

Why are you only talking about hospital services?

To enable us to deliver the changes we are proposing to our hospitals, we need a stronger model for out of hospital care. We call it our Home First approach.

What we are doing to change care outside of the hospital

Too often healthcare can be a bit compartmentalised because we're only looking at one aspect of a person's care. We're working to change that. We have been looking at new ways of working, new models of care, and ways to use modern technology, to make delivering care beyond the hospital walls much easier.

- **Virtual Wards** allow people who've had some time in hospital and are ready to go home, but still need a bit more care, to have that care in their own home.
- **Community Diagnostic Centres** in town centres will provide thousands more diagnostic tests like X-rays, scans and blood tests so people can avoid going to hospital.
- **Outpatient appointments** very often don't need to be face-to-face. We are developing networks so that, for example, a patient's GP and hospital consultant can work together to decide whether a patient actually needs to go to the hospital or whether they can be cared for at home.
- **'Patient-initiated follow up'** for patients who have had hospital treatment, helps cut down further hospital visits. Instead of automatically coming to hospital in six months to tell the consultant you are fine, patients are given advice on what to watch for and get in touch when they need to advice or an appointment.

We believe that more integrated working could lead to more interesting roles working across hospital and community settings. So, a radiographer might work sometimes in hospital, and other times be out in the community.

The focus is on an **integrated, community approach** that helps people avoid coming into hospital, but when they have to, we want to get them home as fast as possible. We know if people are stuck in a bed it takes only days to lose muscle mass and then people start to lose mobility and independence.

Home is the best place for people – with an integrated response in place to support them.