

## Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting

Thursday 17 November 2016

<b>Title</b>	<b>Update on the temporary suspension of obstetric services at Horton General Hospital</b>
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**Summary**

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| <p><b>1.</b> This paper provides an update to the HOSC on the review of the readiness to lift temporary suspension of obstetric and neonatal services at Horton General Hospital, on the grounds of patient safety. Following a review of the progress in recruiting obstetric doctors it was decided to retain the Midwifery Led Unit at the Horton General Hospital until 5 March 2017</p> |
| <p><b>2.</b> A further round of recruitment initiatives is being pursued, and the position will be reviewed again in Mid December 2016, to determine whether it is safe to lift the temporary suspension and reopen to Obstetric care in March 2017.</p>   |

## **1. Introduction**

In line with the decisions taken by the Trust Board on 31 August 2016 the Obstetric Unit at the Horton General Hospital [HGH] was redesignated as a Midwifery Led Unit, on a temporary basis, at 8am on the 3 October 2016. This paper provides an update on the recruitment position, on the basis of which the Trust has decided to maintain the Midwifery Led Unit [MLU] status until March 2017 subject to further review in December 2016.

## **2. Recruitment**

The latest recruitment round for Trust Grade doctors resulted in eight applications and four doctors being shortlisted and invited for interview. Unfortunately, two of the four doctors did not attend the interview and following interviews, one doctor was offered the post. That doctor has accepted, and will start in February 2017.

The Trust will have four doctors out of nine in post by mid to late November 2016, with a further doctor taking up post in February 2017. The four doctors are the two remaining Clinical Research Fellows and two new appointments, one commenced on the 28 October 2016 and the second is planned to commence on the 17 November 2016. A further advert was placed in the British Medical Journal [BMJ] on the 7 October 2016 with a closing date of the 28 October 2016. Three doctors have been shortlisted and interviews are being held the week commencing the 7 November 2016.

There is a linked recruitment challenge in relation to special care nurses; the minimum, establishment needed to operate the unit is twelve. An advert for Special Care Nurses closed on 26 October 2016 and three applicants have been shortlisted.

## **3. Conclusion**

Based on the current Obstetric Trust grade doctor position, the Trust decided to retain the temporary arrangements for the provision of a Midwifery Led Unit at the Horton General Hospital until 5 March 2017, on the grounds of patient safety.

The position will be reviewed again in Mid December 2016, to decide on whether it is feasible to reopen Obstetric services on 5 March 2017 or to continue to operate as a Midwifery Led Unit beyond 5 March 2017.