

ADVICE ON PROPOSALS FOR CHANGES TO MATERNITY, SPECIAL CARE BABY SERVICES AND INPATIENT GYNAECOLOGY SERVICES IN EAST SUSSEX

Submitted to the Secretary of State for Health 31 July 2008

Recommendations

- 1. The IRP does not support the PCTs' proposals to reconfigure consultant-led maternity, special care baby services and inpatient gynaecology services from Eastbourne District General Hospital to the Conquest Hospital at Hastings. The Panel does not consider that the proposals have made a clear case for safer and more sustainable services for the people of East Sussex. The proposals reduce accessibility compared with current service provision.**
- 2. The Panel strongly supports the PCTs' decision to improve antenatal and postnatal care and associated outreach services. These improvements should be carried forward without delay.**
- 3. Consultant-led maternity, special care baby, inpatient gynaecology and related services must be retained on both sites. The PCTs must continue to work with stakeholders to develop a local model offering choice to service users, which will improve and ensure the safety, sustainability and quality of services.**
- 4. The PCTs with their stakeholders must develop as a matter of urgency a comprehensive local strategy for maternity and related services in East Sussex that supports the delivery of the above recommendations. The South East Coast SHA must ensure that the PCTs collaborate to produce a sound strategic framework for maternity and related services in the SHA area.**
- 5. The PCTs working with all stakeholders, both health providers and community representatives, must develop a strategy to ensure open and effective communication and engagement with the people of East Sussex in taking forward the Panel's recommendations.**
- 6. Within one month of the publication of this report, the PCTs must publish a plan, including a timescale, for taking forward the work proposed in the Panel's recommendations.**