**Women’s services to get an upgrade**

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**The Women’s Health Unit (WHU) and Trinity ward (Maternity) are the subject of a major £1.2million upgrade at the Chesterfield Royal Hospital.**

The WHU is being transformed into a purpose built area at the same time as Trinity ward is given an upgrade to bring it into line with the style and workings of the Chesterfield Birth Centre.

The work will improve the privacy and dignity of the WHU patients, bring all gynaecology outpatient clinics into one place and provide a shared staff rest room for both areas.

**Women’s Health Unit**

Linda Gustard is the Head of Midwifery and Senior Matron for gynaecology, she said: “The WHU will have three clinic rooms where we’ll take patients who previously came to outpatient suite one as well as ten beds for inpatients in two bays of five.

“Our early pregnancy assessment unit will have its own waiting area and there’s also going to be two assessment rooms for emergency admissions.   There will be three purpose designed treatment rooms for ladies having out-patient procedures and a separate area for patients undergoing day case surgery.

“At the moment there are no adequate changing facilities or areas of privacy and no designated area for day case patients. Our gynaecology patients will notice a big difference when the new unit opens in late autumn.”

Trinity ward will be redesigned in the same style as the Chesterfield Birth Centre with changes including en suite toilet and showers in each bay rather than outside and a milk preparation area for mothers who choose not to breastfeed.

**More privacy**

Linda added: “The central staff base will be removed in favour of a recessed area to give staff more privacy when dealing with confidential information and discussing patient-sensitive details. The shared staff rest room will be great for improved communication between the two areas where we are looking at working together more closely.”

Patients from Trinity Ward will move to Portland Ward along with day case and emergency patients from the WHU. Meanwhile all outpatient treatment activity and the early pregnancy assessment unit will move across the corridor to the Margaret Grieve Suite from Friday May 11th.

Work is due to start on Monday 4th June with both Trinity Ward and the WHU expected to open by the end of October.