

What is our proposal?

What do we want to change?

NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde is proposing to transfer only the Midwife Led Birthing Service from the Inverclyde Community Maternity Unit.

The Inverclyde Community Maternity Unit will continue to provide a wide range of antenatal and postnatal care to women in Inverclyde.

Who will be affected?



Women who are on the green pathway and choose to have a Midwife Led Birth at Inverclyde Community Maternity Unit.

Proposed changes at a glance

Services	Current	Proposed
Antenatal care	Inverclyde Community Maternity Unit	Inverclyde Community Maternity unit
Midwife Led Labour and Birthing Care (one to one care with support of birthing aids such as aromatherapy, birthing pools and pain management)	Inverclyde Community Maternity unit or a Home Birth	Community Maternity Unit, Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley or a Home Birth
Going home from hospital	Six hours after birth	Six hours after birth
Postnatal care	Provided by midwives from Inverclyde Community Maternity Unit	Provided by midwives from Inverclyde Community Maternity Unit

Why do we want to make this change?

Falling Numbers

The number of pregnancies that have been booked has fallen in recent years.

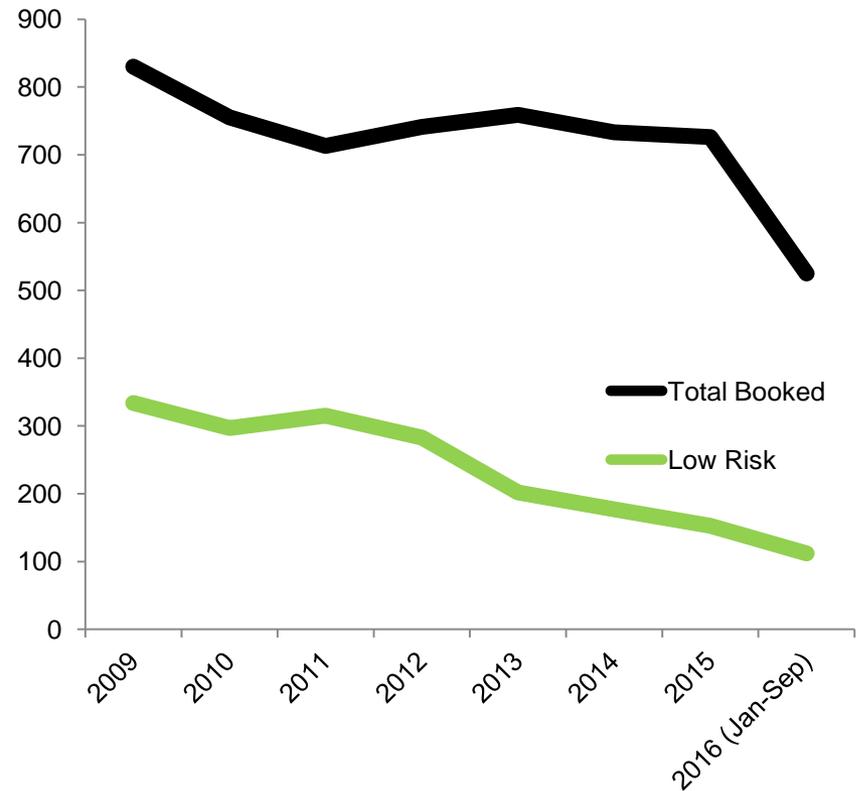
- In 2009, the number was 830
- In 2015, the number dropped to 726

Low Risk/Green Pathway

The number of women assessed to be 'low risk' and suitable for the 'green' pathway has fallen more steeply due to changes in clinical guidelines.

- In 2009, there were 334 women
- In 2015, this fell to 153 women

Women 'Booked' and those on 'Green' Pathway



Why do we want to make this change?

Falling Numbers

Women with 'Low Risk' pregnancies have the option to choose Midwife led Birthing care at the Inverclyde Community Maternity Unit.

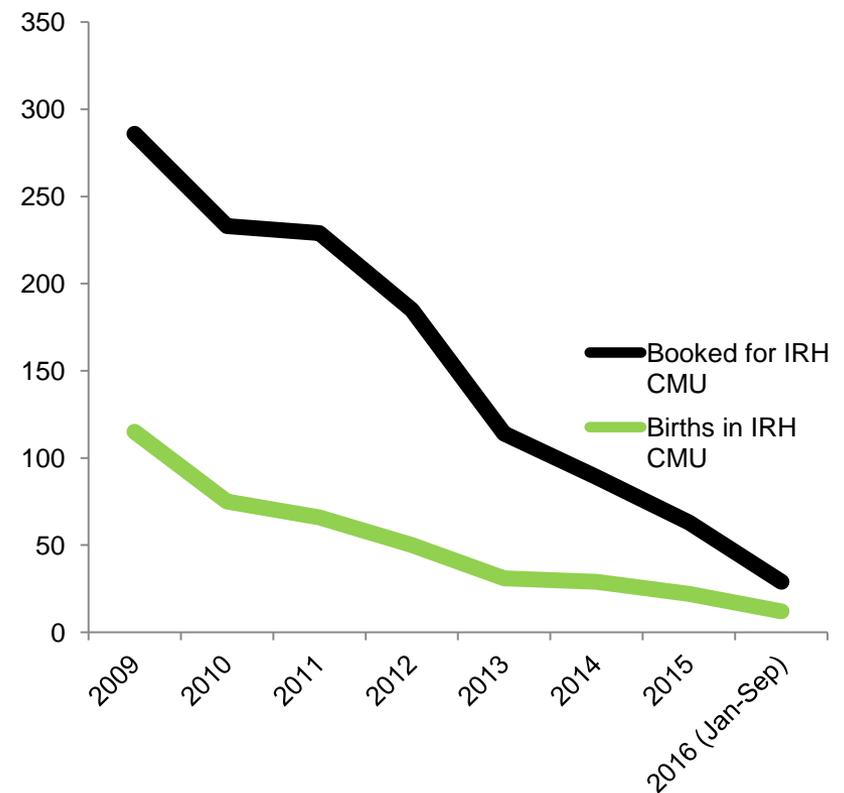
The number of women choosing this option has fallen:

- In 2009, it was 286 women
- In 2015, only 63 women made this choice.

The number of births at the Community Maternity Unit has fallen:

- In 2009, it was 115 births
- In 2015, only 22 births

Women opting for CMU birth v those who delivered at CMU



Why do we think the number of births has fallen?

Demographics Since 2009 there has been a fall in the number of births in the Inverclyde area.

Choice Less women, who are on the green pathway, are choosing a Midwife Led Birth at the Inverclyde CMU. Numbers continue to fall year on year despite one to one discussions with the midwife and being provided with an evidence based leaflet to help them make an informed choice about where to give birth. Most women are choosing to birth at the Royal Alexandria Hospital, Paisley.

Clinical Suitability Women are assessed according to evidence based clinical guidelines to guide their choices for place of birth and placed on a pregnancy pathway. We have found the number of women who are suitable for a Midwife Led Birth is reducing.

Complications during pregnancy Should the mother go to two weeks past her due date or should complications occur in pregnancy, care will be transferred to the obstetric team and birth planned in the Consultant Led Unit. This has further affected the number of women who have delivered at the Midwifery Led Birthing Unit.

Why does this matter?

As a result of declining numbers, the ability to deliver a safe, person centred and effective service is becoming more difficult:

- Safe** Due to the reduced number of births midwives now require to rotate through the busier Community Maternity Unit at the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley to maintain their labour and delivery skills
- Person Centred** Continuity of care within a team of three to four midwives requires a consistent team of midwives to be based in the locality at all times. As we rotate staff to Paisley to maintain skills, this continuity of care is more frequently diluted resulting in a less person-centred service
- Effective** Our midwives need to live within 50 minutes travel time of the unit to support their on call commitments. The ability to recruit midwives in recent years is becoming harder for smaller units particularly as Midwives need two years experience to work in the free standing Community Maternity Unit at Inverclyde