

HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

10 MARCH 2021

MATERNITY SERVICES

Summary

1. The Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) has requested an update on the action being taken by Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust (WAHT) on Maternity Services, following a recent inspection by the Care Quality Commission (CQC).
2. As a result of the CQC inspection of Maternity Services on 9 December 2020, the overall rating for the Service went down from Good to Requires Improvement. It was rated Requires Improvement for being safe and well-led, and Good for being effective. Inspectors did not assess the service for whether it was caring or responsive at this inspection.
3. A senior representative will be present from Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust.

CQC Inspection of Maternity Services

4. A stakeholder press release from the CQC on 23 February indicated that a focused inspection was carried out on 9 December 2020 in response to whistleblowing concerns and information received about the safety of the maternity department, particularly around midwifery staffing levels, risk and incident reporting and governance. The inspection report is available at Appendix 1.
5. Inspectors found that staffing levels were often lower than planned, with midwives reporting that this led to them being frequently moved within the department. Midwives also said morale was low due to longstanding staffing issues, and that they felt their concerns and views were not being considered by management.
6. The CQC has told Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust to make improvements to its Maternity Service at Worcestershire Royal Hospital. The HOSC has therefore requested this update in order to consider how the Trust plans to improve Maternity Services. Further detail is provided in the presentation at Appendix 2.

Supporting Information

Appendix 1 – Care Quality Commission Inspection Report on 9 December 2020 – available on the CQC website: [weblink to CQC inspection report](#)

Appendix 2 – Presentation slides (to follow)

Purpose of the Meeting

7. Members are invited to consider and comment on the information discussed and agree:

- whether any further information is required
- whether any further scrutiny work is required at this stage.

Contact Points

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Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Assistant Director for Legal and Governance), the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

- CQC press release – available on the CQC website: [weblink to press release](#)
- Agenda and Minutes from the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 20 July 2018 – available on the Council’s website: [weblink to agenda and minutes](#)