

THE DARZI REVIEW OF ACUTE HEALTH SERVICES NORTH AND SOUTH OF THE TEES

The main recommendations of Professor Darzi's report are:

- The University Hospital of Hartlepool should continue to provide a consultant-led accident and emergency service, acute medicine and critical care. It should host a new Centre of Excellence in Women's and Children's Services, including consultant-led maternity, elective gynaecology, breast surgery, emergency paediatric medical treatment, and elective paediatric surgery. It should also increase the range of elective inpatient surgery it carries out - particularly orthopaedics.

Major trauma and out of hours emergency surgery should move to the University Hospital of North Tees

- The University Hospital of North Tees should become the main centre North of the Tees for emergency surgery with expanded intensive care facilities. It should continue to provide a full accident and emergency service and acute medicine.

It should become a significant centre for complex surgery by developing a North Tees Complex Surgical Centre, providing upper gastro-intestinal cancer services, vascular surgery in a network with the James Cook, and an endo-luminal vascular service. A 24 hour midwife-led maternity unit should also be developed.

- The James Cook University Hospital (JCUH) should retain its full range of district hospital services and its tertiary and supra-regional services. The proposed move of gastro-intestinal cancer services to the University Hospital of North Tees will free up capacity at JCUH. Work should also be stepped up on improving integration with and making full use of the Friarage Hospital in Northallerton.

Detailed work is already being done on developing a robust and sustainable strategy for the Friarage Hospital. Professor Darzi believes changes will be necessary and these should concentrate on securing the future of A&E services, maternity and acute medicine.