

Cardiac surgery: Summary consultation document

Wednesday 1 July - Tuesday 22 September

Introduction

This consultation is about improving cardiac (heart) surgery services across Greater Manchester.

Right now, surgery happens at two hospitals. Our proposal is to bring all adult cardiac surgery into one main centre at Wythenshawe Hospital.

We need your feedback to understand what is important to the people who may be affected by the proposed changes and what their needs are. It is important that we consider this when we make the final decision on the best option for changes to cardiac surgery.

What is cardiac surgery?

Cardiac surgery treats serious problems with the heart and major blood vessels. This can include bypass surgery to improve blood flow, repairing or replacing heart valves, treating major blood vessel problems.

Why things need to change

The service needs to change to keep up with growing demand:

- More people are developing heart disease, especially as they get older
- Risk factors like smoking, diabetes and obesity are high in Greater Manchester
- There are differences in care and results between hospitals
- Specialist staff are spread across sites, making services harder to run safely

While the current model continues to provide care, it is not the best way to deliver care in the future.

Our vision for cardiac surgery

Our aim is for a cardiac surgery service which can meet future demand and:

- Is safe and high quality
- Provides the same standard of care wherever you live across Greater Manchester

Our proposal is to have one main specialist centre supported by a strong network of local hospitals for routine care – including appointments, tests and follow up care - meaning patients would still get much of their care close to home.

Who will be affected by the change?

This proposal will affect

- People across Greater Manchester who need cardiac surgery and their families/carers throughout their care and recovery
- NHS staff
- GPs and heart specialists
- Hospitals and partner organisations

What are we proposing?

We are proposing that all cardiac surgery happens at one specialist centre at Wythenshawe Hospital.

Most patients will continue to receive care locally, including appointments, tests and follow-up care.

Other options were looked at but were not considered as strong.

Why is this considered a good option?

This option was chosen because it:

- Improves quality and consistency of care
- Brings specialist staff together, improving safety
- Helps reduce waiting times
- Makes better use of staff, buildings and equipment, and avoids the need for major new buildings or extra cost
- Uses staff and resources more effectively and can meet future demand

Why are we only asking about one option?

We are asking about one option because it is the only one that can realistically be delivered.

We looked at different ways to organise cardiac surgery. Each option was checked against what matters most, such as:

- Patient safety and quality of care

- Having enough staff
- How easy the service would be to run

The results showed strong agreement that having one specialist centre at Wythenshawe Hospital would provide the safest and most reliable service for the future. Other options scored lower or would not be affordable, harder to deliver safely or effectively. National guidance allows us to consult on one to three options. Because one option stood out so clearly, we are focusing on this so we can get clear feedback.

Why you should respond

It is very important that we understand what is important to everybody who has an interest in the future of cardiac surgery services. We can only decide based on the information we have. If you have some thoughts, some things you wish us to consider, you need to let us know so that we can take them in to account.

How do you get involved?

We want you to get involved as your feedback will help shape the final decision. You can share your views by completing the survey, attending events or contacting us directly.

You have until **Tuesday 22 September 2026** to give your feedback.

For more detailed information, please visit our [NHS GM get involved webpage](#), text, call or WhatsApp us on: 07786 673762. You can also email: gmhscp.engagement@nhs.net

Useful links to other documents

All these documents are also published in the “What you need to know” tab on our online platform

[Cardiac Surgery - Case for Change](#)

[Cardiac Surgery - Equality Impact Assessment](#)

[Cardiac Surgery - Engagement Report](#)

[Cardiac Surgery - Options Development](#)

[Cardiac Surgery - Pre Consultation Business Case](#)

[Cardiac Surgery - Stakeholder Engagement Summary](#)

[Cardiac Surgery - Travel Analysis](#)

Accessibility and translations

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