

A new children's assessment unit

for Dewsbury and District Hospital



**August
2014**

**Information
for parents
and families**

The Children's Assessment Unit at Dewsbury Hospital

From August 2014 there will be a new hospital service for children in North Kirklees opening at Dewsbury Hospital.

The Children's Assessment Unit, located next to Dewsbury's Accident and Emergency (A&E) department, is a new service for children who need to be seen and treated locally.

As its next door to A&E, it will allow children's services staff to work far better with doctors and nurses in A&E to:

- See and assess children more quickly
- Make sure they get the right treatment faster, and
- If children don't need to be in hospital they can go home straight from A&E.

If children do need to be in hospital and admitted, they will go to the new children's assessment unit at Dewsbury. More than 80 per cent of children who currently stay at hospital will be treated at this unit.

Specialist children's doctors and nurses will continue to work at Dewsbury on the children's assessment unit and in clinics.

A small number of sick children who need to be in hospital for a longer stay will now be transferred to Pinderfields Hospital in Wakefield. It is estimated that only a small number of children – around one or two children per day – will be transferred.

There are also plans to develop community based services in North Kirklees. This will also enable children to go home from hospital quicker and have nurses visit them at home to continue the care they need rather than having to stay in hospital.

What's not changing!

Children from the North Kirklees area who need urgent and emergency treatment can still attend A&E at Dewsbury. Children who have seen their GP and are referred in to see a specialist children's doctor will still be sent to the new children's assessment unit at Dewsbury.

Children who currently come to a clinic or for an outpatient appointment at Dewsbury will also continue to come to Dewsbury Hospital.

At the moment all children who have a serious illness or injury, and who may need an operation as a result, are seen at Pinderfields Hospital. This includes children with suspected appendicitis, a badly broken arm or leg that needs an operation or severe burns that need treatment in hospital. These children will continue to be seen at Pinderfields Hospital as they have been for several years.

If my child needs medical attention, do I need to do anything differently?

Families across North Kirklees DO NOT need to do anything different as a result of these changes; they can still:

- Seek advice from their pharmacist or online at www.nhs.uk
- Visit their GP practice
- Call 111 if they need help quickly but it is not a medical emergency
- Attend the nearest A&E if their child needs urgent medical attention
- Call 999 in an emergency.

What if my child is transferred to Pinderfields?

Children who might need a longer stay in hospital will be transferred to Pinderfields. It is anticipated that this will be one or two per day. When this occurs, a parent or carer is normally allowed to travel with them by ambulance.

For anyone else needing to travel between Mid Yorkshire's three main hospitals in Dewsbury, Pinderfields in Wakefield or Pontefract, there is now a bus service that connects all three hospitals.

The 113 bus service operates hourly between 8am and 8pm Monday to Fridays and 1pm to 8pm Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays. The minibuses on this free service are fully accessible.

Copies of the timetable can be found in our main reception areas. Alternatively for more information call West Yorkshire Metro on **0113 245 7676** or visit www.wymetro.com



Feedback

Giving us feedback about our services

We are committed to providing high quality care. If you have a suggestion, comment, complaint or appreciation about the care you have received, or if you need this leaflet in another format please contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service on:

01924 542972 or email:
pals@midyorks.nhs.uk

To contact any of our hospitals call:
0844 811 8110

To book or change an appointment call:
0844 822 0022

