

Providing safe and high quality care leading up to the opening of the new hospital



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A consultation on how best to ensure people have access to the safest and best quality, acute medical and critical care they need, in the lead up to the opening of the new hospital by:

Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees Clinical Commissioning Group

Durham, Dales, Easington and Sedgefield Clinical Commissioning Group

North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust

Consultation begins 20 May and ends 11 August 2013

If you require this information in another language or format please contact us on [01642 666815](tel:01642 666815)

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اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات کسی دیگر زبان یا شکل میں چاہئیں تو براہ مہربانی ہم سے [01642 666815](tel:01642 666815) پر رابطہ قائم کریں۔ Urdu

Why are we carrying out this consultation?

The commissioners' view



Dr Boleslaw Posmyk
Chair, Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)



Dr Paul Williams
Stockton-on-Tees locality lead, Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees CCG and governing body member



Dr Mike Smith
Hartlepool locality lead, Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees CCG



Dr Stewart Findlay
Chief clinical officer, Durham, Dales, Easington and Sedgfield Clinical Commissioning Group

We are carrying out this consultation because the doctors who provide emergency medical and critical care services at North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust have told us they cannot carry on providing these services safely and to the expected quality standards on two sites until the new hospital opens in 2017.

We buy these services from the hospitals for local people and we are responsible for their safety and quality. As commissioners we cannot wait until a problem arises before acting. Our job is to look forward and try to prevent problems from happening because this is in the interest of patients and everyone we serve.

We asked the National Clinical Advisory Team to visit us to listen to the doctors, nurses and managers, patient representatives, politicians and other stakeholders so they could give us an independent view of the situation and what we should do about it.

The National Clinical Advisory Team provide independent clinical expertise to support and guide the local NHS on service reconfiguration proposals to ensure safe, effective and accessible services for patients. Our team was led by Dr Chris Clough from Kings College Hospital, London.

We now have a copy of the National Clinical Advisory Team report and this is why we are now holding this consultation.

The report said we should:

- work with the trust to centralise emergency medical services and critical care to the University Hospital of North Tees as soon as possible
- explain to the public what this means for them, which is why we are including a number of examples later in this document
- ask their views about the things that they are concerned about, especially how they and their relatives get to hospital

The provider's view



Dr Suresh Narayanan
clinical director for anaesthetics and critical care

Dr Jean MacLeod
clinical director for medicine

North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust

As the doctors who lead medicine and critical care in the trust, we are becoming increasingly concerned about our ability to provide safe services across our two hospital sites until the new hospital opens.

We are passionate about providing the safest, highest quality care possible and to meeting or exceeding the standards expected by the Department of Health, professional organisations, the deanery (which is responsible for organising the training of tomorrow's doctors) and most of all our patients.

While our services are safe and good quality today we want to ensure they will continue to be in the years to come. We want to ensure we can continue to provide excellent care for all our patients in the short, medium and long term – the type of care we would want for ourselves and our loved ones - but when our medical and nursing colleagues tell us they are concerned, then we have to act.

We raised these concerns at the highest level in the trust and, quite correctly, the trust raised these concerns with our commissioners who buy this care from our trust.

Together, as commissioners and provider, we are totally committed to ensuring that patients from the area we serve - Hartlepool, Stockton and parts of Easington and Sedgefield – can rely on the same standard of service regardless of where they live.

Had the new hospital opened its doors in 2014 as originally planned then we would have been bringing medical and nursing teams together now to be ready for the move to the new hospital. As things stand the new hospital is now expected to open in 2017 and we know things cannot stay as they are until then because:

- quite rightly, safety and quality standards continue to rise, but it is becoming increasingly difficult for us to keep pace with these requirements on two sites
- the way junior doctors are trained has changed and the deanery will not allow trainees to work in hospitals where they do not see enough patients to increase their learning and skills
- like the rest of the NHS we need to bring services together to ensure we can achieve the same standards of care for everyone living in the area served by our trust

Already, because of advances in medicine many patients from our area already go past their local hospital for their emergency medical care. For example:

- patients who have had a stroke are all taken to the University Hospital of North Tees where we can offer the latest treatments seven days a week, 365 days a year. We used to provide these services seven days a week at the University Hospital of North Tees but were only able to provide them Monday to Friday, 9am until 5pm, at the University Hospital of Hartlepool which was unfair on people from Hartlepool and Easington because strokes don't just happen in working hours. Because we have brought the skilled doctors who can carry out these treatments together we can now provide these services for everyone we serve.
- patients who have had certain types of heart attack are assessed at the scene and taken to The James Cook University Hospital in Middlesbrough to have the affected artery unblocked.

Both of these advances in medicine give patients a better chance of survival and recovery. As doctors we want local people to have access to the very best care available. This does mean this care cannot always be on the doorstep but in the modern NHS we have to accept that, while we can have most of our straightforward care provided locally, we have to travel for more specialist care.

It's also important to remember that most of the care provided by the health service is already provided in GP surgeries, local clinics and in people's homes and, under the *momentum: pathways to healthcare* programme, this will continue. We are beginning to take advantage of new technologies like telehealth where people can monitor their own health at home supported by a highly skilled team of community nurses. We already have many excellent examples of where this is working well and preventing people from having to be admitted to hospital. Medicine is advancing all of the time and we want to ensure we can offer the latest and best services and technologies to local people.

We are working closely with our commissioners because they, as the people who buy your care, and we, as the people who provide your care, have the same aim; that is to make sure your care is of the very best standard, wherever you live in the area we serve.

The important thing for you to know is, once the changes have been made, you do not need to do anything different. If you are unwell you will either contact your doctor or ring 999, just as you would today. Ambulance paramedics will assess you when they arrive and, if appropriate, begin treating you. They will make sure you get to the right place and to the right experts for any further treatment and care you need.

This is why we are joining Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees Clinical Commissioning Group and Durham, Dales, Easington and Sedgefield Clinical Commissioning Group to explain why things need to change but also to listen to any concerns you may have so we can address them.

How did we get to where we are now?

In 2008 what were then Hartlepool Primary Care Trust and North Tees Primary Care Trust and North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust began the *momentum: pathways to healthcare* programme.

The programme came about because the then Secretary of State for Health carried out a large national public consultation to ask people how they would like health care to be in the future. The results of this large national consultation became the White Paper *Our health, our care, our say*

People said they wanted:

- to be kept fit and healthy and for the health service to step in early if people start to become ill
- care given close to or in their own homes
- a health service that fits in with their lives, not the needs of the health service
- only to go to hospital if they couldn't be looked after nearer home or at home

There were other reasons too:

- people are, fortunately, living longer but they are often living with a number of health problems and the local health service has to change the way it works to ensure it can provide the type of care local people need
- the doctors, nurses and other health professionals want to continually improve care and that means they have to change the way they work to do this by:
 - making waiting times shorter
 - providing more services in GP practices and town centre clinics
 - making services safer
 - working in increasingly specialised teams to make the best use of their skills and resources
- the way doctors are trained has changed and the organisation responsible for training will only send their doctors to work and train in areas where they will get the right experience to improve their skills

The *momentum: pathways to healthcare* programme is made up of three things:

- changing and transforming the way the local health service works to provide better, safer care for patients
- providing a network of community and town centre facilities
- building a new hospital to replace the University Hospital of Hartlepool and the University Hospital of North Tees

The new hospital

The new hospital is the final piece of the *momentum* jigsaw



The government offered public funding for the new hospital in March 2010. However the new government withdrew this funding in June 2010. The government said it realised there was a need to build the new hospital but the organisations who buy services on behalf of local people and the trust needed to find a different way to pay for it.

This means that, instead of the new hospital being open in 2014 as planned, it is now expected to open in 2017.

Doctors providing emergency medical and critical care at North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust told the commissioners that, while they could have made arrangements to keep the two hospitals' emergency medical wards and critical care open until 2014, they simply cannot do this until 2017. They said they want to take the interim step of centralising emergency medical wards and critical care at the University Hospital of North Tees until the new hospital opens to keep services to the high standards we all want and expect.

As commissioners and providers of care our main concern is safety and quality and we are becoming increasingly uncomfortable with the current situation because we know the services in the two hospitals are increasingly unequal. This is making it impossible to provide the levels of safety and quality we would all want in the longer term

We are doing our very best to minimise these inequalities but, because of the increasingly high standards of care required, this is becoming a major challenge and we all know we cannot keep providing the type of care patients deserve with things the way they are.

This is because:

- it is becoming more and more difficult to staff medical rotas on two sites
- the standards of care required are, quite rightly, rising continuously



What we are proposing to do

After much discussion with health professionals, a review of alternative options and receiving the report from the independent National Clinical Advisory Team, which agreed with us that there are no viable safe alternatives, we are now proposing to centralise emergency medical and critical care services at the University Hospital of North Tees from October 2013.

Bringing these services together would affect some other services such as other parts of the medical directorate, pathology, radiology, pharmacy and other support services such as facilities and catering. It would mean that patients with lots of medical problems will not be able to have planned operations like hip replacements at the University Hospital of Hartlepool but we do not expect this would affect very many patients because modern anaesthetics are safer. We want to ensure that most health care in Hartlepool continues to take place locally so we will be looking at ways to provide more low-risk operations and other treatments in the University Hospital of Hartlepool for local people. However we always have to assess if this will be safe and it will be for that reason and that reason alone, that we would transfer high risk planned operations to the University Hospital of North Tees.

We know this proposal will worry and disappoint some people but as the organisations which are responsible for your services we cannot allow this situation to go on any longer and we know these changes should be made.

How it will work

Leading up to the proposed changes we would:

- open 120 beds at the University Hospital of North Tees to make sure we have enough beds and staff to look after patients from right across our area;
- make extra space in critical care so we can look after critically ill patients;
- we would then, gradually, close the beds in medicine and critical care at the University Hospital of Hartlepool and;
- transfer a number of staff from support services such as pharmacy, radiology and pharmacy and estates who need to come to the University Hospital of North Tees to support the new arrangements.

Patient stories

The National Clinical Advisory Team said we should set out how things would work in future if these proposals are implemented.

Here are some examples

Elsie's story

Elsie, 75, from Greatham is feeling unwell. She has had heart problems for a while but today she feels very short of breath, her daughter is worried about her and phones her GP. The GP calls at the house and decides Elsie needs to be in hospital. The GP tells the hospital he would like Elsie brought in during the next two hours. The ambulance arrives and takes Elsie to the emergency assessment unit at the University Hospital of North Tees where she is assessed by the doctor in charge. The doctors diagnosed an irregular heart beat and start Elsie on drugs to treat it. She is also put on a heart monitor and observed by nurses for the next 24 hours. The doctor says Elsie can go home and her daughter comes to collect her. The nurses make Elsie an appointment to see the heart specialist in outpatients at the University Hospital of Hartlepool the following week.

George's story

George, 80, from Hartlepool, has a painful swollen leg. He is worried about this and phones 999. The ambulance takes him to the ambulatory care unit which is part of the emergency assessment unit at the University Hospital of North Tees He is diagnosed with a deep vein thrombosis. While in the ambulatory care unit he is started on blood thinning drugs. A specialist nurse explains to George that he will have to take the drugs for several weeks. The doctor says George can go home. A nurse arranges for George to be taken home by ambulance. The district nurse visits George at home to see how is doing until he is fully recovered.

Jason's story

Jason, 45, from Easington, has diabetes had a fluttering feeling in his chest and was dizzy. He thought he was going to faint so he called 999. The ambulance paramedic carried out an ECG (a heart test) at Jason's house. The ECG showed that Jason wasn't having a heart attack but he did need medical attention so the ambulance brought him to the emergency assessment unit at the University Hospital of North Tees. Jason was put on heart monitoring equipment and was given drugs to stabilise his abnormal heart beat. The doctor said Jason could go home once he was stabilised on the treatment but he needed to see a heart specialist to get to the bottom of the problem so an appointment was made for him to see a heart specialist at the University Hospital of Hartlepool the following week.

John's story

John, 75, has diabetes. He was feeling ill because his diabetes was out of control and he phoned 999. The ambulance paramedic assessed him at home and then he was brought to the University Hospital of North Tees. A doctor specialising in diabetes was able to see him straightaway and he was given the appropriate drugs to stabilise his diabetes. He stayed in overnight for observation and was allowed home the next day. He saw the diabetes specialist in outpatients the following week to ensure his diabetes was stable.

Mary's story

Mary, 70, is taken ill and her son phones 999. The ambulance takes Mary to the University Hospital of North Tees where she is diagnosed with pneumonia. Mary becomes worse and she has to be transferred to critical care for intensive medical support. After two days Mary is improving and she is transferred back to the ward. After three days Mary is allowed to go home with support from the community team who give her intravenous (a drip) antibiotics every day for the next 10 days until she has fully recovered.

Sharon's story

Sharon, 47, from the Fens, Hartlepool, noticed her leg was red and sore. She also felt feverish. She went to her GP who said she needed to be seen by a hospital doctor. Her husband took her to the ambulatory care unit at the University Hospital of North Tees, part of the emergency assessment unit. A doctor assessed Sharon's leg and the soft tissue infection was diagnosed as cellulitis. She was started off on a drip of antibiotics while in the ambulatory care unit and after further observations she was allowed home four hours later. The unit arranged for the rapid response nurses to go to Sharon's home to give her intravenous antibiotics each day. Three days later she came back to the ambulatory care unit to see the doctor who was happy with how the soft tissue infection was clearing up. He recommended intravenous antibiotics until the end of the week and the rapid response team came to Sharon's house daily to give the treatment until the infection cleared up. This saved Sharon and her husband several trips to hospital.

Betty's story

Betty, 90, from Easington, was confused and unable to get out of bed and her son called the GP. The GP thought Betty should be in hospital and asked for her to be admitted in the next two hours. The ambulance brought Betty to the emergency assessment unit at the University Hospital of North Tees where she was assessed by doctors. Betty had a urine infection which was making her confused so doctors started her on antibiotics. Doctors arranged for Betty to be transferred to the step down ward at the University Hospital of Hartlepool in a ward staffed by highly skilled nurses and therapists. It was becoming clear that Betty was having difficulty managing in her own home and discussions began so Betty could move to a home specially set up to meet her needs. Her family were pleased that they could visit her easily in the two weeks she stayed in hospital.

Transport

When the new hospital is built

Looking on a map, the new hospital (signified by the red dot) is centrally located in the area we serve. At the moment it is a green-field site on what we know is a very busy junction off the A19/A689. But the plans for the new hospital are supported by a comprehensive public and private transport plan and we are committed to ensure the new hospital is easily accessible for all.



As things are now

We know people may not find it easy to get to the University Hospital of North Tees for emergency care or to the University Hospital of Hartlepool for a planned operation. We know it can be difficult for people to visit their loved ones.

North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust's council of governors has a transport committee which is already working on improving transport for patients, visitors and staff.

So far the trust has:

- set up joint working with Hartlepool Borough Council to improve transport
- recruited a team of volunteer drivers to help people with transport problems to access hospital services
- ordered two 17-seater buses so it can increase the cross-site shuttle bus service

Please tell us about your concerns and if there's anything else we could be doing so we can try to address them.

Publishing the report

On 15 May we shared the report of the National Clinical Advisory Team with all the people the independent experts met when they visited the area in January.

At that meeting we listened to the questions and comments and we have added them to this document so we can ensure that we address all of these issues.

- People were disappointed that services could not stay in two separate sites and the doctors explained why this was the case. They also explained that they had done many things to try and preserve services on two sites but that was becoming increasingly difficult to do.
- The main concern was transport and people told us that it was very difficult for people to get to the University Hospital of Hartlepool from Stockton and to the University Hospital of North Tees from Hartlepool and Easington, especially by public transport. There were issues about the ambulance patient transport service which does not start until 8.30am. This is a problem for people who have early appointments and makes it impossible for people to get to hospital on time when they are already worried and distressed about their treatment. We promise we will look into this urgently.
- People wanted to know if we would scrap the plans if the public consultation resulted in local people being unhappy about the changes. We said we were going into the consultation with an open mind and we were not prepared to say what we would do until we had heard everyone's views at the end of the consultation.
- People thought we didn't try hard enough to put things right in Hartlepool. We explained that we had done as much as we possibly could to put things right and we were left with no option but to centralise services to keep them safe for the future.
- People thought the North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust paid different rates of pay and gave shorter contracts to doctors working at the University Hospital of Hartlepool. This is not true. All doctors working at the trust have a trust-wide contract and are expected to work at either hospital.
- People thought the people of Hartlepool were being let down. The doctors explained that they would be letting people down if they allowed the current situation to continue.
- People thought that no more joint replacements would be done at the University Hospital of Hartlepool. This is not correct. The trust's doctors explained that they intend to continue carrying out joint replacement at the University Hospital of Hartlepool with the only exception being where patients had many medical problems because those patients need the back up of critical care so the operation can be carried out safely.
- People thought that the people of Stockton might suffer if all of the services were brought together. The trust's doctors said things would actually improve for everyone if the services were brought together.
- People thought the consultation is a done deal. The clinical commissioning group explained that, while they believe the changes need to go ahead, they do want to listen to people's views.
- People thought the National Clinical Advisory Team were the hatchet men. The National Clinical Advisory Team is a team of independent medical experts who do not know the organisations and who come in, look at the evidence in front of them and speak to doctors, nurses, managers, patient representatives, politicians and other stakeholders. No health organisation can persuade the National Clinical Action Team to say anything it doesn't want to say.

What this consultation is about

We want to get your views on our proposals and understand your concerns about the proposed changes and we would particularly like you to answer the following questions for us:

1. What do you think are the advantages and the difficulties (or disadvantages) of the proposed changes?
2. If you still have concerns, what are you most concerned about and how could we help to reduce your concerns?
3. What do you think are the main things we need to consider in putting the proposed changes in place?
4. Is there anything else you think we need to think about?

We know for example that people could be concerned about how they get to the hospital to visit their loved ones. We promise we will listen to these concerns and we will work with the local authorities and others to do whatever we can to help.

Please use the time in the 12 weeks of the consultation to tell us your views. You can do this by:

Writing us an email and send it to: communications@tees.nhs.uk or,

Writing to:

Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees CCG
FREEPOST NEA9906
Middlesbrough
TS2 1BR

or by coming to one of the meetings we have organised, see the website at: www.hartlepoolandstocktonccg.nhs.uk for more details

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