



Southern Health
and Social Care Trust

Quality Care - for you, with you

**PROVISION OF EMERGENCY
GENERAL SURGERY IN SOUTHERN
HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE TRUST
CONSULTATION DOCUMENT**



Foreword

The Southern Health and Social Care Trust (the Trust) is committed to providing Emergency General Surgery services to the population it serves, which are based on the best available evidence and quality standards, and which will deliver the best possible outcomes for our patients.

The Trust must also carefully plan how to meet growing need and ensure best use is made of all our available resources to provide services which are sustainable and of a high quality. Our General Surgical Team is proud of the care that they provide to our patients, however acknowledge that to ensure the best possible outcomes, services need to adapt and develop to meet new regional guidelines and changing population needs.

The Trust's General Surgery Team has been significantly challenged to provide a service across the two hospitals in our Acute Hospital network, which are Daisy Hill Hospital and Craigavon Area Hospital. The challenges are due to workforce deficits, particularly in relation to the ability to secure appropriately trained and qualified general surgeons. To address these challenges, contingency arrangements were put in place by the Trust in February 2022.

The Trust, in this document, sets out the changes it now proposes to make on a permanent basis for the provision of emergency general surgery services to ensure these services are safe, of a high quality and will be sustainable into the future. We now welcome your view on our proposals.

As set out above the Trust has two hospitals providing acute services, Daisy Hill Hospital in Newry and Craigavon Area Hospital, in Portadown. These two hospitals collectively provide services for those patients needing short-term active hospital care for both emergency and planned services. The Trust will continue to seek to utilise the capacity of both hospitals to continue to deliver acute services into the future.

Our hospital network also includes South Tyrone Hospital delivering non-acute services including regional diagnostic and day elective care services and Lurgan Hospital delivering non-acute hospital care.

Acknowledging the wider context within which we work, the Trust has taken cognisance of the concerns raised regarding the potential impact of any proposed change to the provision of emergency general surgery services at Daisy Hill Hospital and any subsequent impact this may have on the status of the Daisy Hill Hospital Emergency Department. In relation to Daisy Hill Hospital, it is important to note:

- In October 2022, the Health Minister announced that Daisy Hill Hospital would be a regional Elective Centre for patients, including surgery for patients for day surgery and for those requiring to stay overnight. This is an exciting opportunity to develop an essential regional service benefiting the growing numbers of patients on local and regional waiting lists and we welcome this development. Our surgical teams have commenced engagement with regional colleagues to start the planning for this service whilst seeking to rebuild services that were reduced over the pandemic period or may be impacted by other workforce challenges including planned surgery for children.
- In January 2023 the Department of Health announced investment in the infrastructure at Daisy Hill Hospital with upgrade of the Low Voltage electricity supply. This phased investment will provide a basis for future development of the hospital site and also permits parallel planning to commence for a new diagnostic scanning suite on the site to improve diagnostic capacity in the medium term.
- The Trust can assure its population that it is fully committed to the Emergency Department service in Daisy Hill Hospital. These services will be available on a round the clock basis, with emergency general surgery undertaken at Craigavon Area Hospital where required. The Department of Health have advised that the proposed changes will not impact on the hospitals type 1 Emergency Department status.

The Department of Health will also continue to consider opportunities for the provision of health care services to the population of both sides of the border area which could be of benefit to the population of the Southern Trust.

The Trust also acknowledges wider concerns across the Trusts geography in respect of temporary changes which are taking place at the South West Acute Hospital (SWAH) in Enniskillen, also related to the provision of general surgery services and the impact of these temporary changes on capacity at Craigavon Area Hospital. The Trust will continue to work closely with colleagues in the Western Trust to monitor the impact of the temporary arrangements in place at SWAH. At the time of writing, this temporary arrangement has been in place for only one month but to date there has

been no significant impact on the provision of emergency general surgery services at Craigavon Area Hospital.

Should this position change, or should there be any future changes to the flow of patients, or an increase in demand for services due to changes implemented by the Western Trust, the Strategic Planning and Performance Group of the Department of Health will consider commissioning arrangements to reflect any emerging demand or resource implications.

Thank you for taking an interest in the development of our services and we look forward to hearing your feedback and views on this consultation.



Dr Maria O'Kane
Chief Executive



Cathrine Reid
**Interim Director of Surgery and
Elective Care, Integrated
Maternity and Women's
Health, Cancer and Clinical
Services**



Dr Stephen Austin
Medical Director

Message from our General Surgery Team – The Need for Change

The Southern Trust General Surgery team is committed to providing the best possible care and outcomes for our patients. We have faced challenges in delivering Emergency General Surgery across two separate sites for a considerable period of time. These challenges have significantly impacted upon the recruitment, training and retention of specialist colleagues and threatens the sustainability of Emergency General Surgery in the Southern Area.

The publication of the Standards for Emergency and Elective General Surgery has highlighted the specialist resources required to achieve modern standards of safe, high quality surgical care. Whilst the number of patients requiring immediate emergency surgery is relatively low, all patients must have access to expert assessment and treatment in a fully-supported surgical centre alongside other medical specialties including intensive care.

We need to change the service in order to achieve these standards for our patients and secure specialist care for future generations.

Changes within hospital services are never easy and it is understandable that such decisions bring anxiety, anger and pessimism. It is an unavoidable fact that smaller hospitals, with low volumes of emergency surgery, are finding it increasingly difficult to recruit, train and retain consultant surgeons, and to provide all the supporting services that a modern surgical centre requires. Many parts of the UK and Ireland have changed the delivery of General Surgery well over a decade ago. Emergency general surgery is delivered in bigger hospitals whilst increased elective surgery takes place in specialist elective centres, often located in smaller hospitals.

Patient care and outcomes have benefitted greatly from such developments. Patients have access to all the required diagnostics, theatres, staff and support services 24 hours per day. Their care is provided by larger teams of surgeons equipped with

specialist skills in all aspects of Emergency General Surgery. This is how we need to deliver your service.

The move to implement the new standards for Emergency and Elective General Surgery will also support improved training opportunities for junior doctors to become the surgeons of the future and thus safeguard a high quality comprehensive surgical service for all the patients in the Southern Trust area.

The General Surgery Team

Glossary

Term	Meaning
Ambulatory Service	Same day care to patients with no overnight hospital stay.
Anaesthetic	Used to allow patients to have pain free surgery using either local anaesthetics or a general anaesthetic to induce sleep during procedures or surgery.
Booked Urgent Surgery	Booked urgent surgery in this context relates to surgery which is agreed to be undertaken for patients presenting as an emergency that does not need to be undertaken immediately and can be 'booked' urgently with, for example, the patient returning the next day for this urgent surgery.
Commissioner	Provides funding for health services
Critical Care	Specialist hospital service to treat patients who are seriously ill needing constant monitoring and specialist treatment.
Elective Care	Care that is planned in advance that is not urgent or emergency in nature.
Emergency General Surgery	Relates to the treatment of patients presenting with acute abdominal pain, infections, bleeding, trauma (unplanned)
Endoscopy	A procedure that uses a long, thin tube (a scope) with a small camera to look inside the body, usually to examine the stomach or the large bowel.
ENT	Ear Nose and Throat care
GP	General Practitioner
Incident	An episode or occurrence
Laparotomy	A surgical operation on the organs inside the belly (abdomen). This operation is performed to examine the organs and treat any problems discovered.
Level 2 Care beds	Required for patients requiring continuous observation, including support for a single failing

Term	Meaning
	organ system, and those stepping down from higher levels of care.
Level 3 Care Beds	Required for hospitalised patients requiring advanced respiratory support in addition to the above or for support for failure in multiple body (organ) systems. This requires a high level of resources and can only be provided in specialized settings. Only provided in a formal Intensive Care Unit (present in Craigavon Area Hospital in Southern Trust).
Locum	A locum doctor is one who temporarily fills a work shift within a hospital, clinic or practice.
MRI	Magnetic resonance imaging - a scan that uses strong magnetic fields and radio waves to produce detailed images
NIAS	Northern Ireland Ambulance Service
Radiology	Specialist investigations usually involving X-rays (e.g. CT scan), ultrasound or MRI.
Substantive	Permanent position
Type 1 ED	A consultant-led service with designated accommodation for the reception of emergency care patients, providing both emergency medicine and emergency surgical services on a round the clock basis.
Unscheduled care	Unscheduled care within acute services is health and/or social care, which cannot reasonably be foreseen or planned in advance of contact with the relevant professional
Urology	A surgical specialty that focuses on the urinary system as well as disorders of the kidneys, ureters, bladders, prostate and male reproductive organs
Walk in	A patient who presents to the Emergency Department themselves by “walking in”.

Note: Craigavon Area Hospital can be referred to as ‘CAH’ and Daisy Hill Hospital may be referred to as ‘DHH’.

References: Review of General Surgery in Northern Ireland – Standards and a Way Forward - 2022 –This can be access via the attached link: [Review of General Surgery in Northern Ireland | Department of Health \(health-ni.gov.uk\)](#)

Introduction

Our priority is to provide good quality care, which delivers the best possible outcomes for patients through services that meet current quality standards.

This consultation paper explains the proposed changes we would like to make to Emergency General Surgery in the Southern Trust. This document sets out:

- The contingency model for Emergency General Surgery Services in Craigavon Area Hospital and Daisy Hill Hospital which is our current service provision;
- What the proposed future service model looks like, and
- What will be better after the proposed change is implemented.

The purpose of this consultation process is to give you, the opportunity to:

- Understand how we want to improve this service, and
- Make any comments or raise any questions that you might have about the change we outline below.

Background

In June 2021, the Minister for Health commissioned a Review of General Surgery in Northern Ireland in response to challenges in the delivery of safe and sustainable services. It was recognised that there are variations in delivery of services and waiting times across the region and difficulties in maintaining 24/7 rotas for emergency general surgery across multiple sites due to staffing shortages. Actions and standards for Emergency General Surgery were published by the Department of Health in June 2022 and all Trusts will be guided by these standards when reviewing current services and deciding on how best to provide a safe, secure and effective emergency surgery service.

The Trust, similar to the rest of the region, has been impacted by the lack of availability of new general surgeons and consequently a lack of recruitment to vacant surgical posts. This alongside the need to change to create a sustainable service that delivers the best possible outcomes for our patients was highlighted to the Trust's Senior Management team, initially in September 2020 and subsequently brought to Trust Board in November 2021. Following discussion it was agreed that a review of the service be taken forward to consider potential options. It was recognised any proposed changes to service provision would require a formal public consultation. A project structure was put in place to take forward a planned process however, due to a resignation of a further consultant General Surgeon, which reduced the staffing complement in Daisy Hill Hospital to an unsustainable level, the Trust had to



What is General Surgery?

General Surgery is a wide-ranging surgical specialty that focuses on diseases of the alimentary (digestive) tract.



What is Emergency General Surgery?

It relates to the treatment of patients presenting with acute abdominal pain, infections, bleeding, trauma and similar conditions.

implement contingency arrangements since 28th February 2022.

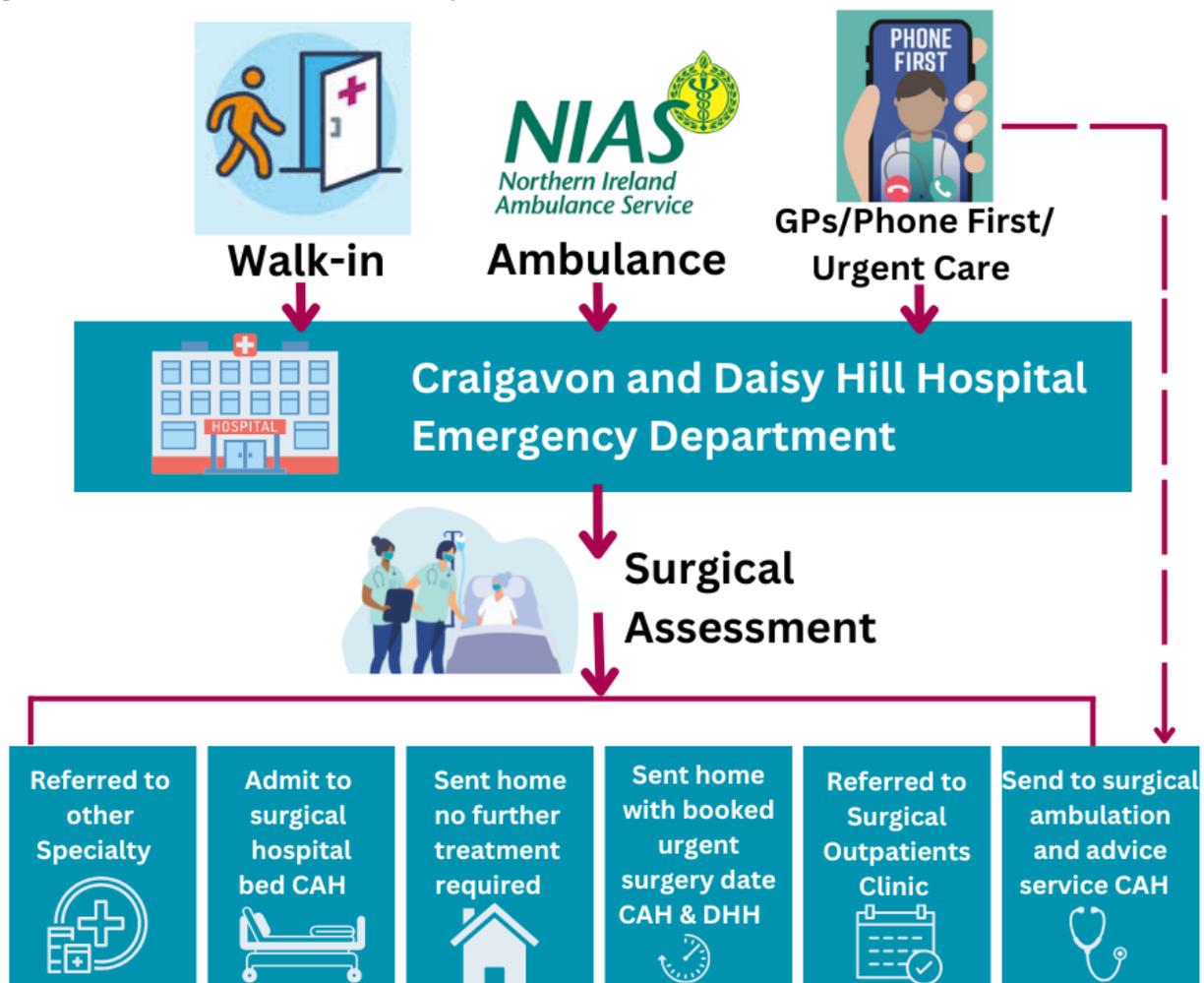
This contingency arrangement was implemented to ensure patient safety was maintained for all patients accessing emergency general surgery services in the Southern area. Within this document, the contingency model will be referred to as current service provision.



How is the Emergency General Surgery Service currently provided in the Southern Trust?

Since February 2022, the Trust has operated a single site model for the provision of Emergency General Surgery similar to other surgical specialities. Any patient requiring an admission for emergency general surgery is admitted to an inpatient bed in Craigavon Area Hospital with any emergency surgical operations taking place in Craigavon Hospital. Figure 1 below sets out the current patient pathway.

Figure 1 – Current Patient Pathway



What does this mean for Patients who present to our Emergency Departments?

Patients will continue to contact phone first and present as normal to our Emergency Departments. The Emergency Department Medical Team clinically assesses patients who present. If following assessment, the ED Doctor decides the patient requires emergency general surgery advice or assessment, the ED Doctor will contact the Emergency General Surgery Team in Craigavon Area Hospital. Following this consultation, the patient may require:

- Further investigations by the Emergency Department Team at either hospital.
- Discharge home from the Emergency Department for follow up with the general surgery team at an outpatient clinical appointment.
- If transfer to Craigavon Area Hospital is required from Daisy Hill Hospital this will be via patient's own transport, private ambulance or by Northern Ireland Ambulance Service:
 - ❖ To attend general surgery ambulatory unit for further investigations and where required, booked or added to the waiting list for planned surgery at either Daisy Hill Hospital, South Tyrone Hospital or Craigavon Area Hospital, or provided with an outpatient referral;
 - ❖ Direct admission to surgical ward for management under the General Surgical Team this could be for either conservative and/or surgical management (operation).
- If a patient is not fit for transfer by NIAS and requires immediate surgical input, the Emergency General Surgery Team will arrange for prompt onsite assessment and appropriate management. The patient will remain under the care of the Emergency Department team at Daisy Hill Hospital while surgeons travel to Daisy Hill Hospital. (Note that during the period of the contingency model this has been infrequent with surgeons only travelling to Daisy Hill Hospital on two occasions).
- Paediatric Patients (i.e. children aged under 16 years) who present to Daisy Hill Hospital Emergency Department are managed as outlined above, however should they require an admission for management under the General Surgical Team they will be transferred and admitted to the Blossom Paediatric Ward.

The strategic drivers supporting the need for change?

The General Surgery Team have outlined the need to change earlier in section 2 of this document reinforcing the need for stabilisation for a safe and sustainable Emergency General Surgery Service. This section further demonstrates the strategic drivers supporting the Southern Trust proposal for a new sustainable model of service delivery.

Supporting Strategic Direction

The **Standards for Emergency and Elective General Surgery** (June 2022) set out guidance for the provision of surgery in Northern Ireland and focus on the following categories:

Figure 2



Figure 2: Review of General Surgery in Northern Ireland – Standards and a Way Forward - 2022 –This can be access via the attached link: [Review of General Surgery in Northern Ireland | Department of Health \(health-ni.gov.uk\)](https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/review-of-general-surgery-in-northern-ireland)

The regional group asked each Trust to apply the standards to existing services as they stand without investment. The Ulster Hospital and the Royal Victoria Hospital meet the standards with Craigavon Area Hospital, Altnagelvin Hospital and Antrim Hospital partially meeting them. It was recognised that the remaining hospitals including Daisy Hill Hospital would require fundamental changes to meet the standards. There is an expectation that following implementation that all sites that delivery emergency general surgery will meet the standards.

The **Bengoa Report (2016)** set a vision for transforming health and social care in Northern Ireland over the next 10 years. This expert panel report published in October 2016 describes a different way of delivering health and social care services, one of the guiding principles highlights the importance of not trying to deliver specialist services from every hospital and to configure services to provide the best possible care to the local population.

Whilst the report was not specific in its recommendations regarding future hospital configuration, it did highlight the wide distribution of hospital-type facilities outside Belfast, leading to specialist expertise being too thinly spread and suggested that further consideration needed to be given to the number and spread of hospital facilities.



What the Southern Trust proposes

Following the approval of the Trust Senior Management Team and Trust Board to commence a review of emergency general surgery services across the Southern Trust, the project team firstly agreed the aims of the service model. Taking consideration of the Department of Health's recently published 'Standards for General Surgery in Northern Ireland' a robust and comprehensive option appraisal process was completed.

A range of options were evaluated and considered against an agreed set of non-financial and clinical criteria to determine a preferred option. A Service User Reference Group was established. At all stages in the process the Project Team ensured the appointed Service User Reference Group were consulted. Both the Project Team and the Service User Reference Group were supportive of the process and final outcome of the option appraisal.

The preferred option being proposed for implementation is outlined below. The full Option Appraisal is available upon request:

The Trust proposes to provide Emergency General Surgery Services on the Craigavon Area Hospital Site 24 hours per day 7 days per week. This is in keeping with the current service model with a number of enhancements to enable the Trust to meet Regional Standards as set out by the Department of Health.

What will this option deliver?

The key reasons supporting the reconfiguration and consolidation of the Emergency General Surgery Service to a single-site i.e. (Craigavon Area Hospital) for assessment, admission and operating 24 hours 7 days per week include:

- The service will be delivered by an adequately staffed and experienced consultant-led emergency surgical team which will provide a safe and high quality emergency surgical service for the population we serve.
- The Craigavon Area Hospital site will allow critically ill surgical patients (including post-operative emergency patients) to have access to a fully functioning intensive care unit with both level 3 (ICU) and level 2 (HDU) intensive care beds (*Critical Care Network Northern Ireland Registered*).
- The Emergency General Surgery service will have better access to all sub speciality medical and surgical services on the Craigavon Area Hospital site to seek guidance and advice.
- This option will provide access, for emergency surgical patients, to the full range of diagnostic services (radiology and laboratory), 24 hours per day 7 days per week, and timely access to MRI and ultrasound
- The Emergency Department services at both Craigavon Area Hospital and Daisy Hill Hospital will be maintained and supported. Both Emergency Departments will continue to have access to surgical advice and support.
- Patients transferred from Daisy Hill Hospital Emergency Department for surgical assessment/admission will have direct access to the Emergency Surgical service at Craigavon Area Hospital using specialist surgical referral pathways.

- Consolidating the emergency general surgery service on the Craigavon Area Hospital site will ensure appropriate levels of surgical staff can support a sustainable surgical consultant service rota. This will also reduce reliance on locum staff.
- The Trust has modelled the number of surgical inpatient beds required to provide the surgical service of the preferred option in this consultation. The modelling has confirmed that this can be achieved on the Craigavon Area Hospital site.
- A strengthened Emergency General Surgical Service on the Craigavon Hospital Site with an appropriately staffed consultant-led surgical team with access to all surgical specialties offers greater opportunities for training of surgical trainees further enhancing surgical training in Southern Trust.
- The presence of an enhanced Emergency Surgical Service for the Southern Trust area at Craigavon Area Hospital will be attractive to new staff and thus will support recruitment and retention of all members of the surgical team and the wider supporting clinical services.
- Further development of policies and protocols in line with regional standards.



What will this permanent change mean for the Southern Trust?

The Trust will implement a single site model to provide a 24/7 Emergency General Surgery Service on the Craigavon Area Hospital Site. Patients will continue to present at both Craigavon Area Hospital and Daisy Hill Hospital Emergency Departments with all surgical admissions, surgical assessment and ambulatory services being provided in Craigavon Area Hospital. Elective Surgery will continue to be provided on the Daisy Hill Hospital site, South Tyrone Hospital site and Craigavon Area Hospital. To implement this option operational policies and protocols will be updated to ensure that the Southern Trust meets all of the Emergency General Surgery Standards as set out by the Department of Health.

What does this mean for Patients who present to our Emergency Departments?

Patients will continue to contact phone first and present as normal to our Emergency Departments. The Emergency Department Medical Team clinically assesses patients who present. If following assessment, the ED Doctor decides the patient requires emergency general surgery advice or assessment, the ED Doctor will contact the Emergency General Surgery Team in Craigavon Area Hospital.

What does this mean for Patients who present at Daisy Hill Hospital who require an emergency general surgical procedure?

Patients will be transferred to Craigavon Area Hospital for their emergency surgical procedure. If a patient is not fit for transfer by Northern Ireland Ambulance Service and requires immediate surgical input, the Emergency General Surgery Team will arrange for prompt onsite assessment and appropriate management. The patient will remain under the care of the Emergency Department team at Daisy Hill Hospital while surgeons travel to Daisy Hill Hospital.

What will happen to surgical patients for example who have a road traffic accident or need an ambulance?

The Northern Ireland Ambulance service will be called as usual and will assess the situation and dispatch an ambulance/air ambulance as required. The Northern Ireland Trauma Network if appropriate will agree the most suitable hospital for example, Daisy Hill Hospital, Craigavon Area Hospital or the Royal Victoria Hospital.

What surgery will continue at Daisy Hill Hospital?

Elective (planned) surgery will continue on Daisy Hill Hospital in addition to Craigavon Area and South Tyrone hospitals. The Southern Trust is currently considering the future implementation of the Regional Elective Surgical Centre at Daisy Hill Hospital.

The Trust is working to increase the level of planned surgery, initially back to levels provided before the pandemic and ultimately to enhance our surgical capacity, across all our sites to address the growing waiting times for many patients.

The Trust is also committed to re-establishing planned surgery for children on the Daisy Hill Hospital site and to increase capacity subject to available resources.

What does this mean for Daisy Hill Hospital Emergency Department?

Daisy Hill Hospital's Emergency Department team looks after more than 4000 patients every month with a wide range of conditions across a many specialties. The team will continue to assess emergency surgical patients who they will refer for other appropriate treatment or transfer to Craigavon Area Hospital if required.

Daisy Hill Emergency Department remains absolutely essential in meeting the unscheduled care needs of our local population. We remind anyone who needs to attend our Emergency Departments or Minor Injuries service with less urgent symptoms to continue to Phone First Monday to Friday 9am to 9pm 0300 123 3111.

What does this mean for the rest of Daisy Hill Hospital?

Daisy Hill Hospital is a very busy and essential part of the Southern Trust acute hospital network. Along with Craigavon, it has a very vibrant range of acute specialist services including general medicine, surgical, renal, paediatrics, obstetrics and gynaecology services. We want to develop and enhance our Trust wide surgical

service to offer the same safety, quality and care for all patients attending - Daisy Hill, Craigavon or South Tyrone hospitals.

What will happen to the Daisy Hill surgical nursing workforce?

It is expected that Surgical Nursing workforce will be providing care for patients as part of the elective surgery plans at Daisy Hill Hospital. Nursing staff will also have the option to work in the medical wards at Daisy Hill Hospital or to take part in the Emergency Surgical Service at Craigavon Area Hospital. New surgical models including assessment and ambulatory services will present further opportunities for surgical nurses across the Trust.

What does this mean for junior/trainee surgical doctors?

We will continue to develop and enhance surgical training in Southern Trust with trainee surgical doctors receiving surgical training in both the emergency surgical service at Craigavon and the elective surgical services in both Craigavon and Daisy Hill Hospitals.

How will we engage with Staff?

Meetings have taken place with our staff and engagement will continue during the consultation period to discuss any issues or concerns and also to receive feedback on the current processes and protocols.

How will change be managed if it is required?

In order to manage and mitigate any potential differential impact on existing staff the Trust will adopt a project management approach. As part of this approach a project management group will include a human resources and trade union representative(s) so as to ensure robust, fair and agreed human resources processes are in place to manage any future staff changes. The Trust's Management of Change Framework is the main vehicle for effecting change within the Trust.

What are the potential Implementation & Timescales?

The consultation on the preferred option will commence on 27 January 2023 and run for a period of 12 weeks until 21 April 2023. Following this public consultation period, the Trust will review and assess all comments, views and responses and provide a formal outcome report to the Trust Board for consideration.

Shared learning to date from our current contingency model

Since the implementation of the contingency arrangement in February 2022, the Trust has monitored the service change to assess impact and learning as outlined below.

Question 1 - How many patients transfer on a daily basis from Daisy Hill Hospital?

Answer - To date there has been between 3 to 5 patients transferred per day.

Question 2 - Have there been improvements for the patient by having the service located on one site?

Answer - Yes, by concentrating our resources on one site it has enabled other service improvements to be implemented including the establishment of an ambulatory unit in Craigavon Area Hospital that supports patients to be seen by the General Surgical team, assessed and treated and where appropriate sent home with an agreed date to come back for planned surgery if required. This service has helped avoid unnecessary hospital stays and provided patients with a better planned service.

Question 3 - What other improvements have been made?

Answer - An advice line is now available for GPs where they can phone the General Surgical team directly for advice on patients and if necessary can arrange for them to be seen in the Ambulatory Unit for further assessment and treatment. The General Surgical team receive between 5- 7 calls per day from GPs.

Question 4- What does this mean for other departments in Daisy Hill Hospital?

Answer - Other departments and specialists can continue to access advice from the surgical team at all times. The Emergency Department and wards in Daisy Hill Hospital will be able to contact the Southern Trust General Surgical team using specialist referral pathways at any time of the day or night to ask for advice, an opinion or referral. Currently the General Surgical team receive approximately 3-7 calls per day from Daisy Hill Hospital Emergency Department and at most 1 call per day from Daisy Hill Hospital wards.

Question 5 - Has the emergency department in Craigavon Area Hospital seen an increase in patients presenting there?

Answer - There has been no increase in patients presenting to Craigavon Emergency Department as a result of the contingency change. Patients can still attend Daisy Hill Emergency Department.

Question 6 - On how many occasions has the General Surgery Consultant on-call had to attend Daisy Hill Hospital since the contingency arrangement was put in place?

Answer – The General Surgery Consultant on-call has only needed to attend Daisy Hill Hospital twice in the past 10 months.

Question 7 – On how many occasions has the second consultant on call been called to either hospital since the contingency model was put in place?

Answer – The second consultant on call has not had to attend either hospital

Question 8 - Has there been an increase in the number of patients requiring Emergency General Surgery at Craigavon Area Hospital?

Answer - As expected there has been an increase in the number of patients requiring Emergency General Surgery in Craigavon Area Hospital. Although it should be noted the number of “major” cases i.e. laparotomies has remained the same, the increase is a result of more “minor” cases such as emergency endoscopy.

Question 9 - Has there been any incidents since implementation in February 2022?

Answer - No serious adverse incidents have been recorded in the contingency period.

Question 10 - Does a patient transferring from Daisy Hill Hospital Emergency Department need to attend Craigavon Area Hospital Emergency Department?

Answer – Patients transferring from Daisy Hill Hospital to Craigavon Area Hospital can go directly to the ward or to the ambulatory unit with no need to go to Craigavon Area Hospital Emergency Department.

Question 11 - Does every patient who has an emergency surgical assessment require surgery?

Answer – No, the vast majority of patients assessed by the General Surgical Team will be managed conservatively and do not require emergency surgery during their admission.

Question 12 – In the rare situation that an emergency general surgery patient is not fit for transfer and requires an emergency operation can this still safely be performed in Daisy Hill Hospital?

Answer – Daisy Hill Hospital has maintained its emergency theatre list as there are still other specialities within the hospital who utilise this.





Feedback received from patients during the contingency period

Overall patients have shared positive experiences as outlined below. In addition staff have expressed positive feedback with the current arrangements.

• “My GP phoned the doctors in Craigavon for advice. I thought I was going to have to go to A&E but I was given an appointment to come to a clinic in in Craigavon the next morning. The doctor saw me as soon as I arrived and I was back in my car going home within the hour; great service.”

Patient who attended the Surgical Ambulatory Unit



• “The Surgeons let me go home and booked for me to come back for a scan of my tummy. I was told I didn’t need an operation and if the pain came back they would see me again. I was so happy not to have needed to stay in hospital.”

Patient who attended CAH ED then Surgical Ambulatory Unit



• “I was told the doctors in Craigavon wanted to admit me to their ward. The doctors in Daisy Hill let my wife drive me to Craigavon. So I got to go home to pack a bag and get what I needed. The nurses in Craigavon even phoned me to check that I was coming and that everything was ok. I felt very well looked after.”

Patient who attended DHH ED and required admission to CAH



In verbal feedback from service users and families, the Trust has been alerted to areas requiring improvement;

- i) Where a family member from Newry was asked to attend Craigavon Area Hospital for a dressing change, which could have been done locally; and
- ii) Where a family waited with a sick child in Daisy Hill, to be transferred to Craigavon Area Hospital and then told to go home and come back the next day.

Promoting equality and rural needs

An Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) and Rural Needs Assessment has been prepared by the Southern Health and Social Care Trust (SHSCT) to assess the impact of this proposal. This document can be accessed from the Trust's website <https://southerntrust.hscni.net/involving-you/consultations/>

All enquiries regarding this document should be directed to:

Cathrine Reid, Interim Director of Surgery and Elective Care, Integrated Maternity and Women's Health, Cancer and Clinical Services

Southern Health & Social Care Trust

Trust Headquarters

68 Lurgan Road

Portadown

Craigavon

BT63 5QQ Tel: 028 37564819

E-mail: consultations@southerntrust.hscni.net

Alternative Formats

This document can be made available on request in alternative formats.

Tell us what you think

The Trust wishes to consult as widely as possible on the proposal. Please use the link to the consultation questionnaire to register your comments by 21 April 2023.

<https://southerntrust.hscni.net/involving-you/consultations/>

Privacy, Confidentiality and Access to Consultation Responses

For this consultation, we may publish all responses except for those where the respondent indicates that they are an individual acting in a private capacity (e.g. a member of the public).

We will publish a summary of the consultation responses and, in some cases, the responses themselves but these will not contain any personal data. We will not publish the names or contact details of respondents, but may include the names of organisations responding.

For more information about what we do with personal data please see our consultation privacy notice, which can be accessed via:

<https://southerntrust.hscni.net/involving-you/consultations/>

Your response, and all other responses to this consultation, may also be disclosed on request in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR); however all disclosures will be in line with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA) and the UK General Data Protection Regulation.

If you want the information that you provide to be treated as confidential it would be helpful if you could explain to us why you regard the information you have provided as confidential, so that this may be considered if the Trust should receive a request for the information under FOIA or EIR.

