

# Developing sustainable midwife-led birth services for women living in and around Andover

## Introduction

- WEHCT is committed to offering a midwife led birthing service to all women in its care.
- The inpatient service at Andover Birth Centre is currently suspended due to our inability to maintain safe staffing levels.
- The number of women choosing to give birth at ABC over many years has remained static at around four per week
- Any model of service must be safe, equitable, sustainable and affordable.

## Engagement

- Service users, staff and stakeholders
- Professional bodies
- Public and patient groups
- Paper, electronic and online surveys
- Service user discussion groups

## Summary of Feedback

- Women want a midwifery led birthing experience
- Safety is of paramount importance and access to consultants provides reassurance
- Women value access to local services throughout pregnancy and following birth
- There needs to be choice for women for where they have their babies
- Domino model popular

## Options

- *Option 1* - Maintain inpatient midwife-led birth services at Andover Birth Centre and RHCH
- *Option 2* - All inpatient midwife-led births take place at RHCH using the existing service model. Andover Birth Centre closes for inpatient births but maintains all other maternity services provided through the Centre, including ante-natal and post-natal clinics.
- *Option 3* – Domino service offered at RHCH in addition to midwife-led service. The inpatient beds at Andover Birth Centre would close but other maternity services such as ante-natal and post-natal clinics remain open.
- *Option 4* – Domino service offered at both RHCH and ABC alongside current services

## Result of Options Appraisal

- Wider consultation favours option 3
- Options appraisal focus group suggested consultation on options 2 and 4
- What we propose

## Consultation Plan

- We propose to consult widely from 1 September to 31 October, holding discussions around the two proposed options using feedback to date and clinical evidence
- Feedback will be collated and analysed through NHS Hampshire's online consultation system to determine the preferred option. This must be clinically and financially sustainable.
- The feedback report and recommended option will be presented to both Boards and the HOSC to determine its approval for implementation
- We will consult with:
  - Service users, local families, mothers
  - Staff
  - Professional bodies
  - Local councils, LINK

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WEHCT would like to ask for the approval of HOSC to move forward with the consultation as outlined.

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