


Services for poorly children & young people in Bury

The Pennine Acute Hospitals 
NHS Trust



BRIEFING FOR STAFF, GPs & ELECTED MEMBERS

In early March 2012, hospital services for sick and injured children and young people in Bury will be changing. We want families in Bury to know about the changes and how they may be affected by them. As you have contact with families in your job/role, we have produced this information to ensure you know about the changes and to help us get these important messages across to Bury families.



What will the service for poorly children & young people be like from early March 2012?

From early March 2012, children's outpatients, day surgery, community services and accident and emergency services at Fairfield General Hospital will continue as normal. In addition, more children and young people will receive care closer to home where it is safe to do so. There will be a dedicated Children's Assessment and Observation Unit to provide care to sick or injured children and young people.

However, from early March 2012, there will be no overnight children's ward at Fairfield General Hospital. This part of the service will transfer to the new unit at North Manchester General Hospital in Crumpsall.

THE CHANGES AT A GLANCE

What services will remain?

- ✿ Children's Community Nursing Team
- ✿ Children's outpatients at Fairfield General Hospital
- ✿ Accident & Emergency service for children at Fairfield General Hospital
- ✿ Some day surgery at Fairfield General Hospital

What will be different?

- ✿ Expanded Children's Community Nursing Team
- ✿ New Children's Assessment and Observation Unit at Fairfield General Hospital
- ✿ No overnight children's ward at Fairfield General Hospital
- ✿ Overnight service for Bury children at North Manchester General Hospital or another specialist hospital



Why are services for **poorly children & young people** changing?

Children's (and maternity) services are changing as part of 'Making it Better' – a programme of investment to improve services for children, young people, pregnant women and babies throughout Greater Manchester. The changes will concentrate specialist skills and expertise in fewer, larger children's units in Greater Manchester to make services safer and improve staffing levels. For more information about Making it Better, go to www.makingitbetter.nhs.uk

How will families know about the changes?

We want to make sure that all Bury families know about the changes to children's services and how they may be affected.

The local NHS is working to communicate the changes to Bury families.

We hope that NHS and Local Authority staff working in Bury will help get these important messages to families.



KEY INFORMATION FOR BURY FAMILIES

- The changes will improve services for children and young people making them safer and to meet the health care needs of children and young people into the future.
- Services will be provided locally within Bury when it is safe to do so.
- Some services will be centralised in bigger units to concentrate specialist skills and expertise and increase staffing levels. These are factors that lead to safer health services.
- Daytime children's services including outpatients and day surgery will continue to be provided at Fairfield General Hospital.
- Poorly children and young people will be cared for at home wherever it is safe to do so. The Bury Children's Community Nursing Team provide this service and the team has been expanded so that the nurses can keep more children out of hospital or get them home sooner if they do need to be admitted.
- The accident and emergency department at Fairfield General Hospital will continue to treat children who need emergency care.
- The Children's Observation and Assessment Unit will assess and observe sick and injured children for up to six hours. After that time most children will be well enough to go home, with the children's community nursing team giving extra care at home if needed.
- The small number of children who do need to stay in hospital longer than six hours will be admitted to Fairfield General Hospital until early March 2012. This service will then transfer to North Manchester General Hospital.

Please help us to get these messages to families in the Bury area.



FURTHER INFORMATION

If you would like more information about the changes to these NHS services in Bury, please go to: www.bury.nhs.uk or contact the Making it Better team at mib@northwest.nhs.uk or phone **0845 095 3000**.