

Extraordinary Meeting of the BSW CCG Governing Body – Public Session

Thursday 30 April 2020, 10:00hrs

- Virtual Meeting -

Timing	No	Item title	Lead	Action	Paper ref.
Opening Business					
10:00	1	Welcome and Apologies	Chair	Note	
	2	Declarations of Interests	Chair	Note	
Business items					
10:05	3	Revision to BSW Maternity Service Reconfiguration Programme in response to Covid-19	Lucy Baker, Director of Service Delivery	Approve	GB/20-21/012
Closing Business					
10:35	4	Any other business	Chair		

Next meeting: Tuesday 26 May 2020

Meeting of the BSW CCG Governing Body Report Summary Sheet

Report Title	Revision to BSW Maternity Service Reconfiguration Programme in response to Covid-19				Agenda item	3		
Date	30 April 2020							
Purpose	Approve	x	Discuss		Inform		Assure	
Executive lead	Tracey Cox Chief Executive – BSW CCG and STP SRO							
Clinical lead	Sandy Richards Lead midwife – BSW CCG							
Author	Lucy Baker Director of Service Delivery – BSW CCG							
Appendices	None							
This report concerns	BSW CCG	x	BaNES locality	x	Swindon locality		Wiltshire locality	x
This report was reviewed by	BSW Senior Leadership Team – 20/04/20 Discussed with BSW Clinical Chair – 21/04/20 BSW Local Maternity System – 22/04/20							

Executive summary	<p>This briefing provides an update to the previously approved changes to maternity services across BSW following a three year service reconfiguration programme. The proposed changes are necessary because of the unprecedented challenge posed by Covid-19.</p> <p>Maternity services across BSW are using digital technology during Covid to support antenatal and postnatal support. This has included WhatsApp peer support for breast feeding, pilot use of Attend Anywhere/ Accurx and Visionary by midwifery and consultant obstetricians and facetime. This will continue if the recommendations are approved particularly to support postnatal mums.</p>
Recommendation(s)	<p>BSW Governing Body is asked to approve the following recommendations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> To keep the birthing units at Paulton and Trowbridge open until 1 June 2020 (previously scheduled to close next month). The extended timeframe is proposed as plans to support staff and local women through the change have been delayed

	<p>whilst the local maternity system has focused on delivering urgent changes to services as part of the response to covid-19.</p> <p>2. Following the closure of community postnatal beds located in Paulton on 1st June 2020, these beds will remain closed as per the agreed service reconfiguration proposal.</p> <p>Postnatal beds in Chippenham will be temporarily closed with immediate effect in response to COVID 19. This closure will be reviewed by the end of June 2020 to review the ongoing impact of Covid-19 and the Chief Executive will provide an update at the July Governing Body Meeting via her usual report. If the decision is to keep the beds closed for a longer period, timescales for a further update of the impact and review by the BSW Governing Body will be agreed.</p> <p>3. To support the change in overnight staffing in Chippenham and Paulton in line with the other two Freestanding Midwifery Units so we can redeploy our staff to where we most need them during the pandemic. This will be reviewed by the end of June 2020.</p>							
Risk (associated with the proposal / recommendation)	High		Medium	x	Low		N/A	
Key risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a risk that any changes may be perceived as an opportunity to reopen the decision making process and agreed plans. • There is a risk that women and families may be confused about where they can access support. This will be mitigated by the ongoing provision clear communication and educational material. 							
Impact on quality	The proposed recommendations will reduce the clinical risk of postnatal mums and babies being exposed to Covid-19. They will also support providers in ensuring their staff can be redeployed to meet the service impact and changing needs and wishes of local women in response to covid-19 such as increased demand for home births and changes to antenatal and postnatal pathways.							
Impact on finance	NONE							
Conflicts of interest	NONE							
This report addresses strategic objective/operational priority	Maternity is one of the BSW CCG strategic transformation programmes. This also addresses the requirement for temporary operational changes as a result of Covid-19.							

Maternity Services Reconfiguration Briefing

Introduction

This briefing provides an update on changes to the provision of maternity services as part of a three year BSW maternity service reconfiguration programme. BSW CCGs Governing Bodies approved the following recommendations on 16 January 2020.

Create an Alongside Midwifery Unit at the Royal United Hospital

Create an Alongside Midwifery Unit at Salisbury District Hospital

Continue to support births in two, rather than four, of the Freestanding Midwifery Units.

Improve and better promote the Home Birth service

Enhance current provision of antenatal and post-natal care

Replace the five community post-natal beds in Paulton FMU and the four community post-natal beds in Chippenham FMU with support closer to, or in women's homes.

Timeframes for the implementation of these agreed changes were approved by the BSW CCGs Governing Bodies. However, changes are now proposed to these timeframes due to the impact of Covid-19. BSW Governing Body is asked to review and approve these changes.

Proposed Changes

The following provides an update on the current position in relation to the implementation of these changes:

- Births were due to cease in Paulton and Trowbridge* on 4 May 2020 as per the agreed proposal. Plans were in place to work with staff and local women to prepare for these changes. However, there has now been the requirement to implement significant changes to all services across BSW in response to the Covid-19 pandemic including maternity services.
- The Maternity service at the RUH has seen increased requests for home birth as a result of changing needs and wishes of local women. To reduce the risk of Covid transmission, there has been a revision to the way antenatal and postnatal pathways are provided as well as risk stratification of women during and after pregnancy. Maternity teams have also been working together to manage an increase in pregnant women from out of area transferring to BSW during the Covid-19 period to mitigate clinical risk and provide support to these families.

* These services are provided by the Royal United Hospital (RUH) in Bath

There is national guidance in relation to both commencing new reconfiguration and transformation work during the Covid-19 period and for the implementation of temporary changes to services.

However, the maternity transformation programme has been running for over three years and public consultation was completed prior to the pandemic so it not a new programme of work. It is felt that as the decision to cease births was agreed prior to the Covid-19 period; the risk of any associated challenge is limited.

The Local Maternity System (LMS) has worked collaboratively to co-create the following proposals:

Recommended changes in response to Covid-19

- 1) Delay closure of Trowbridge and Paulton birthing units/retain birthing services until 1 June 2020

Due to our current Covid response across BSW, it is proposed that the ceasing of births in Trowbridge and Paulton is delayed for one month until **Monday 1 June 2020** to allow additional time to support staff and local women through this period. Planning for this change has been interrupted by the urgent need to revise the provision of maternity services due to covid-19. This proposal will allow more time to ensure the change is delivered, communicated and supported.

Birth activity levels at Trowbridge and Paulton remain low. There were four births in Paulton during March 2020 and six in Trowbridge. On average, there have been around 39 FMU births per month over the last quarter. This is across all four FMU sites.

However, we have seen a doubling of requests for home birth across RUH and SFT during the Covid-19 period. Homebirths have currently ceased at GWH due to workforce constraints (34% of trained midwifery staff currently off sick or self-isolating) but the situation is being reviewed this week. RUH and SFT are currently able to maintain homebirth services as staffing levels remain good. This is being monitored on daily and weekly basis to ensure safe staffing levels continue to support this service.

- 2) Community Postnatal Beds

A further change agreed as part of the maternity services transformation programme was the closure of community postnatal beds in Paulton and Chippenham. It was agreed that the beds in Paulton would close at the same time as births would cease but that four postnatal beds would remain in Chippenham for up to 12 months. This was to allow further time to co-create new postnatal models of care and support with local women and families.

It has become clear over recent weeks that health and care systems will need to operate in a new environment where managing COVID related activity becomes part of our ways of working for the foreseeable future. To reduce the clinical risk of having postnatal mums and newborn babies in hospital environments during the Covid-19 period, based on clinical safety reasons, it is proposed to close these community postnatal beds with immediate effect. Admitting mums and babies to the community postnatal beds creates an additional risk exposure. Mums and babies in acute obstetric units are receiving required medical input whilst the support provided through the community postnatal beds can and is being provided virtually or through home visits in the postnatal period. Mums not requiring any further medical intervention are choosing to discharge from hospital quicker than the pre-covid period. The position will be reviewed by the end of June 2020.

After this time, the postnatal beds in Paulton will remain closed, as per the original proposal but the LMS will review the impact of the evolving response to the Covid-19 pandemic and assess whether the original plan for a phased closure of the postnatal beds in Chippenham is clinically appropriate. A formal review will take place by the end of June 2020 in relation to the Chippenham beds and the Chief Executive will provide an update at the July Governing Body Meeting via her usual report. If the decision is to keep the beds closed for a longer period, timescales for a further update of the impact and review by the BSW Governing Body will be agreed.

3) Changes to overnight staffing in FMUs

Currently there is overnight staffing at both Chippenham and Paulton FMUs whereas in Trowbridge and Frome, the FMUs work on an 'open on demand' system to support women birthing at these locations.

With the proposal to close the community postnatal beds (see recommendation 2), it is also recommended that Chippenham and Paulton move to an 'open on demand' system. This will mean parity of staffing across all four FMUs and also release staffing to create more flexible rotas to support birth in any chosen community location including being able to support the increased homebirth requests.

- Planning work is continuing to create the Alongside Midwifery Unit at Salisbury District Hospital. Some building and associated work has continued but the pace has slowed during the Covid-19 period. Currently, the AMU is still on track to open by the end of this calendar year but this is being reviewed through the BSW Local Maternity System (LMS) Programme Board.
- The programme for the creation of the AMU in Bath has been temporarily postponed due to the priority to enact environmental changes required to the hospital in response to the Covid pandemic but the expectation is that this work will resume as we move to the next phase of our Covid response.

Recommendations

BSW Governing Body is asked to approve the following recommendations:

1. To keep the birthing units at Paulton and Trowbridge open until 1 June 2020 (previously scheduled to close next month). The extended timeframe is proposed as plans to support staff and local women through the change have been delayed whilst the local maternity system has focused on delivering urgent changes to services as part of the response to covid-19.
2. Following the closure of community postnatal beds located in Paulton on 1 June 2020, these beds will remain closed as per the agreed service reconfiguration proposal.

Postnatal beds in Chippenham will be temporarily closed with immediate effect in response to COVID 19. This closure will be reviewed by the end of June 2020 to review the ongoing impact of Covid-19 and the Chief Executive will provide an update at the July Governing Body Meeting via her usual report. If the decision is to keep the beds closed for a longer period, timescales for a further update of the impact and review by the BSW Governing Body will be agreed.

3. To support the change in overnight staffing in Chippenham and Paulton in line with the other two Freestanding Midwifery Units so we can redeploy our staff to where we most need them during the pandemic. This will be reviewed by the end of June 2020.

Equality and Diversity	Applicable		Not applicable	x
Already addressed in initial proposals				

Health Inequalities Assessment	Applicable		Not applicable	x
Already addressed in initial proposals				

Public and Patient Engagement	Applicable	x	Not applicable	
Ongoing communication and education for local women and families				