

## Questionnaire on the impact of the pause in services at St Mary's Birth Centre

This questionnaire is about the pause in services at St Mary's Birth Centre, Melton, since July 2025.

We would like to understand how you have been impacted by the pause. Your feedback will help us shape the best way forward.

We encourage you to read the full briefing before completing this questionnaire. There you will find:

- Why services were paused and the challenges that have worsened since 2021.
- How national changes and funding constraints affect the original plans agreed following the Building Better Hospitals for the Future consultation.
- Our proposed approach to ensure maternity services remain safe, sustainable and fair for all families.

### **Overview**

In 2021, following the Building Better Hospitals for the Future public consultation, it was decided that births at St Mary's would relocate to a new, standalone midwifery-led centre at Leicester General Hospital, to be built under the national New Hospitals Programme. However, for the reasons detailed in the full briefing, this can no longer be implemented.

We now need to confirm how to implement the 2021 decision as far as possible and in a safe, sustainable and fair way.

We plan to relocate births to the existing midwifery-led unit at Leicester General Hospital. As births would no longer take place at St Mary's Birth Centre, this would also mean provision of inpatient postnatal care would cease. Other community-based services in Melton will remain unchanged, including antenatal and postnatal clinics, home visits and infant feeding support, ensuring continuity of care for families in the area.

Equity remains central to this plan, ensuring that maternity care is fair and inclusive for every community. Our priority is safe, sustainable maternity care for all families, while honouring the consultation outcome as far as possible.

## Have your say

Before we move forward, we want to understand what the pause at St Mary's Birth Centre has meant for women and birthing people, their families, and staff who were directly affected. These experiences will help us make sure the next steps are clear, fair, and informed by those most impacted.

This questionnaire may be completed by:

- Those who were planning or considering giving birth at St Mary's Birth Centre between July 2025 and September 2026 but were (or are) unable to do so because of the pause
- Family members or carers of these individuals
- Those who used St Mary's Birth Centre between January 2021 and July 2025
- Family members and carers of these individuals
- Staff who worked at St Mary's Birth Centre before the pause in service
- Staff and students working in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland maternity services

The questionnaire should take 5 to 10 minutes to complete. All responses are anonymous.

The deadline is 11pm on Sunday 15 February 2026.

To complete the online version of this questionnaire, visit: [www.bit.ly/smbc-impact](http://www.bit.ly/smbc-impact)

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## Data Protection Statement

Questionnaire data is being collected by NHS Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Integrated Care Board (ICB). The ICB has commissioned an independent organisation to handle and process the responses. Any information you provide will be handled in accordance with General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018.

The questionnaire may ask you to provide equality and demographic profiling data (age, gender, ethnicity, etc.). This information is used to ensure the responses are representative of the local demographics (a study of the local population). You do not have to provide this information to take part in the questionnaire, but it helps the NHS to ensure that any decisions made meet the needs of a diverse community.

Any reports published using the insights from the questionnaire will not contain personally identifiable information and will only show feedback in an anonymous format. These anonymised results may be shared publicly, for example, on NHS public facing websites or printed and distributed.

Your involvement is voluntary. You don't need to answer all the questions. All information collected via the questionnaire will be held for a period of five years from the date the questionnaire closes, in line with the Records Management Code of Practice for Health and Social Care 2020, which all NHS organisations work under.

**By returning this questionnaire, you agree with the data protection information provided.**

### 1. Who is completing this questionnaire? *Select one*

*If more than one option could apply, please choose the option that best reflects why you are responding today. You can tell us about any previous experience of St Mary's in the free-text questions later in the survey.*

- Myself, a family member, or the person I care for had **decided** to give birth at St Mary's Birth Centre before being notified about the pause in service
- Myself, a family member, or the person I care for were **considering** giving birth at St Mary's Birth Centre between July 2025 and September 2026
- Myself, a family member, or the person I care for **used** St Mary's Birth Centre between **January 2021 and July 2025**
- I worked at St Mary's Birth Centre prior to the pause in service (*please skip question 2 and question 5*)
- Staff and students working in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland maternity services (*please skip question 2 and question 5*)
- None of the above (*you do not meet the criteria for this questionnaire\* see page 11*)

2. **If you have previously used St Mary's Birth Centre:**  
**Thinking about your experience at St Mary's Birth Centre, what stands out to you most about the care you received there?** For example, you might want to tell us about the way care was provided, the setting or atmosphere, or how you felt during your care.

3. **To what extent do you feel you and/or your family have been impacted by the pause in service at St Mary's Birth Centre?** *Select one*
- Significantly impacted
  - Somewhat impacted
  - Not impacted at all (*go to Q5*)
  - Not sure

4. **Please describe how the pause in services at St Mary's Birth Centre has impacted you and/or your family.** What did you value most about St Mary's, and what, if anything, do you feel is missing or harder to find at other birthing sites or hospitals?

**5. Why did you and/or your family choose or consider choosing St Mary's Birth Centre instead of other birthing sites? *Select all that apply***

Accessibility

- Travel to St Mary's Birth Centre was easier or more convenient for me
- Travel or parking concerns relating to other birthing sites or hospitals

Experience

- I've had a previous positive experience at St Mary's Birth Centre
- I've had a previous negative experience at another birthing site or hospital
- It was recommended to me by someone I trust

Quality of care

- I believe there is a high quality of care at St Mary's Birth Centre
- I had concerns about the quality of care at other birthing sites or hospitals

Environment

- I prefer the environment at St Mary's Birth Centre (e.g. less clinical than a hospital)

Other

- Other reason(s) - please specify:

6. We plan to relocate births and inpatient care from St Mary's to the existing maternity unit at Leicester General Hospital. Considering this relocation, **do you have any suggestions to improve birth and inpatient maternity services** at Leicester General Hospital, Leicester Royal Infirmary, or for home births?

### Equality monitoring

The following questions ask about you, such as your age and gender. Your responses will help us understand who is taking part in this questionnaire, so that we can ensure we're hearing from and can improve services for all communities. Please answer as many of the questions as you feel comfortable with.

If you are completing this questionnaire on behalf of someone else, please complete the equality monitoring form about them.

**7. What is your sex? *Select one***

- Male
- Female
- Prefer not to say

**8. Do you identify as the gender you were assigned at birth? *Select one***

- Yes
- No (please tell us your gender identity):

- Prefer not to say

**9. What is your age? *Select one***

- 16 – 19 years
- 20 – 24 years
- 25 – 34 years
- 35 – 39 years
- 40 – 49 years
- 50 – 64 years
- 65 – 74 years
- 85+ years
- Prefer not to say

**10. What is your religion or belief? *Select one***

- No religion
- Bahá'í
- Buddhist
- Christian
- Hindu
- Jain
- Jewish
- Muslim
- Sikh
- Other (please specify):

- Prefer not to say

**11. What is your ethnicity? *Select one***

Asian or Asian British

- Bangladeshi
- Chinese
- Indian
- Pakistani
- Any other Asian background (please specify):

Black or Black British

- African background
- Caribbean
- Somali
- Any other Black background (please specify):

Mixed

- Asian and White
- Black African and White
- Black Caribbean and White
- Any other Mixed or multiple background (please specify):

White

- British, English, Northern Irish, Scottish, Welsh
- Irish
- Gypsy/Traveller
- Roma
- Polish
- Any other White background (please specify):

Other

- Arab
- Any other ethnicity (please specify):

- Prefer not to say

**12. Do you consider yourself to have a disability or suffer from poor health?**  
*Select all that apply*

The Equality Act 2010 states a person has a disability if they have a physical or mental impairment which has a long term (12-month period or longer) or substantial adverse effects on their ability to carry out day to day activities.

- Yes – I have a disability
- Yes – I am in poor health
- No (*go to Q14*)
- Prefer not to say (*go to Q14*)

**13. Which disability/condition(s) do you have? *Select all that apply***

- Physical
- Partial or total loss of vision
- Learning disability/difficulty
- Partial or total loss of hearing
- Mental health condition
- Speech impediment or impairment
- Long standing illness or condition
- Other medical condition or impairment (please specify):

- Prefer not to say

**14. Do you provide unpaid care to someone who could not manage without your support? *Select one***

This could be a family member, partner or friend of any age who needs help because of illness, frailty, disability, mental health problems or addiction.

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

**15. What is your sexual orientation (preference)? *Select one***

- Bisexual (relationship with any gender/s)
- Gay or lesbian (same sex relationship)
- Heterosexual/straight
- Other (please specify)

- Prefer not to say

**16. Which of the following applies to you? *Select one***

- I am regular serving personnel in HM Armed Forces
- I am a reserve in HM Armed Forces
- I have previously served in HM Armed Forces (a veteran)
- I am in an Armed Forces family (a spouse, civil partner or child of serving personnel)

- I am Ministry of Defence (MOD) employed civilian personnel
- I have a different connection to HM Armed Forces (please specify):

- None of the above (I have no connection to the Armed Forces Community)
- Prefer not to say

**17. Which area do you live in?**

- Blaby
- Leicester City
- Charnwood
- Harborough
- Hinckley & Bosworth
- Melton
- North West Leicestershire
- Oadby & Wigston
- Rutland
- Other (please specify)

- Prefer not to say

\*The purpose of this engagement is to hear from people who are directly impacted by the pause in service.  
The Building Better Hospitals public consultation in 2021 provided the wider public with the opportunity to comment on changes to St Mary's Birth Centre, therefore, we are not currently seeking further views from the wider public.

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End of questionnaire

Thank you for your time in completing this questionnaire. Your feedback is valuable. A report of findings will be published on our website.

Please return this questionnaire to arrive by **15 February 2026** to:

Freepost Plus RUEE-ZAUY-BXEG

St Mary's Birthing Unit questionnaire, NHS LLR ICB

Room G30, Pen Lloyd Building, County Hall

Glenfield, Leicester LE3 8TB