Community Gynaecology provision in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire
Briefing for Nottinghamshire Health Scrutiny Committee
November 2025

1. Introduction

NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) have previously briefed the Nottinghamshire Health Scrutiny Committee on the changes to community gynaecology service in Nottingham City and South Nottinghamshire via written stakeholder updates.

The purpose of this briefing is to provide the Nottinghamshire Health Scrutiny Committee with an update on:

a. The current arrangements for new and existing patients in Nottingham City and South Nottinghamshire for gynaecology services.
b. The plans to develop a sustainable system wide offer for future community gynaecology services.

2. Background

The Community Gynaecology Service in Nottingham City and South Nottinghamshire, which covers Broxtowe, Gedling, Rushcliffe and Hucknall (Ashfield) ended on 3 August 2025 after the provider of the service, Primary Integrated Community Services (PICS) served notice on the contract. This was not a decision taken by the ICB.

Prior to serving notice on their contract, PICS was the sole provider of community gynaecology services in Nottingham and South Nottinghamshire commissioned by the ICB. In the Mid-Nottinghamshire area, the closest equivalent service provider is Gynaecology Core Plus (Gynae Core Plus) which provides Cervical Polyp Removal and a Pessary Fitting service - this service is unaffected, and Bassetlaw had no community Gynaecology provision.

Table 1: Community gynaecology provision in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire

Community Gynaecology provision	**Nottingham City and South Nottinghamshire**	**Mid Nottinghamshire**	**Bassetlaw**
Prior to PICS serving notice	PICS were commissioned to provide a number of services including treatments for menstrual disorders, fibroids, cervical polyps, pelvic pain, vulval disorders and menopause problems.	Gynaecology Core Plus (Gynae Core Plus) provides Cervical Polyp Removal and a Pessary Fitting service delivered by 29 GP practices for the Mid Nottinghamshire population	No community Gynaecology provision. Patients access services via the Acute trust or independent provider.
Post PICS service ending	Gynae Core Plus model expanded to provide a system wide offer for cervical polyp removal and Pessary Fitting service by GP practices across Nottingham City, South Nottinghamshire, Mid Nottinghamshire and Bassetlaw. Future model in development to be in place from April 2026.		

PICS provided the ICB with a list of the affected patients on 26 August 2025. There were just under 3000 patients on the waiting list for a first outpatient appointment handed over from

PICS when they ended their delivery of this work. Since the PICS service ending the ICB have contacted 1666 patients (up to 28th October 2025) and of these:

- 1446 who require an appointment have chosen their provider and the referrals have been sent via the electronic referral system (eRS) to the provider;
- 189 patients have confirmed they no longer require the referral.

Patients are being contacted, with the longest waiting patients taking priority and will be referred to an alternative appropriate Gynaecology service.

The ICB have worked quickly on alternative arrangements for new and existing patients in Nottingham City and South Nottinghamshire for gynaecology services.

A review into community gynaecology services across Nottingham and Nottinghamshire has commenced, so we can create equal and fair access to services for all our communities in line with the broader strategy to support women's health.

3. Current offer

Following the cessation of the community gynaecology service by PICS in August 2025, the ICB implemented a rapid and multi-faceted response to ensure continuity of care and equitable access for patients across the system. This includes the urgent expansion of the Gynaecology Core Plus model—previously established in Mid-Nottinghamshire—to Nottingham City, South Nottinghamshire, and Bassetlaw, enabling delivery of cervical polyp removal and pessary fitting services through an additional 29 GP practices. The ICB also commissioned the Modality Partnership to clinically review over 1,000 patients awaiting follow-up care, while the Referral Support Service (RSS) was mobilised to contact all patients on the PICS waiting list and offer alternative provider options. Alongside this, the ICB is developing a sustainable, system-wide model for community gynaecology, supported by stakeholder engagement and training and support for GP practices, to ensure long-term resilience and improved access to women's health services.

Immediate Response and Interim Arrangements

- **Rapid Options Appraisal & Urgent Service Provision:** The ICB conducted a swift review and implemented an interim solution by expanding the existing Gynaecology Core Plus model across Nottingham City, South Nottinghamshire, and Bassetlaw. This provides a pessary fit and replacement service and cervical polyp removal service. It is currently delivered in 29 out of 40 GP practices in Mid Nottinghamshire. Patients can be referred to another practice in Mid-Nottinghamshire who offer the service which ensures all practice areas in Mid-Nottinghamshire are covered.
  An expression of interest was circulated to all GP Practices across Nottingham and Nottinghamshire to provide a Gynae Core Plus service in line with the Mid-Notts service. A further 29 GP practices have signed up as follows:

  - 25 practices across Nottingham City and South Notts,
  - 4 practices in Bassetlaw who previously did not have a service.

  Contracts are currently being put in place. It should be noted that this was a voluntary ask of GP practices for which GPs will be paid, the ICB is keen to ensure that unplanned workload is not transferred to GPs. Patients will be referred to their closest Gynae Core Plus GP Practice if the service is not delivered in their registered practice. Only complex cases will require an onward referral into secondary care. The

ICB is also working with secondary care to identify suitable patients who can be transferred back to primary care for ongoing pessary management in the community.

- **Training and Support:** A training programme is being developed for GP practices newly contracted to deliver pessary services. The ICB is also engaging with practices throughout October and November that have not yet signed up to explore training and support needs and establish referral pathways.

Patient Management and Referral Pathways

- **Referral Support Service (RSS):** The RSS provide a single point of access and manage referrals into secondary care. The ICB tasked the RSS team with contacting all patients on the PICS waiting list for a first appointment, prioritising the longest waiters to offer a choice of providers to access treatment and care. The ICB aim to have contacted all patients on the waiting list by 30th November 2026.

- **Clinical Review by Modality Partnership:** The ICB commissioned Modality to clinically review approximately 1,012 follow-up patients from the PICS caseload. This includes reviewing notes and conducting telephone consultations where required e.g. to communicate test results and determine appropriate next steps—discharge, primary care management, or referral to secondary care. Modality will develop a management plan for those patients who continue to need to be seen. The timescale for completion of all clinical reviews is 8 weeks and work began week commencing 27th October 2025. For those patients assessed as needing to be referred to secondary care Modality will send the records to the Nottingham RSS who will contact the patients to offer choice of provider and book an appropriate appointment.

- **Patient Choice:** New patients not suitable for Gynae Core Plus are offered a choice of secondary or independent sector providers at the point of referral.

Contract management

- The ICB regularly meet with all of our providers as part of our contract management governance. We proactively review all Key Performance Indicator (KPIs) to assess performance against contract specifications.

- We have a process in place where a provider terminates a contract with the ICB.

Quality Assurance and Communication

- **Quality Monitoring:** Providers are asked to report any concerns related to delays in care due to the service transition to the ICB. As of 30th October, we have had one concern raised which is being investigated. We will also continue to be monitor and concerns will be escalated as necessary.

- **FAQs and Public Information:** The ICB has published and regularly updates FAQs for patients and staff on its website to ensure transparency and support: Patient information: Community Gynaecology Service in Nottingham City & South Notts - NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB

4. Future Planning and System-Wide Model Development

- **Engagement and Co-Design:** The ICB is working with citizens, professionals and other key stakeholders to co-design a new, equitable, system-wide community

gynaecology model, which meets the needs of the entire population within our existing resources. This will include a review of existing data, insights and research to build an evidence base to inform the future service model. This engagement is currently underway and will be completed by 30 January 2026.

- **Joint Commissioning Initiatives:** Work is underway with Nottinghamshire County Public Health team to jointly commission coil services for the fitting of Coils within Primary Care for non-sexual health treatments avoiding a referral to an acute provider.

- **Shared Care Protocols -** In partnership with the medicines management team and acute providers the ICB will undertake a review of the opportunity for shared care protocols to be developed for uterine fibroids and endometriosis pathways to support the appropriate primary care management of women with fibroids and endometriosis and avoid inappropriate referral into acute services.

- **Referral Guidelines and Education:** Gynaecology referral guidelines and an accompanying FAQs document are being finalised to support GP education and patient self-management.

- **Patient Choice -** Through the patient choice accreditation process we will prioritise applications for challenged specialities, which includes gynaecology to support our approach to maximise our elective capacity and offer more patient choice.

- **Strategic Commissioning:** The ICB is exploring opportunities to develop pathways based on evidence and best practice in collaboration with Derbyshire and Lincolnshire ICBs in line with NHS long-term plans and the Women's Health Strategy.

5. Summary of ICB actions in response to PICS serving notice

Gynaecology changes	Action	Timeline
Patients on PICS waiting list for a first Outpatient Appointment	Referral Support Service team are contacting all patients on the PICS waiting list for a first appointment, prioritising the longest waiters to offer a choice of providers	30th November 2025
Clinical review of patients who were receiving follow up appointments at PICS	The timescale for Modality completion of all clinical reviews is 8 weeks.	31st December 2025
Patients who require ongoing follow up care post Modality clinical review	RSS will be contacting all patients requiring onward follow up care following the clinical review to provide	30th January 2026

The ICB appreciates that PICS's decision to conclude this contract may have created uncertainty for patients and partners. We have worked swiftly and collaboratively to ensure services continue smoothly and minimises any impact on patient care. Through ensuring continuity of care for patients and laying the groundwork for a more resilient and equitable community gynaecology service across Nottinghamshire.

Recommendations to Nottinghamshire Health Scrutiny Committee

The Nottinghamshire Health Scrutiny Committee is asked to note the contents of this briefing.