

Update on the Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin Midwifery Led Services Review

A proposal for a new service model for Midwifery Led Services across the County has been presented and approved for consultation by the Boards of Shropshire Clinical Commissioning Group and Telford Clinical Commissioning Group.

This new proposed service model aims to improve the clinical and financial sustainability of midwifery led care as well as improving access to services and outcomes for women and their families.

Outline of the new proposed model of care

There was an inconsistent offer for women with each MLUs offering different services and a key part of the new proposed model aims to address this through the introduction of maternity hubs. These hubs would aim to ensure woman have access to the same type of services closer to home. They would also include a more extensive range of services than those currently offered through MLUs and include:

- Antenatal and postnatal care from a midwife and support from women's support assistants
- Planned appointments with an obstetrician
- Scanning and fetal monitoring
- Antenatal day assessment, including CTG (where a baby's heart rate and movements are monitored)
- Drop in service or planned access during a 12 hour period
- Support with confidence building and bonding
- Support with feeding and practical baby care
- A space for women and their families to reflect on the birth experience
- Newborn checks and screening
- Support with emotional wellbeing and mental health
- Support with long term conditions during pregnancy
- Healthy lifestyle services - including smoking cessation and weight management services
- Information and advice about pregnancy and parenthood
- Information and advice about birth options
- Peer support

Under the proposal, there would be no inpatient births at the Ludlow, Bridgnorth and Oswestry MLUs but the new model would continue to offer a full range of birth options within the County. This is good practice and currently only happens in 22% of health trusts and health boards across England, Wales and Scotland.

In Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin, there will continue to be the full range of births at:

- A Consultant Led Unit
- An Alongside Midwife Led Unit (on the same site as the consultant led unit)
- A Freestanding Midwife Led Unit (not on the same site as the consultant led unit)
- Home

In addition, it is proposed that midwives and women's support assistants will be available 24/7 for advice and support either over the phone, in person, or through video call. This will also include a responsive triage service to assess women in labour and to judge progress as accurately as possible so they get to their chosen place of birth on time.

Next Steps

The CCGs is in discussion with the Consultation Institute and is also seeking guidance from NHS England on any necessary assurance processes that may be required before going out to public consultation.