

Proposed changes to Birthing Services at the Vale of Leven Community Maternity Unit

Public Event
Monday 14 November 2016

Dr Margaret McGuire
Nurse Director of NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde

Purpose of this Public Event

- Give people the opportunity to find out more about what we are proposing
- Explain the reasons why we are proposing this change and who the proposal will affect
- Find out what other services are provided at the Community Maternity Unit and will not change
- Opportunity to discuss service options, tell us what you think and ask questions

Current Services

Midwifery Service

- First point of contact from early booking, through pregnancy to post natal support
 - 24 hour cover to the birthing unit or to women in their homes choosing a homebirth
 - Defined caseload, within geographic teams

Antenatal Care

- Midwifery Clinics
6000 appointments per year
- Consultant Obstetric Clinics
2500 appointments per year
- Parent Education and Breast Feeding support
- Day care & early pregnancy assessment
3400 appointments per year

Current Services

Postnatal Care

- Postnatal care to mother & baby
- Examination of new born and blood spot screening
- Infant screening & support
- Liaison & support with GP, Health Visitor and other relevant agencies
- Infant feeding and support

Labour and Birthing Care

- Telephone triage advice in early labour
- Midwifery led Birthing Suite environment (for women meeting the criteria)
 - Birthing Pool
 - Aromatherapy
 - Pain Management
- Home Birth Service (for women meeting criteria)

What do we want to change?

Our Proposal:

Transfer labour and birthing services from Vale of Leven Community Maternity Unit to the Community Maternity Unit, Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley. Women will continue to have the option of a home birth.

All antenatal and postnatal services will remain at Vale of Leven Community Maternity Unit and continue to be provided.

Who will the proposal affect?

- Women who are on the green pathway and choose to have a Midwife Led Birth at Vale of Leven Community Maternity Unit

Proposed changes at a glance

Services	Current	Proposed
Antenatal care	Vale of Leven Community Maternity Unit	Vale of Leven Community Maternity unit
Midwife Led Labour and Birthing Care (one to one care with support of birthing aids such as aromatherapy, birthing pools and pain management)	Vale of Leven Community Maternity unit or a Home Birth	Community Maternity Unit, Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley or a Home Birth
Going home from hospital	Six hours after birth	Six hours after birth
Postnatal care	Provided by midwives from Vale of Leven Community Maternity Unit	Provided by midwives from Vale of Leven Community Maternity Unit

Why do we want to make this change?

Falling Numbers

The number of pregnancies that have been booked has fallen in recent years.

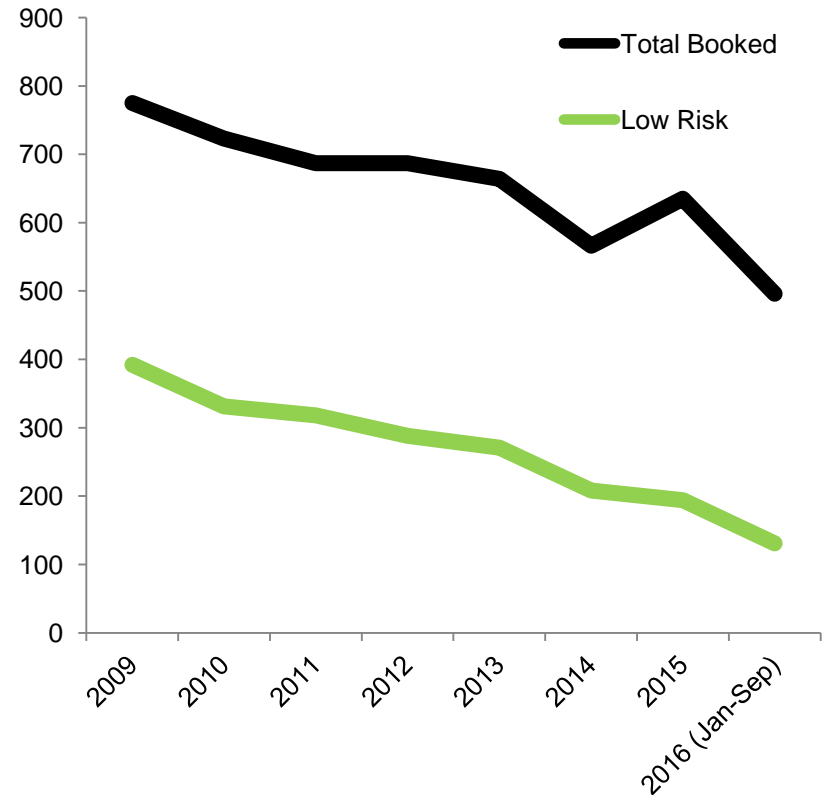
- In 2009, the number was 775
- In 2015, the number dropped to 635

Low Risk or Green Pathway

The number of women assessed to be 'low risk' and suitable for the 'green' pathway has fallen more steeply due to changes in clinical guidelines and women having more complications with aspects of their health.

- In 2009, there were 392 women
- In 2015, this fell to 194 women

Women 'Booked' and those on 'Green' Pathway



Why do we want to make this change?

Falling Numbers

Women with 'Low Risk' pregnancies have the option to choose Midwife led Birthing care at the Vale of Leven Community Maternity Unit.

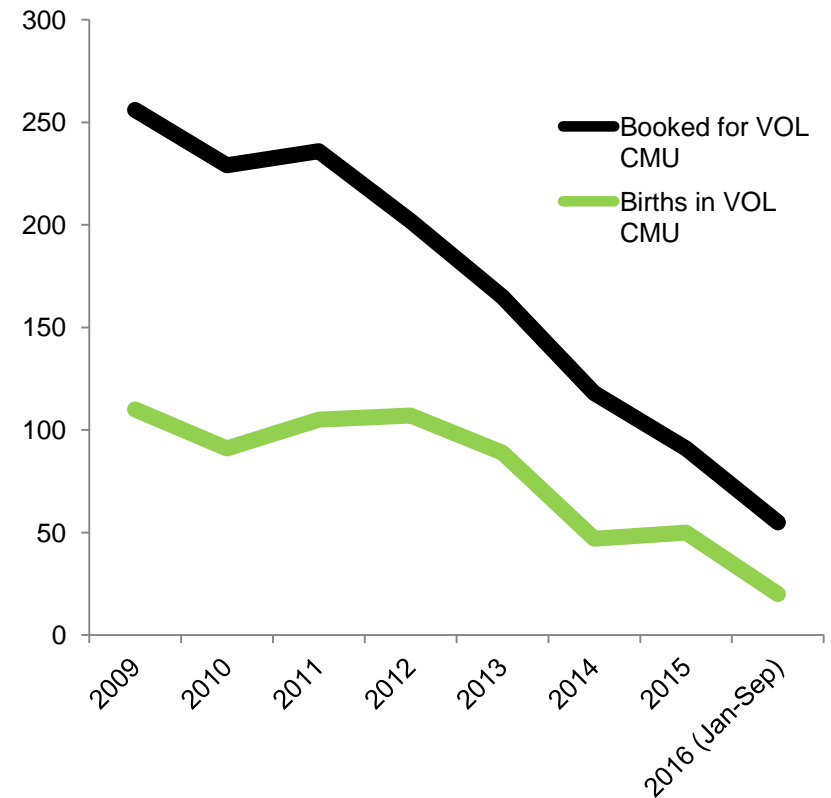
The number of women choosing this option has fallen:

- In 2009, 256 women made this choice
- In 2015, only 91 women made this choice

The number of births at the Community Maternity Unit has fallen:

- In 2009, there were 110 births
- In 2015, there were 50 births

Women opting for CMU birth v those who delivered at CMU



Why do we think the number of births has fallen?

- Demographics**
 - Since 2009 there has been a fall in the number of births in this area.
- Choice**
 - Less women, who are on the green pathway, are choosing a Midwife Led Birth at the Vale of Leven CMU.
 - Numbers continue to fall year on year despite one to one discussions with the midwife and being provided with an evidence based leaflet to help them make an informed choice about where to give birth. Most women are choosing to birth at the Royal Alexandria Hospital, Paisley.
- Clinical Suitability**
 - Women are assessed according to evidence based clinical guidelines to guide their choices for place of birth and placed on a pregnancy pathway.
 - We have found the number of women who are suitable for a Midwife Led Birth is reducing.
- Complications during pregnancy**
 - Should the mother go to two weeks past her due date or should complications occur in pregnancy, care will be transferred to the obstetric team and birth planned in the Consultant Led Unit.

Why does this matter?

As a result of declining numbers, the ability to deliver a safe, person centred and effective service is becoming more difficult:

- Safe** Due to the reduced number of births midwives now require to rotate through the busier Community Maternity Unit at the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley to maintain their labour and delivery skills
- Person Centred** Continuity of care within a team of three to four midwives requires a consistent team of midwives to be based in the locality at all times. As we rotate staff to Paisley to maintain skills, this continuity of care is more frequently diluted resulting in a less person-centred service
- Effective** Our midwives need to live within 50 minutes travel time of the unit to support their on call commitments. The ability to recruit midwives in recent years is becoming harder for smaller units particularly as Midwives need two years experience to work in the free standing Community Maternity Unit at Vale of Leven

Considering the Options: Birthing Services

- **Status quo:** Women who are on the green pathway, have the option to give birth at Vale of Leven Community Maternity Unit
- **Our proposal:** Transfer of Birthing Services from Vale of Leven Community Maternity Unit to Community Maternity Unit, Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley
- **Any other options?**

Suggested Assessment Criteria

- **Sustainability**
- **Modern midwifery practice**
- **Access for patients and visitors**
- **Strategic fit**

Current process and next steps

- Informing and engaging process publicly launched on 1st September 2016 and will close 5th December 2016
- Supported by a Stakeholder Reference Group
- Purpose of this group is to shape how best we inform and engage with women who may be affected by the proposal to transfer birthing services
- Membership includes representatives from Daisy Foundation, West Dunbartonshire HSCP and NHS GGC staff
- Findings from the engagement process will be reported back to the Board on 20th December 2016