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30 July 2019

Dear Pete and David

Thank you for sharing with us the Healthwatch Sutton Perinatal Mental Wellbeing Report 2019. This was clearly another significant piece of work for Healthwatch Sutton, in partnership with the Sutton Perinatal and Infant Mental Health Early Help Network, and our thanks to you for the excellent support you continue to provide our local communities and health and social care system.

It is very positive to see the number of people who engaged in this exercise, and that their experiences have been drawn together to create a clear set of key findings and recommendations. The report makes evident the gap in the provision of information with regard to perinatal mental health, and the challenges both women and partners have in accessing the right information and support. The Trust recognises fully that this report presents an opportunity for us to strengthen the work of our teams to support mental health and wellbeing.

The report has been shared with the Maternity Department leadership team, and our established maternity mental health team. The mental health team, under the leadership of Marion Louki, Director of Midwifery and Gynaecology Nursing, will develop an action plan in response to the key findings and recommendations of the Healthwatch report.

The learning from the project and report will be used across both Epsom and St Helier hospitals, and intelligence from the FFT, the national Maternity Survey 2019 (currently underway), and other feedback channels (eg PALS, complaints and compliments) will be used to monitor success against the action plan and inform further improvements.

We will ensure that the action plan is monitored through divisional governance and our Improving Patients' Experience Committee (IPEC; of which Healthwatch Sutton is an active member), and that you are kept up-to-date either through IPEC (of which Marion is also a member) or Adam in his role as Head of Patient Experience and Partnership.

In closing, I would like to again thank you and the team at Healthwatch Sutton, as well as colleagues from Sutton Perinatal and Infant Mental Health Early Help Network, for completing this project – we continue to welcome and value the opportunity to work in partnership with Healthwatch and our local communities.

Yours sincerely



**Daniel Elkeles**  
**Chief Executive**

cc. Lisa Thomson, Director of Communications and Patient Experience  
Adam Watkins, Head of Patient Experience and Partnership  
Marion Louki, Director of Midwifery and Gynaecology Nursing