

12 March 2025

Boost for families in St Helens with £500,000 maternity hub expansion at Lowe House Primary Care Resource Centre



Families in St Helens are now benefitting from an expanded midwifery-led maternity unit at Lowe House Primary Care Resource Centre (PCRC) which has been operating since last year.

Lowe House was built in 2010 under the NHS LIFT Programme that brings together Community Health Partnerships, a key part of the NHS family, with Renova – an investor in 17 community healthcare facilities in the North West. The three-storey Lowe House PCRC provides a range of health and social care services in a modern, accessible building located near St Helens town centre.

To ensure the building continues meeting local health needs, the key partners regularly look at new ways to adapt and evolve the building to improve the services available to the community. As a result, local NHS partners identified an opportunity to expand local maternity services at Lowe House, offering increased options for women across St Helens and reducing the need to visit a hospital site. CHP provided £500,000 of investment to reconfigure and transform underused space in the Lowe House building to create an expanded midwife-led maternity unit that includes:

- **Midwifery-led maternity unit in the heart of the community** - the ground floor of Lowe House has been reconfigured and transformed to create an expanded maternity unit, enabling a community midwifery service to be delivered including:
 - Over 300m² of space including 13 rooms, a new ultrasound room, and provisions for changing and showering
 - Additional services and clinics including stop smoking, weight management, perinatal mental health support, and infant feeding sessions
 - The maternity unit will allow all women deemed to be 'low risk' to have their antenatal appointments and scans in a community setting at Lowe House, meaning that they do not have to travel to a hospital site
 - Maternity clinics run from Monday to Friday from 8am-8pm, with many local patients now using the new facility
- **Modern fit-for-purpose healthcare facilities for NHS staff** - the maternity unit also offers a better experience for NHS staff, providing a permanent base for the community midwifery team from Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust in a modern community health centre.
- **Partnership working** - the maternity unit at Lowe House was funded and delivered through close working between a range of partners including Community Health Partnerships, Renova, Cheshire and Merseyside Women's and Children's Services Partnership, and Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust.



Renova General Manager Amy Lawrence said: *“As a key partner to the NHS, Renova has played a vital role in community health in the North West over the last 20 years, but we are always looking for new and better ways to support residents. The maternity unit at Lowe House offers a huge boost to local families and NHS staff, bringing together a range of vital maternity services under one roof in the heart of the community, and underlining the significant benefits of investing in high quality neighbourhood health centres.”*

Jeanette Leach, Regional Director North West at CHP said: *“This expansion for midwifery services at Lowe House shows CHP’s commitment to improving patient care in the community. By working closely with the maternity team at Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, Renova, and the ICS, we have created more space for maternity services outside a hospital setting at Lowe House in a modern, core, accessible healthcare building. This means easier access to appointments, care closer to home, a better patient experience, and ultimately, improved health outcomes.*

“The project demonstrates CHP's commitment to delivering accessible, community-based healthcare. By investing £500,000, we've enabled St. Helens families to access vital maternity services closer to home, reducing travel and enhancing their overall experience.

“We are proud to support the continuing evolution of Lowe House into a thriving community health hub and remain committed to ensuring this estate is fully utilised by key partners in the local health and care system.”

Low House Primary Care Resource Centre offers a wide range of healthcare services to the community including four GP surgeries, a dental service, a Primary Care 24 out-of-hours service, Musculoskeletal services, Long Covid clinics, Paediatric services and Pulmonary Rehabilitation including a gym.

- Ends -