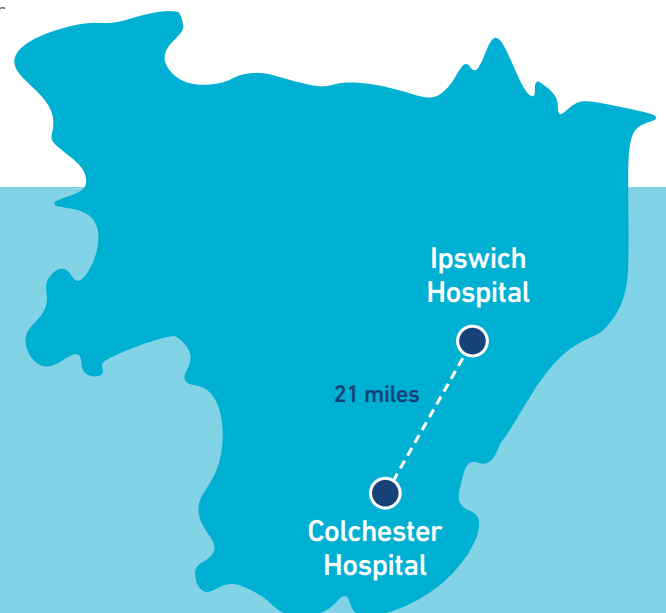


Two trusts one future

Excellent healthcare for the people we serve

In the local plan for health and care the needs of people and communities are being put first, ahead of the interests of healthcare organisations.

This means supporting people to stay well and keep out of hospital as far as possible, providing excellent care when a hospital is really needed. Our partnership aims to deliver excellent healthcare for the people we serve. It is an important part of the health and care plan for Suffolk and North East Essex.



Our plan in a nutshell

Who?

Colchester Hospital University NHS Foundation Trust and The Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust want to work more closely together

Where?

In east Suffolk and north east Essex. Our hospitals are really close in distance and are the same in many ways. We serve some of the richest and some of the poorest neighbourhoods in the country

Why?

If we stay apart we will struggle to keep providing all the services we currently do. People will have to travel more often to London, Cambridge and Norwich to be treated in a larger hospital. Or it might take longer to be treated locally.

What?

Our plan says that we should develop a single combined organisation and join our services together. Our departments will be run by a single team but across two hospitals.

How?

If both boards agree it is best for their patients and staff they will develop a full business case to become a combined trust. After that, if NHS England and our regulators also agree, the trusts will join. There will be one trust but two hospitals.

When?

We plan to make our final decisions to be a single organisation in early 2018 and if it all goes according to plan it will happen in Spring/Summer 2018.

**Some
things won't
change**

Both Colchester General Hospital and The Ipswich Hospital will continue to provide all the important services that our patients rely on. Emergency departments, a 24-hour service for urgent medical care and full doctor-led maternity services will remain at both hospitals.

Different hospitals, same problem

Smaller hospitals like ours are struggling to provide all the care we need them to.

Medical treatments are getting more complicated, technical and expensive. Treating cancer and heart problems are a good example of this and we need lots of very highly trained staff to provide this care for patients. These staff might be doctors, nurses, radiotherapists, physiotherapists or others who specialise in working with a certain group of patients.

The good news is that people are living for longer. But they often have several different health conditions that they are being treated for. This makes it more complicated to look after them as their different problems need to be balanced. We need higher numbers of dedicated and highly trained staff to support these patients.



By being a bigger centre we can make sure we have the experts available for the services provided at both hospitals.

We will attract people to work here in larger teams that are providing the most complex treatments.

As a bigger centre we can invest more efficiently in training our own staff and helping them develop new skills for the future.

One future – the benefits for patients

In the business case we asked: what benefits would there be for patients if we worked together as a single team? Our doctors and other staff got together to talk about joining up and they worked out six major benefits of being one team:



Great reasons to create one future

- 1 Centres of excellence** will provide better quality care by using the wide range of skills in the combined teams
- 2** Patients will get the **right care in the right place** provided by the right person
- 3** Caring for patients **round the clock and at weekends** we will be able to provide care when it is needed at whatever time of day or night
- 4** Setting **high standards** from the best of both hospitals and making sure the standards are the same for every patient, every day
- 5 Skills, skills, skills** – we can develop very highly trained staff by sharing our education and training teams and approach
- 6 Saving the NHS pound** – sharing our running costs means we can spend our money on what matters most to patients

The plan in numbers

4

things we plan to do over five years

1

Invest £70 million in buildings and equipment

2

Bring down waiting times to be in the top 25% of trusts nationally for performance

3

Recruit enough staff to reduce our vacant posts from 15% to just over 7%

4

Save £40 million in running costs

One future - modernising management

Our hospitals are big business. We employ nearly 8,000 people and we need excellent management to make sure they are happy and successful and providing great care for patients. We will support our staff to do those things that add the most value to our patients and strip out any processes or procedures that are not needed. Our corporate services will be combined and re-designed to remove any wasteful steps and we will use automation where appropriate to release our staff from routine, transactional work so that they can put their expertise to better use. The management and administration roles we offer to our own staff will become more attractive and satisfying as they focus on the things that really make a difference to our patients. Information technology, strong financial management, estates and facilities and human resources are all vital to our future and we will develop leadership in these areas that will help us deliver the very best levels of service.