

Meeting: Haringey Children's Trust

Date: 17 December 2009

Report Title: Maternity Strategy

Report of: Clare Hodgson, Assistant Director of Commissioning North East

Purpose

To outline planned developments of maternity services.

Summary

Planned changes in the delivery of maternity services will improve local access and choice in maternity services. This will help to address inequalities in outcomes across the patch supporting the delivery of the Infant Mortality Action Plan as well as key local priorities.

Recommendations

That the report be noted.

For more information contact:

Name: Clare Hodgson
Title: Assistant Director of Commissioning North East
Tel: 020 8442 5500
Email address: clare.hodgson@haringey.nhs.uk

Brief Report to Children's Trust Maternity Strategy

Aims

NHS Haringey's maternity strategy aims to deliver high quality, local maternity care for all women throughout pregnancy from planning a baby, through antenatal care, giving birth and to the immediate post natal period and beyond addressing inequalities across the borough.

Background

In April 2007, the Department of Health issued a set of standards for maternity services called *Maternity Matters*, which supported the delivery of the NSF for Children, *Every Child Matters*. This laid out four important choice guarantees for women and their families:

- Choice of how to access maternity care
- Choice of place of antenatal care
- Choice of place of birth
- Choice of postnatal care.

Supporting these are two key targets which measure the quality of antenatal care and care during birth:

- That all women should be seen by a midwife or obstetrician by the end of the twelfth week in pregnancy (early access), and
- that all women should have one-one care throughout established labour.

NHS Haringey has an ambitious three year plan to improve the quality of maternity care, prioritizing improved access to and choice of antenatal care in the first year.

1. Improving Access to Antenatal Care.

Women can now contact midwifery services directly to access maternity care or can choose to go through their GP. Midwives are available in children's centres and some GP practices. However there is some way to go in ensuring that all women have local access to maternity services. The team midwifery approach will be strengthened in line with North Central London Sector approaches such that all women will be offered antenatal and post natal care by local midwifery teams regardless of choice of place of birth. The PCT will also be extending its GP involvement in antenatal care through shared care arrangements.

A plan is in place including publicity, training and support to children's centres in encouraging women to access maternity services before the twelfth completed week in pregnancy.

2. Choice of Place of Antenatal Care

It is anticipated that women will be able to receive antenatal care at local children's centres and primary care facilities. Appointments requiring diagnostics such as scanning and blood tests will be offered at neighbourhood health centres where women are experiencing an uncomplicated pregnancy.

Routine dating scans will be offered in Neighbourhood Health Centres at Lordship Lane, Hornsey and Tynemouth Rd next year. This will help to ensure that all women, including those from the most vulnerable groups are able to access antenatal care locally, early in pregnancy.

Routine anomaly scanning will also be offered at Lordship Lane, Tynemouth Rd and Hornsey Central in stage 2 of the plan for all women experiencing a normal pregnancy.

Services will be co-located with other services for women including sexual health and family planning as well as routine gynecology services.

3. Choice of Place of Birth

All women in Haringey have a choice regarding hospital of delivery with most opting to use services at the Whittington or at North Middlesex Hospital (NMH). Where it is safe to do so women should be offered a choice of midwifery led delivery. The new unit at the Whittington provides this service. NMH will be building a midwifery led birthing unit as part of its plans for the re-development of the hospital site. Women are also able to access midwifery led birth at Edgware.

Staffing levels at the North Middlesex Hospital have been increased to support the delivery of one:one care in established labour.

4. Choice of Postnatal Care

GPs will be closely involved in the delivery of post natal care in particular the 6 week check which will record breast feeding status as well as providing support for immunisations where required.