



Choosing where to have your baby

Deciding where to have your baby.

Choosing where to give birth is an important and personal decision since the right birth environment and type of birth setting can make a difference.

Many women and birthing people might not realize the different birth setting options they have. Different birth settings may be more appropriate for some women than others. It is important to take time to look at all the options available to make an informed decision about which one is the right one for you and your individual circumstances.

What are your options?

There are four different birth settings

Home	Birth Centre in the Community	Birth Centre in the Hospital	Obstetric Unit in Hospital (also called labour ward or delivery suite)
Midwives support you to give birth in your home. If there is a complication you will be transferred to hospital.	Midwives support you to birth in a non-medical environment away from hospital. If there is a complication you will be transferred to hospital.	Midwives support you to birth in a non-medical environment within a hospital. If there is a complication you will be moved to the doctor-led part of the hospital.	Midwives and doctors support you to birth in a medical environment. There are theatres for caesareans sections and other procedures. Most births following induction of labour take place in hospital.

Evidence shows that giving birth in the UK is generally very safe. However there are some differences in outcomes for women and babies between different birth settings.

- If you are healthy and have no complications (low risk) and plan to give birth at home or in a birth centre, you are less likely to need interventions (such as forceps, ventouse or caesarean section).
- If you are healthy and have no complications (low risk) and plan to give birth in hospital labour ward or delivery unit, you are more likely to have interventions (such as forceps, ventouse or caesarean section).
- If your pregnancy is more complicated and you need more complex medical support you might choose a hospital setting.

Which birth settings are available across the trust ?

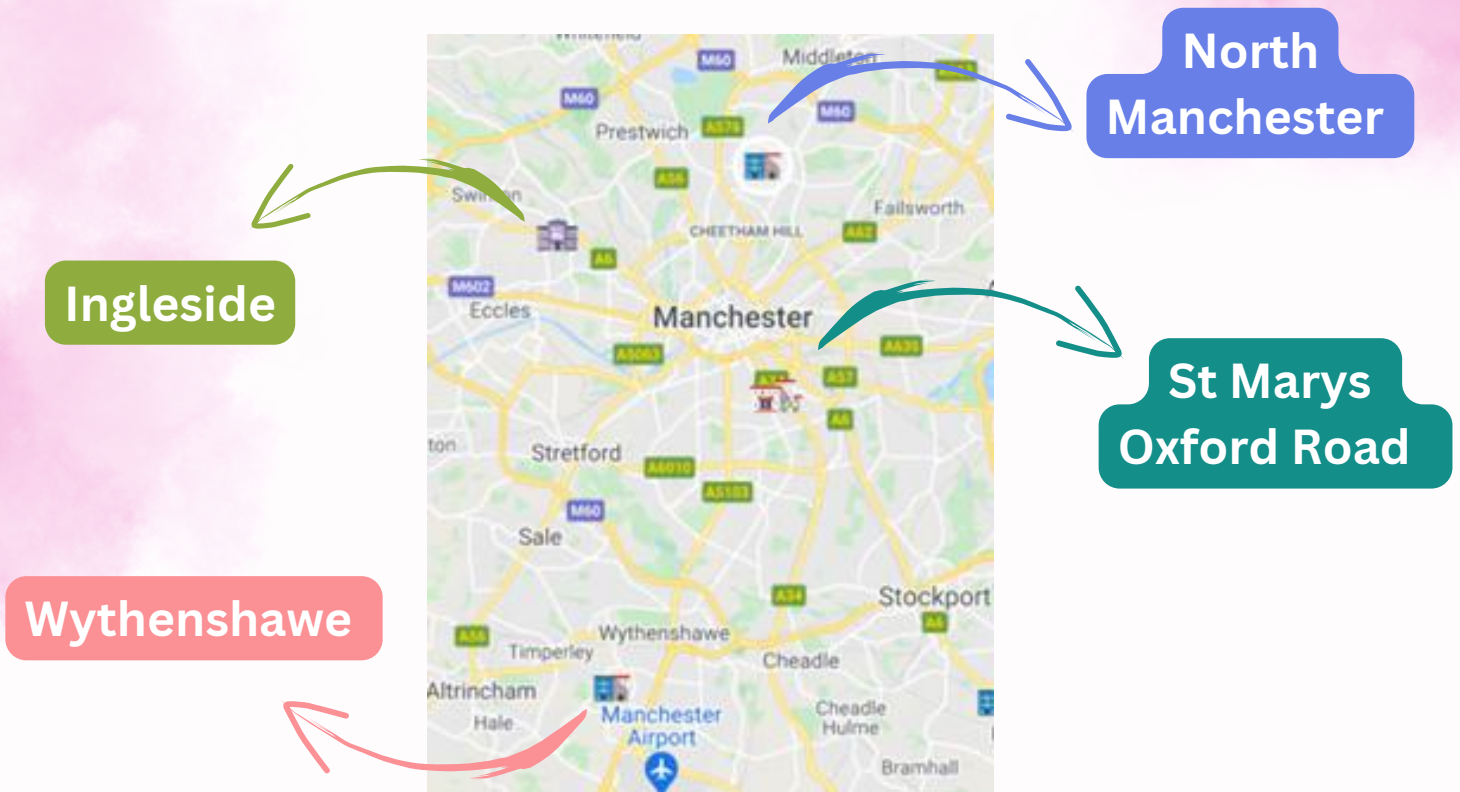
(including Saint Mary's Oxford Road, North Manchester and Wythenshawe)

You can choose to give birth at any of the settings listed below regardless of which hospital you are booked with.

	Home**	Birth Centre in the Community	Birth Centre in the Hospital	Hospital (labour ward or delivery suite)
Saint Marys Oxford Road	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
North Manchester	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Wythenshawe	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ingleside*		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

* Ingleside Birth & Community Centre is temporarily closed for labour and birth care

Where are the units?



What is important to you?

Some of the things to consider when choosing a birth setting:

- What is the environment like?
- How far you are able to travel?
- How much control you want over the birth space?
- What are my chances of having medical interventions?
- Who will look after me?
- Who can be with me for the birth and afterwards?
- What pain relief options are available?
- Any religious or cultural needs you may have?
- What are you or your baby's medical needs and your previous birth history?



Making your decision

You will be asked where you would like to give birth during your first booking appointment. You might feel you don't yet have all the information to make an informed decision at the beginning of your pregnancy, but don't worry it is possible to change the place of birth later on.



You might change your mind as you gain more knowledge and information about different settings. Your needs and priorities might also change as your pregnancy progresses.

If any complications arise during your pregnancy your midwife or doctor will talk to you about what they mean for you and your baby. You might be advised for one place of birth over another but it is your choice. If you need more support with your decision then discuss with your midwife who may be able to refer you to a specialist birth options clinic.

Ideally, you need to decide and inform your midwife or doctor by 36 weeks so there's enough time to prepare your option.

Wherever you decide to have your baby, you will be supported in your choice.

Very occasionally, for capacity reasons, induction of labour and planned caesarean sections may be offered at a different maternity unit/hospital to where you had planned to give birth.



Further resources

Please see our other resources on place of birth options and individual maternity unit information

Home

Birth Centre in the Hospital - Manchester Birth Centre Wythenshawe and Bluebell Birth Centre North Manchester
Hospital (also called labour ward or delivery suite) - Delivery units at Oxford Road, Wythenshawe and North Manchester



You can also talk to your midwife or doctor and explore further reading below

Birthrights factsheet: choice of place of birth

NHS Your choice where to have your first baby

NHS Your choice where to have your subsequent baby

BirthPlace and You: Birth Decisions

NHS Where to give birth

Which? Where to give birth (quiz tool to help decide)

My Birth My Choice



Ask 3 questions

How do I get support to help me make a decision that is right for me?

What are the risks and benefits of each birth setting for me?

What are my birth setting options?