



Committee and Date

**Health and Social Care
Overview Committee**

16 July 2018

Item

(leave blank)

Public

Closure of midwife-led units

Responsible officer

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1.0 Summary

1.1 Shrewsbury and Telford Hospitals NHS Trust (SaTH), has temporarily closed its midwife-led units in Bridgnorth, Oswestry and Ludlow to inpatient services. The head of midwifery at SaTH will be attending to discuss the closures with the committee.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Read the attached report from the head of midwifery, SaTH, about the challenges faced in maintaining safe inpatient services in Bridgnorth, Ludlow and Oswestry.

3.0 Report

3.1 On 20 April 2018 Shrewsbury and Telford Hospitals NHS Trust (SaTH), announced the temporary closure of its midwife-led units in Oswestry and Ludlow to inpatient services (births and postnatal care). On 18 May 2018 it also closed the unit at Bridgnorth to inpatient services. All of these centres have continued to run their planned antenatal and postnatal services.

3.2 SaTH announced shortly after this that all of these units would remain closed to inpatient services in order to be able to maintain safe staffing levels at other units while it carried out a period of engagement with people who use its services.

3.3 In a report to its trust board on 20 March 2018, the head of midwifery at SaTH explained that "Since the re-opening of the three smaller Midwife Led Units (MLU's) on the 1st January 2018 the service has continued to have difficulty staffing those areas whilst maintaining a safe level and skill mix of staffing across the whole maternity service. This is largely due to maintaining a service in three of the MLU's [24 hours a day] with the least activity when the majority of the activity is elsewhere. This report is attached as appendix 1.

3.4 The head of midwifery at SaTH will be attending today's meeting to discuss the

Meeting, date: Report heading

temporary suspension of inpatient service at its units in Bridgnorth, Ludlow and Oswestry, and the ongoing consultation with its service users.

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)

None

Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)

The Portfolio Holder for Adult Services, Health, Social Housing

Local Member

All

Appendices

Appendix 1: Letter from chief executive, SaTH, to the chair, Health and Social Care Overview Committee , Shropshire Council, 18 June 2018