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Milton birthing service a step closer

The long-term plan to re-establish maternity services at Milton Ulladulla Hospital has reached its first milestone, with the completion of planning for the implantation of a Level 1 maternity service.

The District's Medical Co-Director Maternity and Women's Health, Dr Keith Allenby, said the necessary governance structures and Model of Care have now been confirmed and implementation of the model has commenced.

"Having a Level 1 Model of Care at Milton Ulladulla Hospital means that we will now be able to expand our pre and post natal services for local families to seven days a week; with dedicated midwives looking after mums and their babies before and after they give birth at Shoalhaven," he said.

"It's great news that we've now completed the first integral component of re-establishing a safe and appropriate maternity service for local families. We certainly know the community's expectation is to restore birthing services at Milton Ulladulla, but as we've said from the very beginning, the process of developing any level of service is going to take a significant amount of work. We need to consider all of the factors required for a long-term, sustainable and safe level of care for local families," said Dr Allenby.

Now that the first phase of work has been completed, the Steering Committee and Model of Care group will focus on evaluating and developing plans for the next step in the process of further developing the Milton Ulladulla maternity services.

"The next steps will involve a much larger piece of work than the Level 1 re-establishment due to the complexity of the clinical and organisational arrangements that need to be considered in order to move the service forward.

"My Co-Director Maternity and Women's Health, Melissa Cooke and I want thank our staff and the community for working with us to develop the service so far and we all look forward to the next exciting steps in the process," he said.

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