

Options for the birth of your baby



Information for women and partners on
planning where to give birth

Your Birthplace Options:



HOME BIRTH

Midwives care for you in the comfort of familiar surroundings

AMU

A home-from-home environment with hospital facilities close by



DELIVERY SUITE

Specialist staff and facilities to support you throughout labour



Home Birth

- A pre-planned home birth in your own comfortable, familiar environment.
- Midwives are in attendance during labour and birth to support you to birth safely at home.
- Your midwife and team leader will come and visit you at home to discuss your birth preferences.
- They will only advise if it is medically necessary to be transferred into the obstetric unit, however if you change your mind, you can opt to birth in the AMU or Labour Ward at any time during pregnancy or labour.



Alongside Midwifery Unit (AMU)

- Midwife-led care recommended if you are healthy and well, other than the common discomforts of pregnancy and between 37 - 42 weeks gestation.
- Three large rooms with equipment to mobilise and ease labour, two of these rooms have birthing pools for pain relief during labour. Other pain relief options are Entonox and Diamorphine analgesia.
- Increases the likelihood of having a 'normal' vaginal birth and reduces the requirement of assisted or instrumental birth (NICE Guidelines [2014], Birthplace Study [2011]).
- If you or your baby requires specialist medical care or you decide to have an epidural for pain relief, then you will be transferred to the obstetric unit next door. Your midwife will accompany you to the labour ward and continue to care for you.



Labour Ward

- Shared care - Obstetric Team, as required (Midwife, Obstetrician, Anaesthetist, Paediatrician).
- Recommended for women with pre-existing health conditions or known problem(s) with their pregnancy or baby/babies.
- May be necessary if your baby requires closer monitoring during labour.
- All pain relief options available: Entonox, Diamorphine and Epidural



