


Date 30th Oct 2007
Press Release

The North West London Hospitals 
NHS Trust

Have your say Consultation on the future of Brent Birth Centre launched

A three month consultation to seek the views of local people about proposals for the Brent Birth Centre in Park Royal will be launched on Friday 2nd November 2007 by Brent Teaching Primary Care Trust and The North West London Hospitals NHS Trust.

Chief Executive of The North West London Hospitals NHS Trust, Fiona Wise, said: "Whilst the Brent Birth Centre provides a good service to local women, there are many reasons why we, in partnership with Brent Teaching Primary Care Trust, are now considering proposals for its future and why we want to hear the views of local people about the options available. These include the lack of demand for the service and making sure we make the best use of resources."

Despite actively promoting the centre, the vast majority of women from Brent and Harrow who are suitable for a midwifery led unit are not choosing the Brent Birth Centre. Midwives deliver in the region of 300 births a year - 25 a month - when they should be delivering more than 1,000.

One in four of the women who have their babies at the BBC have to be transferred by ambulance to the obstetric unit at Northwick Park Hospital in labour because they need medical help.

The Centre also currently costs the local NHS £1.2m a year to run but because of the lack of demand for the service the Trust is running the service at a loss of £300,000 a year.

Fiona added: "London is also facing an increasing number of births. It is important that we are able to support these changes and use resources efficiently so that we can provide enough midwives and obstetricians to care for future mothers and babies."

The Trust and PCT are seeking views on four options but are also keen for people to come forward with other suggestions and ideas as part of the consultation. The four options are:

- 1) Do nothing - the Trust would continue to provide midwife-led services at the Brent Birth Centre at Central Middlesex Hospital.

- 2) Transfer all maternity care to Northwick Park Hospital's Maternity Unit. This would mean that there would no longer be a midwifery unit at either Northwick Park or Central Middlesex hospitals. There would also be no antenatal services provided at Central Middlesex Hospital
- 3) Transfer inpatient (delivery) maternity care to Northwick Park Hospital's Maternity Unit. Create a dedicated midwife-led unit within Northwick Park Hospital's recently refurbished maternity unit. Continue to provide antenatal care at the Brent Birth Centre.
- 4) Transfer inpatient (delivery) maternity care to Northwick Park Hospital's Maternity Unit. Create a dedicated midwifery-led unit within Northwick Park Hospital's recently refurbished maternity unit. Provide antenatal services at Central Middlesex Hospital, but not within the Brent Birth Centre.

Chief Executive of the PCT, Mark Easton, said: "Whilst we have included a number of options in the consultation document we would encourage participants to make alternative suggestions preferably earlier in this consultation period, so that we can look into these and feed back as part of the consultation process."

Consultation documents and leaflets are being distributed to libraries, GP surgeries and voluntary organisations across Brent and Harrow. The Trust and PCT is also offering to attend local community group meetings as part of the consultation.

Members of the public can find out more by logging on to www.nwlh.nhs.uk/brentbirth or they can attend open public meetings which are being held in November.

- **Wednesday 21 November** at 6.00pm at the Wembley Centre for Health and Care, 116 Chaplin Road, Wembley HA0 4UZ.
- **Wednesday 28 November** at 6.00pm at the Medical Education Centre, Central Middlesex Hospital, Park Royal.

The consultation will end on 8 February 2008

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