



Easy
Read

NHS

Improving women's hospital services in Liverpool

What do you think?



Easy Read



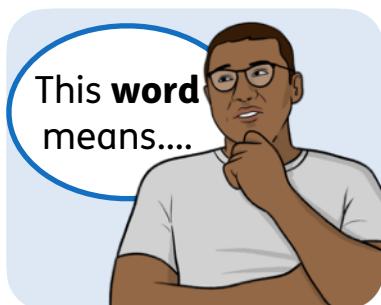
This is an Easy Read version of some information. It may not include all of the information but it will tell you about the important parts.



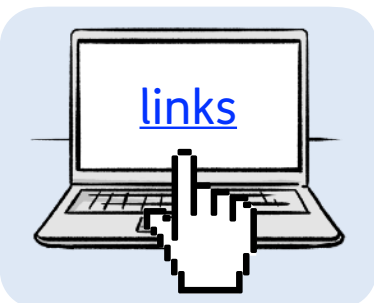
This Easy Read booklet uses easier words and pictures. Some people may still want help to read it.



Some words are in **bold** - this means the writing is thicker and darker. These are important words in the booklet.



Sometimes if a bold word is hard to understand, we will explain what it means.



Blue and underlined words show links to websites and email addresses. You can click on these links on a computer.

What is in this booklet

About this booklet	4
Who uses these services?	7
What services look like now	8
Why do these services need to change?	11
What are the risks?	13
How do these issues affect care?	18
Keeping services safe	21
Answering your questions.....	25
What do you think?.....	31

About this booklet



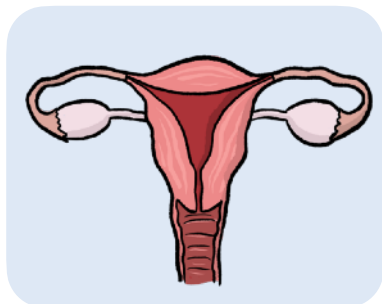
This booklet is from NHS Cheshire and Merseyside.

We are in charge of planning healthcare for people in Liverpool.



We want to make women's hospital services in Liverpool better.

This includes:



- **Gynaecology services** - this is healthcare for female body parts. It includes looking after a woman's vagina and womb.

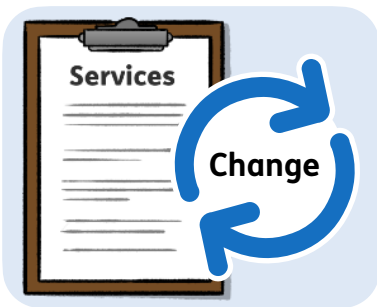


- **Maternity services** - this is healthcare for pregnant women and women who have just given birth.



We want all our patients to get the healthcare they need, wherever they get their care from.

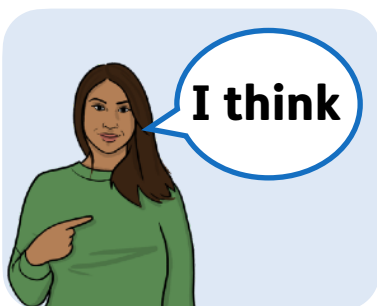
This booklet will explain:



- Why we need to make changes to these hospital services.



- What we are doing now to make these services safer.



- How to tell us what you think.

Other NHS teams that helped us make this booklet include:



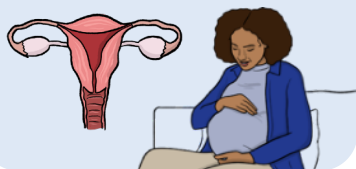
- Liverpool Women's NHS Foundation Trust
- Liverpool University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre NHS Foundation Trust
- Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust



We also worked with local Healthwatch in Knowsley, Liverpool and Sefton.

Who uses these services?

Women's hospital services



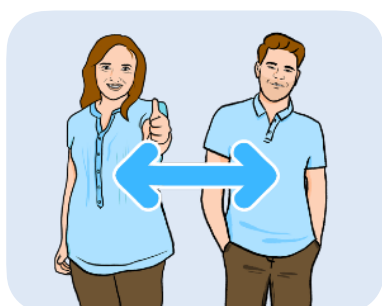
In this booklet, we will sometimes call gynaecology and maternity services **women's hospital services**.



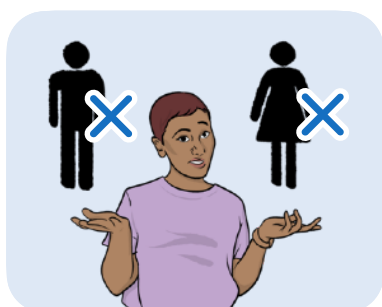
But it is not just women who use these services.



Transgender men and **non-binary people** who were born with female body parts may also use these services.



Transgender means people who change from the gender they were born with.

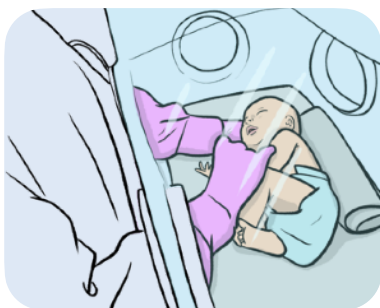


Non-binary is when someone does not feel that they are either male or female.

What services look like now



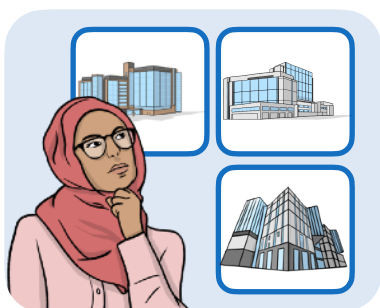
At the moment, all maternity services and most gynaecology services in Liverpool happen at Liverpool Women's Hospital.



Liverpool Women's Hospital also provides care for newborn babies who are ill or born too early.



Some gynaecology services happen at other hospitals in Liverpool.



That means that some patients might need to travel between different hospitals to get the right treatment.



Liverpool hospitals also provide **gynaecological cancer** services.

Gynaecological cancer is cancer that grows in a female body part, like your cervix.



Most other hospital services for adults happen at the Royal Liverpool Hospital or Aintree Hospital.

We are looking at:

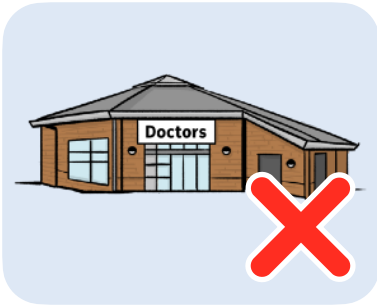


- All gynaecology and maternity services provided at Liverpool Women's Hospital.

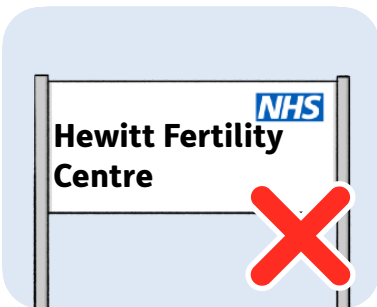


- Healthcare services provided in other Liverpool hospitals for pregnant people or people with gynaecological health issues.

We are not looking at:



- Women's healthcare that is provided outside of hospitals, like at GP surgeries or health centres.



- Services provided at The Hewitt Fertility Centre.



- **Clinical genetics services** - this is healthcare for people who have an illness that runs in their family.



- Women's hospital services provided in other parts of Cheshire and Merseyside.

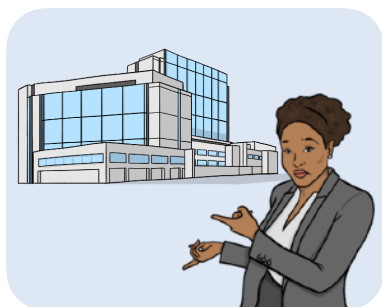


But we will think about how plans in the future will affect these services.

Why do these services need to change?



In other parts of the UK, special women's hospital services are provided in the same building as other hospital services, like emergency care.



But women's hospital services in Liverpool are separate from other services.



This can make it difficult to give the right care to people who need different types of care.



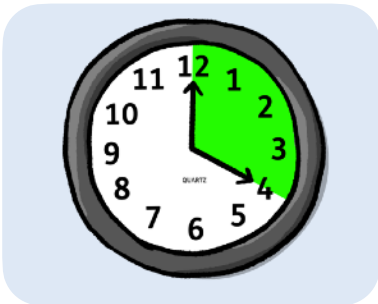
Sometimes patients will need to be moved to another hospital to make sure that they get the care they need.

Travelling times

If you travel from Liverpool Women's Hospital, it will usually take:



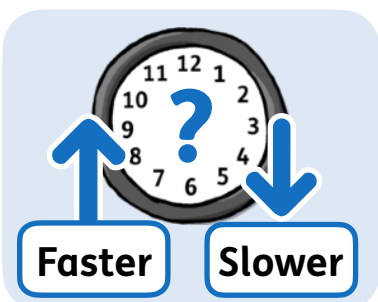
- Around 30 minutes to travel to Aintree Hospital.



- Around 20 minutes to travel to Alder Hey Children's Hospital or Broadgreen Hospital.



- Around 10 minutes to travel to the Clatterbridge Cancer Centre or The Royal Liverpool Hospital.



These journeys may be faster or slower depending on things like the time of day.

What are the risks?



A **risk** is something that could be dangerous or hurt people.

There are 5 main risks that affect women's hospital services in Liverpool.

Risk 1



If a patient at Liverpool Women's Hospital suddenly gets very ill, the hospital may not be able to provide the care they need to get better.



This is because the hospital does not have other health services and staff, like emergency care teams.



That means that patients sometimes have to travel to other hospitals by ambulance.

This is called an **ambulance transfer**.



It can take a long time to move patients in a safe way, which can make it harder to give patients the care they need on time.

Risk 2



All of the experts in gynaecology and maternity services in Liverpool work at Liverpool Women's Hospital.



That means that patients who go to different hospitals may not get these services on time, which can make their health issue worse.



Sometimes gynaecology and maternity staff will travel to other hospitals to provide emergency care.



But they cannot do this all of the time.

Risk 3



Some rules called **national care standards** say that we should provide certain health services in the same place.



But we cannot follow all these rules in Liverpool because women's hospital services are provided in a separate hospital.



If we do not fix this problem, some services may stop being provided in Liverpool.

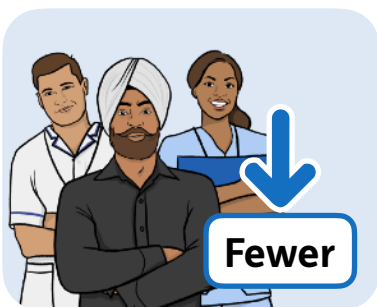


That could mean that some people might need to travel to hospitals outside of Liverpool to get the right care.

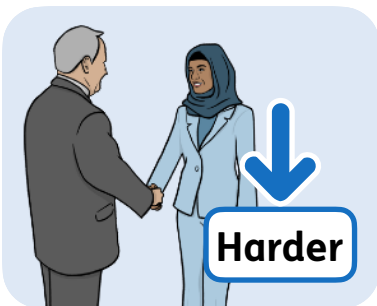
Risk 4



Gynaecology and maternity staff in Liverpool have less chance to learn from and work with different healthcare teams and experts.

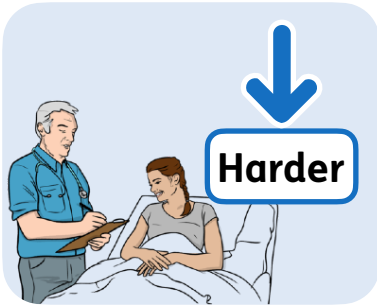


This means that there may be fewer people who want gynaecology and maternity jobs in the city.



This problem makes it harder to hire and keep staff, which may make it harder to provide some services in the future.

Risk 5



The way that hospital services work in Liverpool can make it harder for gynaecology and maternity patients to get the right care.



We are worried that this could cause **trauma** for people who use these services, their families, and the staff members who provide the services.

Trauma is when you go through a very stressful or frightening experience in your life.

How do these issues affect care?

Ambulance transfers



There are around 220 ambulance transfers between Liverpool Women's hospital and other hospitals every year.



About half of these transfers are for patients who are having an emergency.



Between 2018 and 2022:

- 69 very ill patients were moved from Liverpool Women's Hospital to another hospital.



- At least 12 more patients had to travel with a doctor that specialises in **anaesthetics**.

Anaesthetics is medical care to make you sleep or stop feeling pain.

Deaths of mothers



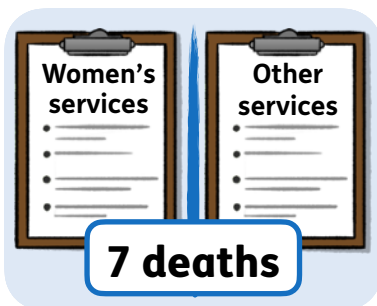
From January 2014 to November 2023, 17 women who received care at Liverpool Women's Hospital died because of a problem with their pregnancy, birth or maternity care.



They died either while they were pregnant or less than 6 weeks after the end of their pregnancy.



Senior doctors looked into these deaths to find out why they happened.



They agreed that 7 of these deaths partly happened because women's hospital services in Liverpool are separate from other hospital services.

Serious medical incidents



A **serious medical incident** is when something goes wrong with a patient's care and hurts them very badly.



Between July 2022 and March 2024, 148 serious medical incidents partly happened because women's hospital services in Liverpool are separate from other hospital services.

Who is affected?

These issues are more likely to affect certain groups of people, like:



- People from poorer neighbourhoods.



- People from **ethnic minority** groups.

An **ethnic minority group** is a small group of people of the same race, in a place where most other people are a different race.

Keeping services safe



Hospital staff in Liverpool work hard to manage risks and keep services safe for patients.

Some of the main ways they do this include:



- Senior doctors travelling with very ill patients who need an ambulance transfer.



- Different hospitals working together to share information and care for patients who need lots of different services.



- Maternity staff working with other types of doctor to make sure that pregnant patients get the right care.

Other changes that help keep patients safe include:

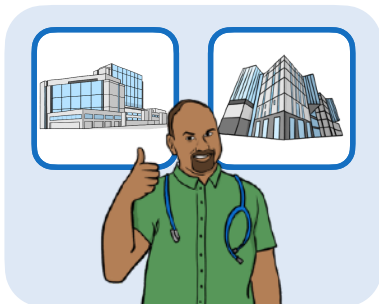


- A new service to provide care for pregnant patients who are being treated at other hospitals.



- New jobs created for **anaesthetics services**.

Remember, these are medical services to make you sleep or stop feeling pain.



These staff members will work in both Liverpool Women's Hospital and The Royal Liverpool Hospital.

Bigger changes

The NHS is also doing other things to make gynaecology and maternity care in Liverpool safer, like:



- Hiring a new medical emergency team to improve ambulance transfers.



- Training staff to be quicker at noticing when a patient's health is getting worse and treating them.



- Opening a new **diagnostics centre** at Liverpool Women's Hospital.

A **diagnostics centre** is a place where patients can get tests or scans to find out what is wrong and what treatment they need.



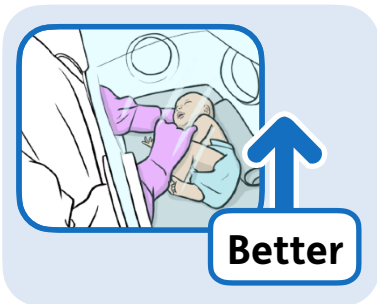
This means that people will need fewer ambulance transfers.

We are also making changes like:



- Planning a new **blood transfusion service** for Liverpool Women's Hospital.

A **blood transfusion** is when you are given blood from someone else.



- Working with Alder Hey Children's Hospital to make care for newborn babies better.



- Setting up a new service at Liverpool Women's Hospital to help staff who have mental health issues or stress because of their jobs.



These changes are helping to make women's hospital services in Liverpool better and safer.



But they do not fix all the risks or help make sure that these services will work for a long time.

Answering your questions

Why do we want to change services now?

We want to change women's hospital services now because:



- More people with serious health issues are having babies.



- More people are having babies when they are older.

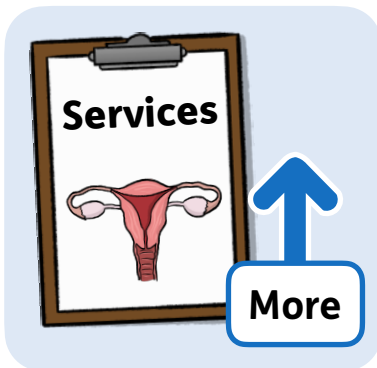


Pregnant patients who are older or have serious health issues are likely to face more risks while they are pregnant.



Many of these patients will need care from other services and healthcare teams to help with their pregnancy.

We are also making these changes because:



- We need more gynaecology services.

This is because people are living for longer and more people need gynaecological cancer treatment.



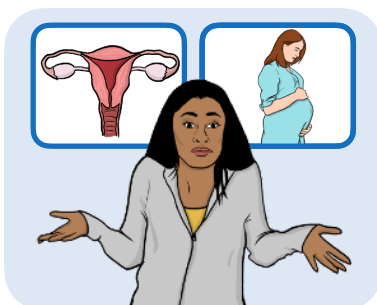
- As gynaecological cancer services are getting better, they are also getting more complicated.

So doctors may need help from healthcare teams in other hospitals to plan and provide this treatment.

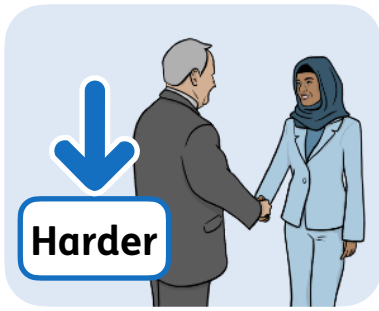
If we do not make these changes:



- The issues will get worse.



- People might find it harder to get some gynaecology and maternity services in Liverpool.



- It will be harder to hire and keep staff members to work at Liverpool Women's Hospital.



- Liverpool could get less money and **research** to help improve women's hospital services in Liverpool.

Research is when doctors or scientists look into something.



- Gynaecology and maternity patients in Liverpool may get worse care than patients in other parts of the UK.

Should we keep women's services separate?



The way that women's hospital services in Liverpool are organised means that it can be harder for women to get good healthcare compared to men.

What will happen to Liverpool Women's Hospital?



Liverpool Women's Hospital is on Crown Street in Liverpool city centre.



Crown Street is an important NHS building and the site is not closing.



We do not know what women's hospital services in Liverpool will look like in the future yet.



If some services do move, the NHS will keep providing care at Crown Street.

Will any services stop?



We do not plan to stop any services.



We want to improve the services we have and keep them safe.

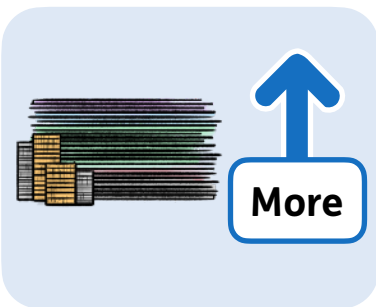


This can help us get more funding and research in the future.

Is the plan about saving money?

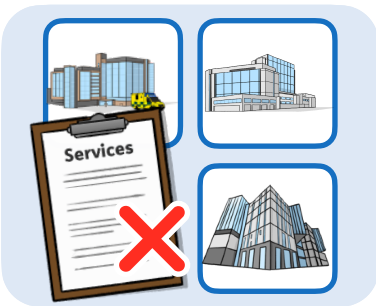


No, this plan is not about saving any money.



We will probably need more money to make any changes.

Could every hospital provide all services?



It is not possible for the NHS to provide all healthcare services at every hospital.



This is because there are not enough expert doctors and support teams.

What do you think?



We want to find out what you think to help us plan how these hospital services will work in the future.



We will ask what people think from 15 October to 26 November 2024.

You can tell us what you think by:



- Filling out a short survey on our website here:

www.gynaeandmaternityliverpool.nhs.uk/get-involved



- Joining one of our online or in-person events.

You can find out when these events are happening on our website:

www.gynaeandmaternityliverpool.nhs.uk/get-involved/attend-an-engagement-event

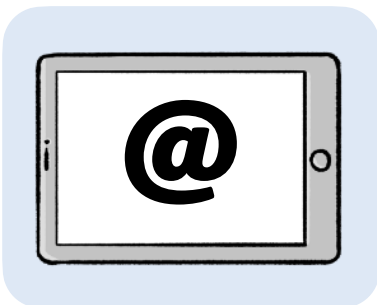
If you need support with the survey or want to find out more, you can:



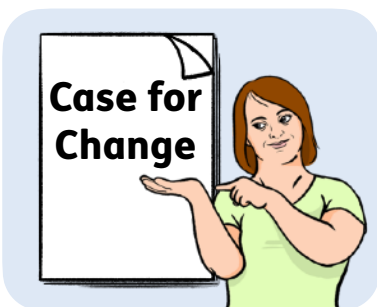
- Visit our website:
www.gynaecandmaternityliverpool.nhs.uk



- Phone us: 0151 702 4353
Phone lines are open Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 4:00pm.



- Email us:
engagement@cheshireandmerseyside.nhs.uk



You can also download our more detailed case for change document on our website:
www.gynaecandmaternityliverpool.nhs.uk



You can also sign up for our Virtual Reference Group on the website to get updates about how our work is going:

www.gynaeandmaternityliverpool.nhs.uk/get-involved