

Restarting Home Birth Service Action Plan

Home birth suspended due to staff training issues or inability to cover services 24/7, action plan needs to address these specific challenges, including ensuring adequate midwifery staffing, meeting safety standards, and coordinating restarting the service.

Restarting a home birth after being suspended requires careful planning, coordination, and compliance with the health care providers policies and procedures. Health care providers have specific regulations for home births, and any suspension may have been due to issues like safety concerns, compliance with guidelines, or staff availability.

Formulated by

RAG:

At Risk
Not on Track
On Track
Complete

LAST UPDATED

Home Birth Action Plan

ID	Item	Status	Type	Date Raised	Raised By	Owner	Due Date		Description & Deliverables - what action/decision needs to be made/taken	Updates / Action Outcome / Decision Made & Date	Forum - where decision was made
1	Understand the Reason for Suspension						Apr-25	Clarify the suspension cause	Understand why the home birth was suspended.	The suspension is due to a temporary shortage of trained midwives (agency staff unable to cover) therefore the inability to provide continuous (24/7) support, which is crucial for safe home births. It's important to confirm how long the suspension will last and whether these issues have been resolved. 22.04.25 Full Review Report: Temporary Suspension of Home Birth Service completed and presented to Exec Team (March 25).	13.03.25 Presented Review Report at HCS Senior Leadership Team Meeting
							30/01/2025	Document any concerns	Address the underlying issue before proceeding.	Full Review Report written and presented. 18/05/25 Mapping Exercise undertaken with QI team inoput.	13.03.25 Presented Review Report at HCS Senior Leadership Team Meeting
									Ensure that all concerns are documented and addressed in line with guidelines.	Full Review Report written and presented. 22.04.25 Guideline being updated with	03.06.25 Ongoing
2	Engage with Legal and Medical Professionals					/ Working party	N/A	Review legal implications	Consult with a legal team to ensure all legal requirements are reviewed and met before restarting the home birth service.	There is no law to say women are entitled to homebirth but law says it is your right to choose where you give birth and the law states your right of where to choose to birth should only be restricted where there is good reason to do so and the decision is proportionate	
						/ Working party		Medical review	Consult your Obstetric team to ensure any concerns addressed.		
						/ Working party		Midwives	Review concerns, arrange meetings to ensure all comfortable resuming service.	Outline midwives who will cover service, training requirements and number midwives required to cover service 24/7. Need to decide if this will be a team. How will 2nd on call be facilitated	
3	Review the Home Birth Setup						25-Jul	Prepare for home birth	Bespoke training of Community emergencies by Baby Lifeline	Currently we have evidence of training that has been carried out for community midwives on an annual basis. 22.04.25 Training planned for 3rd July 25 - Baby Lifeline 'Emergencies in Community Setting'. Second training day identified for October 2025 for remainder of staff.	
							Availability of necessary equipment (birth kit, sterile supplies, etc.)		Have entonox cylinders. Babyline birth Bags. BP monitors, Thermometers, Birthing pools and liners. Laptops with SIM cards to enable contemporaneous records. Mobile phones. Notification of homebirth details and directions to Ambulance control. Have purchased V scanair for presentation scan prior to homebirth.		
								A clear and safe emergency plan in case of transfer to the hospital	See guideline (currently being updated)		
								Review emergency protocols	Establish and review clear emergency protocols for complications during labour and delivery, including transportation to hospital if necessary.	See guideline (currently being updated)	
4	Communication and Support							Coordinate with all involved parties	Ensure that midwives are available and prepared to support the home birth service.	Detailed staffing plan	
								Keep open communication with them about the plans and any updates or changes.	Review concerns, arrange meetings to ensure all comfortable resuming service.		
								Inform community and work with MVP	Keep stakeholders up to date with plans and progress.	MVP inactive at present following up	03.06.25 Contacted previous chair
5	Review Home Birth Eligibility and Guidelines							Eligibility review	Continually review eligibility for a home birth based on the current policies, acuity and staffing.	Review criteria for a safe home birth	
						Band 6s		Alternative care options	If the home birth is not currently possible due to staffing, ensure users are aware of alternatives they can be offered (e.g., midwife led unit).	Re-evaluate regularly the risk profile to see if home birth can be safely considered once staffing is adequate.	
6	Address the 24/7 Coverage Issue							Ensure continuous care during labour	One of the key reasons for suspension may be the inability to guarantee 24/7 midwifery support, which is vital in case of emergencies or complications.	Plans while home births suspended and ensure all aware of this	
								Contingency planning			
								Emergency protocols	Review		
7	Monitor the Training Progress							Staff training updates:	Stay informed about the progress of staff training sessions.	Data of those who require update/training	July & October dates for training confirmed
								Reassess the training schedule:	Review training and those who can provide service without training/update.		
								Temporary staffing solutions:	Consider reassigning midwives from other areas to cover home births until training is completed.		
8	Plan for Regular Updates							Set up regular check-ins	Ensure that you have regular meetings or calls with the midwifery team to stay updated on staffing availability and any changes in home birth policies or coverage.		
								Stay flexible	Given the nature of the situation (training and staffing challenges), it's important to remain flexible. There may be last-minute changes, and it's important to be ready to adjust plans as needed, such as being open to a hospital or birth center birth if home birth becomes unavailable.		
9	Preparing for Home Birth Service to resume					/Working party		Confirm dates and rota	Once the staffing issue is resolved and home births are reinstated, confirm the dates and times when the midwife can attend your home birth. Make sure the full midwifery team is available to support.		
						Community Midwifery Team		Ensure info available for women on how to prepare for home birth	Ensure that your home is ready for the birth, including the setup of the birth pool (if applicable), sterile supplies, and other necessary items. Provide specific instructions on preparing your home environment.	See guideline (currently being updated)	
						/Working party/		Review emergency transport guidelines	If complications arise during labour, we will need a clear and efficient plan for hospital transfer.	See guideline (currently being updated)	
10	Understanding the financial implications							Cost of service	Review and discuss with financial team.		
11	Stay Engaged and informed					All		Keep communication open	Stay in regular communication with the midwifery team to ensure aware of any updates regarding the staffing situation including training.		
								Document everything	Keep a record of all communications, agreements, and any updates regarding the staff training and home birth policies. This will help clarify your options and support any future decisions.		

TIMELINE

Months	
Months 1-2	Planning, assessment, and regulatory compliance. Begin outreach to stakeholders and healthcare partners.
Months 3-4	Develop service delivery model, recruit and train staff, procure equipment.
Months 5-6	Begin service delivery, create intake system, set up safety protocols and communication systems.
Months 7+	Client Feedback

These timelines are only estimates, and we hope to commence earlier. However, they are designed to account for any unforeseen issues that may arise.

Have got pool cars and all equipment meant for homebirth .Baby lifeline Birth bags . Entonox cylinders

Key Success Factors

Strong Team	Experienced, well-trained staff who are committed to providing high-quality, safe care.
Client Education	Ensuring clients understand the home birth process, safety measures, and when to seek hospital transfer.
Safety & Risk management	Having clear protocols and contingency plans in place for emergencies.
Community Engagement	Building trust within the local community through outreach, transparency, and strong partnerships with healthcare providers.