

Dear Mother-to-be

Inviting you to have your baby at a hospital in Essex

I am writing to invite you to have your baby in a hospital in Essex rather than at Queen's Hospital, Romford, where you are currently booked.

Together with our commissioners, NHS South Essex, we are inviting all mothers-to-be who live in the area covered by Essex rather than in the London boroughs to have their baby at Basildon Hospital or at Broomfield Hospital in Chelmsford from 13th October until the end of March.

With your consent, we will pass your details to either Basildon or Broomfield, who will take over your care and contact you with more details. I am sure that they would be very happy to answer any questions you may have and to provide you with a tour of their facilities.

Please could you contact us on x to discuss this letter and indicate that we can pass your details on to Essex.

You can find out more information about Basildon by calling the midwifery team on 01268 821 553 or emailing maternity@btuh.nhs.uk. Their website is www.Basildonandthurrock.nhs.uk. In labour you can call 01268 524 900. Women who would like more information about Broomfield can call 01245 443 673 and ask for the maternity blepholder or visit www.meht.nhs.uk. In labour you can call 01245 513 056.

It is important that you bring your notes with you when you come into hospital to have your baby, whichever hospital you attend. Should you need urgent clinical attention at Queen's Hospital or if you do not agree to transfer your care to Basildon or Broomfield, you can be confident that we will continue to offer you the highest standard of care.

I appreciate that this will mean a major change in your birth plan, and I am very sorry for any inconvenience or disruption this will cause you and your family. However, I am confident that either Basildon or Broomfield will work to provide you with the best care for you and your baby. If you wanted more information about the decision to invite you to have your baby in Essex, the Essex PALS team can help by telephone on 0800 587 9159.

All the staff of Queen's and King George hospitals would like to wish you well at this special time in your life, and offer you our commitment to making our maternity service the safest and best possible environment for pregnancy and childbirth.

Stephen Burgess
Medical Director