

Policy Extract

[A Strategic Vision for Maternity Services in Wales](#)

The Welsh Government's strategic vision and the results it wants for women and their babies during pregnancy and childbirth are set out below,

The Welsh Government's vision for maternity services in Wales is a service that promotes pregnancy and childbirth as an event of social and emotional significance where women and their families are treated with dignity and respect. For every mother wherever they live and whatever their circumstances, pregnancy and childbirth will be a safe and positive experience so that she, her partner and family can begin parenting feeling confident, capable and well supported in giving their child a secure start in life.

Five Key Themes for Action by NHS Wales

The Welsh Government expects the NHS to take action in 5 key areas as follows:

1. Placing the needs of the mother and family at the centre so that pregnancy and childbirth is a safe and positive experience and women are treated with dignity and respect.
2. Promoting healthy lifestyles for pregnant women which have a positive impact on them and their family's health.
3. Providing a range of safe high quality choices of care, from midwife to consultant-led services.
4. Employing a highly trained workforce which delivers high quality services
5. Maternity services are constantly reviewed and improved.

Summary of Key Actions

There are a number of actions identified throughout this document that are key to delivering the vision and desired results Welsh Government wants for women and their babies during pregnancy and childbirth. These Key Actions are to be implemented over the period 2011 to 2015.

- Establish an All Wales Maternity Services Implementation Group
- Develop a set of national indicators to measure effectiveness and quality of maternity services.
- Issue final set of national indicators and future levels of performance for each indicator to Local Health Boards.
- Complete review of current organisation and delivery of maternity services and use the outcome to inform a local delivery plan for the 5 Themes for Action. Report formal progress against the delivery plans and national milestones to Boards and Welsh Government. Report progress against delivery plan milestones via website reports. Review and update delivery plans and milestones.
- Publish annual all Wales report on effectiveness of maternity services in Wales based on national indicators.