**Sign up to Safety Improvement Award**

In response to the national Sign up to Safety programme of safety improvement the National Health Service Litigation Authority (NHSLA) allocated a sum of money to support the many improvement plans taking place throughout the NHS. Trusts were invited to submit a bid for an allocation from this fund to support their individual improvement plans. The Queen Elizabeth Hospital submitted a proposed plan that concentrated on making specific improvements to enhance safety within our Maternity Services and is pleased to report that it was successful in its bid and was awarded £130,276 by the NHSLA.

These funds were allocated to three key projects:

1. Replace existing CTG machines (monitoring machines for women in labour) with modern WiFi enabled units which support correct interpretation and decision-making and help to avoid delays in responding to warning signs of foetal distress.
2. Purchase a new PROMPT mannequin and repair/replace our existing older mannequin to support staff in training to manage complications and emergency situations.
3. Introduce a Maternity IT system to provide an electronic patient record that will allow everyone involved in delivering clinical care to access the same information on the mother, enhance record-keeping, support and improve clinical handover between all those involved in the care of the mother and enable continuous audit and monitoring of services.

Overall the improvement plan aimed to reduce the number of serious incidents affecting women and their babies by 30% and to reduce the number of incidents related to physical damage to women during labour by 25%.

Sign up to Safety Update – November 2015

The Trust has delivered the first two objectives and has purchased two new WiFi enabled CTG machines and these are now in daily use with women in labour and are helping to support the safety of the mother and her unborn baby. The two PROMPT mannequins have also been purchased and now form an important part of the training programme for medical and midwifery staff and enable them to gain confidence in handling emergency situations in a safe and controlled manner.

The initial work to enable the implementation of the new IT system will take place early in 2016 as part of the Trust’s overall IT improvement plan.