How can I run a safe and rights respecting maternity service in a pandemic?

Step 1
What would it take to keep existing services running?

- What are the pressures?
- How could these be solved/eased?

Step 2
What are my options for temporary changes?

- What harm or trauma may be caused?
- How strong is the evidence for this?

- How far does it impact on the rights of women/birthing people/partners?
- How far does it prevent the spread of COVID-19?

- No change
- Option 1
- Option 2
- +

Step 3
Choose the most proportionate option
i.e. that which protects health with the least restriction on rights

- This will not necessarily be the option that has the greatest effect of stopping the spread of COVID-19
- Duty under the Equality Act to make ‘reasonable adjustments’ remains

Step 4
Implement

- Review regularly – return to normal asap
- Always consider individual exceptions