

TUESDAY, 16 JANUARY, 2018

IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Proposals to transform surgical services approved by NHS Tayside

Proposals to transform surgical services across Tayside have been approved by Tayside NHS Board.

The full business case for the preferred option for Shaping Surgical Services, which included feedback from the three-month public consultation, was presented to the Board today (Tuesday, 16 January).

The transformation of surgical services allows NHS Tayside to deliver high-quality care, balancing the number of operations that can be carried out in its three surgical sites at Ninewells Hospital, Perth Royal Infirmary and Stracathro Hospital with the clinical needs of patients.

Following the three-month public consultation, where members of the public, staff, patients, and carers shared valuable feedback, Tayside NHS Board has now approved the following:

- There will continue to be three surgical units across Tayside at Ninewells, Perth Royal Infirmary and Stracathro Hospital
- All unscheduled surgery will come to Ninewells Hospital 24-hours a-day
- There will be an increase in the number of elective surgery patients at Perth Royal Infirmary to develop the hospital as a centre for excellence for elective surgery, providing surgical procedures, including cancer and fully using the critical care facilities on site.
- There will be an increase in the number of day case and minor elective surgery patients at Stracathro Hospital

The changes will mean that all patients in Tayside can access the most appropriate facilities for their elective surgery.

Following today's Board meeting, NHS Tayside Chairman, Professor John Connell said, "These proposals to transform surgical services across Tayside will provide a secure future for Perth Royal Infirmary and will improve the delivery of care for all patients across Tayside."

Media Information



Press Release

Professor Connell also commended the team for the comprehensive public consultation which shows that 76% of people who responded to the survey supported the plans and 88% of people understood the case for change. The Scottish Health Council's report into the consultation also confirmed that the process had followed national guidance.

Board members heard how surgeons, doctors, nurses and other members of the clinical team had explored many options of how surgery could be transformed in Tayside, with other clinicians, managers, voluntary sector representatives, staff and the public also involved throughout the whole process.

They also heard that more Perth & Kinross elective patients will be treated closer to home at PRI and there will be an enhancement of critical care in the hospital to deal with an increase in major elective surgery.

NHS Tayside Interim Medical Director and Consultant Vascular Surgeon Professor Peter Stonebridge, who co-led the public consultation, said, "To make sure we can meet the needs of our patients across the whole of Tayside, now and in the future, we know we have to make changes to the way surgical services in Tayside are delivered.

"Patient safety and high quality care are always our top priorities. This transformation of surgical services will create a sustainable service that allows us to deliver this level of care to our patients.

"The proposals agreed today are the stand alone choice for NHS Tayside as they provide the highest quality, person-centred, safe, effective and sustainable model for surgery that can be delivered with our available resources.

"We are extremely grateful to everyone who took part in the consultation and shared their views. We will continue to take these views into account as we move to implement the new surgical care model in Tayside."

The Shaping Surgical Services team will now progress with plans including addressing concerns raised during the consultation about access, including emergency ambulance and public transport.

As with any major service change, the approved recommended option will now be presented to the Scottish Government to be considered for final ministerial approval.

Contact:

NHS Tayside Communications
(01382) 424138

Background information:

- A three-month public consultation was held between 3 July and 16 October

Media Information



Press Release

- Associate Medical Director for Surgery Peter Stonebridge and members of the consultation team were available at a number of public engagement events across Tayside to discuss the proposals to make changes to where surgeons, doctors and nurses deliver some general surgical procedures in Tayside.
- Written and online materials were also available for people to access, including the consultation summary document, the full consultation document, frequently asked questions and a questionnaire.
- Feedback during the consultation was varied and included queries on transport needs, providing surgical services closer to home and recruitment challenges. All views gathered during the consultation process were included in the full business case that was presented to the Board.