

Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee
31st July 2019

Title of the report:	Transforming Midwifery Care in Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin : Pre-Consultation Update
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Summary Report	
<p>The purpose of the report is to provide Joint HOSC with additional information following the presentation given on Monday 24th June.</p> <p>The following DRAFT documents are provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Draft Pre-consultation Engagement Report - Draft Seldom Heard Groups Pre-consultation Engagement Report - Draft Equality Impact Assessment <p>It should be noted that these documents are in draft form and will continue to be updated as required.</p> <p><u>Pre-consultation engagement report</u></p> <p>This document summarises the engagement that has been carried out since 2017 around the proposed reconfiguration of midwifery led maternity services in Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin until early June 2019. It also outlines how the proposed service model responds to the feedback received.</p> <p>It includes feedback from engagement with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National bodies, organisations and individuals - Neighbouring NHS organisations - Clinicians - Non-clinical staff - Politicians/MPs - Councils - Healthwatch - Voluntary and Community Sectors - Patients - Other Stakeholders <p><u>Seldom Heard Groups Pre-Consultation Engagement Report</u></p> <p>Building on the previous general engagement work in 2017 and 2018, a pre-consultation engagement exercise took place with seldom heard groups in May/June 2019. The purpose of this engagement was to obtain and listen to the views of people who don't normally engage with the NHS to ensure that we were aware of any particular impacts on any particular groups of people that might alter the proposed service model for midwifery-led maternity services.</p>	

As we are discussing a proposed new service model for midwifery-led maternity services, our main target audience was women who had recently had a baby or those who were likely to have a baby in the near future. These groups were further sub-divided to include:

Age

- Teenage women
- Older women (age 35+)

Gender

- Women

Sexual orientation

- Lesbian and bisexual women of childbearing age

Disability

- Women of childbearing age with a physical disability
- Women of child-bearing age with a learning disability
- Women of child-bearing age with a mental illness
- Women of childbearing age with a sensory impairment
- Women of childbearing age with a long term condition

Race

- BAME women of childbearing age (particularly those born outside the UK and African, African Caribbean, Indian, Bangladeshi and Pakistani)
- Gypsy and traveller women of childbearing age
- New migrants/asylum seekers of child-bearing age
- Non-native speakers of English e.g. Polish women of childbearing age

Religion

- Amish/Mennonite women of childbearing age

In total we spoke to over 170 women of childbearing age as well as some partners and families. These women live in different areas of Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin, including rural areas and areas of deprivation. For example: Shrewsbury, Telford, Oswestry, Newport, Whitchurch, Craven Arms, Ludlow, Bridgnorth, Wellington, Shifnal, Broseley, Wem, Pontesbury, Uffington and Hodnet and their surrounding areas and villages. We also spoke to a small number of women from Powys who were receiving maternity services in Shropshire.

Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

The EIA sets out to address the following questions:

- Do different groups have different needs, experiences, issues and priorities in relation to the proposed service changes?
- Is there potential, or evidence that the proposed changes will promote equality?
- Is there potential for, or evidence that the proposed changes will affect different groups differently? Is there evidence of negative impact on any groups of people?
- If there is evidence of negative impact, what alternatives are available? What changes are

possible?

We have identified that certain groups of people do have different needs, experiences, issues and priorities in relation to maternity services, and specifically, midwife-led services. However, overall, due to the community model that is being proposed and local services being available depending on the needs of women, there will be a positive impact on most women. The proposed model will also promote equality across the whole of the county as women will be able to generally access the same level of service, particularly ante- and postnatal care wherever they live. This isn't always the case currently. There will possibly be a negative impact on women who are currently living near to the existing rural MLUs where they can give birth, if they are no longer able to do so and therefore have to travel further. This will, however, mainly impact on women who are classed as low risk as anyone who has certain risk factors (like a long term condition, or is particularly young or old) would already have to travel to give birth in the consultant-led unit. In addition, if the hubs are not located in the same locations as the existing MLUs, some women might need to travel further to access some services.

Recommendations:

1. That the draft pre-consultation engagement report, pre-consultation seldom heard groups engagement report and equality impact assessment are noted.
2. That updated versions are brought to Joint HOSC as required.
3. That the access impact assessment is brought to Joint HOSC in September 2019.