

Maternity Services – LINK Scoping Document – May 2012

Contents

- Introduction and background information
- What have we heard so far?
- Where can we go from here?

Introduction and Background Information

Through earlier LINK engagement work, we have received several comments relating to maternity services in Oxfordshire. LINK is presenting this scoping document to the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to see if there is support for taking these comments forward and forming a project group. We will work with other organisations and undertake more research as part of any ongoing project to obtain a comprehensive, up to date picture of how people feel about their maternity services. As with all Oxfordshire LINK's projects, the outcomes and recommendations will be shared with the relevant service provider(s) and a request for a response made. The timescale will be set for the majority of current LINK project work being completed by the end of December 2012.

What has LINK heard so far?

Comments we have received from engagement work:

Positive:

- Midwives and Health Visitors are excellent (Bicester)
- The Maternity Ward at the JR was fantastic
- Maternity services are excellent at JR
- JR maternity care excellent – team very caring
- Maternity care is good
- Midwives were wonderful

Negative:

- Reduced Maternity service at the Horton
- Need consistency with midwife service – one or two midwives to see you through pregnancy, rather than lots of different ones.
- Midwives put new Mum's under pressure to breast feed
- More Midwives needed at the JR – there are staff shortages
- Health Visitors could be more helpful and supportive
- Felt pushed to breastfeed
- Left overnight after birth with no obs
- Sister in Leeds has 2 hour DVD's, special visits before birth! Why can't we have the same?
- Poor care at JR maternity
- Manor Gynaecologists – no aftercare
- Not happy with Midwife (Abingdon)
- JR Maternity – really good with the birth, but don't give any advice about looking after the baby, this is left to the Midwife. Community Midwives are under too much pressure to do everything and the service is stretched – you may not see a midwife for a week – 2 weeks after birth. Should have more

training / information available in hospital before you leave with your new baby.

- Inconsistent advice post birth.
- Too much pressure on new Mums to breast feed
- Discharge after birth too soon
- Continuity of maternity care is not good – unusual to see the same person twice
- Post Natal depression was not taken seriously (x2)
- Lack of Midwives – only one for the whole area. No holiday cover.
- Takes ages to get an appointment (Thame)

Where can we go from here?

Maternity services in Oxfordshire are grouped into three areas;

- Antenatal Services – services used during pregnancy including; ultrasound, pregnancy tests and screening, antenatal clinics, day assessment units, Silver Star service, community midwives.
- Maternity Units – services used during birth including; consultant led maternity units at the John Radcliffe and Horton hospitals, midwifery-led maternity units including Oxford Spires.
- Postnatal Services – services used after birth including; breastfeeding clinics, newborn screening programme, neonatal unit, Special Care baby unit (SCBU), birth afterthoughts, community health visitors.

Oxfordshire Link could run questionnaires and research gathering via the following avenues:

- Facebook
- Twitter
- Oxfordshire LINK website
- Family support websites e.g; Netmums Oxfordshire
- Local press and media
- Existing LINK contacts
- Other support organisations including voluntary sector
- Children's Centres
- Mother and Baby groups, toddler groups, etc

Comments gathered over a set timeframe could then be grouped under the three areas of services above and a project taken forward based on which has the most areas of concern.

Organisations or groups Oxfordshire LINK would be working with:

- Oxford University Hospitals Trust
- Maternity Service Liaison Committee
- Oxfordshire PCT
- Oxford Health
- Locality Clinical Commissioning Groups
- Voluntary Sector
- HOSC

Sue Marshall
Development Officer
Oxfordshire LINK
May 2012