

<b>4 March 2021</b>		<b>ITEM: 6</b>
<b>Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b>		
<b>Update Position on Basildon University Hospital Maternity Services</b>		
<b>Wards and communities affected:</b> All	<b>Key Decision:</b> Not applicable	
<b>Update Report of:</b> Diane Sarkar, Chief Nursing Officer, Mid and South Essex NHS Foundation Trust		
<b>Accountable Assistant Director:</b> Not applicable – report produced by Council Partner		
<b>Accountable Director:</b> Not Applicable		
<b>This report is Public</b>		

## Summary

Following the request of the Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members at the 5 November 2020 committee that an updated position on the Basildon University Hospital Maternity Services should be presented at this meeting. This update report reflects the progress made since that November meeting and covers those areas that Members had raised concerns on:

- Governance and Reporting
- Incident Management
- Multidisciplinary Working
- Staffing and Recruitment
- Engagements with Staff and Users
- Work in Progress

### 1. Recommendation(s)

- 1.1 **For the Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee to note and comment on this update report.**

## **2. Introduction and Background**

- 2.1 The Care Quality Commission inspected maternity services at Basildon University Hospital on the 12 June 2020, this inspection had been unannounced and focused on maternity services and had been carried out in response to concerns raised by a whistle-blower about safety in the department. Following this inspection, and a review of Trust incident reports, the Care Quality Commission published its report on Wednesday 19 August 2020 and rated the service as Inadequate. A further Care Quality Commission inspection was carried out on the 18 September 2020 which had been unannounced. The focused inspection was carried out to follow up on a warning notice that had been issued to the department in June 2020. Following this inspection, maternity services at Basildon University Hospital remained Inadequate overall. The service had been rated Inadequate for being safe, effective and well-led. That following the inspection, the Care Quality Commission had placed conditions on the Trust's registration to ensure mothers and babies had access to safe, effective and personalised care. In addition to this enforcement action, the inspection team escalated their ongoing concerns to NHS England and NHS Improvement and a risk summit was held to discuss a way forward to ensure sustained improvements were made. The leadership team were clear about the steps that needed to be taken and would continue to monitor progress closely and would inspect again to check the necessary improvements had been made.
- 2.2 At the 5 November 2020 Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee, a report was presented and reflected that the Trust had been disappointed but had accepted the findings of the Care Quality Commission report and had taken urgent and significant action to improve the service. That residents had been assured that Basildon Maternity Unit remained safe but had not kept pace with the increasingly complex demands being put upon the service. That a number of changes had already taken place such as changes to the leadership team, investing in the recruitment of 29 midwives and two additional consultations, improving security, restructuring of ward facilities and had increased the bed capacity on the delivery suite and Cedar Ward. That time would be required to embed these changes to put in place an enhanced robust process so that the maternity unit could deliver to the highest standards. Members understood that time was needed to embed these changes and recommended that this item be returned in March 2021 for a further update.

## **3. Reasons for Recommendation**

- 3.1 This update report provides an overview of the changes made and planned to the maternity services at Basildon University Hospital.