

# Our ideas to make surgical services better.



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

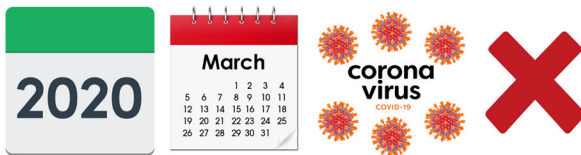
# What this is about.



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



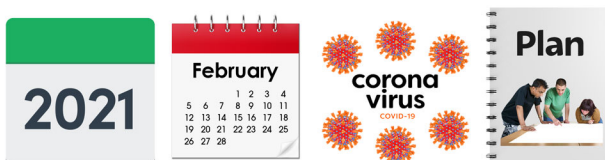
Since 2017 we have been making plans to make services even better. This is called the Path to Excellence Phase 2.



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



We started working again on Phase 2 in October 2020.



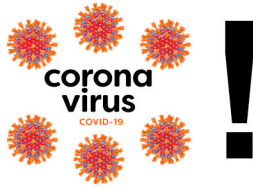
In February 2021 we wrote about how Covid might change our plans in the Case for Change.



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



# Why do we need to change?



Covid has made the need for change even more important.



## Staff.

We do not have enough staff.



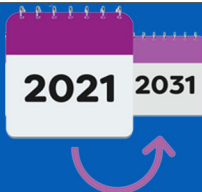
Our staff work very hard. Due to Covid they have had to work even harder.



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.



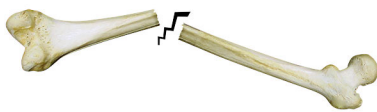
If we change our services it would let us use our money in a smarter way.



## 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.



# Why we have chosen surgical services now.



We have chosen to think about how surgical 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.



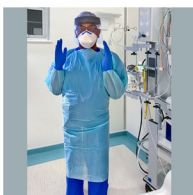
Due to Covid we had to cancel a lot of operations.



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.



# 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 come and choose to 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 the 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/>



You



We would like to hear what you think of our ideas.

We would like to hear from charities and groups who work with people who use our services.



## 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](http://www.pathtoexcellence.org.uk)



[Nhs.excellence@nhs.net](mailto:Nhs.excellence@nhs.net)



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