

About Children's Services

Why children's services and maternity services are connected

- Children's services cover every patient from newborns up to teenagers.
- Having specialist children's services on the same site as specialist maternity services means that the right professionals are there, on hand, to support both mother and baby during labour and the baby immediately after birth for as long as they need care.

Why the numbers of patients is important

There is a need to make changes to services because of the small number of children seen at the Friarage Hospital and therefore the limited range of conditions and illnesses doctors treat there.

It is important that doctors treat a range of cases in order to maintain their skills and to provide a safe service.

- Fewer children are being treated as inpatients at the Friarage Hospital.
- Around five children a day are admitted to the children's ward.
- Less than a third of the beds in the children's wards are used overnight.

Recruiting and retaining specialist staff

The size of the service at the Friarage Hospital has a direct impact on medical training and development because with such

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.

small numbers of patients, doctors do not treat enough children to maintain their skills in all areas, especially complex cases. This is a problem that is also being experienced by some other hospitals across the country.

This in turn means that it is increasingly difficult to maintain the level of specialist doctors that are needed to provide a high quality service for the future. Without the right team of professionals, with the right skills, patients are put at higher risk.

What the changes will mean

- We are proposing to transfer specialist children's inpatient services from the Friarage to other larger hospitals. This means children could no longer stay overnight on the children's ward.
- This affects a small proportion of the children using the Friarage as most are seen as outpatients and this would not change.

A better service

Local doctors, nurses and managers have extensively considered different ways of delivering children's services. The options we are proposing are based on all of the local hospitals and community services in the area, including the Friarage Hospital, working together to provide a better service for children and their families.

