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# Thank-you to everyone who has taken part in West, North and East Cumbria maternity services engagement

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## Thank-you to everyone who has taken part in West, North and East Cumbria maternity services engagement

Posted on Tuesday 1st December 2015

People living across West, North and East Cumbria who have taken part in maternity services engagement during November have been thanked for their efforts.

The engagement was led by Healthwatch Cumbria, working closely with the Maternity Services Liaison Committees (MSLCs) which include women who have used maternity services, to seek views about what is important at all stages of pregnancy.

It targeted women who have used maternity services in the last five years, their partners, families and birth supporters and those who may become pregnant in the future.

During the month teams from Healthwatch, MSLCs and local NHS organisations attended more than 60 sessions for mums and children at a range of venues in towns and villages across the area. There were also 10 drop in events held in places where there was little or no opportunity to attend existing sessions.

In addition, more than 1,230 responses were received for an online survey which closed at noon on Monday 30 November. The survey was available for people living across the county.

Sue Stevenson from Healthwatch said: "We are so grateful to everyone who has taken the opportunity to complete the survey, to attend a drop in session or to share their views with us at the many local groups we have been to during the past four weeks.

"The response from local people has been great and we have a substantial amount of feedback to analyse so that it can be handed to local NHS organisations for consideration over future arrangements for maternity services."

Following independent analysis by Healthwatch the feedback will be handed to the implementation group set up in June 2015 following the review of maternity services carried out by the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG). The group is chaired by Dr David Rogers, medical director of NHS Cumbria Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and includes Dr Anthony Falconer a former past president of the RCOG who led the independent review, Cath Broderick, chair of the RCOG Women's Network, senior local midwives, representatives from Healthwatch and members of MSLCs.

Dr David Rogers said: "We would like to thank everyone who has taken part in this engagement. We are grateful to Healthwatch for their hard work and to the MSLC members who have provided very welcome support.

"We are looking forward to receiving the analysis from Healthwatch. This will build on what we already know from earlier engagement about what is important to local women and their families when they use maternity services so that as much as possible our plans for future services can meet their needs and wishes."

In line with the recommendation of the independent review, the implementation group has been developing a detailed feasibility report on the cost, viability and risks of proceeding with Option 1 (the independent review team's preferred option) in the long term, including the amount of additional commissioned funding required and whether the model can be supported.

Posted on Tuesday 1st December 2015

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