

Proposed changes to Birthing Services at the Inverclyde Community Maternity Unit

Public Event
Tuesday 8 November 2016

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Purpose of this Public Event

- Give people the opportunity to find out more about what we are proposing
- Explain the reasons why we are proposing this change and who will be affected by the proposal
- Find out what other services are provided at the Community Maternity Unit and will not change
- Opportunity to discuss service options, tell us what you think and ask questions

Current Services

Midwifery Service

- First point of contact from early booking, through pregnancy to post natal support
- 24 hour cover to the birthing unit or to women in their homes choosing a homebirth
- Defined caseload, within geographic teams

Antenatal Care

- Midwifery Clinics
[c. 8200 appointments pa]
- Consultant Obstetric Clinics
[c. 2550 appointments pa]
- Parent Education and Breast Feeding support
- Day care & early pregnancy assessment [c. 2700 appointments pa]

Current Services

Postnatal Care

- Postnatal care to mother & baby
- Examination of new born and blood spot screening
- Infant screening & support
- Liaison & support with GP, Health Visitor and other relevant agencies
- Infant feeding and support

Labour and Birthing Care

- Telephone triage advice in early labour
- Midwifery led Birthing Suite environment
 - Birthing Pool
 - Aromatherapy
 - Pain Management
- Home Birth Service (for women meeting criteria)

What do we want to change?

Our Proposal:

Transfer labour and birthing services from Inverclyde Community Maternity Unit to the Community Maternity Unit, Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley. Women will continue to have the option of a home birth.

All antenatal and postnatal services will remain at Inverclyde Community Maternity Unit and continue to be provided.

Who will be affected?

- Women who are the green pathway and choose to have a Midwife Led Birth at Inverclyde Community Maternity Unit

Proposed changes at a glance

Services	Current	Proposed
Antenatal care	Inverclyde Community Maternity Unit	Inverclyde Community Maternity unit
Midwife Led Labour and Birthing Care (one to one care with support of birthing aids such as aromatherapy, birthing pools and pain management)	Inverclyde Community Maternity unit or a Home Birth	Community Maternity Unit, Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley or a Home Birth
Going home from hospital	Six hours after birth	Six hours after birth
Postnatal care	Provided by midwives from Inverclyde Community Maternity Unit	Provided by midwives from Inverclyde Community Maternity Unit

Why do we want to make this change?

Falling Numbers

The number of pregnancies that have been booked has fallen in recent years.

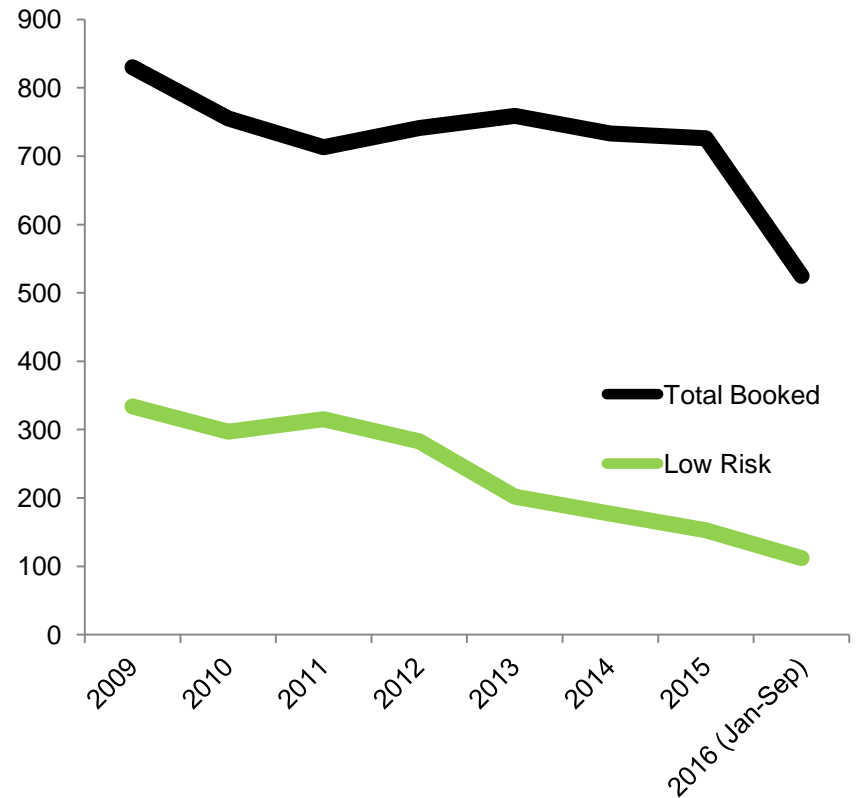
- In 2009, the number was 830
- In 2015, the number dropped to 726

Low Risk/Green Pathway

The number of women assessed to be 'low risk' and suitable for the 'green' pathway has fallen more steeply due to changes in clinical guidelines and women having more complications with aspects of their health.

- In 2009, there were 334 women
- In 2015, this fell to 153 women

Women 'Booked' and those on 'Green' Pathway



Why do we want to make this change?

Falling Numbers

Women with 'Low Risk' pregnancies have the option to choose Midwife led Birthing care at the Inverclyde Community Maternity Unit.

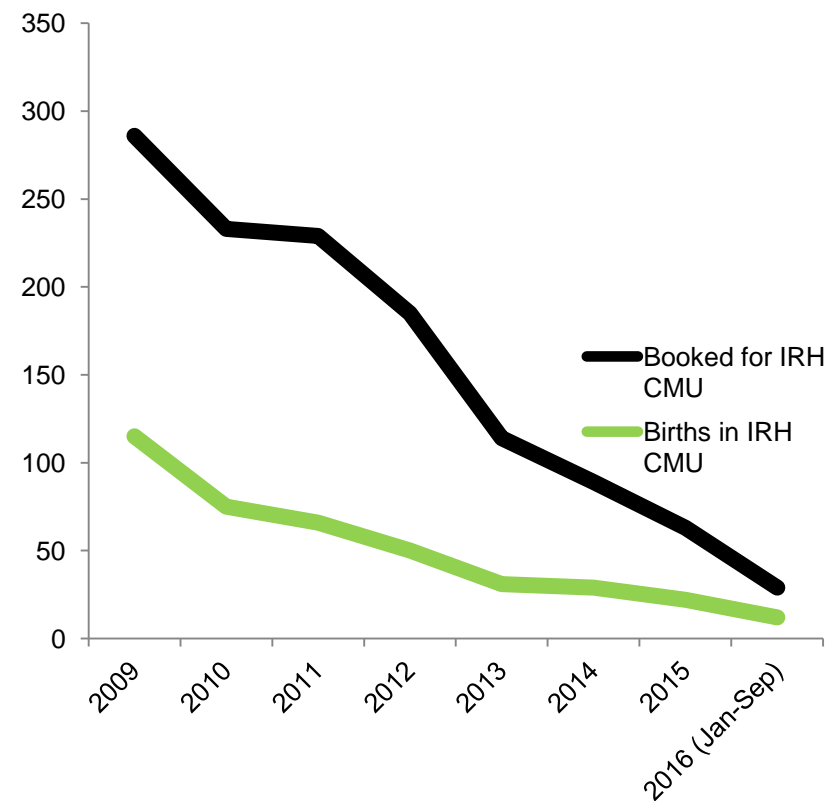
The number of women choosing this option has fallen:

- In 2009, it was 286 women
- In 2015, only 63 women made this choice.

The number of births at the Community Maternity Unit has fallen:

- In 2009, it was 115 births
- In 2015, only 22 births

Women opting for CMU birth v those who delivered at CMU



Why do we think the number of births has fallen?

Demographics Since 2009 there has been a fall in the number of births in the Inverclyde area.

Choice Less women, who are on the green pathway, are choosing a Midwife Led Birth at the Inverclyde CMU. Numbers continue to fall year on year despite one to one discussions with the midwife and being provided with an evidence based leaflet to help them make an informed choice about where to give birth. Most women are choosing to birth at the Royal Alexandria Hospital, Paisley.

Clinical Suitability Women are assessed according to evidence based clinical guidelines to guide their choices for place of birth and placed on a pregnancy pathway. We have found the number of women who are suitable for a Midwife Led Birth is reducing.

Complications during pregnancy Should the mother go to two weeks past her due date or should complications occur in pregnancy, care will be transferred to the obstetric team and birth planned in the Consultant Led Unit. This has further affected the number of women who have delivered at the Midwifery Led Birthing Unit.

Why does this matter?

As a result of declining numbers, the ability to deliver a safe, person centred and effective service is becoming more difficult:

Safe

Due to the reduced number of births midwives now require to rotate through the busier Community Maternity Unit at the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley to maintain their labour and delivery skills

Person Centred

Continuity of care within a team of three to four midwives requires a consistent team of midwives to be based in the locality at all times. As we rotate staff to Paisley to maintain skills, this continuity of care is more frequently diluted resulting in a less person-centred service

Effective

Our midwives need to live within 50 minutes travel time of the unit to support their on call commitments. The ability to recruit midwives in recent years is becoming harder for smaller units particularly as Midwives need two years experience to work in the free standing Community Maternity Unit at Inverclyde

Considering the Options: Birthing Services

- **Status quo:** Women who are on the green pathway, have the option to give birth at Inverclyde Community Maternity Unit
- **Our proposal:** Transfer of Birthing Services from Inverclyde Community Maternity Unit to Community Maternity Unit, Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley
- **Any other options?**

Suggested Assessment Criteria

- **Sustainability**
- **Modern midwifery practice**
- **Access for patients and visitors**
- **Strategic fit**

Current process and next steps

- Informing and engaging process publicly launched on 1st September 2016 and will close 5th December 2016
- Supported by a Stakeholder Reference Group
- Purpose of this group is to shape how best we inform and engage with women who may be affected by the proposal to transfer birthing services
- Membership includes current and recent service users of the Community Maternity Unit, representatives from Your Voice Inverclyde and NHS GGC staff
- Findings from the engagement process will be reported back to the Board on 20th December 2016