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Private and Confidential

Mr Pete Flavell and Mr David Williams
Healthwatch Sutton

Dear Pete and David,

On behalf of South West London and St Georges Mental Health NHS Trust, I would like to thank you for sharing the Perinatal Mental Health Wellbeing report with us. The project and findings were of great interest to us as an organisation and we fully support the recommendations.

Perinatal mental health has been a priority area of investment for the Trust in 2019 and the planned expansion of the community perinatal services to support provision across all five boroughs has been successfully implemented. From July 2019, women in Sutton who experience moderate to severe mental illness during pregnancy or in the post natal period have been able to receive expert treatment from a multidisciplinary team which includes a consultant psychiatrist, clinical psychologist, occupational therapist, community nurses and nursery nurses. Increased support and collaboration by this team with local GP's, health visitors, social workers and community midwives will help improve their understanding of perinatal mental health and their awareness of treatment available.

The Trust accepts the findings in the Perinatal Mental Health Wellbeing report. It has been shared with the perinatal team and they have been considering the recommendations and how they can support their implementation through the development of a multiagency action plan with other stakeholders. Members of the perinatal team will be attending the Sutton Perinatal and Infant Mental Health Early Help Network meetings and will work collaboratively with other members to help raise awareness of perinatal mental health and support improved access to information. The service is currently completing an audit to look at the ethnicity of new referrals and will compare the ethnic distribution to the census ethnicity data. This will allow consideration of ways to engage groups who are under represented.

I would also like to take this opportunity to formally invite you both to the South West London and St Georges Mental Health NHS Trust Community Perinatal Service launch event, which is taking place on **Thursday 21st November 2019** at the Home Café based in St Andrew's church in Earlsfield between 12:00 and 15:00. This event has been co-designed by staff and women who have used the service and will raise the profile and enhance awareness and understanding

Acting Chief Executive, Vanessa Ford

Trust Chair, Ann Beasley



Respectful



Open



Collaborative



Compassionate



Consistent

of perinatal mental health to other mental health teams, voluntary organisations, social services, GP's, health visitors, community midwives and the general public across Wandsworth, Merton, Sutton, Kingston and Richmond.

Yours sincerely,

Vanessa Ford
Acting Chief Executive

