

Small obstetric units, models of working and learning for Oxfordshire.

Background

Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group and Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust has been looking at how NHS Trusts across the country manage the challenge of safe obstetric care in units with small numbers of births. The aim is to use any learning, particularly around medical staffing, training accreditation and safety to inform the appraisal of options for the unit at the Horton General Hospital.

Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee members are requested to:

- a) Note the work underway
- b) Comment on the criteria used to identify units
- c) Identify if there are units that do not meet our criteria but that the Committee believes provide exceptionally relevant examples that we should consider

Scope

There has been a reduction in the number of small obstetric units operating across the country since 2015. However, there are still a number of small units that manage less than 2200 births, either as part of a larger NHS Trust with a larger obstetric unit or more commonly as the only obstetric unit in that NHS Trust.

A selection of these units is now being looked at to see what lessons can be learned. The criteria adopted for selecting the units are:

- Less than 2200 deliveries
- Good or outstanding CQC rating
- Comparable or better CQC women's survey outcome
- Not currently under review/reconfiguration

The current key lines of enquiry being pursued include:

- Medical staffing models
- Training accreditation status
- Collaboration with other NHS Trusts
- Safety and outcomes

The small units currently being investigated are listed in appendix 1 (these were identified from the National Maternity Perinatal Audit (NMPA) organisational report 2017).

Alignment with other work

We understand that members of Keep the Horton General are undertaking a review of small units and we have asked if we can share approaches and information.

Appendix 1

- Hereford Central Hospital
- Bassetlaw Hospital
- Gateshead Hospital
- Scunthorpe General Hospital
- Dorset County Hospital
- Harrogate General Hospital
- Macclesfield General Hospital
- Darlington General Hospital
- Royal Lancashire General Hospital
- George Elliot General Hospital
- Salisbury General Hospital
- St Helier General Hospital
- Worthing Hospital