After more than six years, the doors to the unit closed and all staff transferred to the state-of-the-art Rosie Birth Centre on the ground floor of the new three-storey hospital expansion.

Staff didn’t have to wait long for the first baby to be born - Hylton Benjamin Bendzullo, who weighed 3.73kg, arrived at 6.04pm on the first day. His mum, Belinda, a teacher originally from South Africa and now living in Soham with her husband and toddler, had delivered her first child in the MLBU. This time she was able to labour in the birthing pool and only needed a little gas and air for pain relief. “It was amazing here – the new facilities and the space have been just great.”

Jan Butler, consultant midwife for the Rosie, said: “Everything ran very smoothly considering it was our first day. It was very busy too - by the time I started my shift on the Tuesday morning, eight babies had already been born!

“The feedback from all the women has been absolutely fabulous. They loved the fact they
were able to use the birthing pool and all said they felt very supported by our midwifery staff.”

The birth centre has been designed for any woman under the care of a community midwife who has enjoyed a pregnancy without complications and is expecting a normal labour.

It has 10 purpose-built birthing rooms with ensuite bathrooms, birthing pools, balls, slings and fold-down beds for use after delivery. Many of the rooms have direct access to a beautifully landscaped private courtyard garden.

For more information see www.cuh.org.uk/rosiebirthcentre