

OPTION 5 - SAVING LIVES

Eastbourne and Hastings Information Document

For more information about the Save the DGH campaign

Visit the website at www.savethedgh.org.uk or call Save the DGH Campaign Group Chair Liz Walke on 01323 460991 or 0789 636 3381, or parent campaigner Monica Corrina-Kavakli on 0772 505 8524. Alternatively, you can ask questions at info@savethedgh.org.uk.

The campaign group is made up entirely of volunteers who are concerned parents and professional people freely giving their time, skills and resources to pro-actively campaign. If you would like to make a donation to their Fighting Fund, please send a cheque made payable to Save the DGH Campaign to:

The Treasurer (Sandy Medway), Save the DGH campaign, c/o Bishop's Lodge, 16a Prideaux Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex, BN21 2NB

If you would like more information on Fit for the Future, or to vote for **OPTION 5** by post, please complete the slip below.

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Mr/Mrs/Miss/Other _____ Initial & surname _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

I would like to vote for **OPTION 5 SAVING LIVES**

and/or

Please send me more information on Fit for the Future

Signed _____

Send to Fit for the Future, Freepost SEA2474, BN8 2ZZ (no stamp is needed)

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A Safe, Accessible and Affordable Service
for Eastbourne and Hastings

Pride of the Community

What is the Save the DGH campaign?

The Save the DGH campaign was set up in 2006 when a number of local people had serious concerns about the threat to Eastbourne District General Hospital's core services, and in particular those affecting maternity, paediatrics and accident & emergency provision.

We believe that the changes are down to saving money, although the Primary Care Trust (PCT) denies this. We have organised marches and a vigil which have attracted the support of thousands of people, as this issue affects everybody who uses the hospital.

Where are we now?

The current threat is to the consultant-led maternity unit as we are in a period of consultation about its future. The PCT has produced a public consultation document, entitled Fit for the Future, in which there are four options of how the maternity unit could change. This includes losing the maternity unit altogether at either Eastbourne DGH or Hastings Conquest Hospital.

We've witnessed the downgrading and closure of maternity units around the country and have been told by medical professionals that if maternity goes here, other core services will follow. This means we could be left with a cottage hospital. This is unacceptable.

The Save the DGH campaign group has come up with **OPTION 5**, which we believe makes more sense than the options the PCT has put together, and is much safer, more accessible and does give choice, as well as being affordable.

What is Option 5?

It took a year of research to determine what we consider to be the safest clinical option for providing excellent local maternity services, taking into account the need for the local health economies to include Modernising Medical Careers and the European Working Time Directive.

OPTION 5 SAVING LIVES was written by medical experts and we believe it is the only safe option to be considered. Our option means that both the consultant-led maternity and special care baby units remain at both Eastbourne and Hastings hospitals.

The options

Options 1-4 are the PCT's options. **OPTION 5** is the Save the DGH campaign group's suggested option:

	EASTBOURNE	HASTINGS
Option 1	Consultant-led maternity unit Specialist baby care Inpatient gynaecology	No unit
Option 2	No unit Specialist baby care Inpatient gynaecology	Consultant-led maternity unit
Option 3	Consultant-led maternity unit Specialist baby care Inpatient gynaecology	Midwife-led birthing centre
Option 4	Midwife-led birthing centre Specialist baby care Inpatient gynaecology	Consultant-led maternity unit
Option 5 our suggestion)	Consultant-led maternity unit Specialist baby care Inpatient gynaecology	Consultant-led maternity unit Specialist baby care Inpatient gynaecology

Crowborough would retain its midwife-led birthing centre under all options.

To see the full Save the DGH Campaign proposal for Option 5, plus the PCT's four options, visit www.savethedgh.org.uk.

How can I help?

Because of our powerful lobbying we've made people sit up and listen. After weeks of campaigning on the options, the PCT has finally agreed to consider **OPTION 5**.

We are very grateful for all the support people have offered, **but we need to keep the pressure on**. If you haven't already signed our petition, visit www.savethedgh.org.uk, Eastbourne Town Hall, Circles (opp TJ Hughes, Terminus Road), Visick Cars (opp Tesco, Lottbridge Drove, Eastbourne) or local political party offices. Also, see page four to post your vote for **OPTION 5** to the PCT.

If you hear about events we are holding, we urge you to lend your support. It shows the decision-makers that people care what happens at our hospitals.

What does the future hold?

We will keep campaigning and holding high profile events to keep the story in the media.