

Body:	Scrutiny Committee
Date:	4 December 2017
Subject:	Maternity Research Survey
Report Of:	Jazmin Victory, Scrutiny Officer
Ward(s)	All
Purpose of the report:	To receive the outcomes of Eastbourne Borough Council's survey into the Maternity Services in East Sussex.
Decision type:	Non-key
Recommendation:	<p>The Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Note and endorse the key findings of the Maternity Research Survey. 2) Convey the key findings of the survey to local health groups and publicise those findings in a press statement.
Reasons for recommendations:	To fulfil the Executive Decision of the Leader on 3 April 2017 to conduct the Maternity Survey provided for the Scrutiny Committee to receive and comment on the outcomes of the survey.
Contact:	Jazmin Victory, Scrutiny Officer, jazmin.victory@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk 01323 415811.

1.0 Background and Introduction

- 1.1 The Scrutiny Committee received a report by the Monitoring Officer and Councillor Smart at its meeting on 14 September 2017, and it was resolved that the outcomes of the survey would be reported to the next meeting of the Scrutiny Committee for due consideration.
- 1.2 The survey was undertaken in order for the Council to better understand how well Maternity Services were performing in East Sussex, particularly in light of the removal of consultancy led Maternity Services at the Eastbourne District General Hospital.
- 1.3 Conducted in partnership with the Office for National Statistics, almost 1,700 mothers who gave birth in East Sussex in 2016 took part, and the full report was made available on 27 October 2017 to all health agencies across East Sussex and on Eastbourne Borough Council's website.

1.4 A copy of the full report and a formal invitation to attend the Scrutiny Committee Meeting on 4 December 2017, was sent out to the following health agencies:

- NHS Eastbourne, Hailsham and Seaford Clinical Commissioning Group
- NHS Hastings and Rother Clinical Commissioning Group
- NHS High Weald Lewes Haven CCG
- NHS Horsham and Mid Sussex CCG
- Brighton and Hove City Council
- East Sussex Healthcare Trust
- East Sussex County Council

2.0 Key Findings

- Most mothers believed the services to be excellent or good but 17% considered the post-natal services to be poor or very poor
- 78% of mothers would wish to give birth at a location with doctors on site
- 93% of mothers served by the Eastbourne, Hailsham, and Seaford CCG would choose to give birth at Eastbourne DGH if a full obstetric service were available
- Of the 312 mothers who had a pre-natal appointment with a consultant in Eastbourne, 85% did not give birth at Eastbourne DGH
- Of those mothers who started labour at Eastbourne DGH, 27% were transferred during labour, principally to Hastings
- Mothers served by Eastbourne, Hailsham and Seaford CCG accounted for the vast majority of transfers during labour and after birth, with significantly fewer transfers of mothers from other CCGs

3.0 Financial Appraisal

3.1 The survey incurred costs of around £20,000 which covered printing, postage, freepost returns, ONS admin costs, and technical support staff time. Corporate Management Team and the Leader of the Council had agreed to make this funding available from existing budgets.

4.0 Equality analysis

4.1 This survey was conducted strictly in accordance with ONS governance in respect of access, equality and confidentiality. All questionnaires were delivered directly to the consultee in hard copy format and returnable in a provided freepost envelope. The process ensured complete anonymity of the respondent and was overseen at despatch by the ONS and on receipt at the Council by the Monitoring Officer.

4.0 Legal implications

4.1 There is a county-wide infrastructure in place to undertake scrutiny of health issues (East Sussex Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee) on which Eastbourne Borough Council is represented. This did not preclude the Council's Scrutiny Committee undertaking research in this area where there was a direct impact on the Eastbourne community, especially where the

information obtained could help to inform other parties.

5.0 Conclusion

- 5.1 That the Scrutiny Committee consider the key findings of the survey which will be subsequently conveyed to the health groups and publicised in a press statement.

Jazmin Victory
Scrutiny Officer

Background Papers:

The Background Papers used in compiling this report were as follows:

[Maternity Survey Results](#)

Due to the size of the report, and its availability online, Committee Members are advised that the report will not be printed again for this agenda pack.

To inspect or obtain copies of background papers please refer to the contact officer listed above.