

Board of Directors Meeting in Public - Cover Sheet

All reports **MUST** have a cover sheet

Subject:	Maternity Update - Home Birth Service	Date: 04/08/2022								
Prepared By:	Melanie Johnson, matron for Community & Outpatients Lisa Butler, Deputy Head of Midwifery									
Approved By:	Phil Bolton , Chief Nurse									
Presented By:	Paula Shore, Director of Midwifery/ Head of Nursing									
Purpose										
The purpose of this paper is to inform the Board of Directors that we are planning to recommence our overnight home birth service which was suspended in September 2021, therefore providing 24-hour cover from the 19 September 2022.		<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Approval</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Assurance</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Update</td> <td>X</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Consider</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Approval		Assurance		Update	X	Consider	
Approval										
Assurance										
Update	X									
Consider										
Strategic Objectives										
To provide outstanding care	To promote and support health and wellbeing	To maximise the potential of our workforce	To continuously learn and improve	To achieve better value						
x	x		x							
Identify which principal risk this report relates to:										
PR1	Significant deterioration in standards of safety and care			X						
PR2	Demand that overwhelms capacity									
PR3	Critical shortage of workforce capacity and capability			X						
PR4	Failure to achieve the Trust's financial strategy									
PR5	Inability to initiate and implement evidence-based Improvement and innovation			X						
PR6	Working more closely with local health and care partners does not fully deliver the required benefits									
PR7	Major disruptive incident									
PR8	Failure to deliver sustainable reductions in the Trust's impact on climate change									
Committees/groups where this item has been presented before										
Maternity Assurance Committee										
Executive Summary										
The purpose of this paper is to inform Trust Board of Directors that we are recommencing our overnight home birth service, which was suspended in September 2021. The plans will be to provide a 24-hour cover from the 19 th of September 2022. This is in line with NUH who are also proposing to recommence their service in September 2022.										

BACKGROUND

Following on from the suspension of our home birth service back in September 2021 there has been good progress made in recruiting midwives to join the community midwifery service. Staffing is now at a level deemed safe to recommence our 24-hour on call home birth service.

HOME BIRTH SERVICE

On average our home birth service delivers six babies per month. Whilst this number is low, we are aware of the impact this facility has on our women. Women will have multiple reasons for choosing a home birth due to the benefits from birthing at home. **Board of Directors members are asked to note that because of the low numbers of home births there are only two midwives on call overnight for this service. This means that if more than one woman commences in labour overnight we may not be able to facilitate this.** During the woman's birth plan discussions, the community midwifery team ensures that this is shared with the women.

RECOMMENCEMENT OF THE HOME BIRTH SERVICE

It has been a year since our homebirth service ran in its true form which may have de-skilled some staff and in addition we have recruited a number of new staff. Therefore, the following actions will be put in place to ensure the workforce is well supported.

1. Staff will now go out to home births in pairs. This will support our junior/new midwives and enable fresh eyes to take place during auscultation.
2. Workshops have been arranged for all community midwives to access during August 2022 and early September 2022 in preparation for recommencement of the home birth service. The workshops will be facilitated by our Practice Development team and experienced community midwives who can share their wealth of knowledge. These workshops will include looking at kit required, calling for help and emergency skills.
3. Team leaders are going to look at skill mix when allocating nights on call to ensure the midwives that have not yet attended a homebirth have support.

CONCLUSION

A full 24-hour home birth service should be available for people choosing to birth at our hospital by 19 September 2022 providing staffing levels remain stable.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Trust Board are asked to note the following:-

1. **All of the aforementioned proposals are based on staffing levels remaining stable until September 2022. If this changes reconsideration may be required to ensure a safe service is in place.**