

South Tyneside and Sunderland hospitals share future ambitions for clinical excellence and outstanding services



Hospital teams in South Tyneside and Sunderland have shared their ambitions to create outstanding future services which offer the very highest quality of safe patient care and clinical excellence.

Following several months of work led by local doctors, nurses and therapy staff from both hospitals as part of Phase Two of the Path to Excellence programme, an 'Updated Draft Case for Change', outlining the future ambitions for hospital care, has now been published.

Taking on board over 9,000 views captured so far from staff, patients, the public and key stakeholders, the 'Updated Draft Case for Change' shares the early thinking and emerging ideas so far from hospital teams on ways to potentially solve the challenges facing the NHS and futureproof services for many generations to come.

In line with the recently published NHS Long Term Plan, the local NHS has set high aspirations for the future and is focussed on delivering the highest possible standards of clinical excellence all of the time, every time, for each and every person in South Tyneside and Sunderland.

Working together to collectively serve both local populations, key highlights from the 'Updated Draft Case for Change' include shared ambitions to:

- create a Centre of Surgical Excellence at South Tyneside District Hospital to help improve clinical outcomes and boost patient and staff experience by separating planned operations from emergency surgery
- create a new Integrated Diagnostic and Imaging Centre* at South Tyneside District Hospital to help cope with the rising demand for diagnostic tests and scans which is growing at 10% per year
- ensure continued 24/7 access to urgent or emergency care for both local populations in South Tyneside and Sunderland
- provide better access to consultant-led care which is widely acknowledged to result in better clinical outcomes for patients and reduce the risk of death or disability
- provide quick assessment for older people to reduce unnecessary hospital admissions and improve support services for all patients seven days a week to aid recovery and reduce the length of hospital stays
- reduce the cost of temporary staff by creating future hospital services which attract more permanent staff, offer the best clinical outcomes for patients and deliver high quality training experiences
- provide more care closer to peoples' homes when this is safe, sustainable and appropriate to do so. In the past year, over 1,500 appointments have been delivered in South Tyneside, rather than Sunderland, for South Tyneside residents.

Healthcare leaders have once again emphasised that both South Tyneside District Hospital and Sunderland Royal Hospital will continue to exist no matter what future service models evolve, stating both hospitals are of 'equal strategic importance'.

Changes are needed however so that both hospitals can work much more effectively together to serve both populations and achieve outstanding clinical excellence.

The 'Updated Draft Case for Change' also makes it very clear that capital investment will be required for significant transformational change to take place. This will be a critical factor in deciding the level of change possible and which potential ideas from hospital teams are likely to be taken forward for full public consultation later this year. Throughout March, the local NHS is embarking on a further period of engagement to actively seek views from staff, patient groups and wider stakeholders on what is important to local people, and why, when accessing hospital care. Working together with Healthwatch South Tyneside and Healthwatch Sunderland, a series of drop-in roadshows will take place over the coming weeks as follows:

Date	Time	Location
Friday 8 March	10am – 2pm	Cleadon Park Primary Care Centre
Friday 8 March	9am – 11am	Monkwearmouth Health Centre
Saturday 9 March	9am – 5pm	Sunderland Market Place
Monday 11 March	9am – 5pm	South Shields Market Place
Monday 11 March	9.30am – 11.30am	Bunny Hill Primary Care Centre
Wednesday 13 March	10am – 2pm	Hebburn Central
Thursday 14 March	10am – 2pm	Flagg Court Primary Care
Tuesday 19 March	9am – 11am	Pallion Health Centre
Wednesday 20 March	10am – 2pm	Boldon Asda
Thursday 21 March	8.30am – 10.30am	Grindon Lane Primary Care Centre
Thursday 21 March	10am – 4pm	Sunderland Asda
Friday 22 March	10am – 12 noon	Houghton Primary Care Centre
Saturday 23 March	9am - 5pm	Sunderland Market Place
Monday 25 March	9am – 5pm	South Shields High Street
Monday 25 March	10am – 12 noon	Washington Primary Care Centre
Tuesday 26 March	10am – 2pm	Alexander's restaurant, South Tyneside District Hospital
Tuesday 26 March	9am – 5pm	Jarrow Town Centre
Wednesday 27 March	9am – 5pm	Hebburn Town Centre

Wednesday 27 March	9.30am – 11.30am	Springwell Health Centre
Wednesday 27 March	2pm – 4pm	Main Entrance, Sunderland Royal Hospital
Thursday 28 March	10am – 2pm	Main Outpatients, Palmer Community Hospital
Friday 29 March	10am – 12 noon	Sunderland Eye Infirmary

People will be able to find out more about why hospital services must change, hear about the 'Updated Draft Case for Change' and complete a short survey. The NHS is encouraging as many people as possible to get involved and share their views. An online survey and new video animation are also available online at www.pathtoexcellence.org.uk for those who cannot attend a drop-in roadshow.

Staff working in South Tyneside and Sunderland hospitals will also have the opportunity to feedback their views during dedicated staff engagement events taking place at the end of March. Healthcare leaders will also attend a series of key stakeholder meetings over the next four weeks.

Dr Shaz Wahid, Medical Director at South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust and clinical lead for the Path to Excellence programme, said: "Our teams have been working hard over the past year and we have now reached a point where we are able to share our early thinking on how we might be able to solve some of the difficult challenges facing local hospital services.

"Our frontline staff are living and breathing these challenges on a daily basis. They see first-hand the impact of workforce pressures and growing demands. By working together across both hospitals to pool our expertise and resources, we know we can create much more resilience and offer much improved staff and patient experiences and clinical outcomes.

"Our teams have collectively set very high ambitions for the future and we now look forward to talking with staff, as well as with wider stakeholders, in the weeks ahead. Fundamental in achieving our future ambitions will be the level of capital investment available to us and whilst we do not have a definitive answer on this yet, we continue to push and explore all possible options to enable positive changes to take place."

Dr Matthew Walmsley, local South Tyneside GP and chair of NHS South Tyneside Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) said: “Working together across South Tyneside and Sunderland we are striving to achieve clinical excellence for our patients and this does require thinking differently if we are to truly embrace the challenges and opportunities ahead of us.

“It is very encouraging to see such ambitious thinking so far and as a local NHS system, we are now entering into a period of further reflection and engagement with our staff, patients and the public and remain fully transparent in our thinking. This is the opportunity for everybody to shape the ‘working ideas’ that our hospital teams have come up with so far and help develop any future scenarios to take forward to a full public consultation later this year.”

Dr Ian Pattison, local Sunderland GP and chair of NHS Sunderland CCG said: “By publishing our ‘Updated Draft Case for Change, we want to be completely transparent on the current thinking coming from our hospital teams and give people the opportunity to influence any future ideas that could eventually form part of a formal public consultation later in 2019.

“Thousands of people have already given their views since we published our initial Draft Case for Change in July 2018. This is now another important opportunity for local people to get involved and give us their feedback on what is important to them when accessing local hospital services.

“I would actively encourage people to read and consider the ‘working ideas’ for hospital services so far and let us know any thoughts or ideas you may have. We look forward to hearing feedback which will be taken on board and considered as this process moves forward.”

ENDS

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NOTES TO EDITORS

To be clear, this is **NOT** the start of a formal public consultation. The 'Updated Draft Case for Change' **is NOT a consultation document and should not be reported as such.** It provides an update on thinking so far from hospital teams which is designed to support further staff, patient and public engagement.

The 'working ideas' so far are draft and remain open to influence. They have been developed with senior clinical and nursing teams in South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust and City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust with the involvement of wider clinical, nursing and therapy staff.

Feedback gathered during March will be considered as part of the pre-consultation business case to help develop and refine future scenarios to take forward for formal public consultation which is expected later in 2019. Any future scenarios taken forward for formal public consultation will also depend on the level of capital investment available to the local NHS.

*The ambition for a new state-of-the-art Integrated Diagnostic and Imaging Centre at South Tyneside District Hospital remains subject to a formal business planning and approval process, which would require capital investment and involves ongoing discussion with partners.

About the Path to Excellence programme

Phase Two of the Path to Excellence programme is the final part of the transformation of local hospital services in South Tyneside and Sunderland. It is looking at the following key areas:

- **Emergency care and acute medicine** - This is the care provided when patients arrive at our Emergency Departments, need emergency admission to hospital or have an urgent healthcare need.
- **Emergency surgery and planned operations** - This is the care provided for patients who are admitted as an emergency and then require urgent surgery, or who have been referred by their GP for a planned operation.
- **Planned care and outpatients** - This is the care provided in hospital after patients have been referred by their GP for a test, scan, treatment or operation.

Work is also taking place to consider vital 'clinical support services' such as therapy services (physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech and language therapy) as well as clinical pharmacy and radiology services (scans and x-rays). Phase Two of the Path to Excellence is one of three main areas of work across the whole local health economy which is also looking at how we transform care outside of hospital and help support our communities to stay fit and well by focussing on prevention.

*NHS partners leading the Path to Excellence programme are:

- NHS South Tyneside Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)
- NHS Sunderland CCG
- South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust
- City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust

All are committed to integrate prevention, out of hospital care in communities and reforming hospital care in order ensure the NHS will continue to support our patients and public for another 70 years.