

News Release

25 January 2008

Excellent maternity service at Dorset County Hospital

Dorset County Hospital's maternity unit has been rated 'best performing' in a review of maternity care throughout the country.

The Healthcare Commission's report put Dorset County Hospital among the top hospitals.

Head of Midwifery Christine Voce said: "We are delighted to get this recognition.

"All the staff here – midwives, support workers and medical staff – work extremely hard to give mothers the best possible service and it's fantastic that their commitment has been recognised in this way."

Christine added that despite the excellent rating, the team was by no means complacent and was always looking to improve further.

Last year, mums placed Dorset County Hospital's maternity service among the best in the country.

The local service gained higher scores than any other hospital for patient satisfaction in several key areas in a patient survey.

Dorset County Hospital has seen a 29% increase in the number of mothers giving birth on its maternity unit since 2001 – a 10% increase just since 2006.

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For more information about this news release please contact Communications Manager Susie Palmer on 01305 254683 or susie.palmer@dchft.nhs.uk

Photo/filming opportunities can be set up on the maternity unit on request – please contact Susie to arrange