

NHS Grampian

Meeting:	NHS Grampian Board
Meeting date:	7 April 2022
Item Number:	8
Title:	Moray Maternity Services Update
Responsible Executive/Non-Executive:	Jenny McNicol, Integrated Family Portfolio Lead
Report Author:	Christina Cameron, Programme Lead

1 Purpose

This paper provides the NHS Grampian Board with an updated position in relation to Moray Maternity Services since the previous update in February 2022.

This paper also notes the position set out by the Cabinet Secretary, Humza Yousaf in his statement of 30 March 2022. (A copy of the press release is attached as Appendix 1)

This is presented to the Board for:

- Assurance

This report relates to a:

- Emerging issue
- Government policy/directive

This aligns to the following NHSScotland quality ambition(s):

- Safe
- Effective
- Person Centred

2 Report summary

2.1 Situation

In line with 'The Best Start: A Five-Year Plan For Maternity And Neonatal Care' NHS Grampian aims to provide women with safe, high quality and accessible care which includes having an appropriate level of choice in relation to place of birth. In Moray, women's choices have been limited due to the changes in service model at Dr Gray's Hospital in July 2018. The need for choice and care close to home throughout a woman's pregnancy journey, and not only for birth, is our central aim for Maternity services across the north-east of Scotland.

Following publication of the Report in December 2021, the recommendations indicated that Model 4 (Community Maternity Unit) should be the primary destination for the future of Moray maternity services - with future potential for Model 5 - a rural consultant-supported model.

Since then, discussions have taken place with the Cabinet Secretary to aid his understanding of the views of clinicians, service users, elected representatives and leadership from NHS Grampian and NHS Highland.

On Wednesday 30th March 2022 the Cabinet Secretary announced his decision that NHS Grampian, in collaboration with NHS Highland, was to progress to the foundation destination point of a Community Maternity Unit (Model 4) prior to progressing to the final destination point of a full Consultant-Led Maternity Unit at Dr Gray's (Model 6).

2.2 Background

In July 2018, the service model at Dr Gray's (DGH) underwent a change due to workforce related sustainability challenges. It moved to a model described as a 'hybrid' model, with clinical pathways of care for low risk mothers delivered in Dr Gray's and women with higher risk factors travelling to Aberdeen. In addition, NHS Highland agreed that Raigmore Hospital would be the pathway of care for appropriate intrapartum women requiring transfer from DGH.

An independent advisory review to describe the best obstetric model that would provide safe, deliverable, sustainable and high quality maternity services for the women and families of Moray was commissioned by the previous Cabinet Secretary, Jeanne Freeman in April 2021. The review was carried out in partnership with NHS Grampian and led by Ralph Roberts, Chief Executive of NHS Borders and the final report was published in December 2021.

2.3 Assessment

Following the announcement by the Cabinet Secretary on the 30th March 2022, NHS Grampian welcomes the clarity regarding the foundation and final destination models however the Board is awaiting a formal letter from the Cabinet Secretary's office which will provide further detail. We also welcome the opportunity to work collaboratively with the community, NHS Highland, Scottish Government and all key stakeholders to ensure the common aim, namely a configuration of service that is safe, deliverable, sustainable and high quality.

To achieve that, we will focus on creating the necessary conditions for achieving that in place in Grampian and in Highland in relation to

1. Infrastructure
2. Staffing – recruitment & retention
3. Training & skills
4. Leadership & culture

Ongoing collaborative work with NHS Highland will continue and we will continue to engage with local communities and all key stakeholders to plan the timeline and key milestones to achieving the implementation of a Consultant-Led Maternity Unit at Dr Gray's. As the Cabinet Secretary stated – a Community Maternity Unit will be a critical component on the journey towards realising a Consultant-Led Maternity unit.

The Grampian and Highland Maternity, Neonatal and Gynaecology Collaboration has now agreed the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the transfer of all appropriate women who are in the second stage of labour or are time critical for transfer to the closest Obstetric Unit in Raigmore Hospital. The plan is to introduce and test the SOP with immediate effect, and if working well with no concerns identified, the life and limb service for intrapartum cases will be removed on the 1st May 2022.

Further work is required to review the criteria for Day Assessment and Triage to ensure staff feel supported as we prepare for the complete removal of the life and limb service.

2.3.1 Quality/ Patient Care

Positive impacts on the quality and safety of patient care and clarity of patient choice available to women and families in Moray remain a key focus of local planning.

2.3.2 Workforce

Workforce modelling forms part of the planning already underway and will be further informed by potential drivers from national documents such as the 'Ockenden Report' (2022). It will be important to work closely with staff to ensure colleagues feel supported and engaged with this planning.

2.3.3 Financial

The Cabinet Secretary's announcement of £5m for NHS Highland and £5m for NHS Grampian is welcomed and this will feature in the next stages of planning

2.3.4 Risk Assessment/Management

A full risk assessment exercise is yet to be undertaken as part of the development of the Programme approach and will be shared in due course.

2.3.5 Equality and Diversity, including health inequalities

Impact Assessments were undertaken in June 2021, with future assessments to be planned as part of the Engagement workstream.

2.3.6 Other impacts

2.3.7 Communication, involvement, engagement and consultation

An important element of the local programme approach will be the work to ensure optimal communication, involvement and engagement across the range of stakeholders, including established service user groups and the population.

Engagement will be carried out in a meaningful way, in line with the Planning with People Guidance 2021, to build trust in relationships and to ensure a wider representation of voices are heard and able to influence future service design.

A Maternity Services Communication and Engagement Steering Group has been established to work in partnership with representation from service users. The group had its inaugural meeting in February 2022 and is co-chaired by the Chief Midwife and the Director of Corporate Communications.

2.3.8 Route to the Meeting

This paper is the first full paper to the NHS Grampian Board since the formal announcement from the Cabinet Secretary on his preferred model for Moray Maternity Services.

2.4 Recommendation

The Board is asked for:

- **Assurance** –review and scrutinise the information provided in this paper and confirm that it provides assurance on the proposed approach.

3 List of appendices

The following appendices are included with this report:

- Appendix 1 - Cabinet Secretary Press Release 30 March 2022
- Appendix 2 – Staff Briefing 30 March 2022

Include links if publicly available

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/report-moray-maternity-services-review/>

[Ministerial Statement: Independent Review of Moray Maternity Services - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/ministerial-statement-independent-review-of-moray-maternity-services-2022/)

Cabinet Secretary Press Release from 30 March 2022 – Moray Maternity Services

Return to consultant-led obstetric unit.

Health Secretary Humza Yousaf has confirmed that Dr Gray's Hospital in Elgin will implement a return to consultant-led maternity services.

Mr Yousaf was responding to an Independent Review of the services provided at the hospital, commissioned last year to expand the care provided locally and reduce travel times for expectant parents.

He confirmed a move to a full consultant-led maternity unit at Dr Gray's, which will see 80 to 90% of Moray births taking place at the hospital over a period of time on a phased basis, with delivery of as much antenatal and postnatal care as possible in Dr Gray's in the short term, reducing the need to travel for appointments.

As services are expanded towards a consultant-led service at Dr Grays, in the interim Raigmore maternity unit will be expanded to allow Moray women to choose to access care in labour and birth there, in addition to Aberdeen Maternity Unit.

The Health Secretary also confirmed £10 million of investment to deliver this, which includes £5 million to start the development of services at Dr Gray's and a further £5 million to improve facilities at Raigmore Hospital.

Speaking in Parliament, Mr Yousaf said:

“Safe maternity care as close to home as practicable is vital and I've heard directly from those most affected, namely local people and the clinicians working in both Dr Gray's and Raigmore hospitals before making this decision.

“This new £10 million of investment in maternity services I've set out today will help create a consultant-led Maternity Unit at Dr Gray's, with a Community Maternity Unit, supported by consultant-led care from Raigmore in the interim. I hope this will see 80 to 90% of Moray births taking place at Dr Gray's when arrangements are completed.

“I am in no doubt about the scale of the challenges in delivering this, but I know we can deliver these changes over time and bring much needed stability to health services across the north east of Scotland.”

Background

[Ministerial Statement: Independent Review of Moray Maternity Services - gov.scot](https://www.gov.scot/ministerial-statements/2022/03/30/cabinet-secretary-press-release-from-30-march-2022-moray-maternity-services)
www.gov.scot

Dr Gray's maternity unit was changed from a consultant obstetric unit to a midwife led unit on a temporary basis in 2018 with births in the unit reducing from around 1000 to 150. NHS Borders CEO Ralph Roberts was asked in March 2021 to review services and

how obstetric maternity services can be safely and sustainably returned to Dr Gray's Hospital.

The Independent Review Team identified six possible models of maternity care in Dr Gray's and the report had 37 recommendations, including a short and medium term option.

The Health Secretary confirmed there will be an external assurance process built around the development of services which will include expert clinical input.

The timescale for the development is expected by the end of 2022 with milestones for delivery of both the Community Maternity Unit and consultant-led services.

Staff Briefing on Cab Sec Announcement - Moray Maternity Services 30 March 2022

Good afternoon,

Many of you will by now have heard that the Health Secretary today spoke to Parliament on his decisions on Maternity Services in Moray.

We wanted to let you know very quickly what was discussed and what the responses are.

There is a lot to digest, and we are taking some time over the next 48 hours to digest the content of the next steps.

Online sessions are planned for next week for those who wish to attend as we know many of you found this helpful following the External Review Report. More detail will follow.

*The following link takes you to the Health Secretary's statement:
Improving Moray maternity services - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)*



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

[Improving Moray
maternity services](https://www.gov.scot/consult/MD2/2022/03/30/Improving-Moray-maternity-services)
- gov.scot

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www.gov.scot

Here is the response from NHS Grampian:

Following Cabinet Secretary Humza Yousaf's statement in Parliament regarding maternity services in the north of Scotland, John Tomlinson, Interim Chair of NHS Grampian said:

We thank Mr Yousaf for the clarity provided today, which sets the future direction for maternity services in Moray, Grampian and the North of Scotland more broadly, and the announcement of additional investment in Dr Gray's Hospital.

We will work in partnership with the Scottish Government, NHS Highland, our staff, and the communities that we serve to make progress with these recommendations on a phased basis.

Our priority remains the delivery of safe and sustainable maternity services and we share the Health Secretary's commitment to ensuring expectant mothers receive the best possible care.

Please don't hesitate to speak to your line manager or contact us if you have any questions.

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