

Karen Parker

Specialist Areas: Midwifery, Maternity Patient Safety



Karen Parker
 41 The Avenue, Durham, DH1 4EB
 T: 07971079938
 Email: KP@maternityexpertwitness.co.uk
 Website: www.maternityexpertwitness.co.uk

Education and Qualifications

The Cardiff University Bond Solon (CUBS) Expert Witness Civil Certificate	Cardiff University	2024
MSc Global Leadership and Healthcare Management	Teesside University	2023
PGCert Clinical Leadership	Teesside University	2020
Edward Jenner Leadership Programme	NHS Leadership Academy	2017
Supervisor of Midwives	University of Northumbria	2015
Advanced Diploma in Midwifery	University of Sheffield	2002
Master of Research	University of Manchester	1998
BSc Physiology and Pharmacology	University of Sheffield	1997

Registered Midwife with the Nursing and Midwifery Council from 2002, revalidated August 2023

Chartered Manager with the Chartered Management Institute from 2023

To complete my Cardiff University Bond Solon (CUBS) Civil Expert Witness Certificate I have undergone the following Bond Solon expert witness training courses:

- Civil Law and Procedure (2023)
- Excellence in Report Writing (2024)
- Courtroom Skills (2023)
- Cross-Examination Day (2023)

Maternity Expert Witness Ltd (15759105)



Continuing Professional Development

- NHSE (*Practive*) Perinatal Quadumverate Culture & Leadership Development Programme (2024)
- Principles of Health Command (2024)
- PSIRF: Fundamentals of systems based investigation, compassionate engagement and oversight of PSIRF (2024)
- TRiM Practitioner Training (2023)
- Support: bereavement conference (2023)
- HSIB Level 2 - A systems approach to learning from patient safety incidents (2023)
- Investigating Well - in-depth systems analysis and effective investigations learning programme (2021)
- Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust Patient Safety Conference (2022 & 2023)
- Babylifeline National Patient Safety Conference (2022)
- RCOG Each Baby Counts Lead Reporter & National Reviewer (2014-2020)

Publications, presentations & posters

- Departmental Compliance with the Royal College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Standards for Roles and Responsibilities of a Consultant (MSc dissertation & poster presented at 2023 RCOG International Congress)
- Patient Safety Placement for final year student midwives: increasing student capacity by building the foundations of a safer culture & safer system (babylifeline Maternity Safety Conference Poster, 2022 & North East & North Cumbria Education Conference, 2022)
- Umbilical catheters: safety issues and update to the current BAPM framework for care. Infant November 2018 Volume 14 Issue 6
- Sharing your patient safety concerns. Midwives Winter 2018 (RCM)

Employment history

Head of Midwifery, 2024-present

Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust

- Most senior Midwife for the organisation
- Perinatal Senior Leadership QUAD member
- Clinical competence maintained by regular clinical presence in all areas, support during escalation & involvement in operational planning & delivery
- Tactical command
- Line management of senior midwifery team & specialist midwives

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Lead Midwife for Risk, Safety & Quality, 2020-2024

Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust

- Lead for programmes of work related to Maternity Patient Safety including delivery of the Maternity Incentive Scheme, compliance with Ockenden, Kirkup, Saving Babies Lives Care Bundle, CQC & NHSE Three-year delivery plan objectives
- Investigation, support, referral, learning & reporting maternity patient safety incidents including review of compliance with guidance (local, regional, national), implementation of PSIRF methodology, liaison with other Trusts, families, staff & stakeholders to enact change
- Line management, recruitment & development of specialist midwifery team
- Evidence-based guideline & service development, audits, complaints, education
- Governance

Health Innovation Network (North East & North Cumbria), 2017-present

Midwifery lead, MatNeoSIP

- Regional midwifery lead for the Maternity & Neonatal Safety Improvement Programme
- Clinical advisor, networking & leadership, Quality Improvement

Care Quality Commission, 2022-present

Specialist Midwifery Advisor

- SPA advisor on programme of focussed inspections of Maternity services

NHS England, 2017-2020

Network Delivery Manager (Maternity)

- Secondment to Northern England Maternity Network
- Delivery of recommendations from Better Births via network delivery specialist groups (Maternity Patient Safety, Fetal & Maternal Medicine, Diabetes in Pregnancy)
- Inception & development of the Local Maternity System

NHS Improvement, 2018-2019

Patient Safety Lead – Maternity & Neonates

- Secondment as National Patient Safety Lead
- Identification & investigation of emerging or under-recognised maternity & neonatal safety issues leading to national recommendations

Patient Safety Midwife, 2014-2020

Labour ward coordinator, 2009-2014

County Durham & Durham Foundation Trust

- Investigation of patient safety incidents, learning & actions
- Audits, guideline development, governance
- Clinical labour ward coordinator
- Education & mentorship

Midwife – all areas, 2002-2009

Supporting information

I have practised as a clinical midwife for over 22 years, working in a variety of settings. I have specialised in maternity patient safety for the past ten years which has provided me with expert skills in case note review, incident investigation and report writing.

I support an operational and organisational patient safety culture that is built on high quality care standards, which prevents avoidable harm and deaths by using evidence-based best practice, lessons learned and robust data to identify themes and areas for ongoing improvement.

It is essential for me to remain up to date with current clinical and operational practice in order to be a credible and skilled senior midwife. I maintain regular presence in all areas of the maternity service, participate in clinical support and escalation, and am compliant with essential maternity training. I am up to date with current NICE recommendations for fetal heart rate analysis and emergency skills drills.

I have led my current department to achieve a “good” CQC rating, year-on-year compliance with the Maternity Incentive Scheme and ongoing quality, safety and service improvements to meet the recommendations of the Ockenden reports, and a rating of 5th in the country in the 2023 CQC Patient Experience Survey.

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