

Representation from Kerry Motta

I live in Waltham on the Wolds Leicestershire. I am very concerned about the proposed removal of St. Mary's birth centre from Melton Mowbray and the impact that would have on families not only from Melton but throughout Leicestershire and Rutland.

Page 475 of Appendix O in the Pre-Consultation Business Case documents details the impact on women currently using St. Marys. It states,

“the negative impact, in the case of midwifery services, is related to giving birth only.”

However, the removal of the option of inpatient care on a postnatal ward is actually a significant reduction in postnatal care choice for all women across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland, many of whom currently transfer to St Mary's specifically for its postnatal services, regardless of where they have delivered their baby. The CQC in its inspection of St. Mary's singled out its postnatal care as particularly beneficial for mothers with complex conditions such as mental illness and physical disabilities.

The current proposals go beyond simply relocating the stand-alone birth centre, signalling an end for mothers being able to receive on-ward, intensive, 24-hour support for breastfeeding and post-partum recovery, alongside other mums going through the same. We may be offered breastfeeding in the community support and 'hubs' but that does not help a struggling Mum between for example 2am and 6am in the morning or build bonds with other mothers that may be of great help to you and your baby long term. Many mums credit their stays at St Mary's as being instrumental in their breastfeeding success and ongoing positive mental health. Both these areas have well-documented long-term outcomes for baby and mother.

So my questions would be:

- a) **Why remove such a highly valued and successful postnatal care option from the women of Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland, when these changes are aimed at INCREASING choice?**
- b) **Why is there no mention of this in the consultation document to inform people of the proposed changes in delivery of postnatal care?**

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