

TITLE OF REPORT:	<p>Report in response to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members requested an update on the move of the Midwifery Led Unit to the Manor and its effect on patients and staff. (Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust) Members also requested a general update on neonatal care in the Borough, in terms of neonatal birthweight and outcomes. (Black Country ICB)
AUTHOR(S) OF REPORT:	Jo Wright - Director of Midwifery, Gynaecology and Sexual Health
Date:	7 th December 2023
1.0 Midwifery Led Unit to the Manor and its effect on patients and staff	
1.1	<p>The standalone midwifery unit closed in 2020 during the covid pandemic. The refurbishments for the new midwifery led unit (MLU) commenced in February 2023. The works commenced after full public and staff engagement.</p>
1.2	<p>Impact upon service users</p> <p>Women have traditionally had choice of place of birth, these choices have been,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obstetric led delivery suite Alongside Midwifery Led Unit Standalone Midwifery led Unit Home Birth <p>Midwifery led units are well established part of the provision on maternity care within the United Kingdom. They provide a safe and effective choice for a category of women who do not require high risk obstetric care (NICE 2022). Birthplace in England Research Programme have conducted research since 2011 on place of birth in the UK. The study collected data on care in labour, delivery and birth outcomes for the mother and baby for over 64,000 'low risk' births in England including nearly 17,000 planned 'low risk' home births, 28,000 planned 'low risk' midwifery unit births (AMUs and FMUs) and nearly 20,000 planned 'low risk' obstetric unit births. The research concluded that “Midwifery units appear to be safe for the baby and offer benefits for the mother” (NPEU 2023).</p> <p>Women have had alternate choices available to them whilst the new MLU is completed, these have included,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low risk birth on the delivery suite facilitated with environment enhanced to support a home from home experience. Home birth supported and Walsall Healthcare have one of the highest home birth rates in the region. Work in collaboration with Royal Wolverhampton Hospital MLU <p>Progress continues with the MLU, the refurbishments were due to conclude over the summer months. However, on final review of the MLU it was noted that there were areas</p>

	<p>that required additional work. Also, the birthing pools were found to be incompatible with the fixtures and fittings of the water pumps. To give service users the best experience and environment the decision was made to delay the opening of the area until these issues were resolved. The anticipated opening of the MLU will be the end of January 2024.</p>																		
<p>1.3</p>	<p>Impact on staff</p> <p>The staff who worked within the standalone MLU were disseminated within the existing maternity services however some staff decided to continue working in MLUs in other Trusts. The service has benefited from the MLU midwives within the acute services, with the following benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting women to have physiological births on the obstetric led delivery suite. • Sharing expertise with midwives who are experts in high risk and vice versa. • Additional staff within the acute setting to support staffing requirements of safe staffing therefore improving the midwives experience on a shift-by-shift basis. 																		
<p>2.0</p>	<p>Neonatal birthweight and outcomes</p>																		
<p>2.1</p>	<p>Babies who have fetal growth restriction (FGR) are at increased risk of poor pregnancy outcome. In Quarter 2 July- September 2023 there were 905 registerable births at Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust. Of these births there were 8 cases of perinatal mortality and 897 live births meaning that pregnancy loss of registered births was 0.8% of all births. There were 4 cases where the babies were identified as FGR.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="304 1205 603 1547"> <thead> <tr> <th>Gestations</th> <th>Outcome</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>26</td> <td>Antepartum stillbirth</td> </tr> <tr> <td>26</td> <td>Antepartum stillbirth</td> </tr> <tr> <td>37</td> <td>Antepartum stillbirth</td> </tr> <tr> <td>35</td> <td>Antepartum stillbirth</td> </tr> <tr> <td>31</td> <td>Antepartum stillbirth</td> </tr> <tr> <td>40</td> <td>Antepartum stillbirth</td> </tr> <tr> <td>29</td> <td>Neonatal death</td> </tr> <tr> <td>32</td> <td>Neonatal death</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Of note 7 babies were classified as preterm (<37/40) and of these babies there were 3 cases of fetal abnormality not compatible with life were recorded. As part of Saving Babies Lives Version 3 the service monitors out comes for babies who have been identified as small for gestational age and puts a package of measures in place to ensure that babies are identified, and pathways put in place to monitor the pregnancy and deliver the baby early if necessary.</p> <p>Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust have been successful in implementing Saving Babies Lives Version 3 that was implemented in June 2023. The progress with this is monitored through the Trust and at the local maternity system level. The most recent review of the care bundle revealed 95% compliance with the recommended measures of Element 2: Fetal Growth: risk</p>	Gestations	Outcome	26	Antepartum stillbirth	26	Antepartum stillbirth	37	Antepartum stillbirth	35	Antepartum stillbirth	31	Antepartum stillbirth	40	Antepartum stillbirth	29	Neonatal death	32	Neonatal death
Gestations	Outcome																		
26	Antepartum stillbirth																		
26	Antepartum stillbirth																		
37	Antepartum stillbirth																		
35	Antepartum stillbirth																		
31	Antepartum stillbirth																		
40	Antepartum stillbirth																		
29	Neonatal death																		
32	Neonatal death																		

	assessment, surveillance, and management to support identification and action FGR babies to prevent poor outcomes.
	<p>As part of preventing FGR the Trust has established the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audit of preterm birth • Continuing to strengthen the provision of maternal medicine services to work collaboratively across the ICS. • Focus on the management of certain conditions such as preeclampsia which impact on both maternal and fetal health. • Focus on maternal wellbeing and the impact of the cost-of-living crisis on women and their families (poor nutrition, poor heating, digital poverty, inability to travel)