

Trust Board Meeting in Public: Wednesday 8 March 2017

TB2017.26

Title	Update on obstetric and neonatal services at HGH
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Status	For information
History	<p>Update to Paper TB2016.74, presented to the Extraordinary Board Meeting held on 31 August 2016;</p> <p>Verbal update provided to the Trust Board on 14 September 2016 [Minute reference TB16/09/07];</p> <p>Paper QC2016.64a presented to Quality Committee on 12 October 2016;</p> <p>Paper TME2016.168 presented to the Trust Management Executive [TME] on 20 October 2016;</p> <p>Paper TB2017.98 presented to the Trust Board on 9 November 2016;</p> <p>Paper QC206.79 presented to Quality Committee on 14 December 2016;</p> <p>Recommendation approved by TME on 22 December 2016 (Minute reference TME2016/12B/05);</p> <p>Paper TB2017.05 presented to the Trust Board on 18 January 2017;</p> <p>Paper QC2017.06 presented to Quality Committee on 22 February 2017.</p>

Board Lead(s)	Mr Paul Brennan, Director of Clinical Services			
Key purpose	Strategy	Assurance	Policy	Performance

Executive Summary

1. This paper provides an update to the Board in relation to obstetric and neonatal services at the Horton General Hospital [HGH].

Recommendation

2. The Trust Board is asked to note this update.

Update on obstetric and neonatal services at HGH

1. In line with the decisions taken by the Trust Board on 31 August 2016 on grounds of patient safety, the Obstetric Unit at the Horton General Hospital [HGH] was re-designated as a Midwifery Led Unit [MLU], on a temporary basis, at 8am on 3 October 2016.
2. The Board has received regular updates on the recruitment situation. At its meeting held on 18 January 2017, the Board noted that there would be no more than 5 middle grade obstetric doctors in post in March 2017.
3. Consistent with the Board's original decision that it was unsafe to continue the service of the Obstetric Unit at HGH without being able to sustain a rota of 9 middle-grade obstetric doctors, the Board noted at its meeting in January 2017 that on the grounds of patient safety the temporary suspension of services could not be lifted in March 2017, and the temporary establishment of the MLU at HGH would continue.
4. The Quality Committee continues to keep under review the register of risks associated with the temporary suspension of Maternity and Neonatal Services at HGH, and the contingency plan under which an MLU had been temporarily established at HGH.
5. The Quality Committee Chairman's Report to the Board [TB2017.27] outlines the review of the risk register undertaken at the meeting of the Quality Committee held on 22 February 2017.
6. An update on the recruitment situation for obstetric services at the Horton General Hospital [HGH] is provided on the OUH website at <http://www.ouh.nhs.uk/hospitals/horton/news/recruitment.aspx>

There are currently four doctors out of nine in post, with a fifth doctor due to take up post on 5 April 2017. The current recruitment round closed on 27 February 2017 and applications are being reviewed, with shortlisting due to take place on 3 March 2017.

7. The Trust is aware that the Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee [HOSC] has referred the temporary closure of consultant-led maternity services at HGH to the Secretary of State for Health, to which the Trust is formulating a response.
8. The Trust Board is asked to note this update.

Mr Paul Brennan
Director of Clinical Services

March 2017