

Appendix 1

Margate birth unit to be delivered in months

[Isle of Thanet Gazette](#)

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A FLAGSHIP birthing centre will open in Margate in September.

The new midwife-led centre will be located in Thanet after a three-month NHS consultation on the future of maternity care in East Kent concluded.

The NHS will invest more than £700,000 a year in employing 30 midwives at Ashford and Margate to ensure one-to-one care for expectant mothers.

A consultant-led ward next door will offer easy access to emergency and neonatal intensive care.

Ramsgate county councillor and Labour health spokeswoman Elizabeth Green campaigned for Thanet to retain its maternity services.

Mrs Green said: "I am delighted that this has now been given the go-ahead as this is desperately needed.

"We have, by far, a greater need of these facilities, as statistically we have a far larger number of births, including a number to young mothers.

"Mothers can now give birth in the less formal birthing unit, while having consultant-led facilities close at hand in case they are needed."

Dr Sarah Montgomery, an east Kent GP who chaired the Maternity Services Review Group, said: "People agreed we needed to change. They also agreed the Margate unit should open and that mothers like the choice of having a midwife-led unit near a consultant-led unit as they could enjoy the benefits of a natural, calm and home-like birth with the reassurance of rapid access to doctors if need be.

EKHFT's head of midwifery, Lindsey Stevens, added: "We are introducing a number of changes, including an improved helpline staffed by experienced midwives for women in the final stages of pregnancy and we plan to allow partners to stay for 24 hours on postnatal wards."

Other changes included improving postnatal care, support for mothers and antenatal education.

<http://www.ekhuft.nhs.uk/patients-and-visitors/services/a-z-of-services/pregnancy-and-childbirth/>

Welcome to the maternity services in east Kent

You're pregnant - Congratulations!

Having a baby can be an exciting but daunting time for women and their partners, there is a lot to think about and plan for. There are many questions and choices to make so we hope the information on this website will help you. Our aim is to work in partnership with you, your partner and family to achieve a happy, healthy pregnancy and birth.

Maternity services are provided across east Kent in the community and in four different hospital settings. Midwives work in all areas of the community and in our hospitals. Obstetricians are based at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford and the Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother Hospital in Margate. Every pregnant woman needs a midwife and some need a doctor too.

Facilities

William Harvey Hospital, Ashford

The William Harvey Hospital in Ashford has more than 4,000 births annually. The obstetricians and midwives work hard as a team to keep birth normal and intervene only when necessary.

At William Harvey there is a **neonatal intensive care unit (NICU)** which looks after premature babies from 24 weeks of pregnancy.

- [Find out more about having your baby at William Harvey Hospital](#)

Singleton midwifery led unit: This midwife led unit is located at William Harvey Hospital close to the consultant led 'traditional' labour wards. The unit is run by midwives to encourage and support normal birth.

- [Find out more about the Singleton Midwifery Led Unit](#)

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother Hospital, Margate

The Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother Hospital in Margate has approximately 2,800 births a year. It too offers specialist obstetric care for women with complications and anaesthetists providing the same service as that at William Harvey Hospital in Ashford. The **special care baby unit** takes babies born after 28 weeks. Those babies born earlier or who are very sick are transferred to William Harvey Hospital.

- [Find out more about the facilities at Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother Hospital](#)

St Peters midwifery led unit: This midwife led unit is located at Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother Hospital close to the consultant led 'traditional' labour wards. The unit is run by midwives to encourage and support normal birth.

- [Find out more about the St Peters Midwifery Led Unit](#)
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Canterbury Maternity Centre and Dover Maternity Centre

These midwife led units provide pre and postnatal services including education classes and breast feeding support. Births take place at either the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford, or at the Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother Hospital in Margate

<http://www.ekhufft.nhs.uk/patients-and-visitors/news/news-archive/first-baby-born-at-st-peters-mlu/>

First baby born at St Peters MLU

St Peters Midwifery Led Unit opens at Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother Hospital, Margate

On Monday 24 September the St Peters Midwifery Led Unit opened for business. Ten babies have already been born there.

St Peters is the second Midwifery Led Unit to open in EKHUFT - its sister unit opened at William Harvey Hospital, Ashford, three years ago. The units aim to provide a relaxed 'home from home' birthing experience for healthy women who have had low risk pregnancies under the care of the midwives in an acute hospital setting, which allows for easy transfer to the labour ward should medical intervention be necessary.

The facilities at St Peters include four birthing/bedrooms, two of which have birthing pools, which have already been well-used.

Dover and Canterbury hospitals now offer maternity day care and the home birth and community midwifery led services continue as usual.



Proud parents show off baby Molly

Health Service Journal

<http://www.hsj.co.uk/hsj-local/acute-trusts/east-kent-hospitals-university-nhs-foundation-trust/midwife-led-maternity-unit-opens-in-east-kent/5050455.article>

Midwife led maternity unit opens in East Kent
10 October, 2012

St Peters midwifery-led unit opened last month at Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother Hospital, Margate.

The unit opened on 24 September and 10 births have already been born there. The facilities include four birthing/bedrooms, two of which have birthing pools.






St Peters is the second midwifery-led unit to open at East Kent Hospitals University Foundation Trust. A similar unit opened at William Harvey Hospital in Ashford three years ago.

The units aim to provide a relaxed “home from home” birthing experience for healthy women who have had low risk pregnancies under the care of the midwives in an acute hospital setting.

The opening of the unit follows a reconfiguration of maternity services in East Kent.

Dover and Canterbury hospitals now offer maternity day care only.

Your Birth Your Choice Leaflet.



**your birth,
your choice**

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Maternity services in east Kent are changing