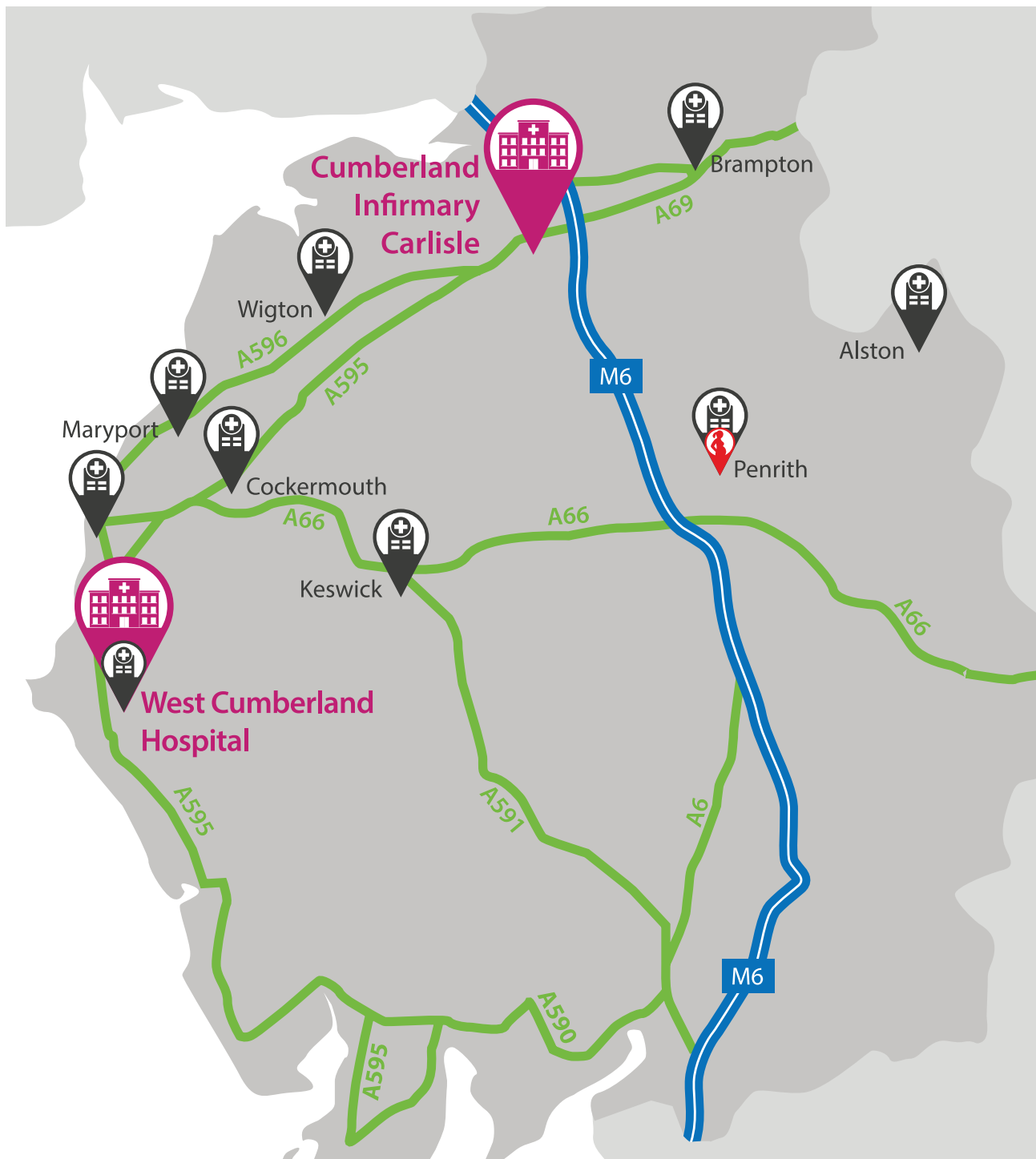


The Future of Healthcare

in West, North & East Cumbria

Easy Read Document Version 2





Key



Hospital



Community Hospital



Birthing Centre

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The Future of Healthcare in West, North and East Cumbria

What is this?

If you live in Cumbria, it is important that you read this because it talks about changes that may affect you and your family.

The National Health Service (NHS) in Cumbria is facing some big challenges.

The NHS has to speak with everybody about these possible changes.

This document describes what could be changed so that high quality care can be given, with the money they have.

Everybody needs a health service that works better for patients, gives good value for money, and has the best people working for it.

Your views are really important in helping decide what should happen in the future, so let us know what you think.

This document provides basic information about our plans. If you would like more information, please see our main document.

You could also visit the Healthwatch Cumbria 'Chatty Van' as it tours West, North and East Cumbria.





What are the challenges?

- People in Cumbria are not as healthy as people in other parts of the country.
- The NHS in Cumbria find it difficult to get the best staff to work for them.
- Some people are taken to hospital, or stay in hospital too long, when they should be given care at home or in the community.
- The NHS in Cumbria spends more money than it has each year.
- The inspectors say some services are very poor and need to get better.
- We have more older people living longer.
- Cumbria is a big place and people are spread out.
- People in Cumbria are more unwell than people living in other parts of the country.



What is being discussed

The NHS in Cumbria wants to become better at providing good quality medical and care services, when and where they are needed.

This document describes how the following services may change:

- Maternity services.
- Children's services.
- Community hospital inpatient beds.
- Emergency and acute care.
- Hyper-acute stroke services.
- Emergency surgery and trauma services.



Maternity services

How things are now

At the moment both West Cumberland Hospital in Whitehaven and the Cumberland Infirmary in Carlisle provide a full range of maternity service.



This includes:

- Doctors available.
- Special care baby units.
- Care for women while pregnant.

What is wrong?

The quality of service at Carlisle and Whitehaven is getting harder to maintain. It probably won't improve without changing things.

What options are we thinking about?



Maternity option 1

Women who need the help of doctors to give birth could be seen in Whitehaven or Carlisle.

We think this would be difficult to do because we can't get the right staff - and we can't provide high quality care.



Maternity option 2

Women who need the help of doctors to give birth would all be seen at the Cumberland Infirmary.

Some women would choose to give birth in Whitehaven in a maternity unit run by midwives.

We think this is the best option because we could provide high quality care.

We think we could get the right numbers of highly trained staff to deliver this option.



Maternity option 3

All women would give birth in Carlisle, and only the care given before and after birth would be provided in Whitehaven.

We think this is the easiest option to deliver, but we also think we could provide some services from West Cumberland Hospital.

This would mean more local care and less travel for some women.



Children's services

How things are now

At the moment both hospitals treat and assess poorly children. If needed children can stay overnight.



What is wrong?

Maintaining this service is very difficult because we can't get enough doctors.

It's very expensive to use temporary doctors and we can't afford to keep doing it.

Children should only be in hospital if they really need to be.

Most should be cared for at home.

What options are we thinking about?

Children's services option 1

The most seriously ill children would be cared for at the Cumberland Infirmary.

Less seriously ill children would be cared for in the West Cumberland Hospital and some may stay overnight.



We think this is the best option because we could safely staff it. It would save money and it would lead to better care for children.

Children's services option 2

This is the same as option 1, but no children would be able to stay overnight at the West Cumberland Hospital.



This option would mean more children and families travelling to Carlisle, even though they aren't seriously unwell.



Children's services option 3

All children would be cared for at the Cumberland Infirmary.

The West Cumberland Hospital would only provide outpatients appointments for children.

This option would mean even more children and families needed to travel to Carlisle.



Community hospital inpatient beds

How things are now

At the moment we have 133 beds in 9 community hospitals. These hospitals provide a wide range of care, including:



- Outpatient appointments.
- End of life care.
- Minor injury units.
- Nurse assessment units.

What is wrong?

It is difficult to keep inpatient beds in so many small community hospitals running well and meeting the inspectors standards.

We find it very difficult to get the staff we need.



What options are we thinking about?

In all the options there are three hospitals which will have no inpatient beds - these are Alston, Maryport and Wigton Community Hospitals.

Community hospital inpatients option 1

We would have 104 beds on six community hospital sites:

- Whitehaven.
- Cockermouth.
- Workington.
- Penrith.
- Brampton.
- Keswick.



We think this is the best option because it would improve quality and be easier to get the right staff.



Community hospital inpatients option 2

We would have 104 beds on **five** sites:

- Whitehaven.
- Cockermouth.
- Penrith.
- Brampton.
- Keswick.

Community hospital inpatients option 3

We would have 104 beds on **five** sites:

- Whitehaven.
- Workington.
- Penrith.
- Brampton.
- Keswick.

Community hospital inpatients option 4

We would have 104 beds in:

- Whitehaven.
- Penrith.
- A new site in Carlisle.



Emergency and acute care



How things are now

- Hospitals in Carlisle and Whitehaven are for patients who suddenly fall ill or need urgent care.
- Both run 24 hour accident and emergency departments and acute assessment and in-patient beds.
- Both have ambulances and doctors admissions.
- In the past Carlisle has more specialist services for normal and emergency care.



What is wrong?

- The Cumberland Infirmary and West Cumberland Hospital face serious challenges.
- Providing care across two hospitals stretches available staffing and is expensive.
- Inspection standards are becoming harder to achieve.
- Inspectors recently said the services at Whitehaven were not good enough.
- It is difficult to get the right staff, especially at the West Cumberland Hospital. It is probable this will not change.
- There are many temporary doctors in place which is expensive.
- All hospitals are getting busier.



What options are we thinking about?



Emergency and acute option 1

Both hospitals would have an accident and emergency department, open 24 hours a day. There would be more intensive care beds in the Cumberland Infirmary and some of the most seriously ill patients would be transferred from the West Cumberland Hospital to the Cumberland Infirmary.

This is our preferred option because it is easier to ensure high quality care, easier to staff and better for patients.



Emergency and acute option 2

The most seriously ill patients would be cared for at the Cumberland Infirmary. The West Cumberland Hospital would have a day time only accident and emergency department. It would still see some patients overnight, but only those who were less seriously ill.

There would be no intensive care unit at the West Cumberland Hospital.

This option would mean more people had to travel to Carlisle.



Emergency and acute option 3

The Cumberland Infirmary would have a much bigger accident and emergency department and would care for people from all over West, North and East Cumbria. All seriously ill people would go here.

The West Cumberland Hospital would have an urgent care centre and would take care of people who were not seriously unwell.

This would mean many more people travelling to Carlisle.

Hyper-acute stroke services

A stroke is a brain attack. It happens when blood supply to part of the brain is cut off. If you have a stroke, you need very special urgent treatment.

How things are now

- We provide stroke treatment at both hospitals.
- Patients at The Cumberland Infirmary get special help to leave hospital quicker.
- We don't offer a full service all the time at weekends. Scan pictures are looked at by doctors in other parts of the country.

What is wrong?

- Stroke care is still not as good as it should be.
- We don't have special stroke departments in our hospitals.
- We can't get enough doctors.
- We don't provide special stroke services 24 hours a day, seven days a week.





What options are we thinking about?

Hyper-acute stroke option 1

Things would stay as they are now, but we would try and get people home more quickly.

This still wouldn't help us meet the inspector's standards.



Hyper-acute stroke option 2

We would open a special unit at the Cumberland Infirmary to look after people who have strokes. This would help with staffing problems, but more importantly it would provide better care for patients who needed special emergency help.

Patients from West Cumbria would be transferred back to the West Cumberland Hospital once they were well enough.

Patients would get help from both hospitals to get them home as quickly as possible.

We think that this is the best option for patients as it would provide better quality care and it's easier for us to get the right members of staff.



Operations

How things are now

Over the last 3 years we have transferred patients to the Cumberland Infirmary to have a number of different operations.



We did this because we didn't think we were providing the best care for patients.

The inspectors also agreed that we needed to provide higher quality operations and care.

These changes have led to less people dying and more people getting high quality care.

Our proposal

These changes meant that lots of operations were only carried out in the Cumberland Infirmary.

We now want to make these arrangements permanent.

We do think that we could move some operations back to the West Cumberland Hospital safely.



How you can have your say

We want to hear your views about our plans

- You can visit our website and fill in a questionnaire at www.wnecumbria.nhs.uk
- You can write your views on the questionnaire attached to this document and send it to us at:

Freepost CUMBRIA NHS CONSULTATION

Please make sure you write it on a single line using BIG and small letters, exactly as it is above.



- We are holding meeting so that you can come and tell us what you think.
The dates of the meeting will be in the local newspapers and on our website.
- Healthwatch is an independent organisation, and they will be visiting local areas in their 'Chatty Van' and can help you understand our plans, and for you to share your views.

What happens next?



- The consultation runs from 26 September for 12 weeks.
- People's views will be put into a report which will go to decision makers early next year.
- Decisions will then be taken using expert help and all the information we have.

Questionnaire - Have your say - part 1

My postcode is:

Maternity services page 6.

What do you think about our preferred option 2?

Women who need the help of doctors to give birth would all be seen at the Cumberland Infirmary. A special ambulance would take people there from West Cumberland Hospital. Some women would choose to give birth in Whitehaven in a maternity unit ran by midwives.

Children's services page 8.

What do you think about our preferred option 1?

The most seriously ill children would be cared for at the Cumberland Infirmary. Less seriously ill children would be cared for in the West Cumberland Hospital and some may stay overnight.

Community hospital inpatient beds page 10.

What do you think about our preferred option 1? - to have 104 beds over 6 sites.

Emergency and acute care page 12.

What do you think about our preferred option 1?

Both hospitals would have an accident and emergency department, open 24 hours a day. There would be more intensive care beds in the Cumberland Infirmary and some of the most seriously ill patients would be transferred from the West Cumberland Hospital to the Cumberland Infirmary.

Stroke services page 14.

What do you think about our preferred option 2? - which is to open a special stroke unit at the Cumberland Infirmary.

Operations page 16.

What do you think about our plan to keep doing complicated operations in the Cumberland Infirmary, but to move some operations back to the West Cumberland Hospital?

Questionnaire - part 2

We would like to understand more about you, so we know we have the opinions of a wide range of people.

Please just tick the box that is closest to you.

You do not have to fill in this section if you don't want to.

Have you read the consultation document? Yes ☐ No ☐

What is your age? 16-25 ☐ 26-35 ☐ 36-45 ☐ 46-55 ☐
56-65 ☐ 66-75 ☐ 76+ ☐

What is your gender? Male ☐ Female ☐ Prefer not to say ☐

Is your gender different to from how you were born?
Yes ☐ No ☐ Prefer not to say ☐

Are you married or in a civil partnership?
Yes ☐ No ☐ Prefer not to say ☐

What is your sexual orientation?
Heterosexual ☐ Gay woman/lesbian ☐ Gay man ☐
Bisexual ☐ Prefer not to say ☐

If other, please write in:

What is your religion or belief?

No religion or belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	Buddhist	<input type="checkbox"/>	Christian	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hindu	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jewish	<input type="checkbox"/>	Muslim	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sikh	<input type="checkbox"/>	Prefer not to say	<input type="checkbox"/>		

If other, please write in:

What is your ethnicity?

Ethnic origin is not about nationality, place of birth or citizenship. It is about the group to which you perceive you belong.

No religion or belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	Buddhist	<input type="checkbox"/>	Christian	<input type="checkbox"/>
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White

English	<input type="checkbox"/>	Welsh	<input type="checkbox"/>	Scottish	<input type="checkbox"/>
Northern Irish	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gypsy or Irish Traveller	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Prefer not to say				<input type="checkbox"/>	

Any other white background, please write in:

Mixed/multiple ethnic groups

White and Black Caribbean	<input type="checkbox"/>	White and Black African	<input type="checkbox"/>
White and Asian	<input type="checkbox"/>	Prefer not to say	<input type="checkbox"/>

Any other mixed background, please write in:

Asian/Asian British

Indian	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pakistani	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bangladeshi	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chinese	<input type="checkbox"/>			Prefer not to say	<input type="checkbox"/>

Any other Asian background, please write in:

Black/ African/ Caribbean/ Black British

African	<input type="checkbox"/>	Caribbean	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Prefer not to say	<input type="checkbox"/>

Any other Black/African/Caribbean background, please write in:

Other (please write in):

Do you consider yourself to have a disability or health condition?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Prefer not to say	<input type="checkbox"/>

If you wish to give further information please do so here:

Do you have caring responsibilities? If yes, please tick all that apply

None ☐ Primary carer of a child/children (under 18) ☐

Primary carer of disabled child/children ☐

Primary carer of disabled adult (18 and over) ☐

Primary carer of older person ☐

Secondary carer (another person carries out the main caring role) ☐

Prefer not to say ☐

Are you currently pregnant?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Prefer not to say ☐

Do you have a child under 24 months?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Prefer not to say ☐

How do you think the options shown in this document wil affect you?
Please write in:

How would you normally travel to your local NHS hospital?

own car	<input type="checkbox"/>	on foot	<input type="checkbox"/>	public transport	<input type="checkbox"/>
taken by friend	<input type="checkbox"/>	taken by relative	<input type="checkbox"/>	other	<input type="checkbox"/>

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