

# About Maternity Services

## What we mean by “low risk” pregnancies

- Many women enjoy problem free pregnancies and give birth without any complications. This is the case for at least a third of all births and can be as high as half of all births.
- Women at low risk will continue to have the choice to be cared for at The Friarage Hospital, as they do now.
- Last year there were around 500 low risk pregnancies in women who attended The Friarage Hospital.



## What we mean by “high risk” pregnancies

- Some women will need to be cared for by a consultant (as well as their midwife). This may be from the beginning of their pregnancy due to underlying health conditions or complexities in previous pregnancies, or those women who find themselves needing a specialist team as their pregnancy develops; for example to manage gestational diabetes or when pregnancy related high blood pressure develops.
- Women with high risk pregnancies will still be able to receive their out patient ante natal care at The Friarage Hospital with a Consultant Obstetrician. However, if admission is needed during pregnancy and during labour, women with high risk pregnancies need a service where an obstetrician is available on the labour ward all the time, no matter what time of the day or night it is. This 24hour availability of an obstetrician will not be available at The Friarage.
- More and more women are likely to need this specialist care because of changes in a number of factors including the average age of the mother-to-be, their general state of health and their own lifestyle choices.
- Last year there were around 760 high risk pregnancies in women who attended The Friarage Hospital.