

**REPORT TITLE: Re-opening of the Bronte Birthing Unit, Dewsbury District Hospital**

<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Calderdale and Kirklees Joint Health Scrutiny Committee</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>25 June 2024</b>
<b>Cabinet Member (if applicable)</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Key Decision Eligible for Call In</b>	<b>No Not eligible for Call-in</b>
<b>Purpose of Report</b>	
To receive an update from Mid-Yorkshire Teaching NHS Trust about the re-opening of the Bronte Unit at Dewsbury District Hospital.	
<b>Recommendations</b>	
Calderdale & Kirklees JHOSC to note the information and provide feedback on the details presented.	
<b>Resource Implications:</b>	
None	
<b>Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> &amp; name</b>	<b>Give name and date for Cabinet / Scrutiny reports</b> N/A
<b>Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance?</b>	<b>Give name and date for Cabinet reports</b> N/A
<b>Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?</b>	<b>Give name and date for Cabinet reports</b> N/A

**Electoral wards affected:** All

**Ward councillors consulted:** None

**Public or private:** Public

**Has GDPR been considered?** The information is provided by Mid-Yorkshire Teaching NHS Trust.

## 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 Mid-Yorks Teaching NHS Trust (Mid-Yorks) temporarily suspended births at the Bronte Birth Centre at Dewsbury District Hospital in June 2022. Representatives from Mid-Yorks, along with Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust (CHFT) attended a meeting of the Kirklees Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel on 22 November 2023 in which Members resolved that the future model proposed by Mid-Yorks and CHFT would be a substantial change to provision.
- 1.2 Further in-depth scrutiny around the protracted closures of the midwife led birthing units, the timeline for reopening, along with the proposed model in relation to sustainability was requested. It was decided at a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee that the discussion around maternity services should be discussed at the Calderdale and Kirklees JHOSC due to the impact on both Councils, and as part of the wider discussions on hospital reconfiguration.
- 1.3 At the meeting of the Calderdale and Kirklees JHOSC on 19 March 2024, the committee report to the committee on 19 March 2024 can be found on the following link [Maternity Services.pdf \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#) was advised that the Bronte Unit would be re-opening on 1 April 2024.
- 1.4 The committee therefore requested that Mid-Yorks give a brief update on the opening of the Bronte Birth Centre and the initial assessment of how it is progressing including:-
- How many women have given birth at the Bronte Unit since it opened
  - How many would have liked to birth there but were advised consultant led care was more appropriate
  - How many women in the CHFT footprint would have chosen to birth at Huddersfield should a birthing unit have been available
  - How many women needed transferring during labour from Bronte to a labour ward
  - What was the waiting time and transfer time for those transferred to a labour ward – were any babies born on route?
  - Were any women turned away from the Bronte Unit, and if so for what reason (e.g. lack of a 2nd midwife)
  - Has the unit had to close for any reason, and if so for how long
  - What is the initial assessment on the long-term sustainability of the unit
  - Does the initial assessment indicate the hybrid model will be successful
- 1.5 Officers of the Council have liaised with Wakefield Council around the impact of the closure of the Bronte Birthing Unit on the Wakefield Local Authority area. Wakefield Council has been invited by the Calderdale and Kirklees JHOSC to attend and participate, where appropriate in any discussions which directly impact maternity options in Wakefield.

## 2. Information required to take a decision

Although no decision is required, Members of the Committee are asked to read the Ockenden Report as background information to the discussion. The report can be found on the follow link [OCKENDEN REPORT - FINAL \(ockendenmaternityreview.org.uk\)](#)

## 3. Implications for the Council

There are no implications for the Council.

### **3.1 Council Plan**

Not applicable.

### **3.2 Financial Implications**

There are no specific implications.

### **3.3 Legal Implications**

There are no specific implications.

### **3.8 Other (eg Risk, Integrated Impact Assessment or Human Resources)**

There are no specific implications.

## **4. Consultation**

Not applicable.

## **5. Engagement**

Not applicable.

## **6. Options**

Not applicable.

### **6.1 Options considered**

Not applicable.

### **6.2 Reasons for recommended option**

That the Panel consider the information provided and determine if any further information or action is required.

## **7. Next steps and timelines**

Calderdale and Kirklees JHOSC will consider further information relating to maternity services at the next meeting of the committee.

## **8. Contact officer**

Yolande Myers, Principal Governance Officer [yolande.myers@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto:yolande.myers@kirklees.gov.uk)

## **9. Background Papers and History of Decisions**

Kirklees Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel meeting 22 November 2023 [Agenda for Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel on Wednesday 22nd November 2023, 2.00 pm | Kirklees Council](#)

Calderdale and Kirklees JHOSC Meeting 19 March 2024 [Maternity Services.pdf \(modern.gov.co.uk\)](#)

**10. Appendices**

None

**11. Service Director responsible**

Samantha Lawton, Service Director Legal Governance and Commissioning.