

REPORT TO: Health and Wellbeing Board

DATE: 14 January 2015

REPORTING OFFICER: Simon Banks, Chief Officer

PORTFOLIO: Health and Wellbeing

SUBJECT: Maternity Services

WARDS: Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To inform the Health and Wellbeing Board of work that is progressing across Cheshire and Merseyside to sustain and develop maternity services.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the Health and Wellbeing Board note the report.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 Having a baby is the most common reason for hospital admission in England. Births are up by almost a quarter in the last decade and are at their highest in 40 years.
- 3.2 Whilst the majority of women have low risk pregnancies, have a positive experience of birth and deliver healthy babies, this is not always the case. There has been an increase in the complexity of births and there is variation in the outcomes and experience of women and babies.
- 3.3 Cheshire and Merseyside Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) have agreed to undertake a review of maternity services across the sub-region. This review is being undertaken with the support of provider organisations and the Cheshire and Merseyside Strategic Clinical Network (SCN). The involvement of the SCN is crucial as this ensures that clinicians are engaged in and leading this work.
- 3.4 Through this review, the NHS in Cheshire and Merseyside will explore how it can improve outcomes, reduce variation, deliver high quality services and sustain and develop maternity provision across the area. From this work, which will stay close to the national agenda as set out in the NHS *Five Year Forward View*, future options for sustainable maternity services will be explored with the intention that the NHS is able to offer better choice, improved outcomes and a model of care with mothers, babies and families at the heart of it.
- 3.5 Work is currently underway to develop a baseline understanding of the nature and shape of maternity services in Cheshire and Merseyside. Using all available data this is specifically looking at:

- clinical outcomes
- patient experience and choice
- education and training of the current and future workforce
- co-dependencies with other services including neonatal intensive care, co-surgical support, critical care, A&E and other specialist services
- safeguarding
- capacity and size of current provision
- current and future demographics and geographical access
- epidemiology of the population
- current commissioning and financial arrangements

3.6 The next phase of the work will involve developing options for improvement, using evidence of national and international best practice. Any options for change will be subject to engagement and consultation with patients and the public in Cheshire and Merseyside.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The work on maternity services in Cheshire and Merseyside needs to be linked to the NHS *Five Year Forward View*. The *Five Year Forward View* states that, in addition to increasing midwife numbers, the NHS will:

- Commission a review of future models for maternity units, to report by next summer, which will make recommendations on how best to sustain and develop maternity units across the NHS.
- Ensure that tariff-based NHS funding supports the choices women make, rather than constraining them.
- Make it easier for groups of midwives to set up their own NHS-funded midwifery services.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The review will take into account the funding of NHS maternity services, which are resourced through a nationally agreed tariff.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

The Children's Trust will need to stay close to this review.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

None as a result of this report.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

None as a result of this report.

6.4 A Safer Halton

None as a result of this report.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None as a result of this report.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 A lack of engagement in and awareness of the review is a significant risk. This risk will be mitigated as the review progresses with an engagement plan.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 The review will be undertaken in a way that ensures that it is compliant with the duties upon public bodies under the Equality Act 2010.

9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

Five Year Forward View, Care Quality Commission, Health Education England, Monitor, NHS England, Public Health England and Trust Development Authority, 23rd October 2014, www.england.nhs.uk/ourwork/futurenhs/.