

LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN	WARDS: ALL
REPORT TITLE: Experiences of Maternity Services in Camden	
REPORT OF Stephen Heard, Director of Healthwatch	
FOR SUBMISSION TO Children, Schools and Families Scrutiny Committee	DATE 20 February 2023
SUMMARY OF REPORT The Better Births strategy recommended that women should be offered a personalised care plan. Healthwatch Camden gathered insight from local women and their experiences of using maternity services in Camden and giving birth at University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and Royal Free NHS Foundation Trust. We want to use this research as an addition to the Better Births strategy, and to identify gaps and put forward recommendations to support the well-being of women giving birth in Camden. This report has been commissioned from HealthWatch by Camden Council Local Government Act 1972 – Access to Information No documents that require listing have been used in the preparation of this report. Contact Officer: Stephen Heard, Director of Camden Healthwatch stephen.heard@healthwatchcamden.co.uk	
RECOMMENDATIONS That the Committee note the content of the report	

Signed:



Stephen Heard, Director, Healthwatch

Date: 9 February 2023

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The Better Births strategy recommended that women should be offered a personalised care plan. The plan would give women the chance to record more about their choices and what is important to them. It will cover the time while women are pregnant, during the birth of their baby and for a short time after. Healthwatch Camden wanted to gather insight from local women and their experiences of using maternity services in Camden and giving birth at University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and Royal Free NHS Foundation Trust. We wanted to use this research as an addition to the Better Births strategy, and to identify gaps and put forward recommendations to support the well-being of women giving birth in Camden.
- 1.2 Healthwatch Camden held interviews with nine women who gave birth since 2020. This report explores the experiences of these women during their pregnancies, labour and giving birth, and after giving birth. We also interviewed four midwives from Camden's maternity wards, to explore their experience on the wards and paint an overall picture of life in a maternity ward.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 We understand that the NHS works tirelessly to provide maternity care services, however feedback from the women we interviewed shows that there is still room for improvement. The recommendations, for those health care professionals in maternity care, mirror those put forward by the North Central London Integrated Care System and other national initiatives, which focus on improving communication, equality and inclusion, and personalisation of care.

3. Finance comments

- 3.1 The Executive Director Corporate Services has been consulted on the contents of this report and has no further comment to add.

4. Legal comments

- 4.1 The Borough Solicitor has been consulted and has no comments to add to this report.

5. Environmental Implications

- 5.1 There are no environmental impacts in this report.

6. Appendices

1. Birth Stories: A Summary
2. Birth Stories Experiences of Maternity Services in Camden (Executive Summary)
3. Birth Stories Experiences of Maternity Services in Camden

REPORT ENDS