



LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Special Issue: Women's Services

NHS

Keeping you up to date on work to secure the future of hospital services in Shrewsbury and Telford

January 2012

My colleagues and I have recently been out and about, visiting communities across Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin and mid Wales, talking to people and listening to their views and ideas about the changes we are planning to local hospital services. It has been a great opportunity to not only talk in more detail about the changes but also to tell people about all the other exciting health initiatives we are planning over the next couple of years.

One area of concern which our visits did highlight, however, was that there seems to be some misunderstanding around the changes to our women's and maternity services. As a result of this, we have produced this special edition of **Looking to the Future** to outline the facts which I hope you will find useful.

I look forward to meeting more people when we go back out to our local communities in coming weeks. We are planning to attend local community meetings plus host a series of Health Information events, where you will have the chance to find out more about health initiatives in your area. We will be publicising dates for these nearer the time. Meanwhile, if you have any further questions or concerns, or would like to get more involved, then please do not hesitate to contact the Trust at future@sath.nhs.uk



Adam Cairns, **Chief Executive, The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust**

The Facts

- **Changes to Women and Children's services are planned for 2014. Until then, all maternity and women's services will continue as they are now. You will be informed during late 2013 where to go if the changes affect you.**

From 2014:

- **All ante-natal and post-natal appointments, including scans, will continue to take place where they are now.**
- **All expectant mums assessed as having a low-risk pregnancy will still be able to choose to have their baby at home or in one of our five midwife-led units at Bridgnorth, Ludlow and Oswestry, and at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital (RSH) and Princess Royal Hospital (PRH).** The only slight change will be that the midwife-led unit at RSH is relocated elsewhere on the hospital site.
- Women living in mid Wales will still be able to choose to give birth in one of our midwife-led units or one of the midwife-led units that are run by Powys Teaching Health Board.
- **Women who are assessed as having a medium or high risk pregnancy and therefore would be recommended a consultant-led delivery will give birth at the new Women and Children's Unit at PRH.** This includes women who are expecting twins, women with diabetes, women who have previously had caesareans, women whose babies are in a breech position or women whose babies are premature.
- The unit will include a new purpose-built consultant-led maternity unit with dedicated theatres which will be next to a new neonatal unit.

- **Women who would not be recommended a consultant-led birth will still be able to choose to have their baby at the new Women and Children's Unit.**
- The consultant obstetric maternity service and the neonatal intensive care unit (which cares for newborn babies) will be based at the Women and Children's Unit at PRH.
- **If a woman develops complications during labour at home or at one of the midwife-led units, they will be quickly and safely transported to PRH – in the same way that women are transported to RSH now.**
- If you give birth at the Women and Children's Unit at PRH then you and your baby will stay there until you are both fit to go home, or until you are transferred to one of the midwife-led units for your post-natal care.
- **Most women will continue to go to the same hospital as they do now for gynaecology outpatients, investigations and minor surgery.**
- Women will go to the Women and Children's Unit at PRH for gynaecology and breast services if they need to stay overnight.
- **Day case and outpatient gynaecology appointments will continue to take place at both our hospitals.**

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Turn over for:

- **Answers to your questions on the changes to Women's Services**
- **How you can get involved**

Consultant Gynaecologist and Obstetrician Mr Andrew Tapp answers your questions about the changes to our women's services...



Why do we have to change our maternity services?

Women and children's services in Shropshire currently face real problems that require a sustainable solution.

The first driver for this change is that our children's doctors believe that the best way to achieve high quality services for children is to have one single inpatient paediatric unit for the county. This concept is supported by outside agencies.

Women's and Children's inpatient services physically sit together as new born babies sometimes require the support of neonatologists and paediatricians.

The second driver is that our current building at RSH is a real live problem. We cannot continue to provide maternity services from the existing maternity building as it is in a poor state of repair, has significant internal functional and structural problems and is not designed for the delivery of 21st century care.

If a woman develops complications during labour, how will you make sure that there is enough time to safely transport her and her baby to PRH?

This is a real and natural worry and it exists now with home births and within our midwifery-led units. Delivering a safe maternity service with our geography and distant maternity units is a high priority. We do this now and will do it in the future by:

- Assessing and talking to women to help decide whether they are wise to give birth at home or in one of our midwifery led units so the likelihood of significant problems is low
- Training our midwives in the midwife-led units and conducting home confinements to identify problems so we can ensure the safe and early transfer to the consultant-led unit
- Training our midwives in dealing with unpredicted emergencies, either with mum or the newly born baby
- Having an effective and rapid transfer policy in place in partnership with the ambulance services.

As a result of these measures, risks are reduced to the minimum. However, risk can never be removed completely whatever the care setting. Our maternity services in Shropshire have been developed over many years to support our geography and the desires of mums and families to stay close to home if possible, but to access higher levels of care when necessary.

Will I be able to choose to give birth at the new women and children's unit?

Yes, any woman can choose to give birth at the new women and children's unit. There will be slightly more delivery rooms and the specifications for these will not be those of the 1960s, which is when our current facilities were built!

What will the facilities be like in the new unit?

There will be 11 new delivery suites, the majority of which will have en-suite facilities. We will also have separate ante-natal and post-natal wards, a separate adjacent neonatology unit,

dedicated maternity theatres, gynaecology assessment services and inpatient services. There will also be a children's assessment unit (PAU), children's cancer unit, children's inpatient and children's outpatient services. At the PRH site there will also be gynaecology outpatients, colposcopy, gynaecology and paediatric day surgery, gynaecology theatre, antenatal services and the midwifery unit.

Will my partner be able to stay with me in the new unit?

There are different circumstances when a partner may wish to stay with you. This can be when you are in labour, if you are waiting for the successful induction of labour, if a baby or child is on the neonatal or paediatric unit or purely because of distance. We are working with both the architects and builders to offer a number of different solutions depending on your needs and circumstances.

Will I still be able to see my gynaecologist at RSH?

Yes. The vast majority of gynaecology appointments and day case procedures will continue to be provided where they are now. There will also be an Early Pregnancy Assessment Service (EPAS) and an ante-natal assessment service at RSH. You will only need to go to PRH if you are having a procedure that requires an overnight stay.

What will the new facilities be like for gynaecology patients

The new unit will have dedicated gynaecology inpatient beds, an assessment area for patients who have become unwell with a gynaecological problem and an Early Pregnancy Assessment Service (EPAS) with ultrasound scanning facilities. Outpatient services, colposcopy, theatres, day surgery and ambulatory care will also be provided at PRH.

Get Involved

We would be very interested to hear from you if you would like to get involved in shaping our new Women and Children's Unit. Over the next 12 months we will be looking to you to help us decide everything from the colour of the walls to the furniture and children's play equipment. One way you can get involved is by taking part in one of our focus groups. Alternatively let us know if you would like to us to attend your group or meeting to discuss the changes.

Our briefing sessions are another great way to hear all the latest news and ask questions about the changes. The next sessions are:

6pm on 6th February 2012 in Seminar Room 1, Shropshire Education and Conference Centre (SECC), RSH

6pm on 8th February 2012 in the Lecture Theatre, Education Centre, PRH

For more information on getting involved call 01743 261275 or email future@sath.nhs.uk

www.sath.nhs.uk/future

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