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NHS Mid and South Essex ICB
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Councillor Richard Siddal
By email only
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18 September 2024

Dear Councillor Siddal

I hope this letter finds you well. Further to our recent conversations I am writing on behalf of NHS Mid and South Essex Integrated Care Board (ICB) to confirm we have decided to delay the final decision on the reconfiguration of community hospital beds, midwife led birthing unit and ambulatory care services for six months.

Since I have come into post last month, I've been reviewing some of the decisions in train. While much work has been done, including significant input from our local communities, it is clear to me that more time is needed to explore further the suggestions made and to develop more comprehensive solutions together.

To that end, we are proposing to form a working group that will focus on further engagement and co-development with an emphasis on:

- Reviewing the facts and feedback on options for maternity and community beds to help further inform the decision on these services.
- Exploring the options for the pathways of care for patients across mid and south Essex for stroke and intermediate care and how strengthening community-based care may inform the decision on these services.
- Make outline recommendations on a deliverable model for the provision of healthcare estate in the Maldon district specifically.

Your insights and expertise will be invaluable to this process, and I would like to therefore invite from your organisation part of the working group.

The group will include representatives from the NHS, local authorities, community groups, and other key stakeholders, and will be led by an independent chair to ensure balanced and thorough consideration of all perspectives.

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Chair: Professor Michael Thorne CBE | CEO: Tom Abell

We plan to convene the first meeting within the next few weeks, which will initially focus on developing the detailed terms of reference for this work. If your organisation can participate, please confirm your interest by Friday, 27th September to [me](#).

In the meantime, I can confirm there will be no immediate changes to any provision and services will continue as they are during this extended engagement period.

I appreciate your ongoing support during this work and look forward to working with you over the coming months. Your contribution will help shape the future of healthcare services in our community, ensuring they are both sustainable and aligned with the needs of our diverse population.

Yours sincerely,

Tom Abell
Chief Executive
NHS Mid and South Essex Integrated Care Board