

Report to: East Sussex Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC)

Date of meeting: 29 March 2018

By: Assistant Chief Executive

Title: Maternity Services in East Sussex

Purpose: To consider the quality and performance of maternity services for East Sussex residents, including feedback from local women obtained from a survey undertaken by Eastbourne Borough Council.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) To consider and comment on the attached report of survey findings from Eastbourne Borough Council (appendix 1)**
 - 2) To consider and comment on the attached report on the quality of maternity services for East Sussex residents from East Sussex CCGs (appendix 2)**
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1. Background

1.1. Maternity services for East Sussex residents are commissioned by the three local NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and mainly provided by three NHS Trusts:

- East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust (ESHT) – a consultant-led service at the Conquest Hospital in Hastings and a midwife-led unit (MLU) at Eastbourne District General Hospital
- Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust (BSUH) – consultant-led services in Brighton and Haywards Heath
- Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust (MTW) – consultant-led service at the Tunbridge Wells Hospital (Pembury) and MLU service in Crowborough.

1.2. All three Trusts also provide ante and post-natal care and support home births.

1.3. HOSC last formally considered maternity services in September 2016 when the committee reviewed the work undertaken by ESHT as part of the Trust's Quality Improvement Plan in response to an inspection by the Care Quality Commission. In September 2017, HOSC Members visited the Eastbourne MLU and met with ESHT's Head of Midwifery and the consultant Chair of the ESHT Maternity Board to receive an update on the ongoing development of the Trust's maternity service.

2. Supporting information

2.1. During 2017 Eastbourne Borough Council undertook a survey of women who had registered a birth in East Sussex during 2016. In its report on the survey findings the Borough Council indicated that the survey was undertaken in light of ongoing local concerns in Eastbourne following the reconfiguration of ESHT's maternity services in 2014. This reconfiguration concentrated the consultant-led service previously provided across two sites (both Eastbourne and Hastings) onto a single site (Hastings) with a MLU remaining in Eastbourne. The Borough Council indicated that it wished to undertake direct consultation with those who have experienced the changed service so as to be able to analyse the impact of the changes on service quality and patient safety.

2.2. HOSC received a request in November 2017 to consider the findings of the survey which was agreed by the committee at the last meeting on 30 November 2017. A summary report on the survey findings provided by Eastbourne Borough Council is attached at appendix 1. The full report

(including all appendices) is available on the [Council's website](#). Representatives from the Borough Council will present the report to HOSC.

2.3. In order to gain a fuller picture of the quality and performance of maternity services for East Sussex residents HOSC also requested a report from the East Sussex CCGs which is attached at appendix 2. Representatives of the CCGs will present the report to HOSC. Representatives from ESHT will also be in attendance.

3. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

3.1. HOSC is invited to consider and comment on both the Eastbourne Borough Council survey findings and the NHS report.

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