

Moray Maternity Services Review

What is this review about?

The review has looked at maternity services across Moray. It was requested by the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport.

Who carried out the review?

A group of clinical staff and managers from other Scottish health boards (the “Review Group”) carried out the review. Members of the group had extensive experience of providing services in rural communities.

Who else was involved?

The Review Group spoke to women and their families, staff from NHS Grampian and NHS Highland, political representatives, advocates and other stakeholders. The Group express their thanks to everyone who took part including the Maternity Voices Partnership (MVP) and Keep Mum.

What does the review cover?

The Review Group looked at maternity services across Moray and the services provided in Raigmore and Aberdeen Maternity Hospital (which Moray women in need of more specialist care sometimes use). The Group also looked at several different ways (called “models” in the report) maternity care could be provided in Moray.

The Group considered six models:

Model 1: Current model (*status quo*)

Model 2: No intrapartum services (services provided during the act of birth) in Moray

Model 3: Community Maternity Unit in Dr Gray’s, linked mainly to Aberdeen

Model 4: Community Maternity Unit in Dr Gray’s, linked mainly to Inverness

Model 5: Rural consultant-supported Maternity Unit in Dr Gray’s

Model 6: Consultant-led maternity unit in Dr Gray’s

The Review Group considered Models 1 and 2 inappropriate, so concentrated on Models 3 to 6.

What did the review find?

Like many rural hospitals, there are difficulties recruiting staff in Dr Gray’s. This has an impact on the services that NHSG can provide safely.

Some women in need of urgent or emergency care had to travel over 60 miles to Aberdeen. A few women went to Raigmore Hospital in Inverness.

During the review, the Group considered all the information provided before coming to a decision they felt would provide a safe, stable and sustainable service.

What are the recommendations of the review?

NHS Grampian and NHS Highland to work more closely so women can be transferred to Raigmore Hospital in Inverness, which is closer to Dr Gray's.

Midwifery and obstetric staff (and other disciplines, as appropriate) in Dr Gray's, Aberdeen and Raigmore to have the chance to work across the three sites to strengthen continuity of care for women and professional relationships.

Short term recommendations:

NHS Grampian to implement a "Community Maternity Unit" (Model 4) at Dr Gray's. Elective (planned) Caesarean sections to be offered at Dr Gray's. More women in need of specialist care to give birth in Raigmore rather than Aberdeen.

Longer term recommendations:

NHS Grampian to consider moving to a "Rural Maternity Unit" (Model 5) supported by a consultant (senior doctor) and with 24/7 medical cover.

When will all this happen?

NHS Grampian can start to make some of these changes right away; others will take longer (up to two years) and some actions will be ongoing (see Appendix I in the report for a full list of actions and timescales).

Where can I find out more?

You can see the review report [here](#). This has details of the methods used by the Review Group and the full details of their findings and recommendations.

Ends