

Travelling to hospital

Having more of your care provided in specialist centres will mean some patients may have to travel further for specialist treatment. But this is the safest option for these services.

The Friarage Hospital will continue to provide a range of services for women and children, just as it does now. This won't change.

Every effort will be made to shape healthcare services so that routine appointments and care before birth and ongoing care for new mothers and babies will be provided at home, or at local NHS facilities such as the GP surgery, or the new maternity led unit.

Outpatient services and assessment of children will continue to take place at the Friarage Hospital.

If a patient's condition requires more basic healthcare they will be able to access 24-hour care through a combination of local services, GPs and out of hours services, so they won't have to travel further than they do now.

A lot of work is being done to make sure the distance that people travel to access specialist healthcare services are reasonable and convenient. This work includes:

- Ensuring ambulance services will take patients at the right time to the right place for their needs.

This factsheet has been produced as part of the public consultation on our proposal for maternity and children's services at the Friarage Hospital in Northallerton.

- Providing a shuttle bus services between the Friarage Hospital and The James Cook University Hospital.

- Supporting families to travel home after a hospital stay.

Following a series of discussions with providers of transport services and listening to you at the engagement meetings we have scoped the following models of service with times of service and type of transport.

Shuttle bus

Five full trips per day (ten journeys) every two hours from both locations. A 29 seat, low floor vehicle. Service operating Monday to Friday 8am - 6pm for six months.

Dedicated ambulance

Vehicle for seven days a week. With paramedic and health care assistant. 12 hour shift, 10am - 10pm, for six months.

Further consideration for transport and the use of voluntary sector, including sponsorship and shared funding, will continue to be looked at.

