



## News Release

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For Immediate Release

### Next steps for maternity plans

The Secretary of State's decision to save Eastbourne's maternity services, has forced local Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) to rethink their plans.

The PCTs now have till the 4th of October to publish a plan saying how they will develop new proposals that keep consultant-led maternity services, special care baby services and inpatient gynaecology services in both Hastings and Eastbourne.

East Sussex Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) - the organisation which called on the Secretary of State to review the proposals - will be closely watching what happens next.

The strong case made by the Committee on behalf of local people, based on months of research, was key to overturning the proposals. HOSC will now turn its attention to ensuring progress on the development of new plans.

To this end, HOSC will be meeting with the PCTs' Strategy and Projects Manager, Michael Wilson, and Lynne Regent, their Director of Development. This will take place in County Hall on Tuesday 16th September at 10 a.m., as part of HOSC's regular quarterly meetings. Anyone wishing to watch the discussions can do so online via the HOSC website [www.eastsussexhealth.org](http://www.eastsussexhealth.org) or by attending the meeting in person.

Cllr Sylvia Tidy, HOSC chair, spoke of the committee's new focus, saying:

"As a watchdog, HOSC has real power to call to account local health services - as recent events have shown! In fact, the Secretary of State agreed with HOSC on all of its main points of concern, showing that the research we did, and the discussions we undertook with local people gave us a very strong insight into the matters at stake.

Our priority now is to work with the Primary Care Trusts' to ensure local people continue to receive the high standards of maternity care they need - at both Eastbourne and Hastings."

#### Notes for editors

- HOSC is made up of members of local district and borough councils as well as the county council, with additional members representing the voluntary sector, and the Local Involvement Network (LINK).
- HOSC supports local people, by examining all major health-care decisions taken within the county. It acts as a 'critical friend' by suggesting ways that health related services might be improved. It also looks at the way the health service interacts with the County Council's social care services, the voluntary sector, independent providers and other council services to jointly



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provide better health services to meet the diverse needs of East Sussex residents and improve their well-being.

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