Invite us to your meeting or give us feedback

Please return to the BHSP office at the address on the back of this leaflet.

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What happens at the moment? (continued)

women with complicated pregnancies coming to Bristol from across the South West and South Wales. This is because there are not many specialist centres in those areas. We want to ensure that the right facilities are available for all of the mothers and babies that need to come to Bristol.

What is important to you?

What do you think we should take into account when we plan the new services? We want the views of individuals. We are also working with many different groups and representatives of parents and NHS staff. The list of community and voluntary groups that we are hoping to involve throughout the review is available on the Bristol Health Services Plan website at: www.avon.nhs.uk/bhsp

Individuals and groups are getting involved in the following ways:

- Representation on the project steering group
- Involvement in the project work groups
- Attendance at focus groups during the public engagement phase
- Attendance at public meetings
- Inviting us to attend their meetings
- Giving feedback at all stages of the programme.

The purpose of the review is to come up with a recommendation on how best to provide maternity and newborn services in the future. The final decision rests with the Boards of the primary care and NHS trusts.

How to find out more and tell us what you think

This document introduces you to what we call the public engagement phase of the review, which is taking place between 1st December 2006 and 1st March 2007. We want to hear from you about the following:

- What do you think of the current services?
- What is good?
- What needs changing?
- What sorts of things really matter to you?
- Is there anything else you want to tell us or to suggest?

We will consider your comments, alongside those of staff. We will look at information both locally and nationally and we will come up with a small number of options for full consideration. When we have written these we will come back to you for a public consultation. This will be between October 2007 and January 2008. We will ask you to tell us which option you think is best. A full timetable is on the website (see opposite).

We would like people to give us their views and you can do this in a number of ways:

1. Use the pre-printed tear-off slip in this leaflet.

2. Alternatively you can write / email/ call or fax us with your views to the details on the back of this leaflet.

Contact us

Address for all correspondence, return of forms and requests for information:
The Maternity and Newborn Services Review
The Bristol Health Services Plan
FREEPOST BS1078
King Square House, King Square
Bristol, BS2 8EE
Telephone our free phone number:
0800 015 5127
Email us with your comments:
bhsp@bristolpct.nhs.uk
Minicom: 0117 900 2675
Fax: 0117 900 2514

Look on our website where you can download forms and further information as well as give us feedback directly
http://www.avon.nhs.uk/bhsp

Come to one of our meetings

9 January 2007 10-11.30am
Jubilee Centre, Savages Wood Road, Bradley Stoke, BS32 8HL

11 January 2007 7-8.30pm
Lecture Theatre, UBHT Education Centre Upper Maudlin Street, Bristol, BS2 8AE

6 February 2007 10-11.30am
The Healthy Living Centre, Lonsdale Avenue, Weston-super-Mare, BS23 3SL.

If you would like further copies of this report or in another format such as ASCII, Braille, large print, on a CD, audio cassette or in other languages, please contact us as above.

December 2006

Help us decide

Maternity and Newborn Services Review

Public engagement

1 December 2006 - 1 March 2007

Building Better Health Services
Bristol Health Services Plan

NHS

Building better health services **in Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire**

What is this review?

This review is part of the Bristol Health Services Plan, which is changing health services in Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire to better meet future needs.

Health service managers and staff want to ensure that every parent and baby has the best possible experience of birth and early days. To do this we are working with interested parties, and are seeking views from service users so we can take a fresh look at how we provide services in this area.

We need to ensure that the services we offer are those that meet your needs and that we:

- Promote normal childbirth
- Provide choices for where and how mothers give birth
- Provide safe and effective care to national standards
- Make the best use of resources.

Why now?

There are changes taking place that make this a good time to look at maternity and newborn services. These include:

- New guidelines for maternity and newborn care which sets out how the experience should be for parents and babies
- Local commitment, backed by the government, for mothers to be given choices about how and where they give birth
- New expert recommendations on how best to provide intensive care for very sick newborn babies
- Changes in the Bristol area with most children's hospital services moving into the Children's Hospital in the centre of the city.

What happens at the moment?

The facilities in which women give birth can be described as follows, nationally:

- Home birth - anyone can choose to have their baby at home. Two community midwives come to the home to care for the mother and baby, bringing their equipment with them.
- Birth centres - these centres are run by small teams of midwives and health care support workers, providing a home-like, atmosphere. They are designed for women who are having a healthy pregnancy and are expected to have a normal birth.
- Midwife-led units - these are based in the same building as consultant led maternity units, suitable for women who are having a healthy pregnancy and wish for a natural birth in a home like atmosphere.
- Consultant-led units - these are based in the main maternity hospitals, intended for women with medical, pregnancy or labour complications or for women planning to have an epidural for labour. Anybody can choose to have their baby here if they wish. The consultant unit takes transfers from home, birth centres or midwife-led units if a problem develops.

Locally:
Each year in our area of Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire there are about 10,000 births. In 2005, these took place in the following places:

- 4,904 at Southmead Hospital in the north of Bristol
- 4,749 at St Michael's Hospital in the centre of Bristol
- 242 at Weston-super-Mare Hospital
- 300 in mothers' own homes.

Of the births in 2004-05, 25% were by Caesarean section (one in four), compared to a national rate of 23%. So the local Caesarean rate is a little higher than average. This difference may not be significant, but Caesarean rates are increasing both here and across the country. We want to keep these as low as possible.

Southmead and St Michael's Hospitals have consultant-led and midwife-led units. Weston is a birth centre with very close links to the consultant unit at St Michael's Hospital, sharing many staff and ways of working. There is no birth centre in Bristol.

Pregnant women attend clinics run by midwives in the community and sometimes in hospital, where they may also see a doctor. All pregnant women have a named community midwife.

After birth, community midwives visit the mother and baby at home.

Experts across the country are recommending that newborn babies needing extra help are looked after in big specialist centres such as those at Southmead and St Michael's. It is best if these babies are born in the consultant unit where their specialist care is going to be provided. There are therefore increasing numbers of very sick newborn babies and

photo courtesy of www.borninwater.co.uk

Invite us to your meeting or give us feedback

We are keen to find out how you think that local maternity and newborn services might be improved. Please use the space below to tell us what you think, in particular:

- What do you think of the current services?
- What is good?
- What needs changing?
- What sorts of things really matter to you?
- Is there anything else you want to tell us or suggest?

Please continue overleaf and on another sheet of paper if you need to. Also If you want to invite us to your meeting, please ensure that we have all the details here

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