



Changes to Birthing Services in the Inverclyde Royal Hospital Community Maternity Unit

We proposed to move midwife led birthing services from the Inverclyde Community Maternity Unit (CMU) to the CMU at Royal Alexandra Hospital.

Find out more about the proposal in our [information leaflet](#).

Informing and Engaging Process

This process started on 1st September 2016 and closed on 5th December 2016. It allowed people to:

- Learn about our proposal to transfer birthing services from the Inverclyde CMU
- Understand why we proposed changes and what they would mean for patients
- Share their views on the proposed changes.

We heard from 129 people in Inverclyde about their thoughts on the proposal. We used various engagement activities including:

- 4 Drop-in sessions at Inverclyde CMU
- 3 Outreach sessions at Waterfront Greenock's Aqua natal class, Rainbow Family Centre's Book Bug group, and Happy Tots group Inverclyde
- Public event at Inverclyde Royal Hospital

NHSGGC's Board received a report of all the feedback we received. The report informed their decision on the proposed changes at the Board Meeting on 20th December 2016.

Stakeholder Reference Group

We formed a Stakeholder Reference Group (SRG) to inform how we shared information about the proposal and asked people for their views.

Members of the group included current or recent CMU patients, Your Voice Inverclyde representatives and NHSGGC staff.

We held our first meeting on 29th September 2016. The group discussed what activities we should use to let people have their say. They agreed to:

- Drop-in sessions at Inverclyde CMU. This offered patients and their relatives to learn more about the proposal and share their views. We held 4 sessions on the week beginning 24th October 2016.
- Visits to mother and baby or toddler groups, mum to be pregnancy support groups and parenting classes. This allowed us to meet with patients who had used maternity services recently.
- Public Event on 8th November 2016.

Public Event

We hosted a public event on 8th November 2016 in the Inverclyde Royal Hospital.

The event aimed to inform people about what we were proposing and the reasons why. We wanted to offer an opportunity for people to share their views and ask questions.

Dr Margaret McGuire, former Nurse Director, delivered 3 talks and question and answer sessions. See the [presentation](#) they used.

Vale of Leven CMU talked through poster presentations and answered questions. The three presentations included:

- [What is our proposal?](#)
- [Pregnancy Pathways](#)
- [Current services at Inverclyde Community Maternity Unit.](#)

Participants were also encouraged to give views about the proposal using a graffiti wall.

Following the event, Dr Margaret McGuire commented: "*The evening was very productive. It allowed us to hear views about the proposed changes which we need to consider and report back to the board. It also enabled us to make sure local people fully understand what we are proposing.*"

Consultation

At the [Board Meeting on 20th December 2016](#), members voted to have a formal consultation on the proposed changes to birthing suits. This included changes to CMUs at both the Inverclyde Royal Hospital and Vale of Leven Hospital.

The consultation was subject to the [national Maternity and Neonatal Services Review](#) which launched in 2017. Our Medical and Nurse Directors ensured the proposed changes were consistent with the national review.

The Board Meeting discussed next steps for the consultation on Tuesday 27 June 2017.

Update on Consultation

At the Board Meeting on 27th June 2017, we agreed to adopt key principles of the five-year national maternity and neonatal strategy – Best Start.

We developed an implementation plan and then evaluated its impact on maternity care.

We paused the birthing services public consultation during the design and review period. During this time, birthing services at Inverclyde Royal Hospital and Vale of Leven Hospital's CMUs would remain in place.