

## Press Release

01.07.16

**Better Health programme: “Specialist emergency care could be provided from fewer sites, to deliver a high quality service.”**

Doctors leading the Better Health Programme believe that, in the future, specialist emergency care could be provided from fewer sites, if the NHS in Darlington Durham and Tees is to deliver a high quality service.

They also emphasised that no decisions have been made about changes to where care should be provided in the future.

GP and clinical lead Neil O’Brien said:

“The view of the clinical leadership of the programme is that having the right workforce available to meet patients’ needs 24/7 means we need to look at specialist emergency care for adults and children being provided from fewer sites.

“We will be looking seriously at the case for each of the four hospitals in Darlington, Durham and Tees which currently provide A&E being one of up to three emergency centres offering an enhanced level of care in the future.

“Examples where patients benefit from specialist emergency care include treatment for very serious injury and for heart attack, stroke and internal bleeding.

“The programme is reaching an important stage, with work beginning to develop and assess possible solutions.

“Some people believe that organisations have already made key decisions which will determine how services will be provided in future. This is not the case.

“The Better Health programme has been created to bring together local NHS organisations to create area wide solutions which address challenges that, until now, individual organisations have been trying to tackle on their own.

“No decisions have been made.”

During July, the Better Health programme is embarking on a further series of events to engage with the public and stakeholders.

Dr O'Brien said:

"We are doing a lot of work talking to local people and groups about the programme and the issues driving it, and this is continuing over the summer.

"So far, most people have been supportive of our broad direction of travel. People understand the benefits of specialist care and that this improves results, even though it may mean further travel for some patients.

"There is also a lot of support for the NHS providing more services closer to home, and working together more effectively with social care and the voluntary sector."

Dates are as follows:

<b>Location</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>
Consett	The Demi, 45 Albert Rd, Consett DH8 5QU	Wed 6th July	1-3pm
Sedgefield	Racecourse, Racecourse Rd, Sedgefield TS21 2HW	Thurs 7th July	1-3pm
Stockton	Northshore Academy, Talbot St, Stockton-on-Tees TS20 2AY	Wed 13th July	6-8pm
Barnard Castle	GSK Social, Strathmore Rd, Barnard Castle DL12 8DT	Thurs 14th July	6-8pm
Durham	Alington House, 4 N Bailey, Durham DH1 3ET	Mon 18th July	6-8pm
Hartlepool	Hartlepool College, Stockton Street, Hartlepool TS24 7NT	Tues 19th July	6-8pm
Eston	Inspire to Learn, Normanby Rd, Eston TS6 9AE	Wed 20th July	4-6pm
Darlington	Mercure Hotel, 9-12 Priestgate, Darlington DL1 1NW	Thurs 21st July	6-8pm

ENDS



*The NHS in Darlington,  
Durham and Tees*

### **Notes to Editor**

What does our local NHS do well?  
Where can we improve?

The Better Health programme is about providing care of a consistently high standard, and in the right place at the right time.

Experienced Clinical staff from the local NHS – including hospital consultants and GPs - have been looking at how we do this, in discussion with their colleagues, stakeholders and patient representatives.

They believe that people with serious or life threatening needs should be treated in specialist centres with the very best expertise and facilities. This will maximise their chances of survival and a good recovery – even if it means going past the nearest hospital.

For more information on the Better Health Programme please contact:

### **Communications Team**

NHS Better Health Programme

**Tel:** 01642 745401  
**Email:** [necsu.betterhealthprogramme@nhs.net](mailto:necsu.betterhealthprogramme@nhs.net)  
**Web:** [www.nhsbetterhealth.org.uk](http://www.nhsbetterhealth.org.uk)  
**Twitter:** [www.twitter.com/NHSBetterHealth](http://www.twitter.com/NHSBetterHealth)  
**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/nhsbetterhealthprogramme](http://www.facebook.com/nhsbetterhealthprogramme)