



January 2020

Briefing Note on the new Doncaster Hub

About Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust

Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust covers almost 6,000 square miles of varied terrain from isolated moors and dales to urban areas, coastline and inner cities and provides 24-hour emergency and healthcare services to a population of more than five million people in Yorkshire and the Humber. It employs over 5,800 staff and has valuable support from over 1,100 volunteers.

The Trust receives an average of 2,700 emergency and routine calls each day in its emergency operations centres in Wakefield and York. Staff respond to 999 calls by arranging the most appropriate response to meet patients' needs and get help to patients who have serious or life-threatening injuries or illnesses as quickly as possible.

The non-emergency Patient Transport Service takes eligible patients to and from their hospital and treatment centre appointments and made just under one million journeys in 2018-19.

The Trust's NHS 111 urgent medical assistance and advice line helped 1.6 million patients across Yorkshire and the Humber, Bassetlaw, North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire during 2018-19.

In addition Yorkshire Ambulance Service:

- has a Resilience and Special Services Team (incorporating a Hazardous Area Response Team) which plans and leads the response to major and significant incidents such as those involving public transport, flooding, pandemic flu or chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear (CBRN) materials.
- provides clinicians to work on the two helicopters operated by the Yorkshire Air Ambulance charity.
- provides vehicles and drivers for the specialist Embrace transport service for critically-ill infants and children in Yorkshire and the Humber.
- provides clinical cover at major sporting events and music festivals.
- provides first aid training to community groups and actively promotes life support initiatives in local communities.

We are the only NHS trust that covers the whole of Yorkshire and the Humber and we work closely with our healthcare partners including hospitals, health trusts, healthcare professionals, clinical commissioning groups and other emergency services.

Our Hub and Spoke Programme

Overview of the Hub and Spoke Model

The ambulance sector has made significant achievements in bringing pre-hospital clinical care to patients and developing local care pathways that best meet their needs.

Our clinicians have direct access to specialist centres for major trauma, heart attack and stroke and are playing an increasingly important role in urgent care, linking patients into community services and providing care in patients' own homes.

As clinical care has developed, our response model has also developed. Ambulances and rapid response vehicles are deployed to locations across the region from which they are best placed to respond to emergencies in known areas of high demand. In busy urban areas, our staff now spend the majority of their shift away from their base station, either responding to calls, at hospitals or on stand-by.

Whilst ambulance pre-hospital care has transformed over recent years, the Yorkshire Ambulance Service estate was inherited from three former ambulance trusts and many buildings are old and not in optimum locations to meet demand.

As part of Trust-wide plans to review and develop our estate we have been looking carefully at the Trust's future requirements and evaluating the options for reconfiguring the current estate into a 'Hub and Spoke' model.

The introduction of a Hub and Spoke model will use hub buildings and spoke locations from which to operate our resources. Hubs are facilities where vehicles are taken to be thoroughly cleaned, re-stocked and necessary repairs or maintenance undertaken. Once vehicles are prepared and ready for use, they are taken by their crews to spokes - strategically located points around the area they serve where there are facilities for staff and where they can be on stand-by.

The aim of the model is to create a number of 'hubs' at strategic points across the region which will support a network of ambulance 'spokes' based within our communities.

The hubs will cover a larger geographical area and vehicles will be taken there at the end of a shift. They will accommodate an extensive range of resources and services which will enhance patient care and provide better facilities for our staff.

At Yorkshire Ambulance Service, the Hub and Spoke Programme is overseen by a dedicated Programme Board which is made up of representatives from key departments across the Trust. It is responsible for developing the Hub and Spoke strategy and managing the programme and has recommended the prioritisation of hub locations in Doncaster and Bradford as the Trust's initial developments.

Doncaster Hub

The Hub and Spoke Team has worked on a business case to determine the best option for the creation of a Doncaster Hub.

The preferred proposal was to remodel and upgrade the existing facility at Doncaster Ambulance Station in Clay Lane West and design the Trust's first hub. This will also accommodate staff and vehicles from the nearby Bentley Ambulance Station which is over 30 years old and in need of replacement.

Initial approval for the funding of this proposal was obtained from the South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw Accountable Care System.

Feedback from staff based at Doncaster and Bentley ambulance stations has helped to shape the design of the Hub and ensure their views are reflected in the final construction and layout of the buildings.

Work began at the Clay Lane West site during 2019 and our staff remain working from Doncaster and Bentley while the work is carried out on the upgraded co-location facility. Arrangements are in place to ensure that patient services are not affected during the construction period, to the point where we are confident that patients have not even noticed the change happening. Construction work is expected to be complete in early 2020.

In addition to securing improved conditions for staff, we expect there to be additional benefits including increased vehicle availability leading to improved response times, standardised vehicle stocking and improved infection control.

The spokes can be a shared facility with a public sector or emergency service partner, commercial accommodation or modular buildings depending on where sites and accommodation are available in the areas we have determined.

The optimum locations for the spokes are **Adwick, Bentley, Edlington, Hatfield and Rossington**. A number of site options have been established and planning applications are underway. They are Edlington Fire Station, Adwick Fire Station, Rossington Fire Station and Hatfield YO1 (see map overleaf). A new site in Bentley is still to be sourced and until this can be arranged there will be a facility for staff at the Trust's current location on Yarborough Terrace, off Bentley Road.



Doncaster Hub Project Team

A small dedicated Doncaster Hub Project Team is overseeing the project.

We will ensure all stakeholders remain updated on the development of the Doncaster Hub but, in the meantime, please contact Carol Weir, Hub and Spoke Transformation Programme Lead, email carol.weir1@nhs.net or Elaine Gibson, Head of Corporate Communications, email elaine.gibson8@nhs.net if you have any immediate questions.