

## Appendix B

<b>Report title:</b> ESNEFT update on maternity services in north east Essex	
<b>Report to:</b> Health Overview Policy and Scrutiny Committee	
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<b>Date:</b> 8 May 2024	<b>For:</b> Discussion
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<b>County Divisions affected:</b> Not applicable	

### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 ESNEFT provides maternity services at Ipswich, Colchester and Clacton hospitals. We offer a range of consultant and midwifery-led services at all of our sites and facilitate the births of approximately 7,000 babies a year.
- 1.2 We are committed to improving quality and outcomes for the women, pregnant people and babies who access our services. To help us to better understand where we need to make improvements, we continue to use the 'Every Birth, Every Day' (EBED) programme.
- 1.3 The EBED programme focuses on delivering improvements identified by our staff, service users and through external reviews. Progress is monitored through an executive led meeting and attended by internal and external stakeholders.
- 1.4 ESNEFT's maternity service is also part of the 'Maternity Safety Support Programme' led by NHSE England, to help guide the continuous improvement of our services and development of our leadership team.
- 1.5 In section three we cover the various updates and developments that have come out of our programmes.

### 2. Background

- 2.1 At Colchester Hospital, the delivery suite is made up of eight birthing rooms with two fully equipped co-located obstetric theatres to support consultant-led care. We also offer a four- bed midwifery-led birthing unit for those wishing to access a midwifery led birth facility co-located to the consultant led unit. The maternity ward has 26 beds and accommodates both antenatal and postnatal women and birthing people.
- 2.2 Clacton Maternity unit, is a satellite maternity hub, offering antenatal clinic services for all women within the locality. Alongside this, there is also a standalone midwifery-led birthing unit, which offers two birthing rooms.

Immediate postnatal care is offered within this facility.

- 2.3 If ongoing care and support is required at the Clacton unit then the patient would be transferred to the maternity ward at Colchester.
- 2.4 In all localities (including Suffolk based), specialist antenatal clinics are provided for those who require enhanced or specialist support; such as women or pregnant people with diabetes, perinatal mental health illness or those who require enhanced fetal surveillance.
- 2.5 Ultrasound scanning is provided at Colchester Hospital and includes fetal medicine specialist services.

### **3. Update for north east Essex maternity services**

- 3.1 **Three year delivery plan:** Our action plan for Maternity and Neonatal services runs from 2023 to 2026, which uses NHS England actions for a national plan. It sets out how we will make maternity and neonatal care safer, more personalised, and more equitable for women, babies, and families. Progress against the plan is tracked through our Divisional and Trust meetings, this allow us to review areas of strength and weaknesses, and to look at any barriers or risk with delivery elements of the plan.
- 3.2 **Maternity Strategy:** We have just completed the final draft of our strategy and it explains how care will be delivered for the next three years. The strategy outlines our key priorities and details what will be offered for each one with how we will measure ourselves, and how we will know when we have been successful.
- 3.3 **60 Steps to Safety Tool:** Is intended to provide support to maternity services so we can feel confident we are improving safety outcomes and the experiences for patients. It runs alongside the safety concerns identified in several high profile national midwifery reviews, and the three-year delivery plan for Maternity and Neonatal services. To complete the tool representatives from other clinical organisations review 60 areas (steps) and comment on how much of an open and honest culture that we have amongst our staff. A visit and report is planned for Ipswich hospital later this year.
- 3.4 **Maternity and Neonatal Voices Partnership (MNVP):** The partnership consists of women, pregnant people and their families who have had first-hand experience of local maternity and neonatal services. They share with commissioners and providers the views and ideas of service users to review, contribute and make improvements to the development of local maternity care. We have an MNVP at Ipswich working closely together to ensure maternity and neonatal services provide personalised, safe quality care. Across the last year the MNVP have formed part of the review teams completing 60 steps visits and using their local knowledge to support the service to improve.
- 3.5 **Maternity and Neonatal Safety Champions:** The role of the Champion is to develop strong partnerships across teams, promote professional cultures and ensure that mothers and babies continue to receive the safest care possible by

adopting best practice. The role is now well embedded in governance processes and the team meet monthly. They also have a regular walk-about to meet with staff and patients to discuss their experiences. We meet on a regular basis with wider stakeholders to discuss quality and safety in maternity services. We also monitor our quality improvement plan at this meeting.

- 3.6 **Rapid Quality Review (RQR):** The review is part of the national framework. Where there is deemed to be a safety concern, the recommendation is that a rapid quality review meeting is held. Our maternity services were escalated to enhanced surveillance in March 2023 following staff whistleblowing to NHSE and concerns raised during maternity safety visits by the regional NHSE maternity team and SNEE ICB. These concerns concerned culture, leadership, and governance arrangements. During November that year, a decision was made to resume routine surveillance for maternity services at ESNEFT.
- 3.7 **Perinatal Quad Work:** We have been participating in the Perinatal Safety Culture Programme. This is a National programme to understand how colleagues perceive the current culture. It guides us to create compassionate and inclusive working environments. This is an ongoing programme to improve relationships, culture and safety for all.
- 3.8 **Maternity Leadership and Training:** Most of our senior midwifery staff attending the Trust's Engaging Leader training programme, with junior colleagues being encouraged to attend the Emerging Leader training programme. Wellbeing Training for Managers is also currently being arranged for all Supervisors, Matrons and Managers to support staff with wellbeing in the workplace.

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