



**North East London**

# **Best start in life: shaping future maternity and neonatal services in north east London**

**Have your say by 11.59pm on 8 September 2024**

We want to hear what you think about our findings around maternity and neonatal services (care for newborn babies) in north east London. By completing this survey you can choose to be entered into a prize draw to receive Love to Shop vouchers worth £50 to thank you for your time. The survey will take approximately 10-15 minutes to complete.

We want to make sure that all babies born in north east London have the best possible start in life and their parents experience the best possible pregnancy and birth. An important part of this is making sure our services are able to support this, and the needs of the people who live in our area.

We have a growing population, more complicated pregnancies and births, more babies needing medical care when they are born, and health inequalities that impact pregnancies, birth and babies. This tells us we need to make some changes to maternity and neonatal services, and there are opportunities to make sure our services remain safe, high quality and accessible for all.

We want to know what you think of the findings in our report, which is called Best Start in Life: The Case for Change. We want to understand if they reflect your experiences, and if we are focusing on what matters most to you. We want to know if you agree with some of the themes, and key findings we have identified to do things

differently for babies and, pregnant women and people, and if you have any ideas or suggestions of what we could do.

We recognise that questions about pregnancy, childbirth and caring for sick babies are very personal and can be triggering for some people. If any of these questions bring back sensitive memories, please note you can answer any questions with prefer not to say. For information and support please contact your GP. Information about bereavement is also available online:

- [NHS](#)
- [Barking, Havering and Redbridge University Hospitals](#)
- [Barts Health](#)
- [Homerton Healthcare](#)

You can choose to opt in for the draw, to receive Love to Shop vouchers worth £50, at the end of the survey. Three people will be selected at random once the survey closes. Please note your contact details will not be linked to the responses made in the survey.

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## **Your views on the Best Start in Life Case for Change**

To complete this section you should have read the Best Start in Life Case for Change report or summary, or information about this on our website - [www.northeastlondon.icb.nhs.uk/maternity-neonatal-review](http://www.northeastlondon.icb.nhs.uk/maternity-neonatal-review). These documents explain why we think services for babies, pregnant women and people in north east London need to change.

The Case for Change report highlights eight themes where we think the biggest opportunities for improvement are. We would like to understand what you think of these themes, and ideas and suggestions you have about them.

## **Making sure we have enough of the right care in the right place**

We have identified there will be more babies born in north east London over the next 10 years. This means the NHS will need to support more births.

There are also going to be more pregnant women and people and newborn babies who will need more intensive medical care both during and after pregnancy.

We need to ensure we have the right staff and resources, providing care in the right place, to look after the needs of pregnant women, people and babies in north east London.

**1. What do you think of the following statement: 'Having read the Case for Change report I understand why maternity and neonatal services need to change to be able to meet the needs of pregnant women, people and babies in north east London.'** (please select one)

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree/disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Prefer not to say

Please tell us the reason for your answer:

**2. To what extent do you agree or disagree that maternity and neonatal services may need to change to be able to meet the needs of pregnant women, people and babies in north east London?** (please select one)

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree/disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Prefer not to say

Please tell us the reason for your answer:

- 3. Please rank the eight themes identified in the Case for Change report, from the most important to you at number 1, through to least important to you at number 8. Knowing what is important to you could help us to decide what to think about first.**

<b>Opportunity</b>	<b>Ranking (1 most important to 8 least important)</b>
Making sure we have enough of the right care in the right place	
Improving advice and support before and after pregnancy	
Delivering care to newborn and unwell babies in the place that's best for them	
Improving transitional care, and care at home for neonatal services	
Addressing differences in quality, access and experience	
Reducing health inequalities	
Making the most effective use of staff resource	
Improving staff wellbeing	
Prefer not to say	

**4. Please tell us how you feel about the themes and opportunities for improvement identified in the case for change?**

	I strongly support this	I support this	I am neutral about this	I am against this	I am strongly against this	Prefer not to say
Making sure we have enough of the right care in the right place						
Improving advice and support before and after pregnancy						
Delivering care to newborn and unwell babies in the place that's best for them						
Improving transitional care, and care at home for neonatal services						
Addressing differences in quality, access and experience						
Reducing health inequalities						
Making the most effective use of staff resource						
Improving staff wellbeing						

**5. Do you have any ideas or suggestions on how services can better meet the needs of the increasing number of pregnant women, people and babies in north east London? (please use the comment box)**

**6. Do you have any ideas or suggestions on any of the themes, or key findings, in the Case for Change report?** (please use the comment box)

**7. Are there opportunities you think we have missed? Please specify along with your ideas and suggestions on how these could improve maternity and neonatal care in north east London.** (please use the comment box)

**8. Is there anything else you would like to add?** (please use the comment box)

## Personal information section

Answering these questions will help us reduce inequalities and ensure that the survey findings are representative of the people living and working in north east London. We will keep all answers confidential. You can skip questions if you prefer.

**Are you currently, or have you been pregnant in the last five years?** (please select one)

Yes	
No	
Not applicable	
Prefer not to say	

**If you have given birth in the last five years or are planning to, where did/do you plan the birth to take place?** (please select all that apply)

At home	
Barkantine Birth Centre	
Barking Birth Centre	
Homerton University Hospital	
Newham Hospital	
Queen's Hospital	
Royal London Hospital	
Whipps Cross Hospital	
Not applicable	
Prefer not to say	
Other, please specify	

**Have you had a baby or babies that have been cared for at a neonatal unit in the last five years?** (please select one)

Yes	
No	
Not applicable	
Prefer not to say	

**What is your connection to north east London?** Select all that apply

Live in north east London (Barking and Dagenham, City of London, Hackney Havering, Newham, Redbridge, Tower Hamlets or Waltham Forest)	
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Work for the NHS in a clinical role	
Work for the NHS in a non-clinical role	
Work in the voluntary, community, faith sector	
Other (please specify)	
Prefer not to say	

**If you are a resident in north east London, which borough do you live in?**  
(please select one)

Barking and Dagenham	
City of London	
Hackney	
Havering	
Newham	
Redbridge	
Tower Hamlets	
Waltham Forest	
Not a resident in north east London	
Prefer not to say	

**Which of the following options best describes how you think of yourself?**  
(Please select one)

Man (including trans man)	
Woman (including trans woman)	
Non-binary / third gender	
Prefer to self-describe	
Prefer not to say	
If you prefer to self-describe, please tell us your gender	

**Is your sex the same as it was assigned at birth?** (please select one)

Yes	
No	
Prefer not to say	



**How old are you?** (please select one)

16 and under	
17 - 24	
25 - 34	
35 - 44	
45 - 54	
55 - 64	
65 - 74	
74 - 85	
85+	
Prefer not to say	

**What is your ethnic group?**

Choose one option that best describes your ethnic group or background

<b>Asian or Asian British</b>	
Indian	
Pakistani	
Bangladeshi	
Chinese	
Any other Asian background, please describe:	

<b>Black, Black British, Caribbean or African</b>	
African	
Caribbean	
Any other Black, African, or Caribbean background, please describe:	

<b>Mixed / multiple ethnic groups</b>	
White and Black Caribbean	
White and Black African	
White and Asian	
Other mixed or multiple ethnic background, please describe:	

<b>White</b>	
English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British	
Irish	
Gypsy or Irish Traveller	
Roma	
Any other white background, please describe:	

<b>Other ethnic group</b>	
Arab	
Any other ethnic group, please describe:	

<b>Prefer not to say</b>	
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**Which of the following best describes how you think of yourself?** (please select one)

Bisexual	
Gay or lesbian	
Heterosexual / straight	
Prefer to self-identify	
Prefer not to say	
If you prefer to self-identify, please let us know how you identify yourself	

**Do you consider yourself to have a disability or long-term health condition?**  
(please select as many as are relevant)

You're disabled under the Equality Act 2010 if you have a physical or mental impairment that has a 'substantial' and 'long-term' negative effect on your ability to do normal daily activities.

Yes – a physical/mobility issue	
Yes – a learning disability	
Yes – a mental health issue	
No	
Prefer not to say	

**Are you registered with a GP? (please select one)**

Yes	
No	
Prefer not to say	

**Are you currently employed? (please select one)**

Full-time employed	
Part time employed	
Retired	
Student	
Unemployed (currently looking for work)	
Unemployed (currently not looking for work)	
Prefer not to say	

**Which, if any, of the following best describes your religion? (please select one)**

No religion / Atheist	
Buddhist	
Hindu	
Jewish	
Muslim	
Sikh	
Christian (including Church of England, Catholic, Protestant, and other Christian denominations)	
Other (please specify)	
Prefer not to say	

**What is your main language spoken at home? (please select one)**

English	
Albanian	
Bengali	
Bulgarian	
Chinese	
French	
German	
Gujarati	
Hindi	
Italian	
Lithuanian	
Panjabi	
Polish	
Portuguese	
Romanian	
Russian	

Somali	
Spanish	
Swahili/Kiswahili	
Tagal	
Tamil	
Turkish	
Urdu	
Yiddish	
Prefer not to say	
Other please specify	

**Thank you for taking the time to let us know what you think**

If you're not completing this survey online, please make sure you send it back to **Freepost NHS North East London** (please write this in capital letters on the front of the envelope - no stamp is needed). We must receive your completed survey by 11.59pm on 8 September 2024.

If any of these questions have brought back sensitive memories, please contact your GP for information and support. Information about bereavement is also available online:

- [NHS](#)
- [Barking, Havering and Redbridge University Hospitals](#)
- [Barts Health](#)
- [Homerton Healthcare](#)

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey to help inform future plans and services. If you would like to be entered into the draw to receive Love to Shop Vouchers worth £50 please enter your name and contact details below. Three winners will be randomly selected. Please note your contact details are not linked to your survey responses.

Name	
Email	
Phone	

## **Data protection**

We will protect the information we receive and store it securely in line with data-protection rules. We will keep your information confidential and will not share any of your personal information when reporting statistics.