



**Scrutiny Committee**  
26 November 2014

**Report from the Assistant Chief  
Executive**

For Action

Wards Affected:  
ALL

**Local Impact resulting from changes to maternity, neonatal, paediatric and gynaecology services at Ealing Hospital**

**1.0 Summary**

- 1.1 In February 2013 the North West London joint committee of Primary Care Trusts approved implementation of the Shaping a Healthier Future Programme. The reconfiguration commenced with the closures of the A&E units at Central Middlesex Hospital and Hammersmith and Fulham Hospital on 10 September 2014. The next stage of implementation is the planned changes to maternity services at Ealing Hospital. The final decision on the timing of the implementation of the changes to maternity services at Ealing Hospital is due to be taken on 26 November by Brent Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and Ealing Clinical Commissioning Group.
- 1.2 The report from Brent CCG on the agenda of this meeting of the Scrutiny Committee sets out the anticipated impact that the changes to maternity, neonatal, paediatric and gynaecology services at Ealing Hospital will have on Brent Residents.
- 1.3 The main changes proposed to take place across North West London are as follows:-
- Consolidation of maternity and neonatal services into six sites rather than seven. The rationale for this is to provide obstetric care and mid-wife led care in fewer specialised sites with higher levels of consultant care available; and
  - To incorporate paediatric inpatient services from six sites to five and co-locate with paediatric emergency care and short stay/ ambulatory facilities.

- 1.4 As a result of these proposals Ealing Hospital would stop providing maternity services additional, while additional capacity would be developed in the remaining six sites to accommodate the displaced patients. Ealing Hospital maternity services were selected for closure as the unit currently has a lower level of births in comparison to other maternity units in North West London. As a consequence the CCG argues that providing the necessary level of consultant care and adequately staffing clinical support services is not sustainable and could lead to unplanned closure if continued in its current configuration.
- 1.5 The report provides data on the modelling undertaken to assess the impact of closure at Ealing on other receiving maternity units across West London. During 2013/14 1% (44) of all births that took place at Ealing Maternity Hospital, were to women resident in Brent. 43% of Brent women elected to attend North West London Hospitals for their child's birth and 41% attended Imperial College Healthcare.
- 1.6 Other maternity units across NW London are having their capacity increased to provide for 4,200 births displaced by the closure. Brent CCG estimates that no more than 250 women from Ealing will elect to attend Northwick Park Hospital for their delivery. An online booking service is being put in place to enable close monitoring of chosen locations of births. The final date and arrangements for the planned closure have yet to be agreed by CCGs across NW London. Representatives of NWL Hospital Trust and Brent CCG will confirm further arrangements following a meeting of the CCG Boards of Ealing and Brent on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2014.

## **2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1 The committee is recommended to question representatives of the CCG on:-
- the robustness of their modelling assumptions and assurance plan;
  - the timescale for their implementation; and
  - what contingency plans are in place in case any of the proposals turn out not to be possible or feasible.

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