

Healthier Together

Improving health and care in Bristol,
North Somerset and South Gloucestershire



HEALTHY WESTON +

MAKING WESTON GENERAL HOSPITAL'S BRIGHT FUTURE A REALITY

**Have your say about plans for Weston General Hospital
20 June to 14 August 2022**





What's this document about?

Weston General Hospital is developing into a thriving hospital at the heart of the community.

Over 5,000 members of the public and staff have already helped shape how Weston General Hospital can provide the care that local people want and need most often.

Senior doctors, nurses and other health professionals led the planning.

This document summarises the improvement plans.

We need your help to turn them into a reality.



What's planned?

On top of routine, ongoing service development at the hospital, there is a particular focus on three areas. The hospital will:

- become a **centre of surgical excellence**. This means thousands more planned operations for adults of all ages will be carried out at Weston General Hospital
- become a **centre of excellence for older people's care**. This means the hospital will provide more specialised care for older people, as well as a wide range of services for people of all ages
- help more people **go home quickly** after going to hospital in an emergency. The hospital will have a dedicated unit for assessing and treating people quickly

Weston General Hospital will **continue to provide A&E services from 8am to 10pm**, exactly the same as for the last five years.

Other services at Weston General Hospital will continue to be provided and improved the same as now for people of all ages.

This includes outpatient appointments, maternity care, children's services, cancer care, tests and x-rays, intensive care, emergency surgery and stroke rehabilitation.

Our plans will help Weston General Hospital provide more of the services local people of all ages need and use most.



Key parts of the plan:

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Surgical centre of excellence: Day case and inpatient operations and procedures
Urgent and emergency surgery
Critical care

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Centre of excellence for older people's care
Stroke rehabilitation
General rehabilitation

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All age A&E – 14 hours a day, seven days a week
Older people's emergency care
Same day emergency care and hot clinics
24hr acute monitoring inpatient unit and 72hr older people's assessment unit
Seashore Centre (children's services)
Diagnostics and outpatients

More planned operations

What's the planned change?

Weston General Hospital will be a centre of surgical excellence, providing operations like planned hip, knee and cataract surgery close to home.

What impact will this have?

Each year, more adults of any age could have a planned operation at Weston General Hospital.

We could do between **20** and **114** more planned operations every day. The exact number of operations depends on the type of procedures. We will need to get more funding for equipment and facilities to fully make these changes.

This will benefit people in Weston and the surrounding areas who will not need to travel to other hospitals.

It could also help neighbouring hospitals by making it quicker for people to get planned surgery, so there will be fewer people waiting.

Are there any downsides?

We will need to get more funding for equipment and building work to fully make these changes. This may take some time and people may find the building work disruptive.

More care for older people

What's the planned change?

The hospital will also be a centre of excellence in caring for older, frail people who are less likely to bounce back after being unwell. This means that there will be special clinics and wards for older people. A team of doctors, nurses, and other health professionals will work together to provide help especially for older people who are frail.

What impact will this have?

Older people who are frail will get even better care from experts and teams working together. The hospital will also work even more closely with local GPs, community services and social care.

Are there any downsides?

We do not think there are any downsides, but we want to know what you think.



Help to get home quicker

What's the planned change?

Weston General Hospital will focus on helping people get home quicker after accidents, emergencies or other unplanned care. It will have special units for assessing and treating people quickly. This means fewer people will need to be admitted.

People with stroke, serious heart attack and major trauma already go straight to a hospital with specialist services. This will stay the same.

Ambulances will take everyone else to Weston General Hospital to be assessed and get immediate care, as usual.

- **Older people who are frail** and need inpatient care will stay at Weston General Hospital, the same as now. The hospital will have special facilities and a new dedicated team to treat these people.
- **Adults of any age who need emergency surgery**, will have their operation at Weston General Hospital. They will stay for as long as they need to recover, exactly like now.
- A dedicated patient transport team will take **anyone else** who needs a longer stay in hospital to a neighbouring hospital providing the specialist care they need.



What impact will this have?

The same number of ambulances will come to Weston General Hospital and the same number of people will use Weston A&E each year.

Thousands of people of all ages will be able to go home quicker because they will get emergency care on the same day, rather than be admitted for a spell in hospital.

We estimate that under these proposals about eight people per day will need to be transferred to a neighbouring hospital because they need to stay in hospital longer than 24 hours for specialist inpatient medical treatment for things like lung and stomach problems. This is about 2,900 people per year. The majority of people who arrive at Weston General Hospital in an emergency will still receive their care at Weston General Hospital.

The benefits are:

- Staff will be able to focus on helping most people on the same day.
- People who are frail and those who need emergency surgery will get all their care from experts at Weston.
- Other people who need longer inpatient care for specific things like lung and stomach problems will be transferred to a hospital with the required specialist staff and equipment. They will get the best care for their needs so they can get home quicker.
- We will be able to keep A&E open at Weston between 8am and 10pm, which has been in place for the past five years.
- We will have the space and resources to do thousands more planned operations like hip, knee and cataract surgery. Local people are more likely to need these operations than longer care after an emergency.
- Having a strong stable hospital with a clear long-term future will help attract and keep staff.

Are there any downsides?

We will take about eight extra people per day to another hospital.

These people may worry about being away from home and their visitors may have longer to travel.

We need your suggestions about practical ways to help people affected.

For example, would it be useful to give people equipment so they can video call their loved ones each day?



What the planned changes mean in numbers:

	Current number	Planned number	Change
Number of beds at Weston General Hospital	275 (28 planned care and 247 unplanned)	275 (111 planned care and 164 unplanned)	No overall change
People going to Weston A&E each day	137	137	No change
Ambulances going to Weston A&E each day	34	34	No change
Additional people transferred from Weston A&E to another hospital (per day) compared to now	N/A	8	8 extra people transferred to another hospital
Extra surgical procedures at Weston each day if we get funding to do this	-	20 to 114 depending on procedure	Large increase, if we get funding for equipment and facilities

Why do we need to change?

These plans are part of the Healthy Weston programme to help Weston General Hospital have a bright future. There are lots of other great initiatives underway to strengthen healthcare in hospital and in the community.

The reasons that we need to keep developing are:

- **We need to keep up with local people's health needs.**

There are more houses being built and the population is growing. Local people are getting older and living with more complex health conditions. Our plans mean that Weston General Hospital can provide thousands more operations a year close to home and keep up with all the services that people use most, like outpatient appointments and children's services.

- **All services need to stay safe and strong.** The whole country has a shortage of healthcare staff. There are not enough specialist staff in some departments at Weston General Hospital, even though we have tried for years to recruit more. This makes it hard for some services at Weston General Hospital to always meet national and local standards. Our plans mean services can continue for the long-term.

- **Local people want Weston General Hospital to stay strong.** Over 5,000 members of the public and staff have helped plan next steps. In a survey of almost 900 people, nine out of ten said services at Weston General Hospital need to change (85%). People know that if we make these changes, Weston General Hospital will have a secure future.

- **Our plans will help services and teams work together.**

Weston General Hospital will work more closely with general practices, community services and social care to care for people close to home. Trusts from Weston and Bristol merged to work closely together.

- **We can make best use of resources.** The NHS has limited staff, money and other resources. The COVID-19 pandemic put even more pressure on services. Our plans will help get the best result for every pound of NHS money spent.

Do you have practical solutions?

We have asked people what they think about the plans and had lots of positive feedback.

We're eager for local people and staff to help turn the plans into reality over the next few months.

We would like to hear your suggestions about:

1. how to let people know what is happening
2. practical ways to help those affected

From **20 June to 14 August 2022**, you can share your views in these ways:

Answer a few quick questions online

You can answer a short survey here: junglegreen.researchfeedback.net/healthyweston

You don't need to give your name.

Speak to us online or in person

You can speak to us at:

- Healthy Weston Public Engagement Event (Face to Face)
Thursday, 30 June, 1pm – 3pm
The Grand Pier, Weston-super-Mare, Somerset, BS23 1AL
- Healthy Weston Public Engagement Event (online)
Monday, 18 July, 6pm - 8pm

Tickets are available at: <https://bnssghealthiertogether.org.uk/healthyweston2019/healthywestonevents/>

We can also attend meetings of community groups, staff, patient groups and others. Email or call us to discuss.

Write or call

You can email us at:

bnssg.healthy.weston@nhs.net

You can leave a telephone message and we will call you back:

0117 900 2633

You can comment on social media:

Twitter: **@HTBNSSG** and **@WestonNHS**

What's next?

We will continue to listen and ask for people's advice to turn the plans into reality, but we need to hear from you by midnight on **14 August 2022** to shape the immediate next steps.

We will use the ideas you provide to turn plans into reality.

An independent team, separate from the NHS, will summarise everyone's feedback in autumn 2022.

We will share the results on our website: bnssghealthiertogether.org.uk/healthyweston





Contact



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www.bnssghealthiertogether.org.uk/healthyweston



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