

Easy Read

Changes to A&E in Southport and Ormskirk

What do you think?



The NHS partners working together are:

NHS Cheshire and Merseyside

NHS Lancashire and South Cumbria

Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

July 2025

About this document



This is an easy read version of “**Public consultation summary booklet. Proposals for changes to local urgent and emergency care services**”.



You may still need support to read this document.
Ask someone you know to help you.



Where the document says **we**, this means **NHS Shaping Care Together programme**. For more information contact:

Website: yoursayshapingcaretogether.co.uk

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Contents

About us	4
Why we need to change	6
Options.....	11
How this could affect you	16
What people told us	18
Tell us what you think	19

About us



We are the NHS in Southport, Formby and West Lancashire, including:

- NHS Cheshire and Merseyside
- NHS Lancashire and South Cumbria
- Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust



We want your views on changes we are looking to make to **urgent and emergency care**.



Emergency care is for serious illnesses or accidents. These are life threatening and need to be dealt with straight away.



For emergency care you should call **999** or go to **A&E**.



Urgent care is for other serious illness or injuries. But which are not life threatening.



If you want to know where to go for urgent care you can call NHS 111.



These changes will affect some of our services at:

- Southport hospital
- and Ormskirk hospital



Please read this document and then answer the survey. The details about the survey are on **page 20**.



Please tell us what you think by **Friday 3 October 2025**.

Why we need to change



We want to organise services in the best way possible.

We are facing 5 big pressures:



1. People are living longer and need more care.



2. Getting and keeping the staff we need.



3. Keeping high standards of care.



4. Having buildings that meet our patients needs.



5. Having enough money.



We have **2 Accident and Emergency (A&E)** services.
1 for children and 1 for adults.



These services affect many other NHS services.



If we can run **A&E** services better, it will help many other NHS services run well too.



We want our urgent and emergency care services to be there for everyone - all day, every day.



But at the moment they are not.



Our NHS services have been under a lot of pressure for a long time.



5 years ago, we had to close children's A&E at Ormskirk at nighttime. So we can only see children there up to midnight.



We did it because we could not keep running the children's **A&E** safely all of the time.



We must find a way to change this.



We asked for ideas. Lots of people said we need children's and adult **A&E** services together. At 1 hospital.



We agree. Most hospitals in England already do this.



Children still need to have an A&E unit just for them. But it can be at the same hospital as adults.

This will mean:



- There will be emergency care for children 24 hours a day.



- Fewer transfers from 1 hospital to another.



- Better access to services.



- We will be able to deal with emergencies better.



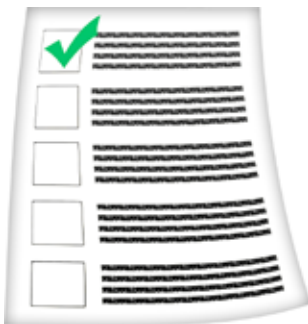
- We can make sure there are high standards of care.

Options



We would like to know what you think about 2 options:

Option 1. Children's and adult A&E services at Southport Hospital



- Only 1 other service would need to move to Southport.



- This would cost around £33 million pounds.



- It would take about 5 years to complete.

Changes would include:



- A larger treatment space for adults.



- A new children's **A&E** unit. It would be around the same size of the unit in Ormskirk.



- A new ambulance entrance just for children's **A&E**.



- Up to 354 parking spaces.

Option 2. Children's and adult A&E services at Ormskirk Hospital



- 7 other services would need to move to Ormskirk.



- This would cost around £91 million pounds.



- It would take about 7 years to complete.



- Because more services need to move, there would be more building work, and it will cause more disruption.

Changes would include:



- A new adult **A&E** unit. This would be slightly larger than the unit at Southport at the moment.



- A new ambulance entrance for adult **A&E**.



- The same children's **A&E** unit, which is in good condition.



- Up to 200 new parking spaces.

Both options would have these things:



- The children's **A&E** would have its own entrance, waiting area and treatment areas.



- The current **A&E** units would keep running while the changes are being made.



- All work will be done to high, up to date standards.



- There would be extra parking.



We think it would be better to have A&E services at Southport Hospital. But we want to know what you think before we decide.

How this could affect you



We looked at how different groups of people would be affected by both options.

This is what we found out:



- Most people travelling to adult **A&E** would take longer to drive to Ormskirk.



- Almost half of the people driving to children's **A&E** would take longer to get to Southport.



- Ambulances would take more time getting people to hospital with both options. A little bit more with the Southport option but a lot more with the Ormskirk option.

Some things we can do to help these are:



- Help local councils and public transport companies to develop better services.



- Provide a free bus between hospital sites.



- Set up a group to look at travel.

What people told us



Last year we asked people to tell us their views about current A&E services. **This is what they said:**



- People were concerned about waiting areas. And the rising numbers of patients.



- People were concerned about patient welfare. Especially disabled people, and people with conditions and other needs.



These are the things we can do to help with these:

- Have modern entrances
- New ambulance drop-off areas
- Bigger waiting and treatment areas
- More parking
- More urgent care closer to where people live.

Tell us what you think



We are asking people to think about what is best for the whole area of Southport, Formby and West Lancashire.



We will always give you the facts.



We will listen to you.



We will be open and honest.



You can answer a survey about the options in the document online:

yoursayshapingcaretogether.co.uk/30670/widgets/128132/documents/86940

If you would prefer to speak to us please contact us:



Phone: 0151 478 7929



Email: sct.getinvolved@merseywestlancs.nhs.uk



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Please tell us what you think by Friday 3 October 2025.



There are lots of ways to get involved in our work.



You can sign up to our newsletter.



Or find out more about our work and news on our website [Shaping Care Together](#).

