

Councillors' Briefing Note No. 157

Service: Public Health

Further Enquiries to: Amy Bird

Direct Line: 0300 0034566 or mobile 0778 5320 485

Date Prepared: 1 August 2013

Title: Update on the Temporary Closure of Trowbridge Birthing Centre by Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

As you will be aware on 5th July 2013 Great Western Hospital, the provider of community maternity services in Wiltshire notified the Council and other partners of its decision to temporarily close Trowbridge Birthing Centre.

Great Western Hospital's lack of consultation with Wiltshire Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee in the run up to this decision being made has understandably caused anxiety within the local community.

To ensure lessons are learnt and that the views of Wiltshire Council have been articulated I have now met with both Stephen Rowland's, Chair of Wiltshire CCG and Nerissa Vaughan, Chief Executive of GWH to discuss the situation.

I have received confirmation from GWH that this closure is temporary - with the services at Trowbridge to reopen on 30th September – and have been further assured that robust plans are in place to ensure this happens. I have asked Great Western Hospital to provide an update on their progress towards reopening at the next Health and Wellbeing Board scheduled for 12th September.

Jane Scott

Leader of the Council