

22nd DECEMBER 2011

PRESS RELEASE

Trust to temporarily restrict maternity bookings

Our maternity unit remains to be a popular choice for mums-to-be and we are continuing to see an increased number of women choosing to have their babies at Russells Hall Hospital.

To continue providing safe, effective care for women and their babies accepted for delivery at Russells Hall Hospital, we have reluctantly taken the decision to temporarily limit future bookings to the maternity unit.

For a period of 12 months we are restricting bookings while we look into the feasibility of increasing capacity within the Maternity Department to meet increases in demand.

Some women registered with a Sandwell GP who have already booked to deliver their baby at the Trust, **and who are classed as low risk** (women whose care is midwife led with no complications) are to be transferred to Sandwell and West Birmingham and will be able to discuss their delivery options with their community midwife.

The women who fall into this category number approximately 140.

All women due to give birth in February have been informed, or are being informed, of our decision face to face by their community midwives.

The remainder, due to deliver from March onwards, will be contacted in the first two weeks of the New Year.

There is no change to the delivery arrangements for higher risk women.

If anyone is concerned or would like to know if they are affected by the change, they should phone 0121 507 6600 and leave their details. A senior member of the midwifery team will call them back as soon as possible.

“We are working closely with the City Hospital maternity unit at Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust who have kindly agreed to accept bookings on our behalf,” said Paula Clark, Chief Executive of The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust.

“We would like to reassure any woman who is transferred to Sandwell that their care will not be affected and they will continue to be supported throughout their pregnancy by their GP and community midwife.

“They will receive support in choosing to have their babies at an alternative birthing centre of their choice.”

ENDS

For more information, please call Jackie Dietrich, Communications and Engagement Officer, The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust on (01384) 456111 extension 1423.