

***General Manager's Office,
Letterkenny University Hospital, Letterkenny Co. Donegal
F92 AE81***

Telephone: (074) 9123501

Fax: (074) 9104651

22nd October 2020

Deputy Pádraig Mac Lochlainn
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ/29376/20

To ask the Minister for Health the steps which will be taken to ensure the speedy implementation of the National Maternity Strategy 2016 – 2026 at Letterkenny University Hospital, including the supported care pathway which specifies provision for home birth. Pádraig Mac Lochlainn

Dear Deputy,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Public Representation which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The National Maternity Experience Survey provides important information on the experience of women using maternity services across Ireland, including Letterkenny University Hospital.

270 women who gave birth in Letterkenny University Hospital in October and November 2019 were invited to participate in the survey. 122 women completed the survey, representing a response rate of 45%. All of these women said they lived in Donegal. The survey includes women's experiences of the care provided in Letterkenny University Hospital, and by general practitioners and public health nurses based in the community. The majority of women who gave birth in Letterkenny University Hospital said they had a positive overall experience. 74% said their maternity care was good or very good.

74% of women who gave birth in LUH in the period of the survey had a positive overall experience and we continue to work hard across the unit to improve the service we provide to women who have their babies with us.

We are committed to listening to what the women have told us, responding to them and continue to improve our maternity services. We are continuing to develop our ante-natal options, particularly in the context of COVID 19 and we have put various processes in place to enable us provide support to women remotely.

We are in the process of recruiting a Perinatal Mental Health Midwife to support women's mental health throughout their pregnancy. We are continually improving and developing the information available to women to enable them be more informed and involved in decisions relating to their care.

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Getting feedback on the experience of our patients is essential as it informs our on-going efforts to improve our services and we are very grateful for all those women who took the time to complete this survey and give us the benefit of their experiences.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Seán Murphy
General Manager
Letterkenny University Hospital