Trust Board Meeting in Public: Wednesday 18 January 2017
TB2017.05

<table>
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<th>Title</th>
<th>Update on obstetric and neonatal services at HGH</th>
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**Status**
For information

**History**
Update to Paper TB2016.74, presented to the Extraordinary Board Meeting held on 31 August 2016,
Paper QC2016.64a presented to Quality Committee on 12 October 2016
Paper QC206.79 presented to Quality Committee on 14 December 2016
Recommendation approved by TME on 22 December 2016 (reference TME2016/12B/05).

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<th>Board Lead(s)</th>
<th>Mr Paul Brennan, Director of Clinical Services</th>
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Executive Summary

1. This paper provides an update to the Board on the Trust Management Executive’s (TME’s) review of the readiness to lift temporary suspension of obstetric and neonatal services at Horton General Hospital (HGH), on the grounds of patient safety.

2. At its meeting held on 22 December 2016, TME reviewed the progress in recruitment of obstetric doctors, on the basis of which it was confirmed that the maximum number of doctors likely to be in post by January/February 2017 was 5, out of the 9 doctors required to maintain the middle grade rota.

   It was therefore decided that, on the grounds of patient safety, the temporary suspension of obstetric and neonatal services at HGH could not be lifted, and the Midwifery Led Unit at the Horton General Hospital will be retained beyond 5 March 2017.

3. The Trust Board is asked to
   - receive this update, and
   - note TME’s decision that on the grounds of patient safety the temporary suspension of obstetric and neonatal services at HGH cannot be lifted; and
   - note that the Midwifery Led Unit will be retained at the Horton General Hospital beyond 5 March 2017.
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 re-designated as a Midwifery Led Unit, on a temporary basis, at 8am on the 3 October 2016.

Progress in the recruitment of obstetric doctors was formally reviewed by the Trust Management Executive [TME] in mid-October, on the basis of which it was decided to maintain the Midwifery Led Unit [MLU] status until March 2017, subject to further review in December 2017.

This paper provides an update on the recruitment position, and confirms TME’s decision that, on the grounds of patient safety, the temporary suspension of obstetric and neonatal services at HGH cannot be lifted, and the Midwifery Led Unit [MLU] will be maintained beyond March 2017.

2. Recruitment

The closing date of the most recent advertisement for Trust Grade obstetric doctors was 20 December 2016. Nine applications were received, and two applicants have been shortlisted for interview in January 2017.

However, it was confirmed that the maximum number of obstetric doctors likely to be in post at Horton General Hospital [HGH] by January/February 2017 is 5, out of the 9 doctors needed to sustain the middle grade rota.

It is noted that the linked recruitment challenge remains in relation to special care nurses, the minimum establishment required to operate the unit being twelve.

3. Conclusion

Based on the current Obstetric Trust grade doctor position, TME decided that, on the grounds of patient safety, the temporary suspension of obstetric and neonatal services at HGH could not be lifted, and the Midwifery Led Unit [MLU] will be maintained beyond March 2017.

4. Recommendation

The Trust Board is asked to

- receive this update, and

- note TME’s decision that on the grounds of patient safety the temporary suspension of obstetric and neonatal services at HGH cannot be lifted; and

- note that the Midwifery Led Unit will be retained at the Horton General Hospital beyond 5 March 2017.

Mr Paul Brennan
Director of Clinical Services

January 2017