

For local media

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Newly refurbished Midwifery-led Unit to be unveiled at Russells Hall Hospital

The Midwifery-led Unit (MLU) at Russells Hall Hospital that received a £41,000 facelift with the help of a government grant is being unveiled next week.

The newly refurbished unit, which gives Dudley women a more homely setting for giving birth, is being opened by Royal College of Midwives (RCM) chief executive Professor Cathy Warwick, CBE, on Wednesday, 21st May.

Cathy has been invited to the unveiling ceremony, followed by a tour of the unit, by The Dudley Group's Head of Midwifery Steph Mansell. They will be joined by a team of midwives led by Matron Yvonne Jones and Lead Midwife Manager Andrea Batty.

"We are very pleased Cathy has agreed to unveil our newly refurbished unit because it gives us an opportunity to showcase the facilities we offer at Dudley," said Steph Mansell.

"Our priority is to help ensure all women who visit the unit have the very best possible care and the developments in the MLU will contribute to this greatly," she added.

The MLU has been redesigned to make women and their partners more comfortable during the birth of their babies. The unit now benefits from subdued lighting, inspirational artwork by local artists and a variety of birthing balls, stools, mats and bean bags. It also has an extra multi track unit to keep women comfortable while maintaining the optimum position for effective labour.

Ahead of the unveiling, RCM's Cathy Warwick said, "I am delighted to re-open the unit and that the Trust has been able to improve their facilities for women, babies and their families through this additional government funding.

"I am sure the new facilities will be welcomed and well used by women in the area. The Trust and the midwifery team should be applauded for demonstrating such commitment in securing this investment in their maternity services. This year the Trust were the winners of an RCM award so we know what excellent work is being done to deliver better care and improve the experience for women in Dudley.

"I am also pleased to be re-launching the RCM's Dudley Branch. Good communication between trusts, trade unions and professional associations and working together to ensure staff are given the right environment in which to work, is vital if we are to deliver high quality care for women. It is through co-operation and collaboration that this will and is being achieved here at Dudley."]

The MLU is part of a comprehensive range of maternity and paediatric services offered at Russells Hall Hospital. The unit works closely with our community

midwives to create individual care plans for the some 4,500 women who give birth there every year.

The maternity services have been successful again this year in securing more government grant and will be improving services for supporting bereaved families as well as facilities for partners.

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