

Wiltshire Council

Health and Wellbeing Board

30 January 2020

Subject: Transforming Maternity Services Together

Executive Summary

This update provides a summary of the Maternity Service Reconfiguration programme, which has been running for the past three years across BaNES, Swindon and Wiltshire (BSW). It will include a verbal update on the final decision in relation to the recommendations for change, which have been co-created with local mums and families. This decision is due to be made by the BSW Governing Body on January 16th 2020.

Proposal(s)

It is recommended that the Board:

- i) Notes the update ;
- ii) Notes the final decision and next steps

Reason for Proposal

The aim of this programme was to improve maternity services across our footprint to deliver the ambitions of the national Better Births recommendations, create parity of choice of place of birth, respond to feedback in relation to where mums would like to have their babies and ensure we continue to provide efficient maternity services that meet local needs and choices.

Subject: Transforming Maternity Services Together

Purpose of Report

1. To update members on the BSW Maternity Service Reconfiguration Programme and the final decision in relation to the co-created recommendations.

Relevance to the Health and Wellbeing Strategy

2. The Health and Wellbeing Board has received a number of previous updates in relation to this programme, which links with the strategic objective to ensure all babies have the best start in life.

Background

3. In 2016, a Local Maternity System (LMS) was created across the BaNES, Swindon and Wiltshire (BSW) geography to standardise and improve experience for mums and families and support delivery of the national Better Births recommendations.

In parallel to this, the Royal United Hospital in Bath had begun conducting a review of place of birth options for women within its services. This review was then extended to facilitate an assessment of place of birth options for all women across BSW. The assessment identified the following key elements:

- There was a lack of parity of choice for women when choosing where to birth their babies. Only women living in the Swindon and North Wiltshire area had access to an Alongside Midwifery Unit (AMU).
- There had been a shift in locations where women were choosing to birth their babies resulting in an increase in low risk women choosing the option of an acute hospital Obstetric Unit and a subsequent underutilisation of Freestanding Midwifery Units (FMUs).

Engagement activities were then held across our area to better understand the reasons for these changes and the views of women and families in relation to place of birth. More than 2,000 women and families were involved in this work along with our staff and proposals for change were co-created. Listening to feedback during this process, our proposals were extended to also include a

review of postnatal community beds, home birth services and antenatal and postnatal community care.

This service transformation programme has followed the NHSE seven step assurance process. Our clinical case for change was approved by the Clinical Senate in June 2018 and a 15 week public consultation was undertaken with more than 2,480 interactions and 1,800 survey responses received. These responses were independently and academically analysed by the University of Bath.

A set of final recommendations based on the thematic outcomes of the consultations were presented to an independent Expert Panel in September 2019 prior to the completion of the Decision Making Business Case, which was due to be presented to the BSW Governing Body on January 16th 2020 to approve the recommendations described.

Main Considerations

4. There are six different elements, but together they form one proposal for change:
 - Continue to support births in two rather than four Freestanding Midwifery Units. Chippenham and Frome to continue to support births, Trowbridge and Paulton to no longer support births. Antenatal and postnatal care to continue to be provided in all four units – Chippenham, Frome, Trowbridge and Paulton and in all other community locations eg GP practices.
 - Create an Alongside Midwifery Unit at the Royal United Hospital.
 - Create an Alongside Unit at Salisbury District Hospital.
 - Enhance current provision of antenatal and postnatal care.
 - Improve and better promote the homebirth service.
 - Replace nine community postnatal beds (four in Paulton Freestanding Midwifery Unit and five in Chippenham Freestanding Midwifery Unit) with support closer to, or in, women's homes.

Next Steps

5. Having received the update on this programme and if the recommendations are approved, it is proposed that the Health and Wellbeing Board receive future briefings in relation to the ongoing implementation plan including impact and outcomes for local mums and families.

Report Authors:

Lucy Baker

Director of Service Delivery
BSW CCGS