

MATERNITY FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q I'm due to give birth later this year, how will I know if my local MLU will be open?

A six-week period of public engagement is underway to seek the views of local people on a proposal to extend the period inpatient services are temporarily suspended in our rural Midwife Led Units in Bridgnorth, Ludlow and Oswestry.

The engagement period ends at midnight on Monday 13 August 2018 and a decision will be made about possible future potential suspensions at a Trust Board meeting on 27 September 2018 which will be held in public.

The current suspension of inpatient services at the three Midwife Led Units will continue until the outcome of the engagement period is known. The units will however continue to remain open between 8am and 8pm for antenatal and postnatal outpatient services. Likewise, home births will not be affected.

We will communicate widely once the Board has made a decision about future potential suspensions going forward. As part of this communication we will ensure full details can be found on the maternity services section of our website.

Alternatively, you can discuss this during an appointment you have with your midwife.

Q Who do I contact if I have concerns or questions?

If you have any questions about the proposal to extend the period inpatient services are temporarily suspended in our rural Midwife Led Units, please refer to our engagement document on the maternity services section of our website for further information.

www.sath.nhs.uk/wards-services/az-services/maternity/mlu

If you have questions or concerns about where you can give birth, please contact your midwife in the first instance.

Q Why are you doing this engagement now?

Despite a successful recruitment programme which allowed us to reopen our rural Midwife Led Units for births at the start of the year, our mums are continuing to give birth away from our rural Midwife Led Units. As a result, we anticipate our current operational pressures, largely around availability and location of staffing, to continue for the foreseeable future.

We are therefore proposing to extend the period services are temporarily suspended in our rural Midwife Led Units until a new long term sustainable model of care can be implemented by our clinical commissioning groups.

The purpose of this engagement is to understand how temporarily extending the suspension of services in our rural Midwife Led Units might affect women and families using our service at this time and how we might lessen any impacts to best meet their needs.

More detail can be found in our engagement document which is on the maternity services section of our website: www.sath.nhs.uk/wards-services/az-services/maternity/mlu