
NEONATAL INTENSIVE CARE - CONSULTATION

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Council has been invited to comment by 12 November on proposals for a new service for Essex for newborn and premature babies.
- 1.2 A copy of the full consultation document has been placed in the Members' Library. A representative from Essex Strategic Health Authority will be attending the meeting to make a presentation and answer questions.

2 PROPOSAL

- 2.1 The NHS in Essex is proposing to develop a network of hospital care for newborn babies (neonatal intensive care) linking all five main hospitals in Essex.
- 2.2 The proposal, which has been recommended by an expert evaluation panel, is for a new neonatal intensive care centre, providing the highest level of care (level 3), at Broomfield Hospital in Chelmsford.
- 2.3 This centre would lead the network of five hospitals in Essex that provide level 1 and 2 standards of neonatal care.
- 2.4 Each local hospital would continue to provide high dependency and short-term intensive care. Babies that need longer periods of intensive care would transfer to the Chelmsford Centre. After a period of intensive care, babies would return to their local hospital and continue to attend there for any follow-ups after they have returned home.
- 2.5 As part of the proposed service the neonatal transfer service, which currently operates 12 hours a day, would increase to 24 hours per day, seven days a week.
- 2.6 If the new service is approved, it is anticipated that the new level 3 centre in Chelmsford would be operational by 2009.

3 CONSULTATION

- 3.1 Essex Strategic Health Authority is seeking views on the proposals.

4 RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**

To consider the proposals for a new Neonatal Intensive Care Service and make comments to Essex Strategic Health Authority.

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Background Papers:-

Letter and consultation paper from Essex Strategic Health Authority, August 2004.

For further information please contact Graham Woolhouse on:-

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