



Integration Joint Board  
Transformation and Innovation/Futures Committee

10<sup>th</sup> November 2022

This Report relates to  
Item 4 on the Agenda

# Review of Maternity Services in Wigtownshire

*Paper presented by  
Linda Williamson/Laura Boyce*

*For Discussion*

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<b>Approved for Submission By:</b>	Linda Williamson, General Manager Julie White, Chief Officer
<b>List of Background Papers:</b>	<a href="#">The Best Start - A Five Year Forward Plan for Maternity and Neonatal Care in Scotland</a>
<b>Appendices:</b>	<b>Not Required</b>

1.	<p><b>Introduction</b></p> <p>1.1 Following the temporary suspension of intrapartum maternity services in the west of the region in 2018 due to staffing pressures, a review of services for expectant mothers is sought.</p>
2.	<p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p>2.1 <b>The Transformation and Innovation/Futures Committee is asked to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>To agree that a direction is presented to the IJB for approval to ask that NHS Dumfries and Galloway carry out an independently chaired local service review of maternity services in Wigtownshire with external professional expertise</b></li> </ul>
3.	<p><b>Background and Main Report</b></p> <p>3.1 In 2011 the Clenoch Birth Centre at the Galloway Community Hospital was operational as a community midwifery unit, providing low risk, midwifery led intrapartum care, as a two bedded facility. There were 78 births at this time with a caseload of approximately 260 women.</p> <p>3.2 In 2017 the service was delivered as an on-call model, with 17 births in the Clenoch Birth Centre.</p> <p>3.3 In 2018, due to sustained and significant staffing pressures, the operational decision to temporarily suspend the on-call service was enacted. At this time there was engagement with expectant mothers who were made aware of the safety protocols surrounding this change to the service. This information was detailed to the former Health and Social Care Management Team in May 2018.</p> <p>3.4 The Oak Tree Family Centre opened in Stranraer in 2020, providing an enhanced level of antenatal and postnatal care inclusive of both high-risk consultant-led care and low-risk midwifery care with the ability to provide scheduled ultrasound scans. This has facilitated increased continuity of care in the region and supported the provision of care close to home.</p> <p>3.5 In 2020/2021, during the Covid-19 pandemic, the homebirth service was temporarily suspended, but this was reinstated in August 2022 reverting back to case-by-case provision.</p> <p>3.6 Work is progressing with Best Start implementation and solutions are being considered to address remote and rural issues. As part of this progress, it is clear that a review of services provided to expectant mothers in the west of the region is required</p>
4.	<p><b>Conclusions</b></p> <p>4.1 Following discussion at this meeting it is anticipated that a further report be provided to the IJB in December, with a direction to NHS Dumfries and Galloway to carry out an independently chaired local service review of maternity services in Wigtownshire.</p>
5.	<p><b>Resource Implications</b></p>

5.1	The approval to proceed with an options appraisal will be inclusive of an impact assessment considering financial, workforce and accessibility standards.						
<b>6.</b>	<b>Impact on Integration Joint Board Outcomes, Priorities and Policy</b>						
6.1	The proposed models of care that will be considered will be cognisant of the IJB Strategic Commissioning Plan and the National Health and Wellbeing Outcomes.						
<b>7.</b>	<b>Legal and Risk Implications</b>						
7.1	We are unable to quantify the reputational, clinical and financial risk until the service review has been undertaken.						
<b>8.</b>	<b>Consultation</b>						
8.1	It is anticipated that a review group, involving key stakeholders will be established and will ensure that stakeholders, staff and relevant groups are consulted with on any options to be considered.						
8.2	<b>This will include a robust consultation and engagement programme with the local community.</b>						
<b>9.</b>	<b>Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment</b>						
9.1	An EQIA will be completed as part of the process for consideration.						
<b>10.</b>	<b>Glossary</b>						
10.1	All acronyms must be set out in full the first time they appear in a paper with the acronym following in brackets.						
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td><b>EQIA</b></td> <td><b>Equalities Impact Assessment</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>IJB</b></td> <td><b>Integration Joint Board</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>NHS D&amp;G</b></td> <td><b>NHS Dumfries and Galloway</b></td> </tr> </table>	<b>EQIA</b>	<b>Equalities Impact Assessment</b>	<b>IJB</b>	<b>Integration Joint Board</b>	<b>NHS D&amp;G</b>	<b>NHS Dumfries and Galloway</b>
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