



Norfolk and Suffolk Health and Care Awards 2026

Analogue to Digital Award

EPIC Stork Team

East Suffolk and North Essex NHS Foundation Trust

This maternity digital transformation programme delivers a fundamental shift from paper-based to fully digital records across a large Foundation Trust serving acute and community settings. Previously, women carried handwritten notes throughout pregnancy, often fragmented or illegible. The new secure digital platform and patient-facing app provide real-time access to comprehensive, personalised maternity records. Women can view care plans in their preferred language, access results, track foetal growth, communicate directly with care teams, and digitally record consent—significantly enhancing understanding, safety and shared decision-making.

Co-produced with the Maternity and Neonatal Voices Partnership, the programme prioritised inclusive, user-centred design to ensure relevance and accessibility. It goes beyond digitisation, representing a cultural and clinical transformation achieved through extensive cross-organisational collaboration, workflow redesign and sustained staff engagement. The team addressed major challenges, including standardising practices across multiple hospitals, ensuring data security, and integrating systems across care settings. This has enabled seamless, real-time information flow between clinicians, improving coordination and empowering women as active partners in their care.

Impact has been substantial. Women report increased confidence, improved understanding and reduced anxiety due to instant access to information and clinicians. Real-time data sharing has enhanced clinical safety, particularly for complex pregnancies, by enabling faster specialist input and decision-making. Digitised data strengthens governance, supports benchmarking and enables early identification of risk trends. The elimination of paper has improved continuity, reduced errors and increased staff efficiency.

Future developments include video-guided care journeys, AI-enabled documentation to reduce administrative burden, and pharmacy integration—further advancing a safer, more personalised and sustainable maternity service.