

# Temporary changes to the children's ward at St John's Hospital

**To ensure patient safety, Lothian NHS Board has taken the difficult decision to make temporary changes to the services provided from the children's ward at St John's Hospital, Livingston.**

From **Monday 9 July until Monday 30 July 2012** the children's ward at St John's Hospital will be open from 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday. It will be closed at weekends.

Patients will not be admitted to the children's ward as inpatients during this time. Any child who requires an overnight stay in hospital will be transferred to the Royal Hospital for Sick Children (RHSC), Edinburgh.

The ward will continue to operate as an assessment and programmed investigation unit during this time. Day case surgery, outpatient appointments and assessment services will be unaffected by this change.

There will be no change to maternity and neonatal services at the hospital.

The provision of a safe service for children, mothers and babies at St John's Hospital is NHS Lothian's top priority. The Board has taken this decision due to on-going staffing and recruitment issues which have been well publicised.

Despite the best efforts of the Children's Services team, it has not been possible to confidently secure enough staff to ensure a safe and robust service over these three weeks. Following a detailed risk assessment, a temporary reduction in service is considered the safest option for children in West Lothian.

**The children's ward will resume full service on Monday 30 July 2012.**

## **Advice for parents:**

**If your child is ill or has an accident please contact your GP or NHS 24 on 08454 24 24 24. Your GP or NHS 24 will make sure you are directed to the most appropriate service.**

**If it is an emergency call 999.**

**For more information about this temporary change please visit [www.nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk](http://www.nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk)**