

Dear Colleague

I would be most grateful if you could forward the following communication to your GP colleagues in practice.

Many thanks

Sarah

Dear All

Many of you will have seen coverage in the media inferring that specialist GPs could be trained to perform caesarean sections at the Horton General Hospital. This has been taken completely out of context and needs to be clarified.

The Secretary of State requested that OCCG and OUHFT engage with the public and stakeholders about potential options for the delivery of obstetrics at the Horton. Previously, there was criticism that OCCG and OUHFT had ignored some service proposal suggestions, so as far as possible, suggestions from stakeholders and the public were included this time in the long list. This is not an unusual process; options are set out and then shortlisted in terms of feasibility.

One of the suggested options around GP involvement in obstetric care was put forward as a possible 'remote and rural' model. This was based on models where Medical Specialist/Generalist support is offered due to the remoteness of the place and the challenges of workforce. It is something similar to that described by the National Maternity Review [Better Births] as a remote and rural service. In the interests of openness, completeness and out of respect to those who suggested this, the option was captured for the long list without making any judgement about the feasibility. This also ensured that the Secretary of State's inference of leaving no stone unturned was adhered to. It was this list that was picked up in the media. However, shortlisting is still yet to occur and only feasible options will be considered.

If you have any queries or concerns please let me know.

Best wishes

Sarah

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