Stand Alone Birth Centres

Even if they are in community hospitals, stand-alone birth centres do not offer the same facilities as the consultant-led units, for example there are no doctors, special baby units or operating theatres. Instead these birth centres are run by small teams of midwives and health care support workers, providing a home-like, friendly atmosphere, and are specifically designed for women who are having a healthy pregnancy and are expected to have a normal birth. If you require extra facilities or help you will need to be transferred to a consultant-led unit.

“...I was in a small room with one midwife and my husband. It was very calm and intimate and the midwife I had was great. The whole experience was wonderful."

Consultant-led Units

These are based in the main maternity hospital and are primarily for women with medical, pregnancy or labour complications or for women planning to have an epidural for labour. However, anybody can choose to have their baby there if they wish.

“Exceptional care provided throughout labour and birth. Despite a difficult labour, complicated by having diabetes and epilepsy, everyone was very professional but at the same time very caring.”

Co-located Birth Centres

Co-located birth centres are based within the same building as consultant-led maternity units. They tend to be on a different floor to the consultant-led unit and are suitable for women wishing to have a natural birth in a home-like, friendly atmosphere, but who may not live near enough to a stand-alone birth centre. As with the stand-alone birth centres, you would need to transfer to the consultant-led unit if a problem were to develop.

“My labour experience this time around was excellent and very relaxed. I actually enjoyed this experience and would recommend your unit to anyone.”

“I was in a small room with one midwife and my husband. It was very calm and intimate and the midwife I had was great. The whole experience was wonderful.”

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