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20 November 1989

ST HELEN/NATIONAL WOMEN'S MATERNITY SERVICES UPDATE

CURRENT ISSUES

Delivery Suite at National Women's Hospital  
Policy on Postnatal Care  
Planning for New Birthing Facilities  
Neonatal Services  
Antenatal Services

1. Delivery Suite at National Women's Hospital:

Ward 2 will continue as normal until 20 November 1989 when 20 postnatal patients will be transferred to Ward 7, and the remaining to Ward 8. Ward 7 will function as a 20 bed postnatal ward until further notice. Present nursing staff ceiling of 19.8 FTE will be maintained and bureau nurses will be employed for shifts not covered by hospital staff.

Delivery suite will move to Ward 2 at 0730 hours, Friday, 01 December 1989.

Further details to follow. Please contact Barbara Lomas for any further information.

2. Policy on Postnatal Care:

A meeting was held at 1400 hours on Wednesday, 08 November 1989, at which people defined some of the issues needing consideration. Some of these included:- Need for a Board-wide Policy; Coercion for early discharge - Time and Resources to teach mothercraft skills; Quality Assurance in both professional standards and service delivery; Authority around decision making; Myths about current and past policies; Resource allocation; Need for management information; Need for multidisciplinary philosophy etc.

A small working party was established to prepare base line information and present some options for policy back to the larger group Wednesday, 29 November 1989 at 1400 hours in Lecture Theatre, 1st Floor, National Women's Hospital. Please contact Helen Brownlie, Maternity/Neonatology Manager's Office if you have any concerns or contributions.

### 3. Planning for New Birthing Facilities:

An initial meeting was held on Tuesday, 14 November 1989 from which the following issues emerged:-

- Range of services being provided in delivery suite are quite wide and diffuse
- these include:-
  - labour and delivery care for both uncomplicated and complicated pregnancies
  - acute assessment of range of problems in pregnancy premature labour
  - inductions
  - and others

It was agreed that in order to plan birthing facilities adequately the service needs to know **who** they would be providing for and **what** sort of care was needed.

There was initial discussion of whether some of the activities could be managed separately from the main labour and delivery areas. In particular, the meeting began to discuss the pros and cons of a separate system of caring for women with "low risk" pregnancies. These issues must be explored further before definite decisions are made about how services will be organised. Only then can the actual physical facilities be planned appropriately.

It was clear that there was some misunderstanding that the scope of this planning included all services related to labour and birth at National Women's Hospital. A further open meeting will be held soon, to which others could be invited. This is scheduled for 1700-1800 hours on Monday 20 November 1989 at National Women's Hospital, Lecture Theatre. The meeting also acknowledged the commitment to consumer involvement in planning and this will happen as soon as possible.

### 4. Neonatal Services:

The first of a series of meetings was held on Thursday, 09 November 1989, for staff interested in planning the merger and development of the New Unit. The outstanding features of the meeting were people's wanting of a multi disciplinary philosophy and purpose; to participate in planning decision making; to establish a system of quality assurance and to have information from management. A further meeting will be held soon to define a multidisciplinary purpose and philosophy. Please contact David Knight for further information.

- A Blessing will be held for New Unit on Monday afternoon 27 November 1989. A warm welcome is extended to all. Please contact Sandra Budd for time details.

Ward 11A will move to New Unit on Tuesday 28 November 1989.

#### 5. Antenatal Services:

A meeting was held at St Helen's Hospital on Thursday, 09 November 1989, to discuss ideas and suggestions around the future Antenatal Service Delivery. A small working party will take up the responsibility to explore those issues raised and will propose a plan for implementation and/or piloting. Please contact Jackie Buckland, National Women's Hospital for more information or contributions.

FROM - MANAGER  
MATERNITY/NEONATOLOGY SERVICES