

## **Downgrading of Neonatal Care Unit at University Hospital, Wishaw**

### **Notice of Motion**

Motion received in terms of Standing Order No 20 on 11 October 2023, proposed by Councillor Richard Nelson, seconded by Councillor Poppy Corbett, as follows:-

“This council expresses significant concerns about the award-winning neonatal unit at University Hospital, Wishaw being downgraded from an established Neonatal Intensive Care Unit to a Local Neonatal Unit.

This decision followed the release of the 'Neonatal Intensive Care Options Appraisal Report' by the Scottish Government on July 23, 2023.

The downgrading of this unit would result in NHS Lanarkshire, the third-largest health board, losing a highly functional, essential service for babies and their families. This affects not only Lanarkshire families but also those who have been transferred from across Scotland and England as part of the Scottish Perinatal Network.

Families in Lanarkshire have already expressed significant concerns about these changes through an online petition signed by over 12,000 people.

There are concerns that the correct process was not followed, and we believe that these key factors and questions must be addressed by the Scottish Government Health Minister:

This council agrees to formally write to the Scottish Government Health Minister to seek answers to these key factors and calls for a full independent investigation into the decision-making process regarding the downgrade of the Neonatal Care Unit at University Hospital, Wishaw, with active participation from NHS Lanarkshire.

Furthermore, we emphasise our commitment to safeguarding babies and families in our communities and our expectation of the highest quality of care for all in Lanarkshire.”