
Meeting	Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Date	12 December 2013
Subject	Maternity Services – Caesarean Births
Report of	Overview and Scrutiny Office
Summary	This report outlines the performance of the Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust and Barnet & Chase Farm Hospital NHS Trust in relation to maternity services and caesarean births

Officer Contributors	Andrew Charlwood, Overview and Scrutiny Manager
Status (public or exempt)	Public
Wards Affected	All
Key Decision	N/A
Reason for urgency / exemption from call-in	N/A
Function of	Committee
Enclosures	Appendix A – Maternity Data from the Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust Appendix B – Additional Questions for Barnet & Chase Farm Hospital NHS Trust Appendix C – Barnet & Chase Farm Hospital NHS Trust Response
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1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 That the Committee consider the information set out in the appendices and make comments and/or recommendations to health partners.**

2. RELEVANT PREVIOUS DECISIONS

- 2.1 Health Overview and Scrutiny committee, 12 February 2013, Decision Item 11, Members' Item – Maternity Services (Caesarean Births)
- 2.2 Health Overview and Scrutiny committee, 4 July 2013, Decision Item 11, Maternity Services (Caesarean Births) – the Committee withdrew the item for consideration at the meeting on 3 October 2013.
- 2.3 Health Overview and Scrutiny committee, 3 October 2013, Decision Item 11, Maternity Services (Caesarean Births)

3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committees must ensure that the work of Scrutiny is reflective of the Council's priorities.
- 3.2 The three priority outcomes set out in the 2013 – 2016 Corporate Plan are: –
- Promote responsible growth, development and success across the borough;
 - Support families and individuals that need it – promoting independence, learning and well-being; and
 - Improve the satisfaction of residents and businesses with the London Borough of Barnet as a place to live, work and study.
- 3.3 The work of the Barnet Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee supports the delivery of the following outcomes identified in the Corporate Plan:
- To sustain a strong partnership with the local NHS, so that families and individuals can maintain and improve their physical and mental health; and
 - To promote a healthy, active, independent and informed over 55 population in the borough to encourage and support our residents to age well.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

- 4.1 None in the context of this report.

5. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 5.1 In addition to the Terms of Reference of the Committee, and in so far as relating to matters within its remit, the role of the Committee is to perform the Overview and Scrutiny role in relation to:

- The Council's leadership role in relation to diversity and inclusiveness; and
- The fulfilment of the Council's duties as employer including recruitment and retention, personnel, pensions and payroll services, staff development, equalities and health and safety.
- The Council is required to give due regard to its public sector equality duties as set out in the Equality Act 2010 and as public bodies, Health partners are also subject to equalities legislation; consideration of equalities issues should therefore form part of their reports.

No data has been provided to show whether caesarean births are linked to race, religion, age or disability characteristics. By its nature, this report relates to pregnant women. The Committee can consider any potential equality implications or the need for more monitoring information to identify potential equality implications when making recommendations to the relevant NHS body or health service provider.

6. USE OF RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS (Finance, Procurement, Performance & Value for Money, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

6.1 None in the context of this report.

7. LEGAL ISSUES

7.1 Section 244 of the NHS Act 2006 as amended and associated regulations make provision for local authorities to review and scrutinise matters relating to the planning, provision and operation of the health service in their area. When reviewing or scrutinising this work, the local authority must invite interested parties to comment on the matter and must take account of all relevant information.

7.2 When preparing a report and making recommendations to a relevant NHS body or health service provider, the report must include the following:

- Explanation of matter reviewed or scrutinised;
- Summary of the evidence considered;
- List of participants involved in the review; and
- Explanation of any recommendations on the matter being reviewed.

8. CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS (Relevant section from the Constitution, Key/Non-Key Decision)

8.1 Council Constitution, Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules – sets out the terms of reference of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee which includes:

- To perform the overview and scrutiny role in relation to health issues which impact upon the residents of the London Borough of Barnet and the functions services and activities of the National Health Service (NHS)

and NHS bodies located within the London Borough of Barnet and in other areas.

- ii) To make reports and recommendations to the Executive, Health and Well-Being Board and/or other relevant authorities on health issues which affect or may affect the borough and its residents.
- iii) To receive, consider and respond to reports and consultations from the NHS Commissioning Board, Barnet Clinical Commissioning Group, Barnet Health and Well-Being Board and/or other health bodies.

9. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 9.1 In February 2013, Councillor Kate Salinger presented a Members' Item to the Committee highlighting concerns in relation to the rate of caesarean births at Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust and Barnet & Chase Farm Hospital NHS Trusts. Following consideration of the request, the Committee resolved that the Director of Public Health be requested to investigate the issues outlined and prepare a report for the Committee detailing: comparative London statistics; any abnormal trends; and reasons for inductions (local and national).
- 9.2 The item had been scheduled for consideration at the 4 July 2013 meeting of the Committee, but was deferred due to pressures on the work programme.
- 9.3 At the Committee meeting held on 3 October 2013, the Committee considered submissions from the Director of Public Health, Children's Commissioning Manager at Barnet Clinical Commissioning and maternity data from the Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust and Barnet & Chase Farm Hospital NHS Trusts. Following consideration of the submissions, the Committee resolved that the Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust and the Barnet & Chase Farm NHS Trust provide updated maternity statistics for reporting to the December meeting. Updated statistics from the Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust are set out in **Appendix A**.
- 9.4 Councillor Kate Salinger has also submitted a number of additional questions for Barnet and Chase Farm Hospital NHS Trust (**Appendix B**).
- 9.5 Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust have provided an update on their current performance and this is attached at **Appendix C**. The Trust has advised that they have been unable to provide detailed responses to all of the additional questions due to the impact on their analysts time. Further responses will be provided at the meeting by the Chief Operating Officer.
- 9.6 The Committee have requested that the Clinical Director of Women's Services at Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust be invited to attend the meeting for this item.

10. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 Health Overview and Scrutiny committee, 3 October 2013, Decision Item 11, Maternity Services (Caesarean Births):
<http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=179&MId=6563>

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Cleared by Legal (Officer's initials)	SW