



Dear Resident,

As your SNP candidate for Motherwell & Wishaw Constituency, I want to address recent concerns and provide clear information about Neonatal Care at University Hospital Wishaw.

I understand how unsettling uncertainty around maternity and neonatal services can be for families, and it is important that accurate details are shared.

The Neonatal Unit in Wishaw will not close, and the Best Start review confirms this.

What will change is care for the smallest and sickest babies to allow them the best chance to thrive and survive. The Neonatal Unit will continue caring for the vast majority of premature and unwell babies in Lanarkshire. Wishaw's neonatal service remains a crucial part of our local healthcare system.

The Best Start review recommends Scotland centralising its eight neonatal intensive care units into three specialist centres, with co-located services such as neonatal surgery, and specialist paediatric pharmacy, not currently available at Wishaw.

This Clinician-led approach ensures that the smallest and most premature babies will receive the highest level of specialist support by professionals supporting these babies day in day out.

Under these plans, Wishaw Neonatal will continue as a Local Neonatal Unit (LNU): **Premature Babies born after 28 weeks and weighing over 800g will continue to receive their Neonatal Care at Wishaw.**

The babies who need Neonatal ICU care can still receive up to 48 hours of Neonatal ICU treatment at Wishaw. The limited availability of co-located related clinical services was the primary reason Wishaw was not chosen as one of the three national intensive care centres under The Best Start. Across Scotland, around 50–60 babies meet the Best Start criteria.

Their specialist services will be provided in Glasgow, Edinburgh, or Aberdeen. In NHS Lanarkshire, this affects around 2 babies per month, with the vast majority, approximately 55 premature babies, continuing to receive high-quality care at the Wishaw Neonatal Unit. Wishaw's neonatal team is also continuing to develop its service. The unit is working towards full Bliss Baby Charter accreditation, a national gold standard for family centred neonatal care. Having already achieved the Bliss Pledge of Improvement certificate, the team is further strengthening developmental care, parental involvement, and support for families.

I want to express my sincere thanks to all staff at Wishaw Neonatal Unit for their dedication and compassion. Our community is incredibly proud of their work.

To every parent and parent-to-be, Wishaw's neonatal unit is planned to remain open, and care for the vast majority of premature babies will continue as normal. For the few babies who require the most specialist treatment, co-location of intensive care services with other specialist clinical services offers the safest possible outcome for babies to thrive and survive.

The concerns were examined at the Citizens Participation and Public Petitions Committee of the parliament on the 26th of November. Recordings and transcripts are available at www.scottishparliament.tv.

If you have any further questions or concerns about neonatal or maternity services, don't hesitate to get in touch with me directly.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Clare Adamson".

Clare Adamson SNP candidate for Motherwell and Wishaw