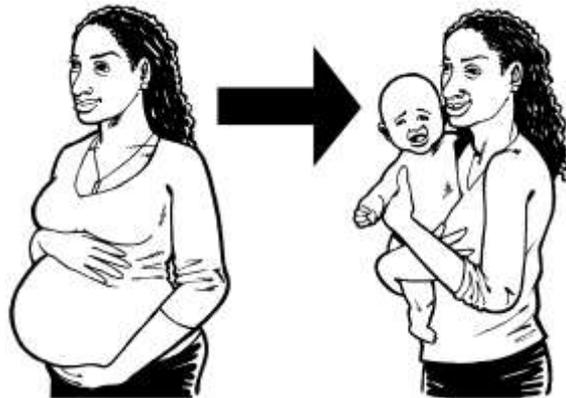


Transforming Maternity Services Together

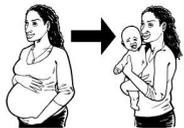


Easy Read Guide



Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon & Wiltshire Local Maternity System

Introduction



The Local Maternity System (this is the teams who buy, manage and deliver maternity services across Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire) are proposing to make some changes to maternity services.



This information tells you what we would like to do and why.



It also asks for your thoughts. It is important that we know what you think before we make any decisions.

What we want to do



We want to make some changes to our maternity services, so women have more choices about their birth and how staff will look after them and their baby after it is born.



We want to make sure we have the right staff, buildings and money, in the right places and at the right time for women and their families.

Why do we think we need to make changes to maternity services?



More women are now giving birth in hospital than anywhere else. There are lots of reasons for this, but it means that:



1. 'Freestanding Midwifery Units' (small community units run by midwives and maternity care assistants) are not used very often but still have to have staff there 24 hours a day.



Maternity staff at 'Freestanding Midwifery Units' often have to be moved around at short notice and don't have enough time to support women to find out more about, and have, home births.

2. 'Community post-natal beds' (which are maternity services in the community for mothers after they have had their baby) are not used as often as they used to be, but still take up staff time and cost money to keep open.



Consultation – what mums and families have told us is important to them.



Over the last 18 months, we have consulted with over 2000 women and their families, staff and healthcare staff to ask everyone what they want and what could be better.



This is what women and their families have told us is important to them:



- They like having the 'Freestanding Midwifery Units', as this gives them a choice about where to have their baby.



- They want to be offered choices about their maternity services right from the beginning of their pregnancy.



- They want us to look at providing 'Alongside Midwifery Units' at the Royal United Hospital and Salisbury District Hospital.



An 'Alongside Midwifery Unit' is a maternity service provided by midwives and maternity care assistants. An Alongside Unit is in a building located next to an 'Obstetric Unit', where there are doctors available to support the delivery of a baby, if needed.



- They want to have their own space and do not want to worry about having to travel between different maternity services once in labour.



- They want us to make home births easier to plan for and would like to have better support for home birth.



- They want more time with the same midwife and more consistent support during pregnancy.



- They want more help and information and improved breastfeeding support.

The changes we are suggesting



We have listened to all of this feedback and taken it into account. We are now proposing six changes:

1. To provide 2 instead of 4 'Freestanding Midwifery Units'.



Women would be able to give birth to their babies at Chippenham and Frome Freestanding Midwifery Units, but would no longer be able to give birth at Trowbridge and Paulton Freestanding Midwifery Units.

Antenatal and post-natal clinics will continue to be provided in all four units.



2. To provide 'Alongside Midwifery Units' at the Royal United Hospital (in Bath) and Salisbury District Hospital.



3. Improve antenatal and post-natal care services.



4. Improve the home birth service and the information that women and families are given.



5. Replace 9 community post-natal beds (5 in Paulton Freestanding Midwifery Unit and 4 in Chippenham Freestanding Midwifery Unit) with support closer to, or in, women's homes.

What do you think about our proposal?



- What do you think is good or bad about the proposal?



- Do you think the proposed changes we are suggesting will affect you or your partner/family?



- Do you think there is another way we could make good changes that we have not thought about?

Please let us know what you think.

Details of how to do this are on the next page.

Thank you

Thank you for taking time to read this Easy Read Guide and for sharing your ideas and thoughts.

The consultation will close on **Sunday 24 February 2019**.

A report summarising the feedback will be shared on our consultation website in the spring 2019.

There is more information available on our website:

<http://www.transformingmaternity.org.uk/>

You can also contact us:

Email us: maternity.transformationbsw.org.uk

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