

As you will be aware St Margaret's Hospice announced its decision to remodel clinical services.

Since 2015/16 and our Fit for Future review St Margaret's Hospice Board of Trustees have been trying to address three principal challenges that are facing many hospices across the UK and St Margaret's in particular: a shortfall in safe sustainable medical staffing for two In-patients Units, the desire by many for our community services to be extended to enable patients to receive end-of-life care closer to home and the hospice's long-term financial sustainability.

A difficult decision has been announced this week that we are closing the In-patient Unit in Yeovil and will be increasing our Taunton provision to 16 beds. As a result we have had to make the decision to stop accepting admissions into the Yeovil In-patient Unit. All other outpatient and community services will continue from the Yeovil Hospice as well as an increased community offering, including additional nursing and medical sessions in the South Somerset area.

All referral processes remain the same and while hospice beds will now be in Taunton, referrals will be accessed on priority of patient need rather than geography.

We are in advanced conversations with other healthcare providers to enable access to beds for end of life closer to Yeovil, with full input from the St Margaret's teams.

We appreciate this is a big change in services but we hope that this approach will enable additional support and care for patients approaching end of life across Somerset, while ensuring St Margaret's can sustain hospice services in the county.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact Joy Milliken, Clinical Director, joy.milliken@st-margarets-hospice.org.uk or Hilary McKegney, Governance Director, hilary.mckegney@st-margarets-hospice.org.uk.

For more detail on the change to our service provision please visit our website: <https://www.st-margarets-hospice.org.uk/announced-changes>