Short-stay paediatric assessment unit and children’s services at the Friarage Hospital
Welcome to the children’s unit

About us

The short-stay paediatric assessment unit at the Friarage Hospital assesses and treats children and young people referred by their GP or who have an open access arrangement.

Children on the unit will receive specialist assessments, monitoring and treatment from our dedicated children’s team, including paediatric consultants and experienced children’s nurses. From April 2016, the unit will be open from 9am until 7pm, Mondays to Fridays, and closed on weekends and bank holidays.

How does it work?

There is growing evidence across the country that this type of assessment unit is very effective at treating children and preventing overnight admissions.

Children are referred here by their GP for a specialist paediatric opinion with the intention they will only be admitted if they cannot be cared for at home. Your child will be assessed by a nurse first and then a doctor, usually a consultant.

Your child will stay on the assessment unit for a period of time for observation before being discharged home. Occasionally your child may need to be transferred to a children’s ward at another hospital for overnight care.

What happens if my child needs to stay in hospital overnight?

Any child who requires an overnight stay or longer-term inpatient care will need to go to another hospital, such as The James Cook University Hospital in Middlesbrough, or Darlington Memorial Hospital depending on where they live.

We are working closely with GPs and the ambulance service to ensure children are sent to the right site according to their needs.

We hope that most children will be treated in our short-stay assessment unit and will be able to be discharged home on the same day.

Can I still have my child’s outpatient appointments at the Friarage Hospital?

Yes. There are no changes to outpatient clinics which continue to be held at the Friarage Hospital and in the community. We are hoping to enhance our outpatients clinics by introducing different clinic appointments so children will be reviewed by a consultant sooner after being referred by their GP.

My child is being cared for by the community paediatric nursing service. Will this change?

No. The community paediatric service will continue to operate as previously.

What would happen to a child arriving at the Friarage Hospital who needs urgent surgery or treatment?

Children who are assessed at the Friarage Hospital and need urgent care or surgery will be transferred to an inpatient unit.

For a number of years, ambulances have by-passed the Friarage Hospital and taken children with major injuries to The James Cook University Hospital so those arrangements are already in place and will not change.

Ambulances and GPS, including the out-of-hours GP service, have been informed about the correct place to send sick children depending on the nature of their condition and the time of the day.

Further information is available on our website at: www.southtees.nhs.uk/hospitals/friarage/changes

Contact us

If you have any queries or concerns please contact the paediatric assessment unit on 01609 763002.