

News Release

20 April 2017

Birthday Celebrations for Cygnet Homebirth Team

The Cygnet Homebirth Team at Dorset County Hospital will be celebrating their second birthday with a picnic in the park.

To coincide with the International Day of the Midwife, the team will be hosting a picnic in the Borough Gardens, Dorchester on Friday 5 May, 12.00-4.00pm, and hope to welcome many of the families they have cared for. The event is open to everyone – just bring a blanket and a picnic lunch and come along to the bandstand to join in.

The Cygnet Homebirth Team at Dorset County Hospital provides all the care needed before birth, during labour and afterwards for women in their own homes. The service is available for women living in the hospital's catchment area who have been assessed as low risk. Over the past two years the work of the team has seen the number of births at home rise from 2% to 9.7%, among the highest homebirth rate in the country.

Jo Hartley, Head of Midwifery at DCH said: "Research has shown that giving birth at home is as safe as giving birth in hospital for most women, particularly those having a second or subsequent baby. Homebirths are associated with a lower rate of caesarean section and instrumental birth than birth in hospital. The midwife attends throughout the labour and birth at home to monitor progress, provide support and ensure mum and baby's needs are met"

For more information, please contact Cygnet Homebirth team members Karen Myers or Tata Putt on 01305 253169.

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PHOTO: The Cygnet Homebirth Team celebrating their first birthday in 2016.

For more information please contact the DCH Communications Team on 01305 254683 or communications@dchft.nhs.uk