

Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust

Statement regarding changes to women's and children's services at East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust

Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust (BSUH) is committed to supporting the provision of safe and high quality women's and children's services across Sussex. We support ESHT in addressing the current clinical challenges which have been set out in the Board papers, statements and supporting information issued by them on 4 March 2013.

In response to the specific questions raised by East Sussex Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

1. Whether the proposal and its impact has been discussed with BSUH

BSUH and ESHT clinical teams have over the last year been in discussion about the appropriate pathways for women and children's services as part of the 'Sussex Together' programme supported by NHS Sussex. The senior clinical teams of ESHT and BSUH met on 7 March 2013 to discuss the current challenges and put together temporary interim measures that can be delivered by neighbouring providers in the short term.

2. What the anticipated impact on BSUH will be

ESHT is proposing that the majority of women currently booked at Eastbourne will deliver at Conquest Hospital in Hastings. A smaller number of women will be cared for at Eastbourne's proposed Birthing Centre. The remainder, taking into account patient choice and residence, are likely to opt for BSUH. We note the assumptions in the ESHT Board paper and are working with ESHT to confirm the likely number of women that will access our services. In the meantime we are working up plans to ensure that we have sufficient capacity to meet the anticipated demand.

We also anticipate that there will be a small increase in those accessing emergency gynaecology, emergency paediatrics and neonatal services at BSUH and this will be addressed in our plans.

3. Whether BSUH is able to manage this impact, or what needs to be in place to be able to manage it

ESHT and BSUH are meeting on the 27 March 2013 to confirm the likely number of women who will choose to deliver at BSUH based on feedback from women who were scheduled to deliver at EDGH. As this is confirmed, BSUH will put together plans to address the impact on our women's and children's services. This includes how we organise our resources at Princess Royal Hospital and the Royal Sussex County Hospital.

4. Any issues or concerns which need to be addressed before the temporary reconfiguration goes live

We will continue to work with ESHT to validate the assumptions that have previously been shared with us. We will need to ensure that we are able to meet the anticipated increase in women and children accessing our services so that we continue to provide high quality, safe and effective care.