

Maternity Transformation Plan update
Health and Wellbeing Select Committee
18th July 2018

Introduction

This paper updates members of the Committee about the work currently taking place to improve maternity services across the B&NES, Wiltshire and Swindon as part of the Sustainable Transformation Partnership (STP). This follows the national maternity review and the publication of the national Better Births recommendations (the NHS Five Year Forward View for Maternity services).

Better Births sets out the following recommendations to improve outcomes for women, their babies and families:

- Safer Maternity Services (the national ambition is to reduce still births, neonatal and maternal death by half by 2025).
- to have more personalised care which is family friendly, where women to have genuine choice informed by unbiased information on where to give birth, and choose the provider for their antenatal and postnatal care
- Improved continuity of care throughout pregnancy, birth and postnatally.
- Better postnatal and perinatal mental health care
- Improved multi-professional working between professional in maternity services.
- Working across geographical and agency boundaries to commission and provide services where they needed

Previous updates have informed members about the new arrangements put in place to improve maternity services across the Bath and North East Somerset, Wiltshire and Swindon (BWS). All commissioners and providers from across the maternity pathway within the STP were required to work together and to establish a Local Maternity System (LMS). The LMS is led and hosted by Wiltshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and includes service users, all providers of services across the maternity pathway and commissioners from all three CCGs.

Each LMS is required to produce a Local Maternity Transformation Plan. This latest version of this plan is attached. This was developed with the input and engagement of women and their families, clinicians, maternity staff, a range of partners (Health visitors, Family Nurse Partnership and Children's Centres) and other stakeholders through a number of workshops. Informal engagement took place with more than 2,000 women.

It sets out our LMS response to the national Better Birth Recommendations, as well locally identified priorities to improve the experience of maternity services for women and their families.

The Local Maternity Transformation Plan will improve the service to women and families by:

- Improving continuity of care
- Improving personalised care and choice with parity of access
- Creating Community Hubs to provide ante and postnatal care close to home
- Delivery of seamless pathways across organisational and geographical boundaries

Delivery of the Local Maternity Transformation plan

- Improving personalised care and choice is a key piece of work currently underway. Where and how maternity care is provided is being reviewed to see how parity of access, choice and the experience of women can be improved. The table on slide 4 of the presentation shows the current birth, antenatal and postnatal choices available to women across the LMS. Work that had commenced at the RUH to review the delivery of antenatal, birth and postnatal services has been aligned within this wider work. A key challenge across the LMS and particularly for the RUH is the increase in the number of births at the Obstetric unit and corresponding decline in the number of home births and births in Freestanding Midwifery units over the last few years. This has resulted in the significant underutilisation of some of the Freestanding Community Midwifery Units despite actions taken to promote these, and a mismatch in workloads and staffing levels. Across the LMS 85% of women chose to give birth in obstetric units. Slide 5 of the presentation shows more detail about where women are deciding to give birth across the LMS.

An Acute Maternity Services Steering group has been established to oversee the review and redesign work and the public consultation required. It reports into the STP Executive Board and also to three local CCG Boards. Care and delivery options are currently being developed and finalised. Proposals for these changes will be subject to the NHS assurance process and once this has been completed, they will be subject to a formal public consultation process which will commence later in September 2018.

- A Better Births recommendation is that each LMS establishes community hubs, where maternity services, particularly antenatal and postnatal services are provided alongside other family orientated health and social services provided by the voluntary and statutory sector. The purpose of these would be to act as “one stop shops” to make it easier for women to access the various elements of maternity care and any related support they need, and to provide a fast and effective route if more specialist services are needed. The model is not prescribed and locally work is underway to develop our local vision for community hubs and improving community antenatal and postnatal services, along with access to, and co-ordination with health visitors, children’s centres family support and GPs locally.
- As part of the Local maternity transformation plan, a DadPad app was launched across B&NES, Wiltshire and Swindon in June and has been shared with a wide range of stakeholders including maternity services, community health services including health

visitors and school nurses, children's centre services, social care teams and the RUH, libraries, one stop shops and birth registrars. It is an easy-to-use up to date information tool for dads-to-be and dads with new babies which provides bitesize top tips for new dads to help them adjust to parenthood. The aim of the app is to enable new dads to feel more confident about fatherhood and to play an active role in supporting health and wellbeing outcomes of women, children and families across B&NES. A digital tool kit is also available on the B&NES Family Information Online service.

- Improving continuity of care so that more women are attended at birth by a known midwife. A pilot is planned in the autumn and initially will focus on more vulnerable women and families.

Next Steps

- NHS assurance process including stage 2 review
- If assurance is provided, formal consultation will commence at the end of September and run for 12 weeks
- Detailed proposals will be brought to the Health and Wellbeing Select Committee during the formal consultation period for a full discussion and feedback.

Appendix 1 Presentation

Appendix 2 Final Local Maternity Transformation Plan