Maternity and Neonatal Consultation FAQs

You can read more about this consultation and take part by visiting our website here: https://www.leedsccg.nhs.uk/get-involved/your-views/maternityleeds/

What is this consultation about?
Leeds Teaching Hospitals Trust is planning to build two new hospitals at Leeds General Infirmary (LGI). One of these hospitals will be a Children’s Hospital. We are planning to move (centralise) all Leeds maternity and neonatal services into our new Children’s Hospital at LGI. We are also proposing some changes to where we provide some of our hospital-based antenatal care (care during pregnancy). This consultation gives people an opportunity to:

- Find out more about our plans to build two new hospitals in Leeds
- Find out more about our plan to centralise maternity and neonatal services at LGI
- Find out more about our new, larger midwifery-led unit
- Tell us what they think about our proposals for hospital-based antenatal services in Leeds

What is a neonatal service?
Neonatal care is very specialist care for babies that are born premature (early) or poorly.

How long does the consultation last?

Who can get involved?
We want to hear the views of anyone who lives in Leeds. We are particularly interested in the views of women and their families and young people.

What will you do with the feedback you get?
At the end of the consultation we will ask an independent organisation to write a short report summarising what people have told us. The report will identify any common themes and we will use these themes to shape future maternity and neonatal services in Leeds. We will also use people’s feedback to make a decision about where we provide hospital-based antenatal services in the future.

What is a midwifery-led unit?
A midwifery-led unit is run by midwives rather than doctors. Evidence from the National Institute of Clinical Excellence (NICE) suggests that these units are safer than doctor-led care for women having a low risk pregnancy. We are planning to have a new, larger midwifery-led unit in our Children’s Hospital. The unit will be alongside other maternity services at LGI, offering mums a modern environment where they can give birth comfortably and safely.

What will be different after the change?
Currently people can have their babies at LGI, St James’s Hospital or at home. Once we have built our new children’s hospital at LGI, people will be able to give birth at LGI and at home. We will no longer provide birthing facilities at St James’s.
Currently most people attend antenatal appointments in their local community, usually at their GP practice or local Children’s Centre. However, around a quarter of antenatal appointments need specialist equipment or teams; these are called ‘hospital antenatal services’ and they currently happen at LGI and St James. We want to know where people want to access hospital antenatal services in the future and we are asking people to choose between:

- All hospital antenatal services being at LGI
- Some hospital antenatal services at St James’s as well as some at the LGI site

**Why are you centralising maternity and neonatal services at LGI?**
There are a number of benefits to centralising maternity and neonatal services at a purpose-built children’s hospital at LGI:

- **Poorly babies will not have to be moved** – currently premature or poorly babies sometimes have to be moved between hospitals to receive the right care.
- **Families will be able to stay together if their baby is poorly** – currently we sometimes have to separate mums from their very unwell new babies.
- **We can use our staff better** – currently medical and nursing teams have to work across two units. This means that we sometimes can’t provide the care we would like.
- **We can provide state-of-the-art facilities for women and their families** – currently people tell us that our facilities are uncomfortable.

**How can I share my views?**
There are lots of ways you can share your views about our plans.

- You can fill in our survey online here: [https://www.leedsc.cg.nhs.uk/get-involved/your-views/maternityleeds/](https://www.leedsc.cg.nhs.uk/get-involved/your-views/maternityleeds/)
- Come to one of our drop-in events. You can find details of our events on the website here: [https://www.leedsc.cg.nhs.uk/get-involved/your-views/maternityleeds/](https://www.leedsc.cg.nhs.uk/get-involved/your-views/maternityleeds/)
- Call us to order a paper copy of the survey (0113) 8435457

**When will the changes happen?**
The changes will take place when the new hospitals are built. We will start building the new hospitals in 2020 but it will be a few years until they are ready to use.

**Who is paying for the new hospitals?**
The new hospitals in Leeds are part of a national project by the government to invest £13bn billion in UK hospitals, including entirely new buildings or revamping existing structures to improve facilities. You can read more about ‘Hospitals for the Future here: [https://www.leedsth.nhs.uk/about-us/building-the-leeds-way/](https://www.leedsth.nhs.uk/about-us/building-the-leeds-way/)

**What do we already know about what women and families want from maternity and neonatal services?**
Over the last few years we have spoken to hundreds of women and families about maternity and neonatal care. We know that people in Leeds:

- Are generally very happy with the maternity and neonatal care that they receive
- Think that our existing maternity units are uncomfortable
- Are worried about NHS services being understaffed
- Have concerns about finding a place to park and paying for parking

This consultation will build on what people have already told us and help us shape maternity and neonatal service in Leeds that meet the needs of local people.
How will voluntary sector organisations be involved in the consultation?
We are lucky to have a wide range of excellent voluntary sector service in Leeds who work with women and families. We are committed to involving them in the consultation and we are working with Voluntary Action Leeds (VAL) to ensure that organisations get an opportunity to share their views on our plans.

Why is there a reduction in maternity beds in the new building?
The current maternity units occupy a large footprint in both hospitals, LGI and St James. There is a lot of wasted space and many times when one site is busier than the other. Centralising the maternity unit will allow us to organise our clinical services more efficiently. We can make a small reduction in the number of hospital beds in the new hospital, by improving waiting times, reducing transfers and providing more outpatient treatments which will hugely benefit mums, babies and families.