



# Changes to Birthing Services in the Vale of Leven Hospital Community Maternity Unit

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

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

## Informing and Engaging Process

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

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

We heard from 83 people from across West Dunbartonshire about their thoughts on the proposal. We used various engagement activities including:

- 5 Drop-in sessions at the Vale of Leven CMU
- 3 Outreach sessions at Dumbarton's Evening relaxation class run by Daisy Foundation, Balloch's Baby Sensory Class, West Dunbartonshire HSCP's Breast Feeding Support Group, and West Dunbartonshire Council's Baby Yoga
- Public event at Vale of Leven 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 tell people about the proposal and ask for their views.

Members of the group included current or recent CMU patients, Daisy Foundation representatives, and staff from West Dunbartonshire HSCP and NHSGGC.

We held our first meeting on 27th September 2016. The group discussed what activities we should use to let people share their views. They agreed to:

- Drop-in sessions at Vale of Leven CMU. This offered patients and their relatives to learn more about the proposal and have their say. We held 4 sessions on the week beginning 17th 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 recently used maternity services.
- Public Event on 14th November 2016.

## Public Event

We hosted a public event on 14th November 2016 in the Vale of Leven 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 27th 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.