

# Maternity and Birth Centre Activity Report

## 1. Background and Activity Projections

The Midwifery Led Birth Centre opened on 8 June 2009, (planned opening April 09).

The unit provides women with birth option choices, whilst enabling the Whittington to keep pace with an increasing demand on maternity services.

Deliveries have increased by 6% in 2007/08, when compared with 2006/07. Table 1 below outlines activity projections over the next 5 years. By 2013/14 The Trust anticipates activity rising to 4,400 deliveries (based on growth projections of 17.5%).

**Table 1: Activity Projections**

		Planned Activity				
		2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Maternity	Deliveries	3,869	4,025	4,186	4,354	4,397

## 2. Delivering Patient Choice and Improving Quality and Patient Experience

Delivering patient choice is a central tenet of the NHS. The expectation of delivering choice in maternity services is that it will drive service and quality improvement of maternity services (Maternity Matters DoH 2007). The expectation is that by December 2009, women are guaranteed three choices regarding place of birth; Home, Obstetric unit and a Birth Centre. In opening a MLBC, The Whittington is now able to offer full choice.

There are a number of benefits that have been realised as a result of expanding our delivery capacity, which are as follows:

- Ensuring the Whittington can continue with its 'no cap' policy of booking pregnant women;
- Reducing the pressure on the Obstetric unit
- Ensuring all births are managed in the obstetric unit or Birth Centre
- Improved choice

## 3. Birth Centre Facilities and Activity

The Birth centre had 5 delivery rooms, all en-suite, with one specifically designed for disabled access. Four of the five rooms have birthing pools and all rooms have double beds to allow partners to stay. The average length of stay is less than 24 hours with women being able to go home 6 hours post delivery.

**Table 2: Activity 08/06/09 - Present**

	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct
Deliveries	310	303	304	285	247	272	301
<b>Birth centre</b>	-	-	<b>39</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>44</b>
Total	310	303	343	327	292	325	345

Table 2 outlines the activity through the birth centre since its opening. There has been a 5% increase in delivery activity compared to this same period last year.

Bookings, which can be used as a proxy indicator of future activity, have also increased by 4% comparing April – October 2008/09 to the same period in 2009/10. The increase in activity is primarily from Haringey, and in addition there has been a high number of women transferring their care to the Whittington from bookings made elsewhere prior to the unit opening.

On the basis of the bookings activity it is projected that the maternity unit is likely, for the remaining months of the year to over perform against the in year target of 3,869 deliveries.

#### **4. Impact Upon Recruitment**

An additional benefit of the Birth centre is to attract Midwives who wish to practice more autonomously. This has had the benefit of assisting recruitment and we are now in the position of having no vacancies in the Midwifery establishment.