



Department of
Health

An Roinn Sláinte

Máinnystrie O Poustie

www.health-ni.gov.uk

Making Our Hospitals Better

Changes to Health Services in Northern Ireland



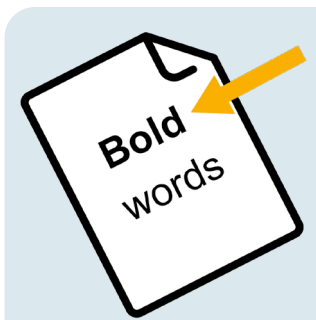
EasyReadNI



This is an Easy Read version of some hard information. It may not include all of the information but will tell you about the important parts.



This Easy Read information uses easier words and pictures. You may still want help to read it.



Some words are in **bold** - this means the writing is thicker and darker.



These are words that some people will find hard. When you see a **bold** word, we will explain it in the next sentence.



Blue and underlined words show links to websites and email addresses. You can click on these links on a computer.

What is in this booklet?

- 1** About this booklet
 - 2** Our Plan for Hospitals
 - 3** Why Do We Need to Change?
 - 4** What Changes Are We Planning?
 - 5** We Want Your Views
 - 6** Tell Us What You Think
-

About this booklet



We want to make our **healthcare system** better for everyone in Northern Ireland.



A healthcare system means all the different places and people that help keep you healthy.

We Want To Make Sure:



Patients get the right care. Patients are people who need medical help.



People can get **treatment** close to home when possible. Treatment is the care and medicine you get to make you better.



Hospitals have enough trained staff to help you.

Our Plan for Hospitals

We have different types of hospitals that work together:



Local hospitals are smaller hospitals in your area.



General hospitals are bigger hospitals that help people far from big cities who need urgent care.



Area hospitals are large hospitals that provide different types of care for large areas of Northern Ireland.



Specialist hospitals provide special care for things like cancer and help for sick children.

Why Do We Need to Change?

We need to make changes because:



People are living longer and need more healthcare.



New medical equipment and treatments need special trained staff.



Small hospitals find it hard to keep enough trained staff.



We want to provide better care for everyone.

What Changes Are We Planning?

Changes to Where You Get Care:



You might get more care closer to home.



Some special treatments will be at
bigger hospitals.



Your local hospital might do different
things than before.



No hospitals will close.

Changes to How Hospitals Work Together



Bigger hospitals will help smaller ones.



Some hospitals will become special centres for planned operations.



Doctors and nurses will work across different hospitals.

Changes to Make Care Better



More doctors and nurses will be trained.



New medical equipment will be bought.



Hospitals will work with doctors in other parts of the UK and Ireland.



We will make sure there are enough hospital beds.

Changes to Help You Get to Hospital



We will look at ways to help people travel to hospitals.



We know some people might need to travel further for special care.



We will review how to make transport better.



We want to make it easier to get to appointments.

Changes You Might See



The Causeway Hospital might become a special centre for planned operations.



Some specialist services might move to different hospitals.



Your local hospital might offer new services.



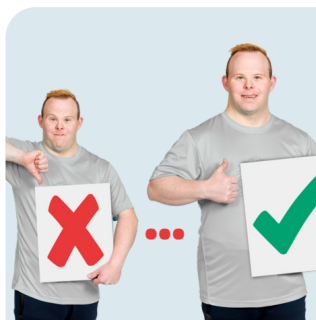
You might see different doctors working together.



These changes will happen slowly over time.



We will tell you before any changes happen.



These changes are to make services better.



These changes will reduce waiting times.



They will also help doctors and nurses focus on what they do best.

We Want Your Views

We are asking everyone these important questions:

1. Do you understand why we need to change our hospitals?



We want to know if we explained the reasons clearly.



Confused

Tell us if anything is confusing.

2. What do you think about the different types of hospitals?



Are the roles of different hospitals clear?



Understand

Do you understand what each hospital does?

3. Will our plans make hospitals better?

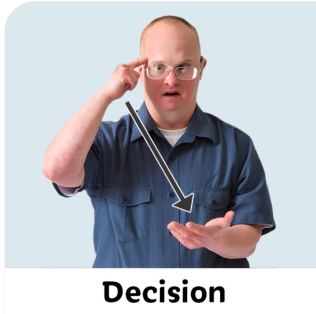


Do you think our changes will help people get better care?



Will these changes make it easier to use hospital services?

4. Do you understand how we make decisions?



Is it clear how we decide to make changes?



Do you know how you can be involved in decisions?

Tell Us What You Think



You can fill in our **online form**. An online form is something you fill in on a computer.



Someone can help you fill in the form if you need it.



Visit our website at:

www.health-ni.gov.uk/consultations/hospitals-creating-network-better-outcomes-public-consultation



If you need a paper copy, email us at:
rebuildinghsc.services@health-ni.gov.uk



You need to tell us by 28th February 2025.

Need Help?

If you need this information in a different way, please tell us. This includes getting it in other languages.

We want everyone to be able to tell us what they think about the plan.

For more information:

Contact the
Department of Health
Castle Buildings
Stormont
Belfast
Northern Ireland
BT4 3SQ

Email: rebuildinghsc.services@health-ni.gov.uk

Website: [www.health-ni.gov.uk/
consultations/hospitals-creating-network-
better-outcomes-public-consultation](http://www.health-ni.gov.uk/consultations/hospitals-creating-network-better-outcomes-public-consultation)