

START WELL

Proposed changes to children's surgical services in North Central London





North Central London
Integrated Care System

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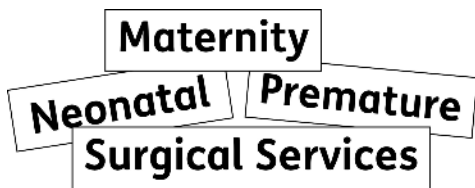
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About us



North Central London
Integrated Care System

We are North Central London Integrated Care System.



We work with services so they can improve the health of people.

We work with:

- local health and care organisations
- councils
- voluntary, community and social enterprise groups.



This document is for people living in North Central London which is Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Haringey and Islington and people in surrounding areas who use our services.



We want people living in North Central London to:

- start life well



- live longer in good physical and mental health



- grow old in their community where they feel connected and supported



- die with dignity.



We really want to find out about **health inequalities** in our communities.

Health inequalities are differences in people's health. This may be because of where they live, their education, how much money they have.



This is not fair.



We want everyone to Start Well, Live Well, Age Well.

This document is about Start Well.



We are working with NHS England to look at **maternity, neonatal, and children's surgical services**. This is because they are responsible for some of the services where we are suggesting a change.



Maternity care is about the health of women or people during pregnancy, childbirth and after their baby is born.



Neonatal care is care a hospital gives a baby born early or sick.



Surgical services treat people who are ill or injured.



This is a **consultation** document.

Consultation means we want you to tell us what you think, which will help us decide whether we need to make any changes to our proposals and what to do next.



We will tell you about ideas we have about how we think we could make services better and we will ask some questions.



The questions are about:

- maternity and neonatal care



- children's surgery.



This document is about children's surgical services.



There is another document about maternity and neonatal care.



You can answer the questions about everything or just pick 1.

You can contact us



by email at:
StartWellConsultation@ors.org.uk



by phone on:
0800 324 7005

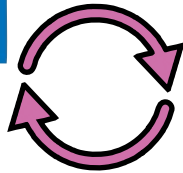


by sending a letter for free at:
**FREEPOST SS1018,
PO Box 530,
Swansea, SA1 1ZL**



our website is:
nclhealthandcare.org.uk/start-well

The questions



As you read through this document please think about these questions:

- Do you agree that the NHS needs to make changes to make these services better?



- How much do you agree or disagree with our proposals?



- Do you think there are any problems with our proposals? Tell us how we can do it better.



- Is there anything else we need to think about before we make a decision? Or anything we have missed out?

Children's surgical services in North Central London



Surgical services treat people who are ill or injured.



Our staff work hard to provide good care across North Central London.



We think we can make our services even better for our patients, their families, carers, and our staff.

Reasons for changing the way we provide children's surgical services



1. It is hard for staff to find the right service for young children who need emergency surgery.



They must ring around to find a hospital that can help a child.



Some children are transferred many times before getting to the right place.



2. It can be hard to organise emergency surgery for very young children under 5 years.



We don't have the same types and number of specialists able to operate on very young children at each hospital.



3. We need to make best use of the specialist services at Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH).



Sometimes children and young people over the age of 5 are sent to GOSH for surgery that their local hospital could do.



This puts extra pressure on GOSH.



4. There are around 5,000 children and young people in North Central London waiting for a planned operation.

This is too many.



5. Some hospitals see very small numbers of children for certain specialties.



This makes it difficult for staff to learn and practise the specialist skills they need to provide children's surgery.



How we developed our proposals

We listened to senior doctors, nurses, patients and patient representatives about children's surgical services.



We asked people what they thought about our plans to improve children's surgical services.

People told us these things are important to them:



- they want emergency care for children and young people:



- close to home



- quickly



- with good communications.



- planned care for children and young people:



- the best care by specially trained staff even if it is further from home



- with good communications

What we propose to do for emergency and planned surgical services for babies and children in the future

We would develop 2 new services.



- 1 at GOSH to provide emergency surgery for babies and younger children and planned inpatient surgery



- 1 at UCLH to provide day case surgery where your child only stays in hospital for a day.



- both centres would help children and will have specialist staff



- Barnet, North Mid, Royal Free and Whittington hospitals would still provide emergency surgery and common types of day case surgery for older children

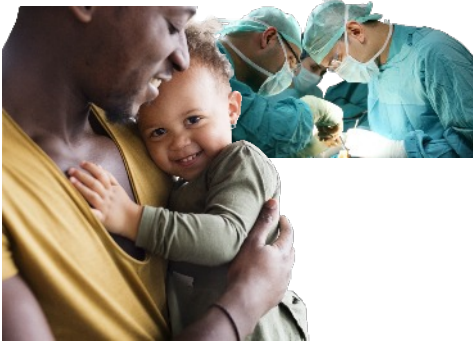


- very specialist surgery for very young babies, and for very complex operations, would still take place at specialist units across London.

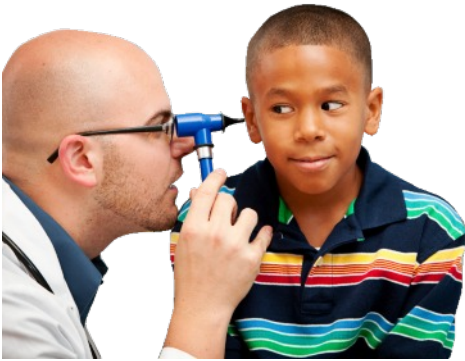


We decided the best place for a centre of expertise for emergency and planned inpatient surgery for very young children (under 3 or sometimes 5 years old) is Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH) because:

- specialist surgical staff already work there



- most emergency surgery and most planned inpatient surgery for children under 3 already happens at GOSH.



We thought about:

- quality of care



- our staff



- access to care



- value for money.



We decided the best place for day case surgery is UCLH because:

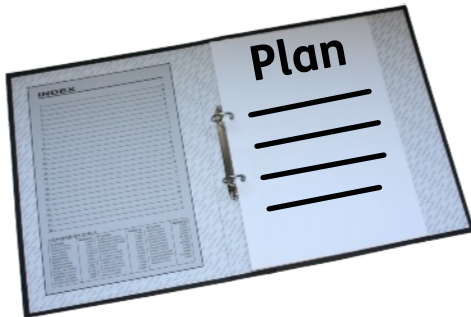
- it is the only local hospital with anaesthetists who can provide care for children aged 1 to 2 years



- it already provides more than half of the current children and young people's **day case** operations in North Central London.

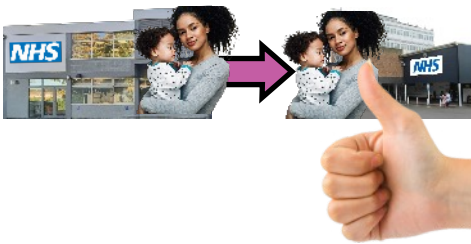
Day case surgery means you only stay in hospital for 1 day and don't need to stay overnight.

Why we are proposing these changes



Having emergency surgery on 1 site would:

- help us work out clear treatment plans



- make it easier for our staff to know where to transfer a child



- speed up access to emergency care



- make use of limited specialist staff in the best way.

Here are some more things to think about

Our plan would let us:



- make sure children and young people get the surgery they need as quickly as possible



- provide most emergency surgery for children over the age of 5 at their local hospital



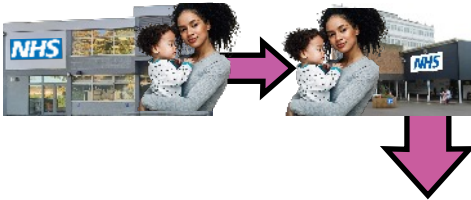
- have a centre of expertise for younger children and more complex cases



- have a centre of expertise for day case surgery



- have clear steps for emergency surgery so all staff know where children should be seen. This will speed up care



- reduce the number of children transferred to different units which will reduce stress for staff, patients and parents



- make the best use of our specialist children's surgical teams



- help our staff learn, build, and maintain their skills

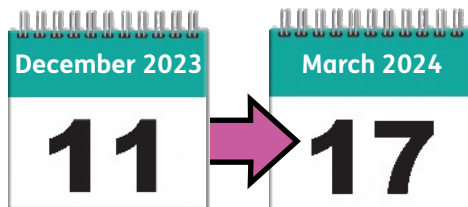


- make child-friendly operating theatres and recovery spaces.

What happens next?



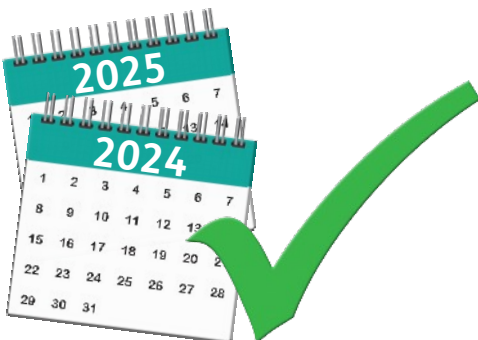
We want to know what people think about our ideas.



Our consultation runs from **11th December 2023** until 12pm on **17th March 2024**.



After the consultation we will ask an organisation to write a report for us.



We will use your feedback and other information to decide what to do by autumn/winter 2024/2025.

What the words mean

Complex means complicated.

Consultation means we want you to tell us what you think, which will help us decide whether we need to make any changes to our proposals and what to do next.

Day case surgery means you only stay in hospital for 1 day and don't need to stay overnight.

Deprived people living in deprived areas have less money.

Health inequalities are about differences in people's health. This may be because of where they live, their education, how much money they have.

Maternity care is about the health of pregnant women and people during pregnancy, childbirth and after their baby is born.

Neonatal care is a hospital gives baby born early or sick.

Surgical services treat people who are ill or injured.

Credits



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Ref ISL220 23. December 2023.
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