

Brent Birth Centre



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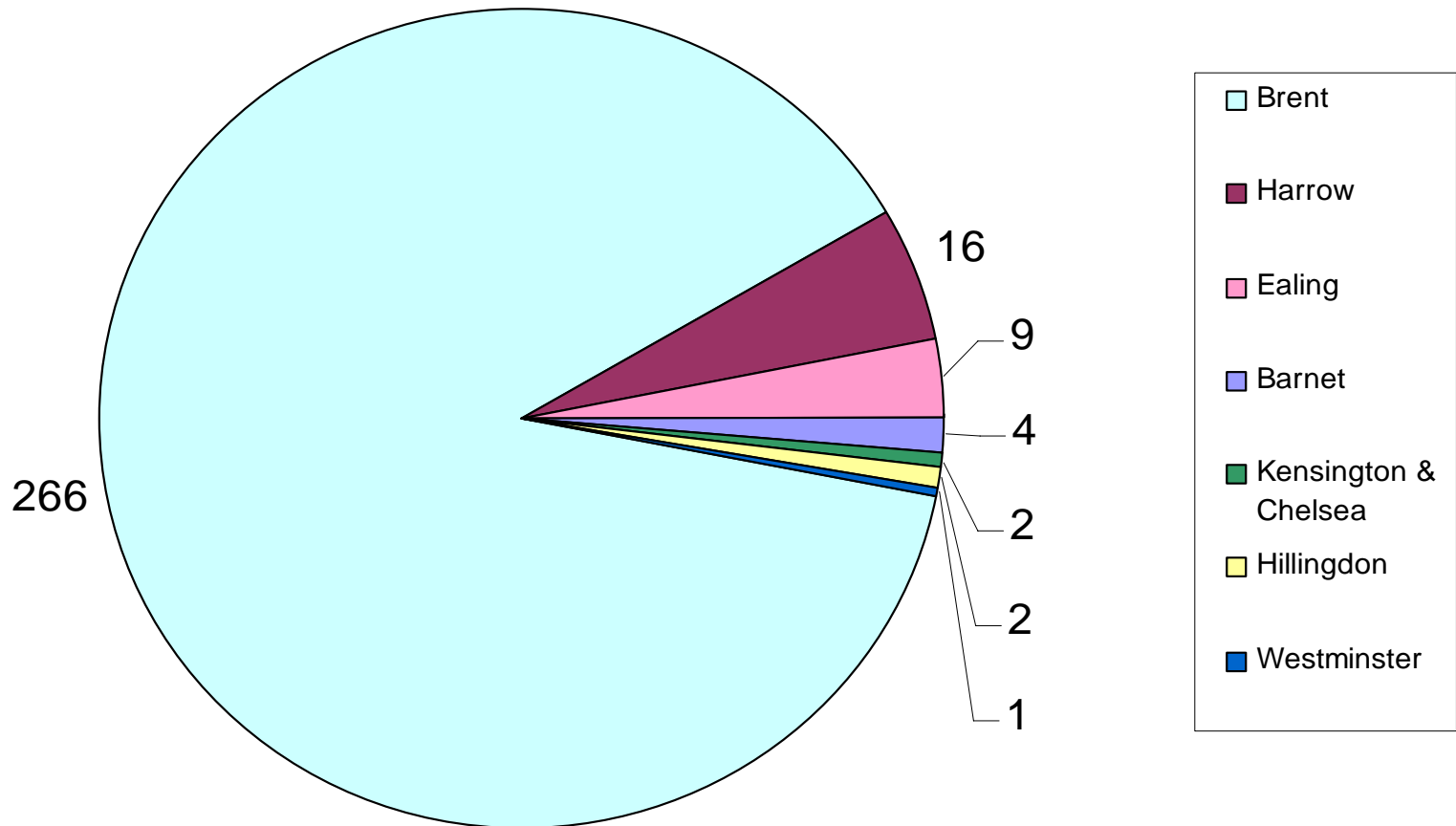
- Opened in 2004 following public consultation.
- Provides a 'home from home' environment for women and is situated on the site of the new Central Middlesex Hospital.
- Designed for women who are expected to have straightforward deliveries and who want midwife support during their labour and delivery.

Facts and figures

- 16% occupancy rate (similar midwifery led units operate at about 85%).
- Delivers 300 babies a year.
- Capacity to deliver around 1,200 – 1,500.
- 30% of women in Brent and Harrow are suitable to deliver their baby in a midwifery led unit.
- Only 5% of all births registered to a Brent GP take place at the Centre.

Facts and figures

Breakdown of Births at BBC by PCT



Facts and figures

Overall North West London Hospitals NHS Trust (which includes Northwick Park Hospital and Central Middlesex Hospital) delivered 2,644 babies for women living in the Brent area in 2006/07. This is 49 per cent of all births in Brent.

Where women from Brent currently choose to have their baby

<u>Hospital of choice</u>	<u>No of women</u>
• Northwick Park Hospital	2,370
• St. Mary's Hospital	1,345
• Queen Charlotte's Hospital	388
• Brent Birth Centre	274
• Royal Free Hospital	284
• Barnet General Hospital	125
• Chelsea & Westminster Hospital	71
• University College Hospital	51
• Edgware General Hospital	44
• Home birth	39
• Other (not known)	449
Total	5,440

Why we are proposing change

- **Lack of demand for the current service:** 300 births a year, 16% occupancy rate.
- **To strengthen services:** Currently one in four women at the Brent Birth Centre, who had expected straightforward deliveries, need to be transferred to Northwick Park Hospital as they need care by obstetricians.
- **Preparing for the future:** Projected increase in births across the capital of five per cent by 2016.
- **Choice for women:** If we were to provide the service at Northwick Park Hospital women from across both Brent and Harrow would have access to midwifery led care.
- **Making the best use of taxpayers' money:** 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.

The options

In thinking about the future of the Brent Birthing Centre we are considering a number of options:

1. Do nothing - the Trust would continue to provide midwifery led services at the Brent Birthing Centre at Central Middlesex Hospital.
2. Transfer all maternity care to Northwick Park Hospital's Maternity Unit. There would no longer be a Midwifery Led Unit on either site, and antenatal services would not be provided at Central Middlesex Hospital.
3. Transfer inpatient (delivery) maternity care to a new dedicated midwifery led unit within Northwick Park Hospital's Maternity Unit. Antenatal care would continue to be provided from the Brent Birthing Centre.
4. Transfer inpatient (delivery) maternity care to a new dedicated midwifery led unit within Northwick Park Hospital's Maternity Unit. Keep antenatal services at Central Middlesex Hospital but not in the Brent Birthing Centre.

The timetable

- **September:** Consultation document to be discussed at PCT and Trust board meetings on 20th and 26th September
- **October - December:** Three months formal consultation starts. These will include two public open meetings.
- **January - February:** Report detailing the responses to the consultation to be presented to the boards of the PCT, Trust, Patient Forums and Overview and Scrutiny Committee in January/ February.
- **March:** Depending on the outcome of the consultation – changes to the service would start in March.

Your views

Before we start any formal consultation we wanted to discuss some of the background with you and the current options we have developed.

We would be particularly interested to know from you:

- Do you think there is anything which we have not considered in the possible options?
- How would you like to be involved? Are there any community groups which you think should be involved?

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Any questions?