

Humber Acute Services Consultation – Overview 17 August 2023

NHS Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) recently gave formal approval, in its role as lead commissioner, to progress to consultation on proposed changes to the way some more complex medical, urgent and emergency care and paediatric (children's) services are delivered at Scunthorpe General Hospital and Diana Princess of Wales Hospital, Grimsby, subject to completion of a gateway review by NHS England.

This document explains why changes are needed and summarises the proposal.

We have already heard from over 12,000 people including members of the public, patients, doctors, nurses and other staff in our hospitals to help us come up with this proposal. We firmly believe it will make hospital services better and ensure that people with the most urgent and complex needs will get the right care when they need it.

Why hospital services need to change

Doing nothing is not an option. Our aim is to provide services, so people get the very best care, in the best place, when they need it. Our doctors, nurses and hospital staff work very hard to provide the best care possible but face many, increasing challenges, in particular:

- **Having the right workforce, in the right place, to meet the demand:** we face difficulties attracting and keeping enough doctors, nurses and specialist staff with the right skills and expertise. This means some specialists (that cover particular health needs) are not available every day, because they are spread across multiple hospital sites. We also rely too heavily on temporary staff to fill the gaps, which is expensive and inefficient.
- **Ensuring the future quality and safety of some hospital services:** despite our best efforts, some patients are waiting too long for expert emergency diagnosis and treatment. Without change, some services will become unsafe and unsustainable in the future.
- **Providing the right care for our growing ageing population:** the number of older people in our area is rising, which can mean more complex health needs and increasing demand for some services.
- **Meeting the needs of our population:** some of our communities have much poorer health and need hospital care more often or have issues accessing healthcare services.
- **Investing in our buildings:** Some of our buildings are old and we have limited access to the investment we need to improve or replace them across multiple hospital sites.

- **Using our financial resources in the most efficient way:** We need to make sure that we spend our limited finances in the most sensible way and on the most appropriate services for those who need them most.

What is being proposed – A better model of care

Our health and care system faces significant challenges and we have been working hard to look at how we can deliver better services that can meet future demand, particularly through our hospitals in Scunthorpe and Grimsby, which serve people living across North and North East Lincolnshire, East Yorkshire and Lincolnshire.

The hospital services we are considering making changes to primarily relates to medical specialities a patient may require after receiving an initial assessment through one of our Emergency Departments, where more complex diagnosis, treatment and care would be required. The majority of people would need this type of care in urgent and unexpected situations. The proposal also covers paediatric (children's) inpatient services, where a child would need to be admitted to hospital for a period over 24 hours. This is to improve services for those with the most urgent and complex needs, keeping them safe and of high quality in the long term.

The proposed services would be brought together at one hospital:

- **Trauma Unit** – for people with serious injuries requiring immediate care (typically brought by ambulance).
- **Emergency Surgery (overnight)** – for people who need an operation in the middle of the night or who need to stay in hospital overnight and be looked after by teams with surgical expertise.
- **Some medical specialties (inpatient)** – for people who need a longer stay in hospital (more than 3 days) and to be looked after by a specialist team for their heart, lung or stomach condition.
- **Paediatric overnight (inpatient) care** – for children and young people who need to stay in hospital for more than 24 hours.

Bringing these services together in one hospital provides access to dedicated care 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, with more specialised skills always being available. This would help us to address critical shortages in workforce by organising our teams more effectively and help more patients to be seen and treated more quickly and stay in hospital for less time.

The vast majority of patients would continue to be seen and treated in the same hospital they are now.

24/7 Accident and Emergency would continue to be delivered at both Diana Princess of Wales Hospital, Grimsby and Scunthorpe General Hospital.

The following urgent and emergency care services would continue to be provided at both Diana Princess of Wales Hospital, Grimsby and Scunthorpe General Hospital:

- 24/7 Emergency Department (A&E), assessment unit and short stay (up to three days)
- Emergency Surgery (during the day)
- Overnight (inpatient) care for elderly and general medical patients (for stays longer than three days)
- Paediatric (Children's) Assessment Unit (up to 24 hours).

Which hospital we are proposing should deliver these services

In developing the proposal, we explored over 120 different ideas. We also looked at whether services should be combined at either Scunthorpe General Hospital or Diana Princess of Wales Hospital, Grimsby.

The only viable option is Diana Princess of Wales Hospital, Grimsby because:

It has least impact on fewer people

It is closer to more patients who have poorer health outcomes, who would otherwise have to travel further and may not have access to transport:

- It would have the least impact on ambulance services.
- Overall, it would have a lower impact on journeys to and from hospital:
- Fewer people would be impacted by going to a different hospital site.
- Fewer people would be impacted by longer journeys to and from hospital.
- Fewer patients would have to be transferred between sites if they needed to stay in hospital overnight.

It makes the best use of our financial resources

- It is the only option that is affordable – it would cost three times as much to make changes to the buildings at Scunthorpe General Hospital to bring services together there.
- Delivering the services at Diana Princess of Wales Hospital, Grimsby would allow us to make the changes within the financial resources that we have available and improve services far more quickly.

Benefits and impacts

We believe the proposal will:

- Help more patients to be seen and treated more quickly and stay in hospital for less time.
 - Address critical shortages in workforce by organising our teams more effectively.
 - Improve training and development opportunities and help us to find and keep the workforce we need for the future.

- Improve the quality of urgent and emergency care, trauma, and inpatient paediatric care and ensure patients have access to the most highly skilled professionals when needed, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- Ensure services are sustainable, safe and of high quality for the long term.

Some patients, staff, families and loved ones would have increased travel times. Almost all those who will have to travel to a different hospital than their closest will do so via ambulance (e.g., trauma patients) or via free inter-hospital transport if they need to be admitted for a longer period of time or for more specialised care.

How to share views

A comprehensive programme of public consultation is being developed, which will include public exhibitions and events, online and face-to-face, where people will be able to learn more and tell us what they think.

Visit our website or contact us to find out more www.betterhospitalshumber.nhs.uk