

Report to: **East Sussex Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC)**

Date: **24th September 2009**

By: **Director of Law and Personnel**

Title of report: **Developing Maternity Services for East Sussex**

Purpose of report: **To summarise progress in relation to the development of maternity services in East Sussex, with particular focus on the development of a model for childbirth and related services at East Sussex Hospitals Trust.**

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## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

**HOSC is recommended to:**

- 1. Consider and comment on progress with the maternity services programme as outlined in appendix 1**
  - 2. Request a further progress report in November 2009.**
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### **1. Background**

1.1 Following the outcome of the NHS East Sussex Downs and Weald (ESDW)/NHS Hastings and Rother (H&R) consultation on the configuration of maternity and related services, HOSC agreed to undertake ongoing monitoring of progress. This has focussed on four areas:

- The maintenance of safe childbirth services in Eastbourne and Hastings pending the development of a long-term sustainable model.
- Progress on the development of a service model which would ensure the continuing provision of consultant-led childbirth, special baby care and inpatient gynaecology services at both hospitals.
- Progress on the development of a broader maternity strategy for East Sussex which would include enhancements to ante and post-natal care.
- The development and use of a 'maternity dashboard' which would provide a selection of data about maternity care to facilitate monitoring of quality and safety.

1.2 Early in 2009 new governance arrangements were established to take forward work on maternity strategy, including the development of a model for childbirth services in Eastbourne and Hastings. These arrangements include a Maternity Services Development Panel, Chaired by Richard Hallett of the Maternity Services Liaison Committee and a Maternity Services Clinicians' Forum, chaired by Professor Robert Shaw of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. The HOSC Chairman attends the Development Panel as an independent observer.

1.3 At the HOSC meeting on 19th March 2009, the Committee supported the first iteration of a Maternity Strategy for East Sussex which particularly focussed on developing ante and post natal care in the community. The Committee also endorsed a paper, supported by the Clinicians Forum, describing a potential model for childbirth services which involves networking between hospitals in Eastbourne, Hastings and Brighton. The Maternity Strategy and the proposed networking model were subsequently endorsed by the Boards of NHS ESDW and NHS H&R at the end of March.

1.4 At the HOSC meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2009, the Committee noted that work was ongoing, led by the Clinicians' Forum, to develop a model for childbirth services. This would be based on fleshing out the networking approach outlined to HOSC in March. HOSC also endorsed the engagement strategy developed by the Maternity Services Development Panel to ensure local people are engaged in and informed about the development of maternity services.

## 2. Progress update

2.1 NHS ESDW/NHS H&R have supplied reports summarising progress with the maternity services programme:

- **Appendix 1** describes progress in developing the model of care for childbirth and related services in Eastbourne and Hastings. The final proposal on maternity services will be developed and presented to the Maternity Services Development Panel (MSDP) in late September and the maternity strategy revised during October to reflect the service model. The Maternity Strategy will then be presented to the PCTs Boards at the November meeting for signing off. The Maternity Strategy Action Plan will provide the framework through which the service model will be implemented.
- **Appendix 2** is the updated HOSC monitoring template – this lists the original HOSC recommendations on maternity services which remained relevant after the decision to retain doctor-led services at both hospitals. It also includes the recommendations of the Independent Reconfiguration Panel. It is updated regularly to enable HOSC to easily monitor progress against these recommendations.
- **Appendix 3** is the latest maternity dashboard – HOSC requested regular sight of this dashboard which summarises key indicators relating to the quality and safety of maternity services. It complements the monitoring template (appendix 2).
- **Appendix 4** is a summary of the antenatal clinic network (requested by HOSC at July's meeting).

HOSC may wish to consider:

- Cost of maternity services across two acute sites and progress in negotiating a revised maternity contract with East Sussex Hospital NHS Trust
- Outcomes from the Open Event for Clinicians in September and position on the final proposal/service model
- Position on increasing the number of consultants across each site to 6 and progress on cross site working.
- Progress on the geographic restructuring of midwives
- Whether labouring women are able to receive a high level of 1:1 care in established labour
- Position on public maternity information leaflet
- How to consider the Maternity Strategy should it be signed off by the PCT Boards in November. (NHS East Sussex Downs and Weald – Thursday 26th November: NHS Hastings and Rother – Wednesday 25th November. HOSC Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2009 and Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2010)

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