

**Building**

**A Caring**

**Future**

**As a valued member  
your thoughts count**

# £200 million investment over next 10 years

As a member of Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust and a recent user of our services, we want to let you know about our proposals to greatly improve the treatment and care you receive in all our hospitals across Northumberland and North Tyneside.

Our single biggest investment will be £75 million, to build a new state-of-the-art specialist hospital which will provide all patients who need emergency treatment with specialist care.

By ensuring you are treated by the right specialist medical and nursing teams, you are more likely to have a full and speedy recovery.

£125 million will be spent upgrading Wansbeck and North Tyneside hospitals and rebuilding some of our community hospitals.

No decisions have yet been made about whether these proposals will go ahead. We want to explain our proposals to you so that you can give us your views.

*“We’ve got an ambition to radically improve our services for patients who need emergency treatment.”*

*David Evans, Medical Director*

*“I’ve been working in emergency medicine for the past 11 years and we have taken massive strides forward. The care patients receive now is much better than what they would have received a few years back but I know it can be even better.*

*“As a consultant, I want to be able to take the best practice available world-wide and offer this to patients in Northumbria. To do this, I see a specialist emergency hospital as the only logical next step. It will allow us to take emergency medicine to the next level.”*

*Chris Biggin,  
Emergency Medicine Consultant*



# Your new specialist emergency hospital

## More specialists, more of the time

This hospital will bring world-class standards to patients in our part of the North East. Seriously ill patients would be taken straight to the new emergency hospital (rather than to one of the general hospitals) and will be seen quickly by experts who specialise in their condition. Once a patient's condition has improved, they will be transferred to their local hospital for further treatment and recovery.

The new hospital will have a major A&E department, seven wards, intensive care and operating theatres. Because intensive care would be at the new hospital, consultant-led maternity services would also be provided from there, as would our special care baby unit.

It will have the latest equipment for diagnosing conditions which will only be used for emergency patients. This means patients will be diagnosed and treated much more quickly.

The hospital will ideally be close to the North Tyneside and Northumberland border and have good access from major roads.

# Your local general hospital

Hospitals at North Tyneside, Wansbeck and Hexham will continue to be where most care is provided, treating tens of thousands of patients. Our doctors will still be based at these hospitals which will continue to provide:

- **Beds for patients transferred from the new hospital and those needing planned operations.**
- **Walk-in services for the majority of patients who currently use A&E**

- **Outpatient treatment and a full range of tests, scans and procedures**

Wansbeck and North Tyneside will be improved and refurbished. Patients will have much more space around their beds and will be cared for in calmer environments with more four-bedded bays and single rooms. We will be able to provide more bathrooms and together these changes will improve patient privacy, dignity and comfort.

# Your local community hospitals

Over the last 18 months we've increased the range of services at our community hospitals and we will continue to look for opportunities to provide more care locally. For example at Berwick we have introduced a chemotherapy service, mobile CT and MRI scanners and hernia operations under local anaesthetic.

The package of improvements proposed over the next 10 years includes new buildings from which to provide these services at Berwick, Haltwhistle and Morpeth.

# Get involved and give us your views

We want to give you the opportunity to understand the proposals and to shape them with your views.

Once we've taken your opinions into account we will consider what the final proposals should be and these will be the subject of formal consultation with local communities.

To get further information about the proposals visit [www.buildingacaringfuture.co.uk](http://www.buildingacaringfuture.co.uk)

## We would like to know...

- What you think of these proposals
- Whether there is anything you would like us to take into account or explain more fully
- Whether you would like to be involved in any consultation or future discussions

## Email:

[emergencycareproject@northumbria.nhs.uk](mailto:emergencycareproject@northumbria.nhs.uk)

## Attend:

One of our members' meetings  
- for dates see enclosed letter

## Call:

0191 203 1296 and speak to the membership team or ask to speak to your public governor

If you require this leaflet in an alternative format or a different language call us on 0191 203 1296.