

# Maternity and neonatal services in Leeds: tell us what you think about

- our plan to centralise maternity and neonatal services at LGI
- our proposals for hospital antenatal appointments

It doesn't matter if you haven't previously used these services, we would still like to receive your comments.



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# Maternity and neonatal services

NHS Leeds Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) is responsible for planning and funding (commissioning) the majority of health services for people in Leeds. We work closely with our health partners, including Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust (LTH), and the NHS England Specialised Commissioning Team, to deliver the best possible health and care services to the people of Leeds.

Providing high quality maternity and neonatal services in Leeds is part of the Leeds Health and Wellbeing Strategy. This supports the city's vision for Leeds to be "the best place for all our children and young people to grow up in". The proposals in this document will enable us to deliver high quality and sustainable care, in a modern environment where women can give birth comfortably and safely.

Since 2013, we have been working with, and gathering the views of, local women and their families aiming to develop the best maternity and neonatal services for Leeds. If you've already taken the time to get involved, thank you very much for sharing your views and experiences. Your comments have helped us to develop a maternity strategy for Leeds, and you can find a copy of this on our website at <https://www.leedscgg.nhs.uk/publications/maternity-strategy-2015-20/>

You told us you wanted to have a midwifery-led unit so that women and their families have more options around how and where they give birth.

Building on our work over the last few years we have worked with the NHS England Specialised Commissioning Team (who commission neonatal services) to develop some viable options for the future, and we would like your views on these options for maternity and neonatal services in Leeds. We particularly want to focus on people's views of potential changes to antenatal (care during pregnancy) care.

## The current service



Most antenatal care is provided in the community by community midwives at local surgeries and children's centres.

Some antenatal appointments, including scans and appointments with obstetricians take place in a hospital. They take place either at St James's (SJUH) or Leeds General Infirmary (LGI).

Most mums will experience a mixture of hospital and community antenatal appointments throughout their pregnancy.

LGI and St James's both have delivery suites where mums currently give birth to their babies, unless they have opted for a home birth.

Both hospitals have antenatal and postnatal wards, where women stay overnight before and after birth if they need to. There are also four assessment centres which check women with any pregnancy-related issues.

Both hospital sites have neonatal units; these look after babies born early, too small, or with a medical condition which means they need specialised treatment.

Sometimes these babies need to be moved between hospitals to receive the right specialised care.

A full range of neonatal intensive care services is provided at LGI. There is a special care unit at St James's for those babies who need additional support and stabilisation before being transferred to the LGI.

**Sometimes babies have to be moved between hospitals to receive the right care**

# Our plan

We want to centralise maternity and neonatal services at LGI

Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust is planning to build two new hospitals at LGI. The proposals - called Hospitals for the Future - centre around developing modern, responsive health facilities for adults at LGI and for children and young people at Leeds Children's Hospital. The proposals include building a new 650 space car park.

You can read more about Hospitals for the Future here: [www.leedsth.nhs.uk/about-us/building-the-leeds-way](http://www.leedsth.nhs.uk/about-us/building-the-leeds-way).

Over the next few years, and as part of these plans, we would like to incorporate all the maternity assessment centres, maternity wards and delivery suites and neonatal services for the city at LGI (we call this 'centralisation'). We would also like to add a brand new midwifery-led unit.

This builds on the feedback you have already given us. It will enable us to deliver the safest and highest quality sustainable maternity services.

It may be quite a number of years before any change occurs, although we plan to start building work in 2020. However, it is important that we understand what you think about these plans as early as we can.

We want to add a new, larger midwifery-led unit at LGI



# Neonatal services

The medical and nursing teams currently work across the two units. This is not sustainable in the long-term.

There is a national shortage of neonatal doctors (neonatologists) and neonatal nurses who care for babies in neonatal units.

We are looking to the future and want to address these risks by centralising all neonatal services on one site.

We will still deliver the same level of high quality neonatal services. Because the services are closely linked, all inpatient maternity services would need to be on the same site too.

We want to provide safer care by bringing together our medical and nursing teams on one site at LGI



# Why doing nothing is not an option

We don't believe that it would be an option to continue to offer neonatal services in the way we currently do in the long term. Safe care is our priority and we currently manage any risks that relate to neonatal staffing. But sometimes families using our neonatal services may be transferred between sites or redirected to a different hospital from the one they choose.

This can result in separating mums from very unwell new babies.

Co-locating all maternity services on one site, including neonatal care, will enable us to provide seamless care through pregnancy, birth and beyond, and keep families together.

We want to keep families together if they need to use neonatal services

# What is a midwifery-led unit?

Centralising all services also gives us an opportunity to create a new, larger midwifery-led unit.

Midwifery-led units are run by midwives and maternity support workers without doctors being there. Because most mums can give birth without needing assistance from a doctor, these units are a safe and alternative choice.

Unlike other large cities in the UK the midwifery-led unit in Leeds is small and not purpose-built.

It is proposed that our new purpose-built midwifery-led unit in Leeds will be on the LGI site with our other maternity services.

It will offer mums a modern environment where they can give birth comfortably and safely, and greater choice about how they can have their babies. If there is any need for a doctor there will be one alongside.

We want to offer families a service that is kind, professional, safe and personalised, and having a new, larger midwifery-led unit will help us to do this.

## It means that in the hospital:

- More women could choose to give birth in a midwifery-led unit.
- Women would have better access to birthing pools and other facilities.
- All babies needing special care would be born and cared for at LGI. There would be no need to transfer any babies from one hospital to another. This means that mums and their babies are much less likely to have to be separated.
- Mums who are expected to have relatively straightforward births would continue to have most of their appointments in the community. They can then give birth either at LGI or at home.
- There would be no maternity or neonatal inpatient facilities at St James's.



# What about antenatal appointments and services?

We want your views on where we provide hospital antenatal appointments

We would like you to help shape our plans about where antenatal appointments and services should be available in future.

Most mums will experience a mixture of hospital and community antenatal appointments throughout their pregnancy.

Around 75% of antenatal appointments already take place in the community, at Children's Centres, GP practices or other community venues.

Appointments in community settings are very important and these will continue as usual. Women have told us that they like the fact that this gives them support close to home.

In the future we want to have more antenatal appointments in the community.

We recently undertook some surveys and interviews with mums and families across Leeds to look in more detail at outpatient

services. You can find the report here <https://www.leedscg.nhs.uk/get-involved/your-views/maternity-outpatient-maternity-care-leeds/>

What they have told us has helped to shape two options about where we should deliver hospital-based outpatient appointments (including scans). These are currently held at both LGI and at St James's.

75% of antenatal appointments are held in community venues and this won't change

Women and families in Leeds have told us they want to have access to a modern midwifery-led unit



Alongside our plans to move inpatient maternity services and neonatal services, the two options that we would like you to consider and give us feedback on are:

## Option 1

**Centralise all maternity and neonatal services, including a new, larger midwifery-led unit, at LGI, and have all hospital antenatal services at the LGI.**

Maternity services in the community will not change. Our ambition is to increase the number of antenatal appointments available in the community.

### The impact of Option 1 is

- Women would be familiar with the LGI maternity departments and know how to get to them before the birth.
- There would be one single location making the services very easy to find.
- Staff would all be located on the same site which would improve safety, as well as making the service more efficient and sustainable in the future.
- Women living close to St James's would need to travel further to access hospital antenatal services (although most antenatal services will continue to be provided in the community).

## Option 2

**Centralise all maternity and neonatal services, including a new, larger midwifery-led unit at LGI, but have some hospital antenatal services at St James's as well as at the LGI site.**

Maternity services in the community will not change. Our ambition is to increase the number of antenatal appointments available in the community.

### The impact of Option 2 is

- If some antenatal services were kept at St James's they would be more of a community hub as they would be based in an area which local families are already familiar with.
- Women and families have already told us they find parking at St James's to be good.
- The maternity service would be less efficient in terms of staff time than option 1, as staff would need to travel across the city to provide services.
- Equipment such as ultrasound machines would be not as efficiently used, so we would need more of them.
- Women who had their antenatal appointments at St James's would be less familiar with the LGI site where their baby would be born if they did not choose a homebirth.
- Women may have to be transferred from their antenatal appointment (at St James's) to an inpatient area at the LGI, if they or their baby are thought to be becoming unwell.

# How can I get involved?

For 12 weeks between January and March 2020 we will be consulting with people in Leeds about these changes. We would like anyone who is interested in maternity and neonatal services in Leeds to let us have their views about our plans to centralise maternity and neonatal services at LGI and our proposals for hospital antenatal appointments.

You can get involved in a number of ways...

1

You can complete the short questionnaire at the end of this document and return to the Freepost address.

OR

2

You can find out more and complete the short questionnaire online at [www.leedscgg.nhs.uk/maternityleeds](http://www.leedscgg.nhs.uk/maternityleeds)

OR

3

You can attend one of our drop-in sessions at:

- **Hamara Centre - Tempest Road, Leeds LS11 6RD**  
Tuesday 11 February - 1pm-5pm
- **Old Fire Station - Gipton Approach, Leeds, LS9 6NL**  
Wednesday 19 February - 1pm-5pm
- **Pudsey Civic Hall - Dawsons Corner, Pudsey, Leeds, LS28 5TA** Tuesday 3 March - 9am-1pm
- **Carriageworks Auditorium - 3 Millenium Square, Leeds, LS2 3AD** Wednesday 11 March - 4pm-8pm

We will work with voluntary sector organisations to gather views and comments from local communities and seldom heard groups.

Further information about the consultation is available on our website.

If you have any questions you can contact the NHS Leeds CCG Engagement team using the details on the back of this document.



You can follow the consultation using the hashtag **#LeedsChildrensHospital**

# Survey questions

Now that you have read all about our plans for maternity and neonatal services in Leeds and our proposals for hospital antenatal appointments, we would like you to tell us what you think. Your views will help us to understand the needs of local people and how any service changes could impact on mums, babies and families in Leeds. The NHS in Leeds will use your feedback to make decisions about:

- **Centralising maternity and neonatal services at the Leeds General Infirmary, and**
- **Where we provide hospital antenatal appointments in Leeds**

You can help us by completing the online survey here: [www.leedscgg.nhs.uk/maternityleeds](http://www.leedscgg.nhs.uk/maternityleeds) or by filling in this paper survey and returning to the Freepost address:

FREEPOST RTEG-JRZR-CLZG  
Maternity Services Consultation  
NHS Leeds Clinical Commissioning Group  
Suites 2-4 Wira House  
West Park Ring Road  
Leeds LS16 6EB

## Tell us a bit about you.

### 1. I am filling this in as:

- Someone who is expecting a baby (or their partner)
- Someone who has had a baby in the last five years (or their partner)
- A member of the public (go to question 7)
- A healthcare professional (go to question 7)
- A representative from a voluntary sector organisation (go to question 7)
- Other (please specify)

## If you have given birth to a child in Leeds in the last five years, please tell us:

### 2. Where did you give birth?

- Leeds General Infirmary  St James's  Home
- Not applicable

### 3. If you gave birth at the hospital, how did you travel there?

- Drove and parked there in my own car
- Driven and parked there in someone else's car
- Dropped off by a friend or family member
- Dropped off by a taxi
- Caught a bus
- Arrived by ambulance
- Walk
- Other (please state)
- Not applicable

#### 4. Did you use the neonatal service in Leeds?

- Yes, at LGI
- Yes, at St James's
- Yes, at both sites
- No

**If you have travelled to a hospital for an antenatal appointment, please tell us:**

#### 5. Which hospital site did you visit for your last antenatal appointment?

- Leeds General Infirmary
- St James's

#### 6. How did you travel to the hospital for your last antenatal appointment?

- Drove and parked there in my own car
- Driven and parked there in someone else's car
- Dropped off by a friend or family member
- Dropped off by a taxi
- Caught a bus
- Arrived by ambulance
- Walk
- Other (please state)

**Thinking about the following aspects of hospital-based maternity and neonatal care.**

#### 7. Please rank the following aspects of hospital-based maternity and neonatal care from 1 (most important) to 5 (least important)

- Safety - ensuring mums and babies do not need to be transferred if a baby needs specialist (neonatal) care
- Choice - people having a choice about where they are seen
- NHS efficiency - having all the maternity and neonatal staff on one site
- Quality - mums being able to stay with their baby if they need specialist (neonatal) care
- Parking - finding and paying for a parking space

We have been talking to women, their families and staff in maternity and neonatal services over the last few years. This has given us a good understanding of their needs and preferences. We have used their feedback alongside good practice guidance and come up with two proposals for maternity and neonatal services in Leeds. We have outlined the two options below with a brief description of some of the benefits and drawbacks.

#### Option 1:

**Centralise all maternity and neonatal services, including a new, larger midwifery-led unit, at Leeds General Infirmary. Have all hospital antenatal services at the LGI.**

Maternity services in the community will remain the same as they are now.

Benefits	Drawbacks
People thought redesign and improvements to the accommodation for maternity services at LGI would make it a nicer environment for outpatient appointments	People were concerned about the availability and cost of parking
Bringing all maternity and neonatal staff together in one location will address some people's concerns about a 'stretched' workforce	People thought that traffic congestion around the hospital might make access more stressful
This would address worries people told us they have about having two services on two different sites being a waste of resources (like equipment)	There would be no maternity or neonatal services at St James's
Babies needing neonatal care would not need to be transferred between sites and would not be separated from their family	
Leeds will be able to have a new, larger midwifery-led unit to give mums a greater choice about how they can have their babies	
There will be access to better facilities, such as more birthing pools	
People thought the city centre location of LGI is easier to find and to access, especially by public transport	

#### Option 2:

**Centralise all maternity and neonatal services, including a new, larger midwifery-led unit at Leeds General Infirmary. Have some hospital antenatal services at both St James's and the LGI sites.**

Maternity services in the community will remain the same as they are now.

Benefits	Drawbacks
Offers choice to patients and visitors about which site they would prefer to go for their outpatient appointments	Could potentially mean a woman having to get care from different people (interrupting continuity of care) if she needed to change from one site to another
Would provide a more 'local' service to some local residents	Some people are worried that the workforce is stretched by having outpatient services at both sites
Babies needing neonatal care would not need to be transferred between sites and would not be separated from their family	Some people think this option would be less efficient
Leeds will be able to have a midwifery-led unit to give mums a greater choice about how they can have their babies	There would be no maternity or neonatal services at St James's
There will be access to better facilities, such as more birthing pools	

**Thinking about the two options, please tell us:**

**8. Which option do you think will provide the best service?**

- Option 1** - Centralise all maternity and neonatal services, including a new, larger midwifery-led unit, at LGI. **Have all hospital antenatal services at LGI.**
- Option 2** - Centralise all maternity and neonatal services, including a new, larger midwifery-led unit, at LGI. **Have some hospital antenatal services at both St James's and LGI sites.**

**9. Please share any other thoughts you have about maternity and neonatal services in Leeds**

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**Thank you for completing this survey**

**Please detach your survey from the form and return it to the freepost address on page 11.**

**Equality Monitoring**

We deliver a wide range of services and we need to know who is benefiting from our services and who might be missing out. We would really appreciate you answering the questions below by ticking the boxes that you feel most describes you. Some questions may feel personal, but the information we collect will be kept confidential, secure and kept separately from any personal information you might have provided elsewhere.

Please tick here if you would prefer not to answer any of the equality monitoring questions.

**Q1 What is your postcode?**

**Q2 What is your age?**

- Under 16    16-25    26-35    36-45
- 46-55    56-65    66-75    76-85
- 86+    Prefer not to say

**Q3 Are you disabled? (The Equality Act 2010 defines disability as 'a physical, sensory or mental impairment which has, or had a substantial and long-term adverse effect on a person's ability to carry out normal day to day activities').**

- Yes    No    Prefer not to say

**Q4 If yes, what type of disability? Please tick all that apply.**

- Long-standing illness
- Physical impairment
- Learning disability
- Mental health condition
- Hearing impairment (such as deaf or hard of hearing)
- Visual impairment (such as blind or partially sighted)
- Prefer not to say
- Other (please specify)

**Q5 What is your ethnic background?**

- Prefer not to say

**White**

- British (English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish)
- Irish    Gypsy or Traveller    European
- Any other white background (please state):

**Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups**

- White and Black Caribbean
- White and Black African
- White and Asian
- Any other Mixed or Multiple ethnic (please state):

**Asian or Asian British**

- Indian    Pakistani
- Bangladeshi    Chinese
- Any other Asian background (please state):

**Black, African, Caribbean or Black British**

- African    Caribbean
- Any other Black, African, Caribbean or Black British background (please state):

**Other ethnic group**

- Arab
- Any other ethnic group (please state):

**Pregnancy and maternity**

The Equality Act 2010 protects women who are pregnant or have given birth within a 26 week period.

**Q6 Are you pregnant at this time?**

- Yes    No    Prefer not to say

**Q7 Have you recently given birth (within a 26 week period)?**

- Yes    No    Prefer not to say

**Q8 Are you a parent or carer of a child or children under the age of five years old?**

- Yes    No

**Q9 What is your religion or belief?**

- Buddhism    Christianity    Hinduism
- Islam    Judaism    Sikhism
- No religion    Prefer not to say
- Other (please specify):

**Q10 What is your sexual orientation?**

- Bisexual (more than one gender)
- Gay man (same gender)
- Lesbian / Gay woman (same gender)
- Heterosexual / Straight (opposite gender)
- Prefer not to say    Other (please specify):

**Q11 What is your relationship status?**

- Civil partnership    Divorced
- Married    Single
- Co-habiting (live with partner)    Widowed
- Prefer not to say    Other (please specify):

**Q12 What is your employment status? (please tick all that apply)**

- Student    At college    At university
- Employed - Full time    Employed - Part time
- In receipt of state benefits (e.g. Personal Independence Payment, Universal Credit)
- Unemployed - Looking for work
- Unemployed - Not looking for work
- Apprenticeship / training    Retired
- Prefer not to say    Other (please specify):

**Q13 Are you a carer? (A carer is someone who provides unpaid support / care for a family member, friend, etc. who needs help with their day to day life; because they are disabled, have a long-term illness or they are elderly).**

- Yes    No    Prefer not to say

**Q14 Do you have unpaid responsibilities for children as a parent / grandparent / guardian?**

- Yes    No    Prefer not to say

**Q15 Would you describe yourself as homeless?**

- Yes    No    Prefer not to say

**Q16 What gender best describes you?**

- Woman (including trans women)
- Man (including trans man)
- Non-binary    Prefer not to say
- Other (please specify):

**Q17 Are you transgender? Is your gender identify different to the gender you were given at birth?**

- Yes    No    Prefer not to say

## What will happen to my views?

At the end of the consultation, all the replies and comments will be analysed and published in a report. This report will be used by NHS Leeds Clinical Commissioning Group, Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust and NHS England Specialised Commissioning Team to make decisions about maternity and neonatal care in Leeds. Your views will also be used to help understand the needs of local people and how any service changes in the future could impact on mums, babies and families.

## Find out more

Please share your contact details below if you would like to receive a copy of the engagement report and see what people have said. Your details will be stored in our system securely for one year and will only be used for the above purpose and any updates regarding this project.

Your personal information will be kept separate from the answers and your response to the questions will be anonymous.

Please be aware that if you provide us with personal information in your survey responses it may mean that your survey answers are no longer anonymous.

## What are your contact details?

Please note that you do not have to fill in your personal details to complete this survey.

Name .....

Address .....

.....

.....

Email .....

Telephone .....

GP Practice .....

**If you would like to find out more about any future changes to your local health services please tick this box to join our community network** (if you tick the box below, we will be in contact with you shortly after the engagement has closed)

**How did you hear about this survey?**  
(please select one option)

- Social media     NHS Trust     CCG website  
 At an event (such as a drop-in event)  
 Voluntary sector organisation  
 Other (please state)

**For office use only**     VAL

## Data protection

Any information we hold about you will be in accordance with the Data Protection Act, the GDPR rules and the NHS's information governance policies and guidance. Your information will be securely stored by the communications and engagement team at NHS Leeds Clinical Commissioning Group. Your information will not be shared with any third parties and will not be used for any other purposes other than those related to planning work linked to maternity and neonatal services. You can unsubscribe at any point by contacting the CCG on 0113 8435457 or leedscg.comms@nhs.net

**If you have special communication needs or would like this information in another format or in a different language, please contact us or ask a carer or friend to contact us on 0113 8435457.**

