

April 2011

1. *Can you please tell me if your trust has a policy about whether or not to offer active or 'aggressive' intervention to try to save the lives of babies born below 24 weeks gestation?*

Southend Hospital NHS Trust follows approved guidance concerning resuscitation of extreme preterm babies as set out by the British Association Perinatal Medicine (BAPM).

This guidance is also contained within the North East London Perinatal Network (NELPN) Consensus Guidelines on Resuscitation of Extremely Preterm Infants born at less than 27 weeks gestation guidance. Please see **Attachment 1** (this document is available on request) at:

Page 1 @ paragraph 4,

Page 2 @ paragraph 2

Page 5 @ appendix A.

Southend University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust's "policy" is set out in the form of a guideline entitled: **MULTIDISCIPLINARY CLINICAL GUIDELINE FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF PERINATAL CARE AT THE THRESHOLD OF VIABILITY (CL-16)** Please see **Attachment 2** (this document is available on request)

2. *Can you please tell me what this policy states?*
Please see **Attachment 2**. (this document is available on request)
3. *In the last three years, from today's date, can you please tell me:*

a. How many babies have been born alive at your hospital below 24 weeks gestation and, in each case, what gestation were they at birth?

Less than 5 babies were born at the threshold of viability which is 23 weeks or above.

b. In each of these cases, can you please tell me what type of intervention was offered, including resuscitation and treatment on a neonatal unit, or whether no active treatment was offered and the baby was instead made comfortable while being allowed to pass- away.

All were offered resuscitation.

c. In each case, can you please tell me if the baby survived.

As there were less than 5 babies born at the threshold of viability, due to confidentiality we cannot provide further information as this may result in these babies being identified.