

**Working together to make
hospital services in South Tyneside
and Sunderland better.**



**Our ideas to make
surgical services better.**

**EasyRead version of
Path to Excellence September 2021 full update.**

What this is about.



This is about what we have been doing in Phase 2 of the Path to Excellence plans.



It tells you why we want to make changes to surgical services.



It tells you why we have to make changes to surgical services.



It follows on from earlier Case for Change plans.



These plans tell you why things have to change.



These plans tell you what people have told us so far.



You can read these plans on www.pathtoexcellence.org.uk/publications



Later this year we are planning to ask people what they think of our plans to make surgical services better.

We will tell you more details about our plans then.



About Phase 2



Our hospitals are good but we want to make them even better.



Since 2017 we have been making plans to make the following even better:



• **Emergency care (A and E) and acute medicine.**

This is when people come to hospital when they are very ill.



• **Emergency surgery and planned operations.**



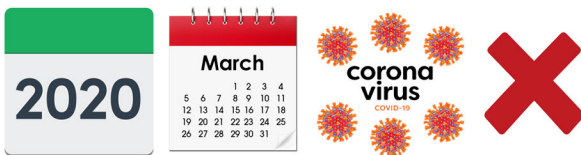
- **Planned care and outpatients.**

This can be tests or scans.



- **Clinical support services.**

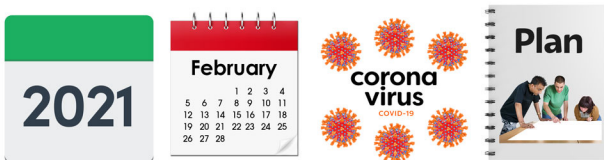
These are services that help doctors find out what is wrong with you. They can help you get better.



In March 2020 because of Covid we stopped our work on Phase 2.



We started working again on Phase 2 in October 2020.



In February 2021 we wrote about how Covid might change our plans in the Case for Change.



We are now looking at ideas to make sure people who need surgery have the best care.



We will ask you what you think of our plans later in the year.



Due to Covid we are concentrating only on surgical plans.



We need more time to talk to our staff about future plans for A and E and other hospital care.



Our staff do not have time to talk about this now.



Many of our plans for planned care and out patients are now in place.



More services are run near to where people want them.



Our plans for a new Integrated Diagnostic Centre at South Tyneside District Hospital have also started.



Why do we need to change?



Covid has made the need to change even more important.



Staff.



We do not have enough staff.



Our staff work very hard. Due to Covid they have had to work even harder.



Working too hard is not good for our staff's health and wellbeing.



If we change our hospital services it will be better for staff.



The future.



More people are living longer and needing our services.



We must make sure we can care for people in the future.



Doing better.



We want to give even better care.



Money.



If we change our services it would let us use our money in a smarter way.



Why we have chosen surgical services now.



We have chosen to think about how surgical services could change. We have been talking about changing it since 2016.



We want you to have the best care if you need emergency or planned surgery.



Due to Covid we had to cancel a lot of operations.



This means lots of people are now waiting for operations.



By changing services, less people would be waiting.



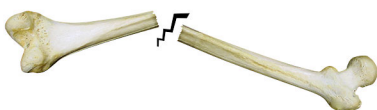
We want to keep giving safe care to our patients.



What are surgical services?

Surgical services are:

- Trauma and orthopaedics. This is surgery of the bones, joints or muscles.



- General surgery. This is surgery on other parts of the body.



Our ideas for surgical services.



We think that it would be a good idea for most of the planned operations to go on at South Tyneside District Hospital.



We think it is a good idea for the emergency operations and some of the planned operations to go on at Sunderland Royal Hospital.



Both hospitals would still have A and E.



Both hospitals would still have Outpatients and do tests and scans.



Both hospitals would offer some General Surgery and some Trauma and Orthopaedics.



If we change surgical services we will need to think about how best to care for people after surgery.

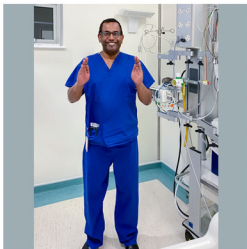


Why we think it is a good idea.



It would be better for patients and staff and the NHS.

For patients:



- Your operation would be done by an expert.



- There would be more chance of your operation going ahead.



- You would get better and sent home quicker.

For staff:



- Staff would be doing operations that they are best at and be able to learn more.



- There would be more training opportunities.



- More permanent staff may choose to come and work in our hospitals.



- Staff would be able to concentrate better



- It would be less stressful for staff.

For the NHS:



- More operations would take place.



- Less chance of patients catching a bug after an operation.



- Less waiting lists.



- More able to deal with busy times like winter.



- We would not need to cancel as many operations as we do now.



Getting to hospital.



We know that people do not want to travel far to hospital.



Our idea is that all outpatients and follow-up appointments would take place at your local hospital.



You would only go to another hospital for your operation.



We are thinking how we could help people go between South Tyneside District Hospital and Sunderland Royal Hospital.



We are asking if any charities who take people out and about have any ideas to get in touch.



Tell us what you think.



In Phase 2 we have spoken to lots and lots of people about our plans.



You can read what people have told us at:

<https://pathtoexcellence.org.uk/publications/feedback-reports/>



We have heard from lots of charities and groups who work with people who use our services.



You

We would like to hear what you think about our ideas for surgical services.



We would like to hear from charities and groups about our ideas for surgical services.



We would really like to hear from charities who work with:



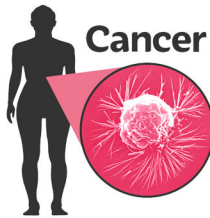
- Older people.



- People with long term health needs.



- People with problems with joints.



- People with bowel or stomach cancer.



We can help you run a group chat about our ideas for surgical services.



We would be able to pay you for this.



What happens now?



When we know what people think of our ideas we will make them into plans. We will then ask people what they think of our plans.



How you can tell us.



We have a website which tells you all about our ideas and our plans. You can get in touch with us at:



www.pathtoexcellence.org.uk



Nhs.excellence@nhs.net



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