Agenda: 17/12

West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS
NHS Trust

Public Board Meeting, 26 January 2012

Women's and Children's Division Building Works

Presented by: **Natalie Forrest, Director of Nursing**

1. Purpose

This report apprises the Board of the completion of the project to resolve the issue of lack of capacity in Maternity and Neonatal services at Watford General Hospital.

2. Progress

In 2011 the Trust undertook a ¾ million pound project to provide additional capacity for the Maternity and Neonatal services at Watford General Hospital. This was in response to the increase in the number of women choosing to book and have their deliveries at the Trust, which had led to significant pressures on the service in relation to bed capacity, safety and quality of care.

The project was completed on time over a four month period and has resulted in an improved operational model of care which now incorporates a new Triage bay and Transitional care unit in addition to extra bed capacity on delivery suite and both the ante and post natal wards.

The Maternity and Neonatal services remained fully operational during the build process. Staff were kept up to date regarding the impact on their clinical areas, enabling women and their partners to be fully informed in order to minimise the impact of the works on their experience of the service at such an important time. Clinical staff worked successfully in partnership with the construction team to ensure the project completed on time.

The Trust is looking forward to supporting 5,900 women per year to choose to book their deliveries at Watford General Hospital.

Natalie Forrest
Director of Nursing