

Wiltshire Council

Health Select Committee

18 December 2018

**Rapid Scrutiny Exercise:
Maternity Transformation Plan – public consultation**

Purpose of the report

1. To present the findings and recommendations of the rapid scrutiny (RS) exercise, which took place on 12 November 2018, for endorsement by the Health Select Committee (HSC).

Background

2. Following a decision by HSC, at its meeting on 11 July 2018, to undertake a joint rapid scrutiny of the proposal for public consultation with regards to the Maternity Transformation Plan, a meeting took place on 12 November 2018.

Membership

3. The opportunity to take part in the rapid scrutiny was offered to all non-executive members of Wiltshire, Bath & North East Somerset and Swindon councils, the following were appointed:
 - Cllr Chuck Berry, Wiltshire Council, elected as lead member for the RS
 - Cllr Gordon King, Wiltshire Council
 - Diane Gooch, Wiltshire Council
 - Cllr Lin Patterson, Bath & North East Somerset (BANES)
4. Due to unforeseen circumstances Ms Diane Gooch was unfortunately unable to attend on the day.

Evidence

5. The RS considered the following documents, all of which are now available on the website dedicated to the Maternity Transformation Plan (links have been included below and the website itself can be accessed [here](#)):
 - Transforming Maternity Services Together – [Consultation survey](#)
 - Transforming Maternity Services Together – [Key Facts](#)
 - Transforming Maternity Services Together – [Our Proposal for Change](#)
6. The following documents were also provided to the RS as background information and to ensure that all members of the RS (as it had been provided to different select committees) had access to the same evidence:
 - The Maternity Transformation Plan briefing;

- The updated Maternity Transformation Plan;

Both have previously been considered as follows:

Bath & North East Somerset Council – Health and Wellbeing Select Committee on 29 November 2017

Swindon Borough Council - Adults Health, Adult's Care and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 28 March 2018

Wiltshire HSC on 7 November 2017

- Maternity Services redesign

Previously considered by Bath & North East Somerset Council - Health & Wellbeing Select Committee 18 July 2018)

- Communications Strategy; and
- Consultation Plan

Previously considered as follows:

Bath & North East Somerset Council – Health and Wellbeing Select Committee on 26 September 2018

Wiltshire HSC on 11 September 2018

Aim of the meeting

7. For Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire overview and scrutiny representatives to consider the evidence used to inform the Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire Local Maternity System (LMS) review and the proposal(s) made in the Maternity Transformation Plan.
8. Approval from the joint rapid scrutiny exercise was sought to proceed to public consultation on the proposal contained within the Transforming Maternity Services Together document.

Witnesses

9. The RS group would like to thank the following officers for attending the meeting on 12 November 2018, providing information and answering questions:
 - Lucy Baker, Acting Commissioning Director - Maternity, Children and Mental health, Wiltshire Clinical Commissioning Group. STP Programme Director Maternity.
 - Sarah MacLennan, Associate Director, Communications and Engagement, Wiltshire Clinical Commissioning Group
 - Sandy Richards, Local Maternity System Project Midwife
 - Sarah Merritt, Head of Nursing and Midwifery, Royal United Hospital Bath
 - Rhiannon Hills, Women's and Children's Divisional Manager, Royal United Hospital Bath
 - Emma Mooney, Head of Communications at Royal United Hospital Bath

Summary of deliberations

10. The RS received a detailed presentation on the Maternity Transformation Plan; including the reasons for the overall review of services.
11. The RS was informed that a rigorous NHS England five-steps assurance process had been followed in producing a clinical case for change which had been successfully presented to the Clinical Senate as part of the assurance process.
12. The RS questioned the possible impact the removal of the post-natal beds could have, especially for more vulnerable mothers. Reassurance was offered that dedicated ante and post-natal care would still be available, although not in beds, which had been severely underused (only used 5% in the past year).
13. Following questions, the RS was offered reassurance that population growth predictions had been taken into account, as well as a detailed analysis of travel time to the proposed locations, including areas of deprivations.
14. The possible impact on ambulance services had also been considered and it was currently anticipated that the proposal would have a limited impact on the volume of ambulance transport.
15. The RS was informed of the disparity of choice for women within the Local Maternity System (BANES, Swindon and Wiltshire). The recommendations from the national Better Births, “A Five Year Forward View for maternity care”, designed to improve outcomes and experiences, had choice as a key concept and specified that there should be at least three choices available for mothers: obstetric-led, mid-wife led or home births. The proposals would offer women within the Local Maternity System access to mid-wife led within reasonable travelling distance and would release staff time to increase understanding, and where adequate take up, of home births. The proposal was not anticipated to impact on obstetric-led births.
16. The RS understood that the proposal had positive aspects such as not closing buildings, not reducing budget spent on maternity and not reducing service (but delivered in a different location); nonetheless anticipated that there would be public concern over the proposal and sought reassurance that the public consultation would be advertised and presented as widely as possible. It was confirmed that the most affected Town and Parish Councils would be adequately informed and engaged with, and that officers would attend meetings such as area boards, as well as market days, etc. to present the consultation to members of the public and answer questions.

Recommendations

Based on the evidence it received, the rapid scrutiny exercise recommends that:

- i) the public consultation on the Maternity Transformation Plan, as presented, be undertaken
- ii) the relevant Overview and Scrutiny committees for Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire councils be informed of
 - a) progress on the consultation
 - b) the outcome of the consultation

Cllr Chuck Berry, lead member for the rapid scrutiny exercise – Maternity Transformation Plan - consultation

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Appendices None

Background documents all background documents have been referenced within the report.