

# **Public consultation to seek your views and ideas on our proposals for future arrangements for inpatient services at our community hospitals, freestanding midwife-led birthing, and other patient services provided at St Peter's Hospital, Maldon.**

**..... your views are important.**

This survey is part of the public consultation which will run from **25th January to 21st March 2024**

If you need this survey in another language or another format such as large print or audio, please call **01268 594350** or email:  
**[mseics.getinvolved@nhs.net](mailto:mseics.getinvolved@nhs.net)**

This is a public consultation to ask your views and ideas on:

- our proposals for potential changes to the locations where we provide some of our inpatient services for community hospital intermediate care and stroke rehabilitation, and freestanding midwife-led birthing services; and
- the possibility of moving all other patient services at St Peter's Hospital, Maldon to other locations, mostly in and around Maldon.

**We recommend that you read the Consultation Document before responding to the questions.**

## **Data processing statement**

Mid and South Essex Integrated Care Board have commissioned Stand to assist with running the consultation. Stand are independent patient involvement and public engagement specialists acting on their behalf to run this survey and analyse the feedback.

Stand will keep your information confidential.

Stand will process any information you provide in line with the latest data protection regulations. Stand will use your information only for the analysis of this survey. Stand will never share your contact details for marketing purposes. They will keep any personal information that could identify you for no more than one year after the involvement activity has finished.



For more information about the way Stand uses the information you provide, your rights, and how to complain, please visit [wearestand.co.uk/mydata](https://wearestand.co.uk/mydata)

**1. In what capacity are you answering the questions? Please select the option below which best describes how you are responding to this survey. \***

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Current or former patient / service user  | <input type="checkbox"/> Social worker                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carer / family member   | <input type="checkbox"/> NHS provider organisation     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Member of the public  | <input type="checkbox"/> Private provider organisation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Councillor  | <input type="checkbox"/> NHS commissioner              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Staff   | <input type="checkbox"/> Charity commissioned services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clinician   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other public body  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student   | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Primary care provider (including GP/GP practice, high street optometrist, pharmacist etc) |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):   |  |

Maldon District Council – Local Government

**2. If you are responding on behalf of a team, campaign group, or organisation please state the name of your team / campaign group / organisation:**

Maldon District Council – Local Government

**3. Which of these services would you like to share your views with us on? \***

- ☒ Stroke rehabilitation and intermediate care inpatient services – **Please answer questions 4, 5 and 6 and question 9 onwards**
- ☒ Midwifery-led birthing unit – **Please answer question 7 and question 9 onwards**
- ☒ The other patient services provided at St Peter's Hospital, Maldon – **Please answer question 8 and question 9 onwards**

## Community hospital stroke rehabilitation and intermediate care inpatient services

On page 45 of the Consultation Document, we set out the options for community hospital stroke rehabilitation and intermediate care inpatient services.

We are consulting on two options for arranging intermediate care beds and stroke rehabilitation beds at our community hospitals. These are in addition to the independent living and rehabilitation support we and our local councils already provide to patients at home, in residential care places, and in community clinics.

Option

**A**

This option would mean:

**50**



A single, **50-bed Stroke rehabilitation unit** at Brentwood Community Hospital, Brentwood.

**22**



**22 intermediate care beds** at Cumberlege Intermediate Care Centre, Rochford.



Permanently closing the stroke rehabilitation ward at St Peter's Hospital, Maldon.

Location	Facility	Stroke rehabilitation beds	Intermediate care beds
Billericay	Mountnessing Court	-	22
Brentwood	Brentwood Community Hospital	50	-
Grays	Thurrock Community Hospital	-	24
Halstead	Halstead Hospital	-	20
Maldon	St Peter's Hospital	-	-
Rochford	Cumberlege Intermediate Care Centre	-	22
<b>Total</b>		<b>50</b>	<b>88</b>
<b>Combined Total</b>		<b>138</b>	

Option

**B**

This option would mean:

**25**



A **25-bed stroke rehabilitation unit** at Brentwood Community Hospital, Brentwood.

**25**



**25 intermediate care beds** at Brentwood Community Hospital, Brentwood.

**22**



A **22-bed stroke rehabilitation unit** at Cumberlege Intermediate Care Centre, Rochford.



Permanently closing the stroke rehabilitation ward at St Peter's Hospital, Maldon.

Location	Facility	Stroke rehabilitation beds	Intermediate care beds
Billericay	Mountnessing Court	-	22
Brentwood	Brentwood Community Hospital	25	25
Grays	Thurrock Community Hospital	-	24
Halstead	Halstead Hospital	-	20
Maldon	St Peter's Hospital	-	-
Rochford	Cumberlege Intermediate Care Centre	22	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>47</b>	<b>91</b>
		<b>138</b>	

#### 4. How would you rate Option A for people living in mid and south Essex? \*

It is a very poor solution	It is a poor solution	It is neither a poor nor a good solution	It is a good solution	It is a very good solution	Don't know / Prefer not to say
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

#### 5. How would you rate Option B for people living in mid and south Essex? \*

It is a very poor solution	It is a poor solution	It is neither a poor nor a good solution	It is a good solution	It is a very good solution	Don't know / Prefer not to say
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

#### 6. Please tell us which of the two options you feel is closest to meeting the needs of our local population. \*

- ☐ Option A
- ☐ Option B
- ☒ Neither

#### Please tell us the reasons for your answer.

The Maldon District local authority is one of the 7 district and boroughs served by the MSE NHS ICB and 2 primary care networks. The Council represents the needs of residents of the Maldon District.

The Council's reasons for stating both options A and B as **“a very poor solution”** and also **“neither”** of the two options meeting the needs of the local population is based on both options A & B operate outside of the Maldon District. Neither option A or B includes services moving back to St Peter's Hospital or within the Maldon District.

The Council understands that the Stroke and ICB beds serve the whole of the Mid and South Essex area however, both options A and B have a significant impact on the following:

1. Maldon District has the highest level of ageing population in Mid and South Essex.
2. Option A and B could increase pressure on beds without the St Peter's/facility in the Maldon District.
3. The Maldon District is rural and has a significant lack of transport infrastructure and

transport services, putting both patients at risk and this is a distinct disadvantage for carers and relatives that wish to visit patients.

4. The district's lack of transport infrastructure is the basis for the area's Levelling Up, category Priority 1 status, as designated by government.
5. The Maldon district currently has the longest on average travel time to key services in the county. The average travel time is 30 minutes, in comparison to 21 minutes for the rest of the county of Essex. Both options A and B will exacerbate this.
6. If a resident travels from Bradwell on Sea to Brentwood the journey time by car and by public transport are:  
By car, the 34-mile journey takes 50 minutes to one hour to get to Brentwood.  
By public transport, the journey can take on average between 2 and 2.5 hours. It requires taking unreliable bus services, trains either to Shenfield or Brentwood and then walking/bus or a taxi for the final mile to the hospital.
7. Relatives not being able to visit patients is proven to impede recovery. Family and friends of patients provide the support that NHS staff have come to rely on when bedside care and comfort is needed.

## Midwife-led birthing unit

On page 60 of the Consultation Document, we set out the information regarding the freestanding midwife-led birthing unit.

We are consulting on one option for the location of a freestanding midwife-led birthing unit in our area: A freestanding midwife-led birthing unit to be based at the William Julien Courtauld Birthing unit in St Michael's Health Centre at Braintree Community Hospital.

This option would mean:

- Eligible people would have the choice to travel to Braintree to give birth, supported by their midwives.
- Where there are complications that need hospital support, patients would transfer to Broomfield Hospital, Chelmsford.

### 7. How would you rate the proposal for the permanent relocation of a midwife-led birthing unit to Braintree for people living in mid and south Essex? \*

It is a very poor solution	It is a poor solution	It is neither a poor nor a good solution	It is a good solution	It is a very good solution	Don't know / Prefer not to say
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

#### Please tell us the reasons for your answer.

The Council has selected the statement **"It is a very poor solution."**

The residents of the Maldon District deserve to have good pre-natal, birthing and aftercare services that are accessible to women within the district. Before moving this service to Braintree, the Mid-wife led birthing unit service had been run down at St Peter's hospital.

It is understood that many women often don't have a choice when it comes to their birthing plan and often plans change depending on the individual circumstances of the birth. As with all of the Council's responses, lack of transport infrastructure and transport options for residents is a reason for our response to this question, as it puts future births at risk due to the lack of local services that would have previously assessed the onset of labour at the earliest opportunity.

If a Bradwell on Sea resident goes into labour, the car journey to Braintree will take 60 minutes.

The Council's understanding is that normal labour isn't classed as an emergency and therefore ambulances will only transport emergency labours where the mother or baby are

at risk.

The permanent move of the Mid-wife led birthing unit does not consider future housing growth in the Maldon District and the subsequent population growth. Housing growth/future demand will increase, and young families, and women will require vital maternity services. This will require continuous monitoring year on year.

## All other patient services at St Peter's Hospital, Maldon

On page 66 of the Consultation Document we set out the information regarding all other patient services at St Peter's Hospital, Maldon.

If the proposals for community hospital stroke rehabilitation, intermediate care inpatient services and the permanent relocation of a midwife-led birthing unit go ahead, it will mean the possibility of moving all the other patient services provided at St Peter's Hospital, Maldon to other locations in and around Maldon.

A major reason for this is the condition of the buildings at St Peter's Hospital.

Some work has started to think about potential new homes for these services in and around Maldon. That work continues.

If there is a decision to move all the services the Integrated Care Board is responsible for at St Peter's Hospital to other locations, it's likely that Mid and South Essex NHS Foundation Trust, the owner of St Peter's Hospital, will decide to close the hospital permanently.

Before any decision is made on the consultation proposals, we would like to know people's views about the prospect of moving all services out of St Peter's Hospital.

**8. Please select one of the following statements that most closely matches your view about moving all other patient services out of St Peter's Hospital: \***

It is a very bad idea	It is a bad idea	It is neither a bad nor a good idea	It is a good idea	It is a very good idea	Don't know / Prefer not to say
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



**Please tell us the reasons for your answer.**

The Council has selected the statement “**It is neither a bad nor a good idea**” as we see question 8 as presenting two questions to answer, not one.

Our answer to the question 8 is set out as 1 and 2 below:

1. The Council did not want to see services move out of its local hospital, which is now set to close, so is therefore ‘**it is a very bad idea.**’
2. However, the Council does want services to stay within the Maldon District, so therefore this ‘**it is a very good idea.**’

The residents of the Maldon District have been let-down as St Peter’s hospital has been neglected and allowed to deteriorate.

However, the Council understands that the consultation response isn’t about the building. Retaining ambulatory/outpatient services locally within the town and district, is the priority.

- Maldon District Council is working with the MSE NHS ICB to identify possible assets and locations within the Maldon town and district, subject to commercial sensitivities.
- The Council want to see the NHS acting in a more integrated way to serve local communities.
- Maldon District Council is a partner in what is referred a “whole system approach” and has made a commitment to make best use of its assets in its current 2023-2027 Corporate Plan, entitled “Where Quality of Life Matters”.

The MSE NHS ICB is aware that the Maldon District has the largest number of ageing population across the MSE area.

The Council foresees some services being easier to reallocate than others, for example mental health services.

Services must be retained locally as housing growth and future demand for NHS services will only increase. Local families will want to move to where services are available.

If services are retained locally and other health development sites progress in the district, to meet demand, then the Council would also want to see a diagnostics centre come forward. If services are not retained locally, the Council is seriously concerned about the impact this will have on already over-subscribed GP and primary care services.



## Will you or your family be affected by these proposals?

**9. Please tell us if you think any of our proposals would affect you, your family or other people you know, either positively or negatively. Please tell us how they would affect you and why you think this.**

**Please make sure you include in your response which proposals your comments are about:**

- Intermediate care
- Stroke rehabilitation
- Midwife-led birthing unit
- All other patient services \*

The are factors that negatively impact the residents of the Maldon District. When identifying sites and permanent solutions for the residents of the Maldon District, the Council asks the MSE NHS ICB to take into account:

The ageing population will struggle to get to and access services;

Travel times to services will increase risks to patient outcomes;

To acknowledge the lack of travel options and transport infrastructure versus other areas of Mid and South Essex;

The detrimental impact of moving services out of the district creating further negative health outcomes;

There is a concern that pharmacies and GPs will be overwhelmed with returning/repeat patient queries when referrals to local outpatient services would have been the response prior to the changes being made.

## Other suggestions

**10. We have explained how we have developed our proposals and we remain open to other suggestions. Please tell us if you have any other solutions, you feel we should consider.**

There isn't a published target date for when St Peter's hospital will officially close. Local interim solutions will be needed for the services that will move the soonest. Local solutions could be enabled sooner rather than later, and if St Peter's isn't operating come next winter, then local assets will be needed quickly to get services set up and running.

1. Maldon District Council is exploring potential ideas that utilise the public estate. These are subject to commercial sensitivities.
2. The Council has a significant public asset that is the Princes Road Council offices. Any comment relating to identifying possible sites across the public estate are subject to commercial sensitivities and are not at this stage part of the planning process.  
The Council office already operates as a community hub and the site can offer considerable space and parking to enable services to be retained locally.  
The Council offices are in a prime location for access to and from the high street. There are two GP surgeries and a pharmacy in close proximity.  
The Council offices could expand (up and out) subject to guidelines.  
The Council can explore which services could potentially move to the Blackwater Leisure Centre as there is usable space there; for example, physiotherapy.
3. If services are retained locally, there is a longer-term opportunity to develop a health campus in the town, with the added potential to request a diagnostics centre.
4. If services are retained locally, these can support and link into the surgery development in Heybridge in 2026.
5. Utilising Council assets could enable the long list of outpatient (ambulatory) services to be sensibly grouped together and to also identify services that can operate from a range of locations within the Maldon town and the district.
6. Any solution retaining services within the district should seek funding from the NHS for a funded bus service to ensure residents can travel to services and for equality, diversity and inclusion requirements to be considered and met.
7. There is an opportunity to be more efficient by making best use of technology for residents who wish to use services but are the opposite end of the patient/user experience who would prefer online appointments and diagnostics – This would free up resource for vulnerable, older, non-technology able residents.

## About you

Why are we asking these questions?

1. It helps us understand how different groups of people experience things in different ways.
2. It helps us ensure that we are representing different groups in the community, especially those whose voice is sometimes not heard.
3. It helps us refine recommendations to suit different groups of people.

The following questions are optional but knowing a bit more about you helps us to understand your feedback better. Be assured that the information you give us is collected anonymously and cannot be used to identify you personally.

The information you provide will be protected and stored securely in line with data protection laws and will only be used to help us analyse your feedback.

**11. Please provide us with these parts of your postcode – this is used to make sure that we have gathered views from all areas and have a fair representation from all communities.**

**Your postcode comes in two parts. Please give us: \***

The first part of your postcode (e.g., **CM9** 6EG) \_\_\_\_\_

The number from the second part of your postcode (e.g. CM9 **6**EG) \_\_\_\_\_

**12. What was your age group at your last birthday?**

- |                                   |                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 16 to 24 | <input type="checkbox"/> 45 to 54 | <input type="checkbox"/> 75 to 84                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 25 to 34 | <input type="checkbox"/> 55 to 64 | <input type="checkbox"/> 85 and over                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 35 to 44 | <input type="checkbox"/> 65 to 74 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say |

**13. Are you currently pregnant or have you given birth in the last year?**

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☒ Does not apply
- ☐ Prefer not to say

**14. Please choose one of the following options that most accurately describes your ethnic group or background.**

- ☐ White - English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British
- ☐ White - Irish
- ☐ White - Gypsy or Irish Traveller
- ☐ White - Roma
- ☐ Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - White and Black Caribbean
- ☐ Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - White and Black African
- ☐ Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - White and Asian
- ☐ Asian or British Asian - Indian
- ☐ Asian or British Asian - Pakistani
- ☐ Asian or British Asian - Bangladeshi
- ☐ Asian or British Asian - Chinese
- ☐ Black, Black British Caribbean or African - African
- ☐ Black, Black British Caribbean or African - Caribbean
- ☐ Arab
- ☒ Prefer not to say
- ☐ Any other ethnic group, please describe:  

N/A responding an organisation

**15. Which of the following options best describes how you think of yourself?**

- ☐ Bisexual
- ☐ Gay or lesbian
- ☐ Heterosexual or straight
- ☒ Prefer not to say

**16. Is your gender identity the same as the gender you were assigned at birth?**

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☒ Prefer not to say

**17. Which of the following options best describes how you think of yourself?**

- ☐ Woman (including trans woman)
- ☐ Man (including trans man)
- ☐ Non-binary
- ☒ Prefer not to say

**18. What is your religion?**

- ☐ Buddhist
- ☐ Christian
- ☐ Hindu
- ☐ Jewish
- ☐ Muslim
- ☐ Sikh
- ☐ No religion
- ☐ Prefer not to say
- ☒ Other (please specify):

**19. What is your main language?**

- ☐ English
- ☐ Prefer not to say
- ☒ Other (please specify):

**20. Do you have any physical or mental health conditions or illnesses lasting or expected to last 12 months or more?**

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☒ Prefer not to say

**21. If you have answered yes to the question above, does your condition or illness/do any of your conditions or illnesses reduce your ability to carry out day-to-day activities?**

- ☐ Yes, a lot
- ☐ Yes, a little
- ☐ No
- ☒ Prefer not to say

**22. Which of the following best describes your current financial situation?**

- ☐ I have more than enough money for basic necessities, and a lot spare, that I can save or spend on extras or leisure
- ☐ I have more than enough money for basic necessities, and a little spare, that I can save or spend on extras or leisure
- ☐ I have just enough money for basic necessities and little else
- ☐ I don't have enough money for basic necessities and sometimes or often run out of money
- ☒ Prefer not to say
- ☐ Not known