ME

Chaired by **India Rakusen**, Journalist, documentary producer and presenter.

Speakers:

Kimberley Nixon, BAFTA-award-winning actress, author and mental health advocate.

Dr Chrissy Jayarajah, Consultant Perinatal Psychiatrist and Research Lead CNWL Perinatal Mental Health Services.

14.40 EMBEDDING WOMEN'S VOICES IN MATERNITY SAFETY

Chaired by **Professor Marian Knight MBE**, Professor of Maternal and Child Population Health, University of Oxford.

Martha's Rule | Kate Brintworth, Chief Midwifery Officer, NHS England

Maternity Service Improvement for Autistic Women at East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust | Pam Langford, Head of Midwifery & Nursing for Women's Services, East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust & **Allison Wickramasinghe**, Midwife, East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust

Co-production in maternal health services: fostering cultural safety and collaborative solutions | Dr Jennifer MacLellan, Nurse/Midwife and Senior Qualitative Researcher at the National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit (NPEU).



15.30 TEA & COFFEE, POSTERS

16.00 TURNING INSIGHT INTO ACTION: THE ABC PROGRAMME

Chaired by **Dr Eddie Morris CBE**, Regional Medical Director and Chief Clinical Information Officer at NHS England (East of England Region). Chair of Baby Lifeline's Multi-Professional Advisory Panel.

Speakers include:

- **Emma Crookes**, Member of the Maternity Escalation Panel at THIS Institute (former RCOG Women's Network Vice Chair and former NHSE Service User Voice Lead)
- **Dr Jan van der Scheer**, Assistant Research Professor at The Healthcare Improvement Studies (THIS) Institute, University of Cambridge.
- **Hannah Rutter**, Quality Improvement Lead for Perinatal Deterioration, Maternity and Neonatal Programme, NHS England.

16.30 CLOSING COMMENTS AND POSTER WINNERS

CONFIRMED SPEAKERS

(so far!)



SUE HOLDEN

Chair, Advancing Quality Alliance (Aqua), and Member of the Maternity and Neonatal Assurance Assessment Oversight Panel for Wales



KIMBERLEY NIXON

BAFTA-award-winning actress, author and mental health advocate



SARINDI ARYASINGHE

Head of Implementation, NHS Race and Health Observatory



SONIA BARNFIELD

Consultant Obstetrician and the Consultant Lead for Clinical Governance in Maternity at Southmead Hospital, Bristol (part of North Bristol NHS Trust)



CATHY BREWSTER

Chair of the Service User Voice Representatives Expert Reference Group, National Maternity and Neonatal Taskforce



KATE BRINTWORTH

Chief Midwifery Officer
NHS England



JENNIFER CARROLL

Continuous Improvement Clinical Fellow Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust



DENISE CHAFFER

Patient Safety and Maternity Leader



DR CHRISTINE EKECHI

Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist, Imperial College Health NHS Trust



CLEA HARMER

CEO of Sands & member of the National Maternity and Neonatal Taskforce



**PROFESSOR
ALEX HEAZELL**

Professor of Obstetrics and Director of the Tommy's Research Centre, Manchester Academic Health Science Centre, Regional Lead Obstetrician for North-West



SHIRLEY PETERSON

Chief Midwife/ Divisional Nurse at Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust

CONFIRMED SPEAKERS

(so far!)



**DR CHRISSY
JAYARAJAH**

Consultant Perinatal Psychiatrist and
Research Lead CNWL Perinatal Mental
Health Services



**DR JENNIFER
MACLELLAN**

Senior Qualitative Researcher, National
Perinatal Epidemiology Unit (NPEU),
University of Oxford



**PROFESSOR MARIAN
KNIGHT MBE**

Professor of Maternal and Child
Population Health, the University of
Oxford.



DR EDDIE MORRIS CBE

Regional Medical Director & Chief Clinical
Information Officer NHS England – East of
England Region. Honorary Professor,
Women's Health. University of East Anglia



BENASH NAZMEEN

Assistant Professor of Midwifery,
researcher and national leader in
maternity health equity.



**PROFESSOR NGOZI
EDI-OSAGIE**

National Clinical Director for
Neonatology, NHS England



INDIA RAKUSEN

Journalist, documentary
producer and presenter



**DR GEORGIA
RICHARDS**

Founder & Director of the Preventable
Deaths Tracker, Senior Research Fellow
at King's College London



DR JAN VAN DER SCHEER

Assistant Research Professor at The
Healthcare Improvement Studies (THIS)
Institute, University of Cambridge.



PAM LANGFORD

Head of Midwifery & Nursing for
Women's Services, East and North
Hertfordshire NHS Trust



GILL WALTON CBE

Chief Executive, Royal College of Midwives



DR ALISON WRIGHT

President, The Royal College of
Obstetricians and Gynaecologists

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WELCOME

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CLOSING REMARKS

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