



**NORTH LONDON PARTNERS**  
in health and care

North Central London's sustainability  
and transformation partnership

**NHS**

We are reviewing adult elective  
orthopaedic surgery in north central  
London and we'd like your views

Planned surgery of bones and joints in Barnet,  
Camden, Enfield, Haringey and Islington

Information for local residents

# The NHS believes there may be opportunities to improve bone and joint care in your area

Orthopaedic surgery (surgery for bones and joints) currently takes place at ten different hospital sites in north central London (Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Haringey and Islington).

The NHS believes there may be opportunities to improve this care and so we are carrying out a review.

We are in the first phase of this review, and we are sharing our initial ideas and inviting people to tell us what they think. This will help us to develop a final set of proposals. No decisions have been made and your views are important in helping us to shape our thinking.

A summary of the review is provided in this leaflet and you can also read the full draft document on our website.

**We are aiming to improve care and experience for patients. This includes:**

- **Less time spent in hospital**
- **Much less risk of operations being cancelled**
- **Shorter waiting times for an operation**
- **Improved clinical outcomes**

*Examples of elective orthopaedic surgery are hip or knee replacement operations*



# How bone and joint surgery is currently organised

In 2016/17, north central London hospitals carried out over 23,000 adult elective orthopaedic operations across 10 sites. Elective (planned) orthopaedic surgery is surgery of the hand, ankle, foot, hip, knee and shoulder.

This surgery currently takes place at:

- The Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital
- University College Hospital
- National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery
- Whittington Hospital
- North Middlesex University Hospital
- Royal Free Hospital
- Chase Farm Hospital
- Highgate Private Hospital
- The Cavell Hospital
- Kings Oak Hospital



Many of these hospitals also offer emergency orthopaedic care. Our review is only looking at planned operations; emergency care will remain unchanged.

# Opportunities for further improvement

There are already many areas of good practice in adult elective orthopaedic care in north central London which include falls prevention schemes, how people access musculoskeletal care such as physiotherapy and people staying in hospital for a shorter time.

However, we believe that there are a number of areas of current care that could be improved upon further:

- Patients report different experiences and outcomes at different hospitals
- Some hospitals carry out small numbers of some operations, leading to inconsistent approaches
- There is variation in 'revision rates' (a follow-up procedure being needed if the first one didn't work as expected)
- There are variations in the length of a patient's hospital stay, following an operation
- Rates of readmission (a patient who has been discharged is admitted back to hospital) vary (but are low)
- Infection rates vary (but are low)
- Waiting times vary and targets are being missed

We want to improve on this as part of our review.



# Our ideas on how we might improve this care in future

We believe that by consolidating adult elective orthopaedic surgery from multiple hospitals onto a smaller number of larger units we could further improve care:

- By separating planned surgery from emergency surgery services could be more efficient quality improved
- By ensuring separation of beds for planned surgery from emergency beds we could reduce cancellations and the incidence of hospital acquired infections
- We could expand 'joint school'\* This could lead to faster recovery and improve our patients' experience
- We could provide the best possible aftercare, promoting faster recovery, better outcomes and less time in hospital
- A co-located specialist high dependency unit would enable all cases to be done on one site
- We could develop access to innovations such as robotic surgery that are likely to deliver better outcomes
- Links to research could be extended and there would be much greater potential for clinical trials

**We believe that by consolidating adult elective orthopaedic surgery from multiple hospitals to a smaller number of larger units we could further improve care.**

*\*Joint school is patient education programme for those undergoing hip and knee replacement surgery*

## How we developed our ideas

Our ideas have been developed by talking to people who currently deliver these services, including some of the surgeons who carry out these operations. We have also looked at national research and examples from around the UK, where they have already undertaken this kind of review and reorganised how they work.

## What are your thoughts?

We have published our draft case for change and we would like to hear your thoughts.

For example, what do you think are the advantages and disadvantages of consolidating onto fewer sites? If you have used these services, what was your experience? How do you think they could be improved?

There are a number questions at the end of this leaflet to help you feedback – you will also find these on our website.

We are also hosting events with Healthwatch and talking to other local groups. If you'd like us to talk to your group, please contact us.

***Read the draft case for change at  
[www.northlondonpartners.org.uk](http://www.northlondonpartners.org.uk)  
and tell us what you think***



## The review process

- Over the summer and early autumn of 2018 we are asking for your views. This will help us to refine our thinking
- Based on what we hear we will develop a firm set of proposals
- If the final proposals result in a significant change we will formally consult in 2019

Decisions on any options on potential service changes will be taken by the Joint Commissioning Committee of the north central London clinical commissioning groups. Our timetable is flexible to give us the opportunity to respond to what we hear.

## The review is coordinated by North London Partners in health and care

North London Partners in health and care, is a partnership which represents clinical commissioning groups (CCGs), health providers and local authorities in north central London (Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Haringey and Islington). Our review group is chaired by a clinician and includes patient representatives and surgeons.

If you would like this information in another language or need any assistance to give us your thoughts, please contact us:  
**[nclstp.orthopaedics@nhs.net](mailto:nclstp.orthopaedics@nhs.net)**



# We want to hear what you think

If you have thoughts or ideas about our suggestions and ideas for these services, we'd love to hear from you.

**You should respond before 19 October 2018\***

Email us on: [nclstp.orthopaedics@nhs.net](mailto:nclstp.orthopaedics@nhs.net)

Completing our online questionnaire at:

[www.northlondonpartners.org.uk/orthopaedicreview](http://www.northlondonpartners.org.uk/orthopaedicreview)

Write to us: **North London Partners in Health and Care  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, 5 Pancras Square, London N1C 4AG**

Talk to us at one of our events, which you will find at:

[www.northlondonpartners.org.uk/orthopaedicreview](http://www.northlondonpartners.org.uk/orthopaedicreview)

*\*we may extend beyond this date to hear further feedback if necessary*

## We would like to hear your thoughts on:

1. What are your views on our ideas?
2. What are the advantages and disadvantages of consolidating onto fewer sites?
3. What are the top three considerations to take into account when thinking about how these services are delivered in the future?
4. If you have used these services (or know someone who has) please tell us whether the challenges set out in this draft case for change reflect those experiences?

*If you are a healthcare provider there is a separate set of questions on our website, asking for your ideas and responses.*