

# Case for change

# Maternity

## Our Maternity challenges and opportunities

In 2016, NHS England published Better Births – a review of maternity services in England. Commissioned by Simon Stevens, Chief Executive of NHS England, the review considered how our maternity services need to change to meet the needs of the population, and to ensure that learning from the Morecambe Bay Investigation could be embedded throughout the NHS.

Better Births identified that:

- Women are giving birth later: there has been a steady increase in the average
- Age of first time mothers from 27.2 years in 1982 to 30.2 years in 2014. The proportion of women who have conditions such as diabetes in pregnancy has increased. In line with these trends, a higher proportion of births involve more complex care, which requires risks to be managed and more interventions

- Despite increases in the number of births and the increasing complexity of cases, the quality and outcomes of maternity services have improved significantly over the last decade:
  - The stillbirth and neonatal mortality rate in England fell by over 20% in the ten years from 2003 to 2013
  - Maternal mortality in the UK has reduced from 14 deaths per 100,000 maternities in 2003/05 to 9 deaths per 100,000 maternities in 2011/13
  - The conception rate for women aged under 18 in England, a key indicator of the life chances of our future generations, reduced by almost half, between 1998 and 2013

Better Births makes specific recommendations for national changes to maternity services that will enable us to better meet the needs of our population:



Personalised care



Continuity of care



Safer care – with professionals working together across boundaries and leadership for a safety culture



Multi-professional working



Better postnatal and perinatal mental healthcare



Working across boundaries



Payment system



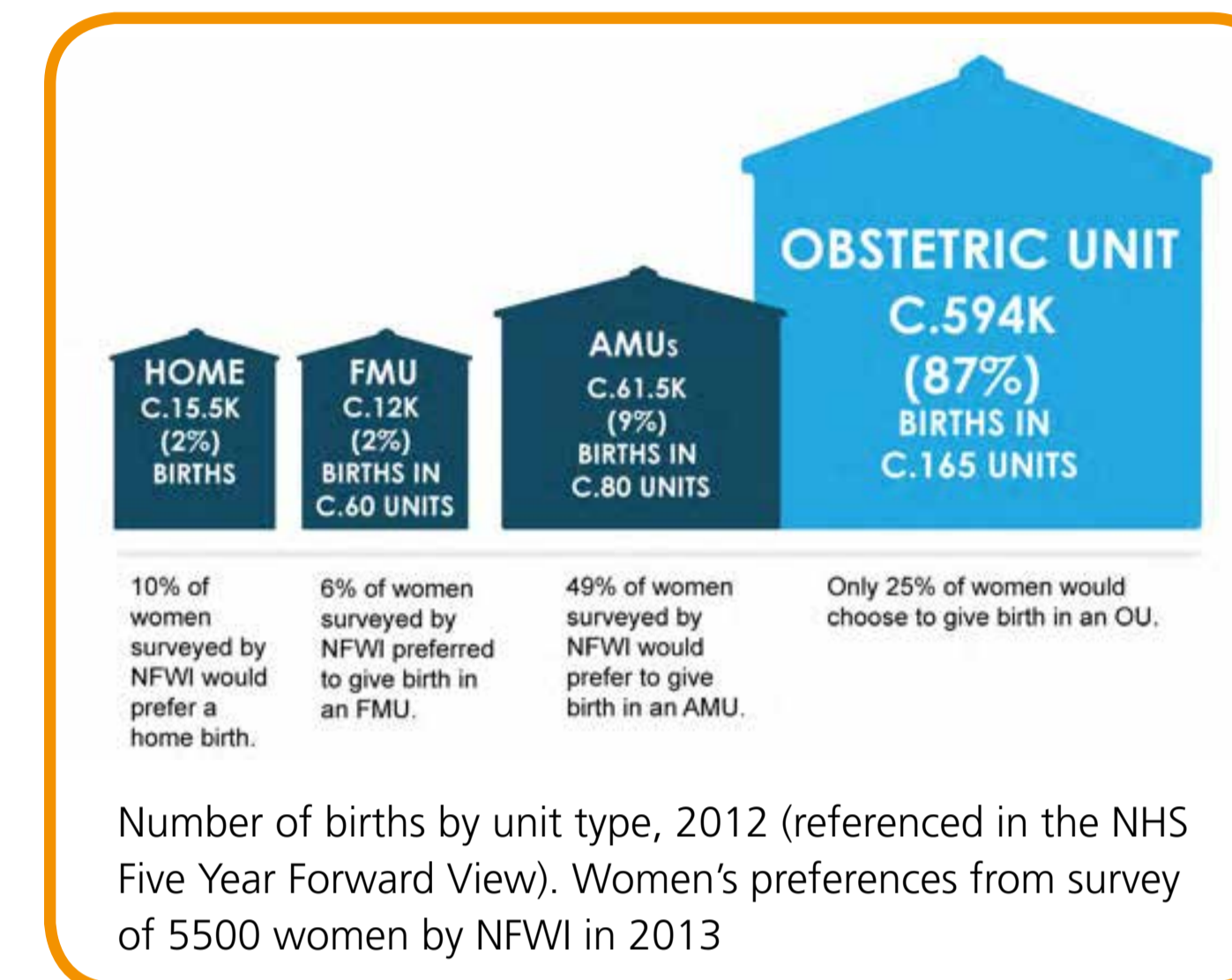
## Evidence that backs the Maternity case for change

There is evidence nationally and internationally that the recommendations made by Better Births will drive improvements in maternity care. This evidence base is increasing through pilots operating in vanguard sites around the country.

In particular, there is strong evidence that models of maternity care that provide continuity of carer for pregnant women improves safety and outcomes. Specifically, this shows that women who had midwife-led continuity models of care were:

- Seven times more likely to be attended at birth by a known midwife
- 16% less likely to lose their baby
- 19% less likely to lose their baby before 24 weeks
- 24% less likely to experience pre-term birth
- 15% less likely to have regional analgesia
- 16% less likely to have an episiotomy

Implementing improved continuity of carer is therefore an important tool in meeting ambitions to reduce rates of stillbirth, neonatal death, maternal death and brain injury during birth.



The review demonstrated that these headline indicators mask variation across the country in terms of outcomes for women and babies and the quality of the services they receive.

There are four broad types of setting for care in labour and birth: at home, freestanding midwifery units (FMU), alongside midwifery units (AMU) and hospital obstetric units (OU). In 2012, 87% of births took place in NHS obstetric units. Although 96% of trusts offered home births, 2.4% of births were at home.





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## Better Births sets out a simple vision for Maternity Care:

“Safer, more personalised, kinder, professional and more family friendly; where every woman has access to information to enable her to make decisions about her care; and where she and her baby can access support that is centred around their individual needs and circumstances”

In Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire, we aim to exceed the aspirations of Better Births by:

- Delivering consistent maternity care within one single maternity system
- Enabling midwives to provide maternity care more kind, professional and safe
- Encouraging partnerships between women and health professionals that co-produce truly personalised care
- Supporting women to make informed choices during pregnancy, birth and post-natally
- Encouraging women to develop meaningful and trusting relationships with midwives who care for them during pregnancy, birth and post-natally

The key features that will support achievement of our vision for our area include:

- Co-production of maternity services by women and clinicians
- A culture of shared service planning, delivery, evaluation and continuous improvement
- An integrated maternity IT system that supports multi-agency working
- Integrated maternity governance that enables joint decision-making
- Financial flows that reflect collaborative working between providers



## How will we measure our Maternity improvements?

Our maternity transformation will be measured through the experiences of women and families. We will work in close collaboration with our Maternity Voices Partnership to listen to the voices of women and evaluate the impact of service changes upon them.

We will also use local metrics to measure changes in the areas of:

- Safety
- Continuity of carer
- Choice and personalisation
- Place of birth
- Post-natal care

These will be overseen by the Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Maternity Delivery Board.

Trajectory for increasing the number of births in midwife led settings

2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
18.09%	19%	20%	21%	22%

Trajectory for number of women having a personalised care plan

2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
-	-	20%	40%	80%

Trajectory for reducing stillbirth and neonatal death (Rate per 1000 births: 20% reduction by 2020, then further 3% reduction per year to reach 50% reduction by 2025)

	2015	2018	2019	2020	2021
Bristol	6.35	5.58	5.36	5.08	4.92
North Somerset	6.69	5.88	5.65	5.35	5.19
South Gloucestershire	3.47	3.05	2.93	2.78	2.69
BNSSG	5.64	4.80	4.61	4.51	4.37

Trajectory for women receiving continuity of carer

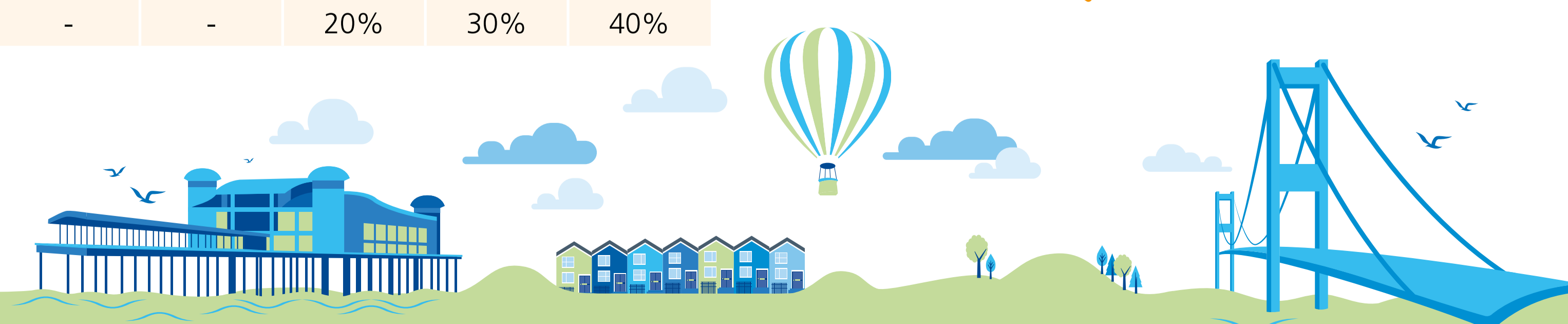
2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
-	-	20%	30%	40%

## What does this mean for local people?

- Families will receive the best possible maternal and neonatal outcomes
- Reduced inequality of outcomes across our varied geography and communities
- Resources are in the right place to manage increasing complexity
- Services provide the right support for the range of cultural needs
- There will be equality of access for both urban and rural populations

Women and their families have told us that they value the high quality, safe care that they receive from our maternity services. They would like to see...

- More ante-natal information and education
- Clinicians have more time for meaningful conversations
- More support for women whose pregnancies don't go according to plan (including birth trauma and stillbirth or neonatal death)
- Better post-natal support



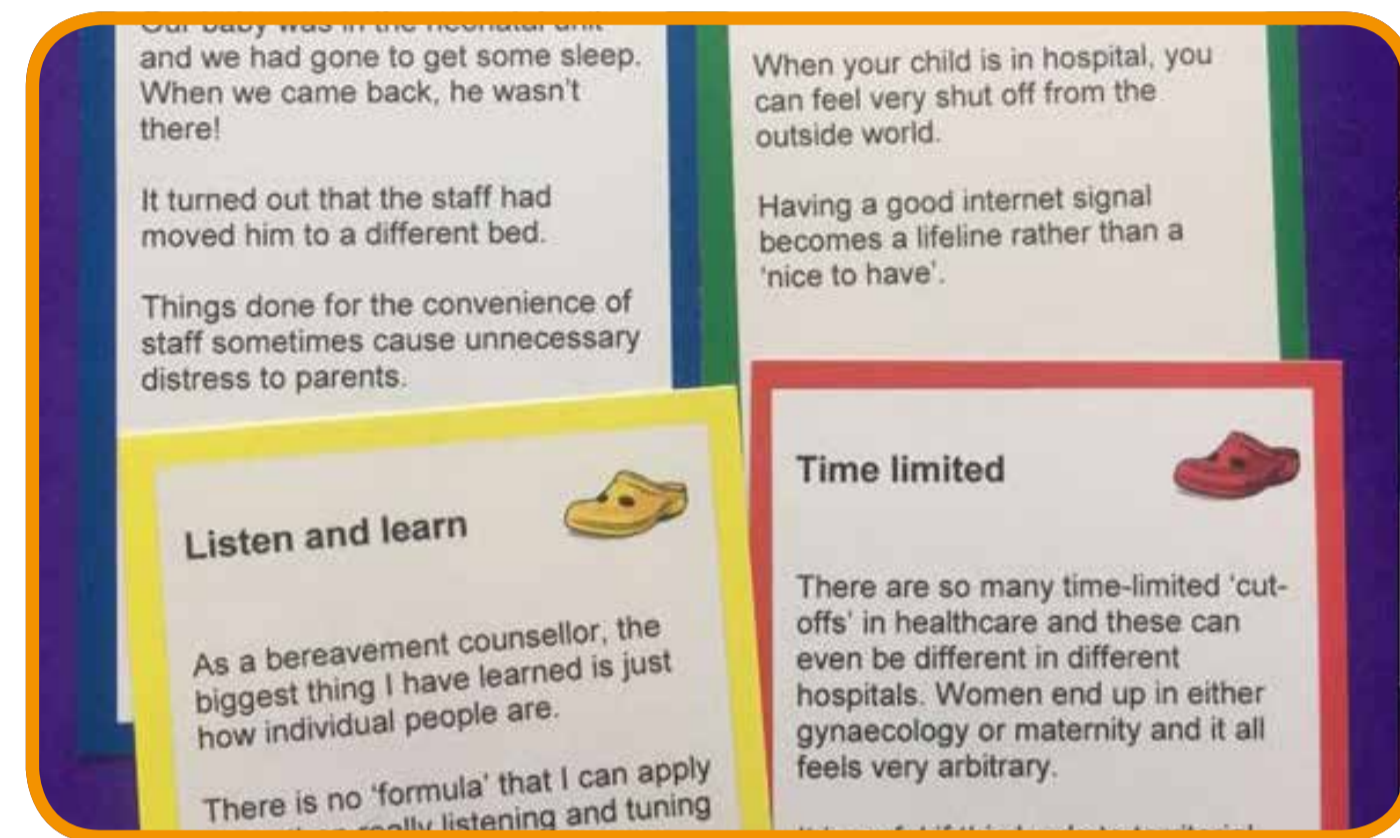


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## Our Maternity progress so far

### 'Whose Shoes' Maternity Experience Workshop – May 2017



### Maternity Champions Clinical Leadership Event – February 2018 – commitment from attendees to all four workstreams



### Multi-professional/Co-produced with Maternity Voices Partnership workstream subgroups established

- Personalisation and Choice
  - Facilitating the woman's own voice to be heard in her maternity hand held notes
  - Single point of access for all women entering maternity services
- Continuity of Carer
  - High risk – women who have experienced a previous bereavement or women who have complex social needs
  - Traditional caseloading homebirth
  - Low risk midwifery led care utilising the freestanding birthing units across BNSSG
- Safer Care
  - BNSSG wide strategy for improving safety through a unified approach
  - Inter-agency collaboration on smoking cessation
- Postnatal care
  - Improving postnatal care in the hospital environment
  - A multi-professional training approach to infant feeding
  - Improving communication between health professionals through Connecting Care

### Local Maternity System Launch Event – November 2017



### Monthly workstream meetings



- Personalisation and Choice
- Continuity of Carer
- Safer Care
- Postnatal Care





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Our local maternity system provides a service that is kind, professional and safe, offering women informed choice and a better birth experience

