

Safe Maternity Ultrasound Services in the West Midlands

Special Forum - Wednesday 29 October 2008, Perinatal Institute
(Presentations are available on www.pi.nhs.uk/ultrasound/workforce/forum)

Summary note on the Discussions

by Jason Gardosi, Perinatal Institute & Mike Wyldes, Regional Ultrasound Group

The approach taken by all presenters at this meeting was that this should not be a 'one vs another' consideration, but the need to consider increased ultrasound resources for maternity services across the board. This was echoed in the discussions. It was also acknowledged that it would take some time to come up to speed with capacity, and the workforce / training programme for example is a 3 year project.

Some commissioners expressed concern that piecemeal implementation of the combined screening programme may increase inequalities in service provision across the region. The second trimester requirement re outflow tract was also questioned, and Rowena Clayton agreed to seek clarification from the NSC.

In the end, there was a clear consensus on

- the need for increased resources and training in ultrasound services in the region
- a recommendation for a phased introduction of the additional requirements over 3 years
- that this should be co-ordinated as a regional initiative

It was also suggested that the IfH 2C Board would be an appropriate forum for such a co-ordinated approach on ultrasound. This has since been taken up with Paul Jennings, chair, who has agreed to put this issue on the agenda of the Board's next meeting (December 11).