

Cllr J Henry
Chair of the Essex HOSC

Re - St Peter's Birthing Unit, Maldon

15 August 2022

Dear Cllr Henry,

I wanted to let you know about a temporary service change in mid Essex. Mid and South Essex NHS Foundation Trust (MSEFT) has made the difficult decision to temporarily suspend deliveries at the midwifery-led birthing unit at St Peter's Hospital in Maldon.

The safety of the women and babies using those maternity services is an absolute priority.

With the third largest maternity service in the country, Mid and South Essex NHS Foundation Trust is constantly reviewing their activity and staffing levels to make sure that they are providing women with the very highest standards of care.

A recruitment campaign is underway to attract more midwives to the Trust, but in the short term they want to make sure that the staffing is concentrated in the right areas to offer the safest services to woman and babies

While women will not be able to give birth at St Peter's from today, 15 August 2022, they will still be running antenatal and postnatal outpatient clinics and offering antenatal triage between 9am and 3.30pm for low-risk women.

The midwifery unit gets fantastic feedback from families who give birth at St Peter's - or go there after they have given birth - but the priority has to be to provide the very best care while they work to recruit more staff.

Mid and South Essex NHS Foundation Trust is very committed to giving women choice when it comes to having their babies and mums who were planning on going to St Peter's will still have the option to deliver at the midwifery-led unit at Broomfield Hospital or could opt for a home birth.

We would like you to know that the Mid and South Essex Integrated Care Board is supporting the hospital trust and we will keep you and members of the HOSC updated, but if you would like to discuss this further, please feel free to contact either of us.

Yours sincerely

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Oversight, Assurance and Delivery
Mid and South Essex Integrated
Care Board

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www.midandsouthessex.ics.nhs.uk | 01268 594350

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