

Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee (JHOSC)

2 July 2007



County Durham and Darlington
Termination of Pregnancy Service (ToP) -
Service Evaluation November 2005 – April 2006

Report of the Head of Overview and Scrutiny

Purpose

1. To inform members of the findings of an evaluation that was conducted on the improved and reconfigured ToP service during November 2005 to April 2006.

Background

2. In January 2004 a working group of all key stakeholders involved with the ToP service within County Durham and Darlington, was formed following concerns raised by GPs relating to difficulties in accessing local termination of pregnancy services. Waiting times for assessment appointments were exceeding 2-3 weeks, resulting in women being referred, and having to travel, to other service providers within the North East of England.
3. The Working group agreed to investigate the accessibility and quality of services for women seeking a termination of pregnancy within County Durham and Darlington. Findings from this initial investigation included:
 - Inequity in service provision existed across County Durham and Darlington Acute Hospitals (CDDAH) Trust. This was mainly due to the fact that the providers in the south of the county were working to provide a dedicated service whilst in the north there were difficulties in providing such a service due to lack of consultant capacity willing to perform termination procedures.
 - There was a mismatch across the service providers within CDDAH Trust in terms of capacity and the demand that existed within each of the six PCTs for abortion procedures.
 - Forty percent of referrals for termination of pregnancies from County Durham and Darlington were to 'Out of Area' providers.

It was clear from the above findings that service reconfiguration was needed.

4. The findings from this service evaluation predominantly show a greatly improved termination of pregnancy service that is meeting almost all national quality standards. Evaluation Report attached

Recommendation

5. Members are asked to note the key findings and recommendations from the evaluation report.

Contact: Feisal Jassat

Tel: 0191 383 3506

feisal.jassat@durham.gov.uk
