

## Paediatric Surgery at The Royal Orthopaedic Hospital

### Stakeholder brief 14th July 2017

To ensure children receive the best possible services and following advice from experts in paediatric care, a decision has been made by the Board of The Royal Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (ROH) to move paediatric surgery out of the hospital.

This means that over the next few months, plans will be developed to move the services to another hospital or hospitals which are better placed to provide the specialist care the children need.

Patients and their families can be assured that there will be no immediate changes for patients waiting for surgery as although there are long waiting times, current services for children at the ROH remain safe.

This decision has been made following reviews last year by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH), in which a series of recommendations were provided to the Trust around continuing to improve paediatric care in line with national guidelines.

The Trust has undertaken a significant amount of work and investment to meet these recommendations, and progress has continued to be made. However, recent external reviews over the last few weeks have reiterated that paediatric inpatient surgery would be better delivered in a hospital setting with access to extensive centralised care facilities at all times.

The Board has made its decision to cease paediatric surgery at ROH after careful consideration and in the best interests of children to ensure services are sustainable into the future and meet Royal College standards. It is supported by NHS England's Specialised Commissioning team and NHS Improvement who are now working closely with the Trust to ensure a smooth transition to new arrangements.

Discussion is underway about where these services will be delivered in the future. All patients of the Royal Orthopaedic Hospital will receive support and information as these discussions develop to ensure that the quality and consistency of their care is maintained. The Trust, along with NHS England who is responsible for commissioning these services, is committed to ensuring that patient and stakeholder views inform future commissioning decisions.

The Trust is working closely with commissioners, health system partners and patients to ensure that this transition is as smooth as possible for patients and staff. If you would like to find out more, please visit [www.roh.nhs.uk](http://www.roh.nhs.uk) or email [roh.askaquestion@nhs.net](mailto:roh.askaquestion@nhs.net)

**If you are currently scheduled for a paediatric appointment or procedure, please attend as normal as there will be no immediate change to Trust services.**