

Temporary changes to local children and young people's health services in Barnet

October 2020

To ensure the NHS can continue to deliver the best care for local people during the winter and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, several temporary changes to health services for children and young people have been announced. These temporary changes came into effect last week and we wanted to make sure all local parents and carers were made aware. We would be very grateful if you could share this information with families via your school website, newsletter and social media channels.

The changes follow a review of children and young people's health services across Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Haringey and Islington, an area the NHS designates as north central London.

The changes include the temporary closure of the children and young people's emergency departments at the Royal Free Hospital and University College London Hospitals (UCLH) through the autumn and winter. The Whittington Hospital and North Middlesex University Hospital children's emergency departments have been expanded to meet any additional demand. Barnet Hospital children's emergency department has also reopened following a temporary closure throughout the spring and summer.

More information about these temporary changes can be found on the North London Partners website.

These temporary arrangements will allow the NHS to focus resources and ensure children and young people's services are not subject to disruption should there be an increase in demand due to the pandemic.

Parents and carers of children and young people are asked to call NHS 111 or go online to <https://111.nhs.uk>, so that they can be directed to the best service for them. Parents of children receiving ongoing or planned care will be contacted directly if there are any changes to existing arrangements.

We have developed a series of materials (attached) to promote these changes which you can share with parents and carers. Download them here: [NCL Paediatrics RF closure / NCL Paediatrics NHS 111](#)

If you have any questions about these changes, please direct these to our central inbox: northcentrallondonics@nhs.net.

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