



# **Specialist Fertility Services**

## **Report to Central Bedfordshire OSC**

**Alison Lathwell**  
**Acting Director of Strategy and System Redesign**

An update following reports submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in August 2014 and December 2014 in relation to specialist fertility services and In Vitro Fertilisation (IVF)



# Background

- In March 2013 East of England Specialised Commissioning Group ceased to commission specialist fertility services and local CCGs became responsible.
- In August 2014 Overview and Scrutiny Committee were asked to feedback on public engagement and consultation plans in relation to reviewing eligibility criteria for access to IVF which was to provide access to IVF after 3 years of unexplained fertility, offering 3 full cycles of IVF treatment for women aged 23 to 39 years.



# Background (2)

- In December 2014, following consultation, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee were asked to note the BCCG governing body decision to provide access to IVF after 3 years of unexplained fertility, offering 1 full cycle of IVF treatment for women aged 23 to 39 years. In making this decision the governing body took account of:
  - Clinical evidence for the effectiveness of IVF
  - The outcome of the public consultation exercise conducted during the autumn of 2014
  - Affordability- including the impact that increasing access to IVF might have on other services for Bedfordshire patients
- The revised eligibility criteria has been in place for new patients requesting IVF since January 2015.



# Patient Feedback

- Since January 2014, we have received:
  - 3 enquiries (1 request for the IVF policy, 1 request for the IVF referral form, 1 enquiry about waiting times for IVF treatment)
  - 3 freedom of information requests (1 concerning IVF available to single women, 1 relating to number of cycles available and how many individual funding requests have been received, 1 general enquiry concerning the details of the IVF policy).
  - 0 patient complaints



# Summary

- We continue to monitor the safety and quality of services through our operational governance processes
- We continue to monitor patient experience, complaints and compliments through our operational governance processes

