

News Release

21 December 2010

Top rated maternity services at DCH

Dorset County Hospital has been rated by mothers as the best hospital in the country for some of its maternity services.

Over 25,000 new mums across 142 hospitals in England were surveyed in February 2010 by the national health watchdog, the Care Quality Commission, known as the CQC. In Dorset 70% of the mums surveyed were aged between 19 and 35 years and for 53% of women, the survey followed the birth of their first child.

Jean O'Callaghan, Chief Executive of the Hospital said: "This is great news. To be the highest rated hospital by new mums for so many of our maternity services is a great achievement.

"We know that DCH's maternity services are popular with local families and it is clear that the unit and the care received is rated highly by the women we serve, but it is always good for the staff to have their work recognised publicly."

Dorset County Hospital was in the top 20% of all Trusts on 17 of the 19 benchmarks measures by the CQC and in three, DCH was rated the **best in the country**. These were

- Overall how did you rate your care in labour?
- After the birth were you treated with kindness and respect?
- Did the midwives and other carers give you active support and encouragement with feeding?

In the survey:

97% of women rated their antenatal care as good, very good or excellent.

100% of women said their care was good, very good or excellent.

95% of women said their postnatal care was good very good or excellent.

ENDS

For more information or to arrange interview, photo and filming opportunities please contact the DCH communications department - Susie Palmer on 01305 254683, susie.palmer@dchft.nhs.uk (Mon to Wed) or Stevie Pattison-Dick on 01305 255419, stevie.pattison-dick@dchft.nhs.uk (Thurs and Fri)