

What is our proposal?

What do we want to change?

NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde is proposing to transfer only the Midwife Led Birthing Service from the Vale of Leven Community Maternity Unit.

The Vale of Leven Community Maternity Unit will continue to provide a wide range of antenatal and postnatal care.

Who will the proposal affect?



Women who are on the green pathway and choose to have a Midwife Led Birth at Vale of Leven Community Maternity Unit.

Proposed changes at a glance

Services	Current	Proposed
Antenatal care	Vale of Leven Community Maternity Unit	Vale of Leven 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)	Vale of Leven 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 Vale of Leven Community Maternity Unit	Provided by midwives from Vale of Leven 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 775
- In 2015, the number dropped to 635

Low Risk or 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.

- In 2009, there were 392 women
- In 2015, this fell to 194 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 Vale of Leven Community Maternity Unit.

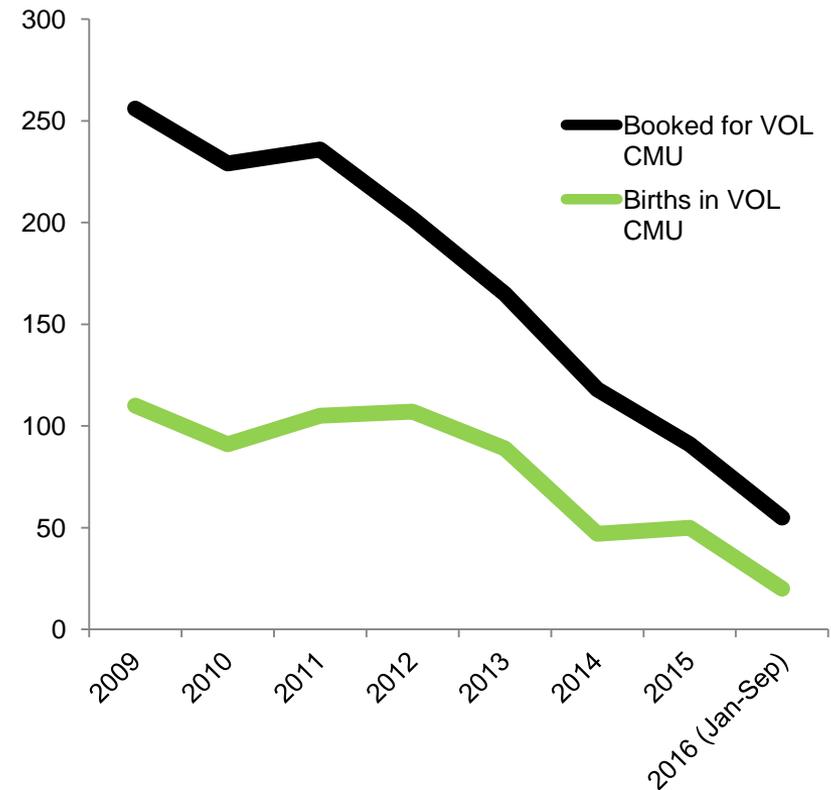
The number of women choosing this option has fallen:

- In 2009, 256 women made this choice
- In 2015, only 91 women made this choice.

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

- In 2009, there were 110 births
- In 2015, there were 50 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 this area
- Choice** Less women, who are on the green pathway, are choosing a Midwife Led Birth at the Vale of Leven 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 the birth planned in the Consultant Led 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 the Vale of Leven