



Coventry City Council

Briefing note

To: Coventry Health and Social Care Scrutiny Board and Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board

Date: 11 March 2020

Subject: Maternity and Child Health Programme Update

1 Purpose of the Note

- 1.1 To provide members of the Scrutiny Board with an introduction to the Coventry and Warwickshire Maternity and Child Health Programme ahead of a more detailed presentation on the engagement that has taken place as part of the programme.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 To note the content of the short briefing document attached and support the direction of travel.

3 Information/Background

- 3.1 This is a collaborative programme being undertaken by the 3 Coventry and Warwickshire Commissioning Groups, Coventry City Council and Warwickshire County Council.
- 3.2 The Programme was established in 2017 and has been included in CCG Commissioning Intentions as a priority programme. The programme is a priority in the 5 Year Plan in recognition of its important role in delivering improved health outcomes for the Coventry and Warwickshire population.

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The Maternity and Child Health Service Programme

“Working together across health and social care to develop and deliver joined-up services commissioned for babies, children, young people and their families”

Over the last year, the three CCGs across Coventry and Warwickshire have spoken with almost 1000 mothers, mothers to be, families, carers, frontline NHS staff and community and voluntary sector organisations to learn about their experiences of receiving, delivering or supporting maternity and child health services.

Why are we looking at maternity and child health services?

We know that improving the health and welfare of mothers and their children is the best way to a healthier population, as well as the best way to achieve a fairer society for the future by improving health and tackling inequalities in childhood, where some groups have difficulties accessing the support they need. Healthy mothers have healthier babies who hopefully grow into healthy children and adults, helping to prevent ill health and disease later in life.

Locally, we are experiencing changes to our demographic and population trends: the number of births is going down, but the number of complex births is increasing. We are also seeing more people move into the area due to the significant housing developments in the area. We are also seeing increases in potential “lifestyle illnesses”, requiring a whole-system approach to prevention.

There is a lot of good work happening across Coventry and Warwickshire to deliver maternity and child health services, but we recognise we can always do more to continue to make these services better.

- We have the opportunity to explore our services and ensure they are fit for purpose, meet the needs of our population and are safe, effective and sustainable long into the future;
- We want to meet future demands such as population growth and workforce challenges;
- We need to make sure all the organisations involved can work together more easily to give people the best possible care, in the right place, when they need it most.

Our goals

We want to:

- Give everyone the best start in life by putting a greater focus on supporting mothers, babies and their families before, during and following birth;
- Help mothers stop smoking during pregnancy and support families to stop smoking in the home;
- Support mothers and families to be happy and healthy and reduce the number of women suffering from perinatal mental health issues, as well as support those in their wider family such as their partner, whilst providing better support to those that do find themselves with mental health issues;
- Reduce the inequalities and challenges some of our population face in access to, availability of and quality of services;
- Reduce the number of infants, children and young people dying prematurely;
- Tackle childhood obesity, poverty, abuse and neglect, and improve health outcomes.

We wanted to engage with local people and gather their feedback to help us create a set of **desirable criteria** (the things people told us were important to them) and some **draft outcomes** (how we will measure how successful we are in meeting patient needs).

What have we done so far?



We've spoken to almost 1000 people about what their experience of maternity and child health services has been, what was important to them, what they thought worked well and what they'd like to see improve to help us understand what matters most to people.

We were very lucky to be supported in our engagement by a number of local community and voluntary sector organisations, parent and toddler groups, refugee centres, and children's centres, which helped us reach more people and speak to them in locations and venues they knew and were comfortable with.



Our targeted approach has meant that the feedback has come from those most involved in or affected by these services. We conducted additional engagement with seldom heard groups to make sure our work is as robust and inclusive as possible.

Our proposed outcomes for maternity and child health services – designed in collaboration with local people

All of our engagement and the feedback local people have given us has allowed us to create a set of draft outcomes. These outcomes are what we intend to measure ourselves against to make sure we're meeting the needs of mothers, mothers to be, families, carers and the frontline NHS staff delivering maternity and child health services. A summary of these outcomes can be seen below.

1: Person centred care

Services are delivered with compassion, empathy and understanding of the person's needs and circumstances

2: Access

People are given the information and knowledge to access the right services in the right way, in the right place and at the right time for their needs

3: Quality of care

Care is delivered safely, effectively and to the highest possible standard in a way that meets the needs of families, including children and young people

4: Services & workforce

Services should be built around the needs of those using them and the workforce should receive the training and support necessary to deliver those services in a person-centred way

5: Environment

Services delivered in hospitals, in the community or in the independent and voluntary sectors are delivered in safe, clean and appropriate locations that meet the needs of people accessing them

What are we doing next?

Now that we've gathered all this really useful feedback, we need to work with our local providers and public to think about how maternity and child health services might need to change to meet the needs of the people living in Coventry and Warwickshire and meet national and local guidance.

This is just one part of an ongoing journey and we want to bring you with us every step of the way. There is still a lot to talk about and there will be plenty of opportunities to shape and influence the future of maternity and child health services.