

Local Maternity System Glossary

Accountable Care Systems (ACS)	Accountable Care Systems are partnerships which have come together across a geographical area and include CCGs, local authorities and hospitals, as well as some independent providers, voluntary sector organisations and charities. There are 44 areas across the country known as Sustainability and Transformation Partnerships and as part of this, South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw has been named as one of the first eight to become an Accountable Care System. More information can be found at: www.healthandcaretogethersyb.co.uk .
Alongside birth centre	A birth centre which is on the same site as a main maternity unit, but which offers midwife-led care for women at a low risk of complications. It can also be called a co-located birth centre or alongside midwife-led unit.
Alongside midwife-led unit	Another name for an alongside birth centre; on the same hospital site as a main maternity unit, but offering midwife-led care for women at a low risk of complications.
Assisted Delivery	When the baby is born with the assistance of surgical instruments such as forceps or a ventouse. Also referred to as an assisted birth or an instrumental birth.
Birth centre	A smaller place to give birth away from medical facilities where the emphasis is on natural birth. Birth centres provide personalised maternity care. They're run by midwives and have a friendly "home-from-home" atmosphere.
Case loading	Where a single midwife (or a pair of midwives) has full responsibility for your care throughout pregnancy, labour and after your baby is born. This type of care gives you the opportunity to get to know your midwife over a long period of time, which is of benefit to you and your baby.
Catchment area	The local area around the hospital for which the hospital provides its services. Hospitals often have defined geographical boundaries to identify the population to whom they provide services. If you don't live within this area, you might be referred to as "out of area".
Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)	NHS organisations set up by the Health and Social Care Act 2012 to organise the delivery of NHS services in England. CCGs are clinically led groups that include all of the GP groups in their geographical area. The aim of this is to give GPs and other clinicians the power to influence commissioning decisions for their patients.
Co-design	People who use services are involved in designing services, based on their experiences and ideas. They have genuine influence but have not been involved in 'seeing it through'.
Collaborating	Working in partnership with communities and patients in each aspect of the decision, including the development of alternative and the identification of the preferred solution.
Community midwives	Midwives who provide care outside the hospital, for example in a local clinic, GP surgery or your home.
Consulting	Obtaining community and individual feedback on analysis, alternatives and / or decisions. For example, surveys, door knocking, citizens panels and focus groups.
Continuity of care	Having the same midwife (or doctor) look after you throughout your pregnancy. Continuity of care can also mean having a midwife you know look after you during labour and after the baby is born.
Co-production	Co-production is an equal relationship between people who use services and the people responsible for services. They work together, from design to delivery, sharing strategic decision-making about policies as well as decisions about the best way to deliver services.
Delivery suite	The part of a hospital where both doctors and midwives are available to help women giving birth. Often referred to as the labour ward. It's also sometimes called an obstetric unit or consultant-led maternity unit.
Devolving	Placing decision-making in the hands of community and individuals. For example personal health budgets or a community development approach.

Doula	Women experienced in giving emotional and practical support to women in labour, who can be hired as birth partners. Doulas can also give support while you're pregnant and after your baby is born. You can find out more about doulas at www.doula.org.uk
Footprint	A specific geographic area, e.g. SYB.
Freestanding birth centre	A place where women can give birth which is run by midwives at a distance from a main maternity unit. Also called a standalone birth centre or freestanding midwife-led unit. Usually, only women at a low risk of complications can give birth in a freestanding birth centre.
Freestanding midwife-led unit	A facility that is run by midwives at a distance from a main maternity unit. Also called a freestanding birth centre or standalone birth centre. Usually only women at a low risk of complications can give birth in a freestanding birth centre.
Gestation	The time, usually measured in weeks, between conceiving the baby and the birth. A baby is ready to be born between 37 and 42 weeks gestation, with the due date at about 40 weeks.
GMC	General Medical Council. This keeps a register of qualified medical doctors.
Independent midwife	A fully qualified, self-employed midwife who can provide private midwifery care. Private midwives, including independent midwives, generally offer care from a single midwife throughout your pregnancy. You have to pay for this care.
Informing	Providing communities and individuals with balances and objective information to assist them in understanding problems, alternatives, opportunities, solutions. For example, websites, newsletters and press releases.
Integrated midwifery	A system where midwives work both in the hospital and in the community.
Involving	Working directly with communities and patients to ensure that concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered. For example, partnership boards, reference groups and service users participating in policy groups.
Labour	The process at the end of pregnancy which ends with your baby being born.
Labour ward	The part of a hospital where both doctors and midwives are available to help women giving birth. Often referred to as Delivery Suite. It's also sometimes called an obstetric unit or consultant-led maternity unit.
Local Maternity System (LMS)	The Local Maternity System is essentially the maternity element of the local Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP), with which it needs to be aligned. The purpose of a Local Maternity System is to provide place-based planning and leadership for transformation.
Maternity Service Liaison Committees (MSLCs)	An independent advisory body that has a key role in the successful implementation of the recommendations of the maternity module of the Children's National Service Framework, Public and Patient Involvement in the NHS, and Integrated Governance, together with wider strategic involvement in all aspects of maternity care education, provision and policy. The MSLC comprises representative clinicians from all specialties involved in maternity care, together with relevant commissioners, managers, public health and social care input and at least one third service user members.
Maternity Voices Partnerships (MVP)	Independent formal multidisciplinary committees which come together to influence and share in the decision-making of the Local Maternity System and its constituent parts. They are underpinned by practical support from local commissioners and providers, including appropriate financial support. They are similar to existing Maternity Service Liaison Committees (MSLCs) which they will replace.
Midwife	The health professional who is the expert in normal pregnancy and birth.
Midwife-led care	Maternity care where the main health professionals you see throughout your pregnancy and labour are all midwives. Women at a low risk of complications don't usually need to have maternity care from a doctor, unless a problem arises. Midwife-led care has benefits for women receiving it.
Midwife-led unit	Another name for a birth centre.
Neonatal intensive care unit (NICU)	Also known as an intensive care nursery (ICN) is an intensive care unit specializing in the care of ill or premature newborn infants.

Neonatologists	Doctors who specialise in looking after newborn babies who need medical care.
Obstetric unit	A place to give birth where both doctors and midwives are available. Also called a labour ward or delivery suite.
Obstetricians	Doctors who specialise in pregnancy and births where there are complications. If you have no problems during pregnancy and birth, you'll be looked after by midwives and won't need to see a doctor.
Planned caesarean	A caesarean scheduled to take place before labour starts, also called an elective caesarean. A caesarean can be planned for medical reasons or sometimes at a woman's request.

Private midwife	A fully qualified midwife who's employed by an organisation other than the NHS or self-employed. Private midwives generally offer care from a single midwife throughout your pregnancy. You have to pay for this care.
SYB	South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw – all NHS services that fall within this footprint.
Team midwifery	Where you receive your care from a team of midwives whom you get to know throughout your pregnancy. This same team may also be responsible for your postnatal care and in some cases, for looking after you in labour. Getting to know your midwife has a number of benefits for you and your baby.
Transfer	Moving from your planned place of birth to a labour ward if you need extra medical help. This can be a journey by road if you planned birth at home or in a freestanding birth centre, or a short transfer within a hospital site if you planned birth in an alongside birth centre.
Unplanned caesarean	Also called an emergency caesarean, this is a caesarean which needs to take place quickly because of an unexpected problem with the mother or baby. An unplanned caesarean usually takes place during labour.