

Together We're Better is your local partnership of NHS, local government and voluntary sector organisations. We are working collectively to make decisions to transform health and care services across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent.

Our partners are working closely together to achieve this transformation through a series of work programmes. Each programme is clinically-led and focussed on its own aims and objectives to ensure local people have access to high quality, sustainable services for the future.



Maternity, Children and Young People programme

We have multiple objectives focused on improving maternity services alongside services for children and young people. With regards to maternity services, the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Maternity Transformation Programme is working in partnership with Together We're Better and new parents to develop local services that meet the recommendations of NHS England's Better Births report. In terms of children and young people, we're developing an action plan to tackle those areas where services can be improved.

Our priorities and projects

- We want to work with maternity services from surrounding areas and share best practice to improve the quality and safety of maternity and newborn services
- We're recruiting Maternity Champions to work with women and families in co-producing and improving services (see case study)
- We're empowering staff in maternity services to develop new ways of working; e.g. increasing personalised care planning
- We're working in partnership with Public Health to improve the health and wellbeing of women and babies; e.g. increase breastfeeding rates
- We're increasing perinatal mental health across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent and launching a campaign to reduce perinatal mental health stigma
- We're also developing an action plan to tackle areas where we've identified services can be improved for children and young people.

Our aims and outcomes

- We want to see a 50% reduction in stillbirths by 2025 (20% by 2021)
- We want 90% of women to be able to choose from three birth settings by 2021
- We want to see a 50% reduction by 2025 in neonatal brain injuries occurring during childbirth
- We want a minimum of 51% of women to be on a continuity of carer pathway by 2021
- We're also developing an action plan to improve services for children and young people.

Case study

How Liz is supporting women and families to make a difference to local maternity services: Liz works for the Staffordshire Clinical Commissioning Groups' Quality Team and one day spotted a poster advertising the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Maternity Transformation Programme's Maternity Voices Partnership and its recruitment of volunteer Maternity Champions. Having previous experience of maternity services with the birth of her son, alongside an ambition to become a midwife, Liz signed up to become a Maternity Champion to help women and their families to shape the future of local maternity services. Maternity Champions enable service users to share their positive and negative experiences to inform commissioners and providers of the service of best practice and address any issues. As Liz says: "This is all about giving mothers and their families the opportunity to help develop the service for the future."

