

**To: Peter Lewis Chief Executive Somerset NHS Foundation Trust,
Jonathan Higman, Chief Executive Somerset Integrated Care Board**

19th May 2025

Pear Peter and Jonathan,

As Somerset Councillors we read with grave concern that Maternity Services are to be 'temporarily' suspended at Yeovil District Hospital. Following on from the ongoing concerns over the future of the Stroke Unit in Yeovil, we seek urgent assurance over the commitment of Somerset Hospitals Foundation Trust to the Yeovil site.

In line with our Liberal Democrat MP colleagues, Adam Dance, Sarah Dyke, Tessa Munt, Gideon Amos, Anna Sabine and Rachel Gilmour and on behalf of residents we would like to request urgent clarification and a commitment to:

- A firm and publicly communicated timeline for the reopening of Yeovil Hospital's Maternity Unit.
- Immediate measures to address staffing shortages and governance issues within the hospital's paediatric services.
- A comprehensive and actionable plan to ensure the safety and quality of maternity services upon reopening.
- Full transparency and regular updates from Somerset NHS Foundation Trust to the local community regarding the status and progress of the Maternity Unit.
- Holding outpatient appointments in Yeovil.

We seek assurance that sufficient capacity and resilience is available at Musgrove Park Hospital, which will be the only full-service Maternity Unit for nearly 600,000 people. We note that this unit was rated as 'Inadequate' at its most recent CQC inspection in May 2024. Replacement of the existing substandard facilities in Taunton is now not scheduled until 2033. We have to ask if additional pressure on this unit will lead to system collapse?

This decision will undoubtedly cause concern to families across the County and we seek assurances on their behalf. We are fully committed to meet with you urgently to understand and scrutinise these plans and proposed mitigations.

Yours sincerely,

CLlr Adam Dance MP

CLlr Steve Ashton

CLlr John Bailey

CLlr Jason Baker

CLlr Lee Baker

CLlr Mike Best

CLlr Adam Boyden

CLlr Tessa Munt MP

CLlr Theo Butt Phillip

CLlr Simon Carswell

CLlr Nicola Clark

CLlr Simon Coles

CLlr Nick Cottle

CLlr Tom Deakin

CLlr Bill Revans

CLlr Caroline Ellis

CLlr Habib Farbahi

CLlr Ben Ferguson

CLlr Pauline Ham

CLlr Ross Henley

CLlr Mike Hewitson

Cllr Edric Hobbs	Cllr Harry Munt	Cllr Heather Shearer
Cllr Henry Hobhouse	Cllr Nick O'Donnell	Cllr Fran Smith
Cllr Dawn Johnson	Cllr Graham Oakes	Cllr Federica Smith-Roberts
Cllr Val Keitch	Cllr Stephen Page	Cllr Jeny Snell
Cllr Andy Kendall	Cllr Oliver Patrick	Cllr Andy Soughton
Cllr Jenny Kenton	Cllr Emily Pearlstone	Cllr Mike Stanton
Cllr Tim Kerley	Cllr Derek Perry	Cllr Andy Sully
Cllr Marcus Kravis	Cllr Evie Potts-Jones	Cllr Claire Sully
Cllr Liz Leyshon	Cllr Wes Read	Cllr Sarah Wakefield
Cllr Tony Lock	Cllr Rob Reed	Cllr Richard Wilkins
Cllr Martin Lovell	Cllr Mike Rigby	Cllr David Woan
Cllr Matt Martin	Cllr Tony Robbins	Cllr Ros Wyke
Cllr Kevin Messenger	Cllr Jo Roundell-Greene	
Cllr Mike Murphy	Cllr Peter Seib	