**Communication: 20th December 2022**

**Communications notice for Maternity service users during the NWAS strike action**

There is strike action planned by staff working in the North West Ambulance Service and East Midlands ambulance service on 21st and 28th December, from midnight for 24 hours.

We appreciate that this may cause you some concerns but please follow the below advice and if you are in any doubt do not hesitate to contact the Maternity triage or Delivery unit.

* Our maternity services will be running as usual, so please continue to attend your routine appointments as planned.
* Ambulances will not be available to take you to hospital, unless it is a Maternity emergency
* You should continue to contact Triage as usual if you have a concern and need to seek advice from a midwife. If you are unsure on what constitutes a Midwifery emergency please contact Maternity triage or labour ward for advice
* If in in doubt contact NWAS who will advise the most appropriate mode of transport
* Please plan how you would come to hospital on that day if you needed to and identify your own access to alternative transport to the Maternity unit
* If you have any worries, or think you’re in labour, please contact us for advice as early as possible

The homebirth service will remain an option if you are planning a homebirth around this time, your midwife will speak to you about what this means for your care. It is expected in the absence of an emergency and you require admission at any point in labour or post birth that you have alternative options to transfer to the Maternity unit i.e. car, taxi or alternative lift

**Maternity/Emergency Contact Numbers**

Triage – 0161 419 5551

Delivery Unit – 0161 419 5553

NWAS - 999