



SHROPSHIRE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Report

Meeting Date	19th September 2024			
Title of report	Women's Health Hubs: Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin			
This report is for (You will have been advised which applies)	Discussion and agreement of recommendations		Approval of recommendations (With discussion by exception)	X
				Information only (No recommendations)
Reporting Officer & email	Naomi Roche: Public Health Principal - Healthy Population Lead & Women's Health Hubs Lead STW naomi.roche@shropshire.gov.uk			
Which Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy priorities does this report address? Please tick all that apply	Children & Young People	X	Joined up working	X
	Mental Health	X	Improving Population Health	X
	Healthy Weight & Physical Activity	X	Working with and building strong and vibrant communities	X
	Workforce	X	Reduce inequalities (see below)	X
What inequalities does this report address?	<p>The work has reducing inequalities at its core. Person Centred approaches and personalising care ensures active consideration of the needs of different communities.</p> <p>As described in the Women's Health Strategy, 51% of the population faces obstacles when it comes to getting the care they need.</p> <p>Although women in the UK on average live longer than men, women spend a significantly greater proportion of their lives in ill health and disability when compared with men. Not enough focus is placed on women-specific issues like miscarriage or menopause, and women are under-represented when it comes to important clinical trials. This has meant that not enough is known about conditions that only affect women, or about how conditions that affect both men and women impact them in different ways.</p> <p>As the national directive says, the impact of failing to put women at the heart of health services has been clear to see through the number of recent high-profile independent reports and inquiries. This has included the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • report of the Independent Medicines and Medical Devices Safety Review (IMMDS review), which considered how the health system in England responds to reports from patients about side effects from treatments. • report of the independent inquiry into the issues raised by convicted breast surgeon Ian Paterson • recent final report of the Ockenden review, which was an independent review of maternity services at the Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust 			

As these independent reports have shown, too often it is women whom the healthcare system fails to keep safe and fails to listen to.

There are specific actions in the Ockenden Report requiring the local system to improve support for women's health, including pre-conception care.

The LMNS, Maternal Medicine Networks and trusts must ensure that women have access to pre-conception care. Trusts must provide services for women with multiple pregnancy in line with national guidance. Trusts must follow national guidance for managing women with diabetes and hypertension in pregnancy. Women with pre-existing medical disorders, including cardiac disease, epilepsy, diabetes, and chronic hypertension, must have access to preconception care with a specialist familiar in managing that disorder and who understands the impact that pregnancy may have.

The trust has referral process in place to manage pre-existing disorders and multiple pregnancies however, there is a gap regarding ensuring women have access to pre-conception care in general as this is not a specific commissioned pathway. As a priority theme for the women's hub steering group with links to LMNS health pregnancy and healthy families workstreams. This also links in with reducing infant mortality, preventing stillbirth, and prevention of many other congenital issues including foetal alcohol syndrome, spina bifida and others.

Additionally, the T&W Child Sexual Exploitation Inquiry Report highlights long and extensive exploitation of young women in the area, with numerous recommendations of collaborative working to prevent exploitation in the future. Health services are a key part of this. By improving joint working with Public Health Nursing Services, Sexual health, pre-conception support, parenting support (as part of the offer), we can improve the visibility of young women in our communities and reduce CSE.

Report content -

1. Executive Summary

In response to the National (Women's Health Strategy) and Local Drivers (including the Ockenden Report, local Joint Strategic Needs Assessments, Child Sexual Exploitation Inquiry, and a range of community engagement results highlighting the distinct and increasing need of health, care and community support for women, in particular), collaborative and joint working is underway to deliver women's health and wellbeing hubs.

The work encompasses specific needs of women and young women, with a focus on inequalities and rural inequalities. This includes sustainable, community-based Women's Health Hubs, ensuring equitable access to clinical and non-clinical support by building on

family & community hubs within PCN areas and other clinical offers informed by the JSNAs, population health and clinical data.

2. Recommendations

- Note: the content and programme updates and reflect on the progress to date.
- Note: the first programme delivery milestone was successfully met.
- Note: the work reflects the delivery area of Shropshire, Telford, and Wrekin.
- Endorsement of the approach and discussion.

3. Report

The recently published 2024/25 Operational Planning Guidance asks ICBs to “establish and develop at least one women’s health hub in every ICB by the end of December 2024 in line with the core specification, improving access, experience and quality of care” and sets the expectation that at least 75% of ICBs have a hub in place by July 2024 that meets minimum requirements.

- menstrual problems assessment and treatment, including but not limited to care for heavy, painful or irregular menstrual bleeding, and care for conditions such as endometriosis and polycystic ovary syndrome contraceptive counselling and provision of the full range of contraceptive methods including LARC fitting for both contraceptive and gynaecological purposes (for example, LARC for heavy menstrual bleeding and menopause), and LARC removal, and emergency hormonal contraception.
- preconception care
- breast pain assessment and care
- pessary fitting and removal.
- cervical screening
- screening and treatment for sexually transmitted infections (STIs), and HIV screening
- menopause assessment and treatment

This guidance was issued with a supporting letter by Dame Ruth May, Chief Nursing Officer, England & Ed Waller Deputy Chief Financial Officer, Strategic Finance to all ICB Chief Executives with a clear expectation that the year 2 allocation could only be used for the implementation of each system’s women’s health hubs plans to take into consideration the core specification.

“The funding allocated to each ICB for hubs must be spent only for this purpose and any ICB underspend against this funding will be adjusted for in month 12 2024/25. Each ICB is encouraged to make full use of their funding allocation to accelerate progress, noting that they will not be expected to incur costs implementing a model that is not recurrently affordable”.

Key programme milestone successfully achieved:

The first Women's Health Hub went live in Highley at the Severn Centre in July 2024, delivering 2 core specifications of the programme:

- Sexual health outreach support including the C-card, STI testing and contraception advice and guidance (core specification).
- Menopause education and support by way of a GP led menopause talk with group discussion and Q&A. Supported by blood pressure and cancer care champions and local VCS organisations (core specification).

The enhanced offers in Highley meeting STW Womens Health Hub ambitions include:

- Health Visitor open access clinics to support child development, health and parental health, including mental wellbeing.
- Early Help partnership working with health visitors.
- Family and Community information drop-in sessions where information, advice and guidance can be obtained from various health and wider determinant focused partners.
- Social Prescribing
- Themed Library information displays
- Food share
- Stay and play

Key updates, highlights, and activities:

Sexual Health & Family Nurse Partnership (FNP) joint working and collaboration including:

- Sexual Health Services providing updates to FNP on contraception and sexually transmitted infections. Sharing and discussing case studies and best practice to develop, improve and evaluate services.
- The formulation a FNP antenatal sexual health pathway and exploration of a direct phone line to a sexual health nurse for young people to access more timely information regarding their sexual health.
- The aim is to forge strong links to enable FNP clients in Shrewsbury to better access the sexual health service at Severn Fields and for all FNP clients to have access to information regarding contraception and every opportunity to access Long-acting reservable contraception (LARC) fitting.

Community & Family hubs alignment, development and collaboration including:

- Shrewsbury PCN Cancer Care Coordinator delivering monthly information & guidance drop-in sessions in collaboration with Health Visitor Open Access Clinics & Early Help Family Information Drop in at Sunflower House, Shrewsbury.
- Exploring the possibility of cervical screening clinics at Sunflower House Community & Family Hubs
- Multi organisation meeting set up with SATH, ShropCom, South West PCN, MPFT Sexual Health Services, Targeted Early Help & Public Health to explore development and collaboration opportunities specific to Women's Health for South West Shropshire Thursday 26th September.
- Public Health School Nursing exploring improving pathways for emergency contraception with Sexual Health Services building on work with FNP.
- Developing plans for menopause awareness month in October including working with libraries across STW to support information sessions and a spotlight on raising profile and awareness of women's health hubs work and resources.
- Discussions in relation to support for migrant and refugee women & girls living in STW with Shropshire Supports Refugees and Shropshire Community Health Trust. Exploring the opportunity to run a series of education sharing sessions delivered by women to health care professionals focusing on culture, health beliefs and barriers.

Ongoing engagement & collaboration with Telford & Wrekin most notably

- Family Hubs – connections to GP Practices (Donnington, Dawley & Woodside)
- Public Health commissioned services, Sexual Health & PHNS collaborative working
- Teenage Conception Steering Group
- FASD Task & Finish Group

- Perinatal Mental Health

With the support of the ICS Women's Health Hub Steering Group and Clinical Design Forum the following key developments have been made.

- SLT approved programme budget.
- Delivering the ambition of STW to focus on the approach of sustainable, community-based Women's Health Hubs, ensuring equitable access to clinical and non-clinical support by building on family & community hubs, PCN areas and other clinical offers informed by JSNA, population health and clinical data.
- Establishment of a Clinical Design Forum Chaired by Dr Priya George, Clinical Lead for Womens Health Hubs. The forum meets monthly and has representation from Primary & Secondary Care as well as Community Services, including pharmacy.
- Establishment of an ICS Women's Health Hub Steering Group. The forum meets monthly and has representation from Primary & Secondary Care as well as Community Services, including pharmacy.
- Developing funding application process for STW PCN's to support collaborative working towards the development of Womens Health Hubs focusing on inequalities, meeting population health needs and improving experiences for women and girls.
- Developing a training plan in collaboration with the Training Hub & and Clinical Forum with input from GPs, nursing, and secondary care consultants
- Developing an approach to group menopause consultations collaboratively with GP and community pharmacy with a view to replicating across PCNs.
- Supported to set up and delivery of the first STW Womens' Health Hub in Highley.
 - Partner working and collaboration to deliver joined up services in one location at the same time to aid ease of access to residents. E.g., Health Visiting Open Access sessions, Early Help family support worker and Sexual Health Outreach support worker.
 - Stepped approach to the introduction of a group menopause offer across the Southeast PCN. The first of these being specific to Menopause linked to the GP led menopause talk at Highley.
 - Developing approaches to creating clear signposting and pathways for women & girls

Submission of key NHSE reporting including regular update meetings with NHSE Midlands team

- System Maturity Matrix
- System Hubs Delivery Plan Review
- Quarterly returns – moved to monthly from June 2024

Aligned key program activities with system transformation programs including:

- LMNS – Perinatal Mental Health
- Cancer – Cervical Screening
- Shropshire – Community & Children's Hubs
- Telford & Wrekin –Family & Children's Hubs

Risk assessment and opportunities appraisal (NB This will include the following: Risk Management, Human Rights, Equalities, Community, Environmental consequences and other Consultation)	Risks to the delivery of this programme are highlighted in the EQIA. Without sufficient investment many elements will not be available to deliver, namely: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response to the Ockenden Report requiring the local system to improve support for women’s health, including pre-conception care. • Sustainability - training and backfill to develop skills, confidence, and capacity within the workforce to support women’s health. • The provision of any sustainable, equitable woman’s health offer significantly impacts on health inequalities. • STW’s ability to safeguard women and children, as outlined in the CSE Inquiry. • STW’s ability to provide access to a broad range of vital preventative integrated services. 	
Financial implications (Any financial implications of note)	None directly related to this report.	
Climate Change Appraisal as applicable	N/A	
Where else has the paper been presented?	System Partnership Boards	ShIPP
	Voluntary Sector	
	Other	
List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)		
Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder) Portfolio holders can be found here or your organisational lead e.g., Exec lead or Non-Exec/Clinical Lead Cllr Cecilia Motley, Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care, Public Health & Communities Dr Priya George, Clinical Lead for Women’s Health Hubs.		
Appendices Appendix A. Women’s Health Hubs – presentation		