

Working Together



We need your views

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Easy Read version 2

Working together to improve hospital services in South Tyneside and Sunderland



Hospitals in South Tyneside and Sunderland are working closely together to make sure people get the best care possible.



The Path to Excellence is the name of a plan to look at the best ways for the hospitals in South Tyneside and Sunderland to work together.

Why do we need to change – major challenges?



There are more and more demands for services. This is especially because people are living longer and needing more hospital support.



We need to think of ways of making sure we have enough well-trained staff to do the things we want to do.



We need to make sure that hospitals in South Tyneside and Sunderland are as good as each other and offer the best care possible.



We need to make sure we use our money in the best way possible.



We have listened to what people have already told us about improving

hospitals in South Tyneside and Sunderland. We will talk about three different ideas for making our hospitals better.

Improving health involves three main things



Helping people to keep healthy so they don't need to use hospitals as much.



If people do need support for health issues we want to look after people in their own homes and local communities.



Looking at how we can improve our hospitals to give people the best possible care. This plan is about improving our hospital services.

All our ideas for the future must do these things



Offer equal access to the best possible hospital care, no matter what day of the week it is or what time of the day it is.



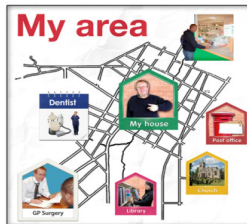
Make sure people who have serious emergencies are seen by right staff, at the right time.



Support older and more frail people to be kept safe and treated at home and in the community.



Have excellent staff with the best training possible. This includes surgeons and emergency doctors.



Have better community services that can keep people from needing to visit hospital.



Reduce the time people spend in hospital.

Our ideas for change

Idea one: Hospitals in South Tyneside and Sunderland would not change very much.



Urgent care is when people need to be seen for treatment quickly but when their life is not at risk. This could be something like a cut, bite or a suspected broken bone.



Both South Tyneside District Hospital and the Pallion Health Centre on the Sunderland Royal Hospital site would continue to provide urgent care.



Emergency care is when people have a more serious emergency and might have to go to hospital in an ambulance. An example might be when you have big pains in your chest.



Both South Tyneside District Hospital and Sunderland Royal Hospital sites would still provide emergency care.



Both hospitals sites would still be open all the time for urgent and emergency care. This means every hour of every day.



Staff would work as one team across both hospital sites. This means staff could work together to support both hospitals when needed.



Big emergency operations such as a broken hip, or very complicated operations, would only be seen at Sunderland Royal Hospital.



Planned operations are when people are not at immediate risk and have been on a waiting list for an operation. Most planned operations would take place at South Tyneside District Hospital.

Idea two: There would be some changes to hospitals in South Tyneside and Sunderland



Both hospitals sites would continue to be open all the time to give urgent care. This means every hour of every day.



Both hospital sites would offer same day emergency care to help people so they do not need to stay overnight in hospital as much.



In this idea, **some** serious or life-threatening emergencies such as severe bleeding, would be seen at Sunderland Royal Hospital.



Specialists (very senior staff) from both hospitals would be available at Sunderland Royal Hospital 24 hours a day for seven days a week to give diagnosis any time of the day or night for seriously ill or injured people.



There would still be some emergency admissions to South Tyneside District Hospital and these would first be agreed with GPs and ambulance crews.



Big emergency operations such as a broken hip, or those which are very complicated, would only be seen at Sunderland Royal Hospital.



Most planned operations would be seen at South Tyneside District Hospital.

Idea three: There would be bigger changes to hospitals in South Tyneside and Sunderland



South Tyneside District Hospital and Sunderland Royal Hospital sites would be open all the time providing urgent care. This means every hour of every day.



Both hospital sites would offer same day emergency care to help people so they do not need to stay overnight in hospital as much.



In this idea, **all** serious or life-threatening emergencies would be seen at Sunderland Royal Hospital.



Specialists (very senior staff) from both hospitals would be available at Sunderland Royal Hospital 24 hours a day for 7 days a week. People who are seriously ill or injured would be seen any time of the day or night to help find out what is wrong with them.



This includes dealing with Emergencies, serious accidents and life-threatening diseases and infections.



There would be no direct emergency admissions to South Tyneside District Hospital, but patients would still be able to get hospital care to recover after an operation or emergency. This is called rehabilitation and can include things like support to walk again, to talk and to live independently.



New clinics called Rapid Review Clinics would also be set up in different places in South Tyneside. They would quickly look at what was wrong with people and help GPs to refer patients to hospital the next day if needed.



Big emergency operations such as a broken hip, or very complicated operations would only be seen at Sunderland Royal Hospital.



Most planned operations would be seen at South Tyneside District Hospital.

We want to know what you think



We want to know what you think of these ideas.

- Can we make them better?
- Do you have any other ideas?

How to get involved



Website:
www.pathtoexcellence.org.uk



Email us: nhs.excellence@nhs.net



Call us on: 0191 217 2670



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