

NOTICE OF MOTION**LABOUR GROUP AMENDMENT****MATERNITY SERVICES IN BRIGHTON & HOVE**

Add a further paragraph after "...free-standing midwifery units (Birth Centres) or at home." with the wording in bold italics.

Amend final bullet point with the deletion of the wording as struck out and the insertion of the wording in bold italics:

"This council welcomes the news that Brighton & Hove PCT are planning to introduce a midwife led unit in the city, and recognises that this decision reflects the findings of a recent survey into local residents' views about the kinds of maternity services they desire.

"This council notes that the survey also found that:

- 88 per cent of respondents said they would like the same midwife throughout pregnancy and post natal care;
- 99 per cent of respondents thought it was a good idea to offer free counselling to women who have had a difficult birth.

"Furthermore, this council notes and supports the aims of the National Childbirth Trust's *Reclaiming Birth* campaign, which is also calling for more midwives carrying their own caseloads and looking after parents-to-be from conception to birth and post-natally, and for more women to be able to give birth in free-standing midwifery units (Birth Centres) or at home.

This Council notes that the Government has:

- ***provided record investment to the NHS including the education, training and recruitment of midwives which has led to 35,305 midwives recorded as practicing on the professional Register in 2008 – a ten year high;***
- ***provided an additional £330 million since 2008 specifically to improve maternity services over the three year period to 2011 and;***
- ***established the Midwifery 2020 programme to examine how best to maximize the contribution of midwives to improving the experience of women during their maternity care.***

However, this Council also notes that the NHS had a surplus of £1.7 billion in 2008 and shares the concern of the Royal College of Midwives that despite the

Government providing additional funding to improve maternity care services, this funding is not being consistently passed on to local heads of midwifery in England.

“Therefore this council requests the Chief Executive to:

- Write to the PCT urging them to act on the other findings of the survey with regard to midwife provision and post-natal counselling services;
- Write to the Health Secretary, Andy Burnham, ~~to call for funding to enable PCTs to better meet the needs of expectant women and new parents~~ **requesting that he instructs all NHS providers to ensure that the additional funding to improve maternity care services is passed on in full to local heads of midwifery in England”**

Proposed by: Cllr Craig Turton

Seconded by: Cllr Kevin Allen