

<b>Title of Report:</b>	<b>Maternity services for West Berkshire's residents</b>
<b>Report to be considered by:</b>	Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	27 January 2015

**Purpose of Report:** To receive, agree and prioritise the Work Programme of the Commission.

**Recommended Action:** To consider the current, proposed and future items for scrutiny.

<b>Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission Chairman</b>	
<b>Name &amp; Telephone No.:</b>	Councillor Brian Bedwell – Tel (0118) 9420196
<b>E-mail Address:</b>	bbedwell@westberks.gov.uk

<b>Contact Officer Details</b>	
<b>Name:</b>	David Lowe
<b>Job Title:</b>	Scrutiny and Partnerships Manager
<b>Tel. No.:</b>	01635 519817
<b>E-mail Address:</b>	dlowe@westberks.gov.uk

# Executive Report

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## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 At its meeting of 2 December 2014 the Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission agreed to examine the circumstances surrounding recent closures to the Royal Berkshire' Hospital's maternity unit.
- 1.2 The report introduces the item to the Commission and sets out suggested terms for the debate.

## 2. Proposal for scrutiny – maternity cover for West Berkshire's residents

- 2.1 The 9 October 2014 edition of the Newbury Weekly News carried an article telling that during August 2014 the maternity unit at the Royal Berkshire Hospital had closed six times due to staff shortages. The maternity unit provides both pre- and post-natal services.
- 2.2 In order to understand the implications for the residents of West Berkshire, Gill Valentine (Director of Midwifery) will attend the Commission's meeting to inform the debate.
- 2.3 It is proposed that Members may wish to understand
  - (1) The services provided by the maternity unit
  - (2) The staffing levels that are required for safe operation
  - (3) The specific causes of the August closures
  - (4) The remedial measures that have been taken to avoid any recurrence
  - (5) To make recommendations as required.
- 2.4 To inform the debate, attached at Appendix A is an extract from the report issued by the Care Quality Commission following its 2014 quality inspection of the Royal Berkshire Hospital.

## 3. Recommendation

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Commission conducts scrutiny and identifies recommendations as required.

## Appendices

- Appendix A Maternity Services extract of the Care Quality Commission quality report on the Royal Berkshire Hospital