Dear Parent / Guardian / Family member

On 28th April 2016, An Bord Pleanála granted planning permission for the new children’s hospital on a shared campus with St. James’s Hospital in Dublin 8 as well as two new Paediatric OPD and Urgent Care Centres at Tallaght and Connolly Hospitals. Planning was also granted for a Children’s Research & Innovation Centre and a 53-bedroom family accommodation facility (which will be run by the Ronald McDonald House Charity) on the same campus as the hospital.

This decision will positively transform how paediatric services are delivered for children and young people in Ireland. The new children’s hospital will be at the centre of a managed clinical network for paediatrics linking the regional and local hospital paediatric units throughout the country. Delivering care to children in the right setting, as close to their home as is clinically appropriate, is central to this new model of care for children’s healthcare.

The vast majority of paediatric care is delivered on a same day basis and as close to the child’s home as clinically appropriate. Therefore, the new children’s hospital will provide day to day care for children living within the city and the M50, as well as specialist care for children from all over Ireland. The new Paediatric OPD and Urgent Care Centres at Tallaght and Connolly Hospitals will provide day to day care general paediatric, orthopedic fracture clinics and urgent care for children from the greater Dublin area, outside of the M50. The regional paediatric units around the country will continue to deliver the majority of services for children locally.

Families of sick children, our leading paediatric clinicians, Board’s, CEO’s and the staff of the three Dublin hospitals - Our Lady’s Children’s Hospital, Crumlin; Temple Street Children’s University Hospital and the National Children’s Hospital at Tallaght Hospital - and staff in paediatric services throughout the country, have all welcomed this giant step forward for children’s healthcare.

There are many reasons why St. James’s Hospital was selected as the location for the new children’s hospital, but the primary one is that, as Ireland’s leading teaching and research hospital, it has the widest range of sub-specialties and highest level of clinical complexity of all hospitals in the country, that can best support our paediatric clinicians in the delivery of better clinical outcomes for the sickest children and young people.

The campus at St. James’s Hospital will be a leading campus in healthcare and research in Ireland – a leading adult teaching hospital, a children’s hospital and in time, a new maternity hospital, when the Coombe Women and Infants University Hospital is relocated on the campus. Ireland will have a world class new children’s hospital that is purpose built to deliver the best care and treatments that are available.

During the design stage, there were over 1,000 hours of engagement and consultation with young people, children and staff from the three children’s hospitals as well as with local residents and businesses, and with families who are former or current users of the service. A significant amount of work has gone into getting us planning permission and we are ready to start work on site this summer. We are on track to complete the building of the two new Paediatric OPD and Urgent Care Centres at Tallaght and Connolly Hospitals in 2018 and to commence transition to the new children’s hospital in 2020.

If you would like any further information about the project and how it will benefit your patients, please do not hesitate to contact info@nph.ie
It is recognised internationally best practice from a clinical perspective to locate children's hospitals on the same campus as the adult hospital with the breadth and depth of specialists to support complex paediatric services and a maternity hospital that provides service for high-risk mothers and babies. This is known as tri-location. The tri-location of these three hospitals - the new children’s hospital, St James’s Hospital, and in time when it relocated to the campus the Coombe Women’s & Infants University Hospital - will create a campus of clinical expertise to support highly specialist service delivery, research, innovation and improvement.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is it important that the new children’s hospital is located on the same campus (co-located) with St James’s Hospital?

The decision by Government in 2012 to co-locate the new children’s hospital on a shared campus with St James’s Hospital was led by clinical considerations and followed a series of reports that examined best practice internationally for a country of Ireland’s population.

There are many reasons why the campus at St James’s Hospital is the best location for the new children’s hospital, including the following:

- St James’s Hospital is Ireland’s largest and leading adult teaching and research-intensive hospital. It has the greatest number of clinical specialties and national service roles in the acute adult setting. The campus provides a broadest possible range of clinical subspecialities that can support paediatric services, ensuring patients with conditions whose prevalence does not warrant paediatric-only consultants, get the best possible care.
- For example, St James’s Hospital is home to the national Respiratory Oncology (cancer care) department and the Middle East Division of adult sub-specialities that can support paediatric services, ensuring patients with conditions whose prevalence does not warrant paediatric-only consultants, get the best care.
- St James’s Hospital is within the broadest possible range of clinical subspecialities that can support paediatric services, ensuring patients with conditions whose prevalence does not warrant paediatric-only consultants, get the best possible care.
- Co-location with St James’s Hospital will develop a broad range of adult and young patient services.
- Research: Research will play a central part at the new children’s hospital. Today’s research, it is recognised in the McKinsey “Children’s Health First” Report, will underpin future care at the new children’s hospital and in Ireland’s 50 acute hospitals. The Children’s Research and Innovation Centre, which also received planning permission as part of the new children’s hospital, will, for example, develop and deliver the best possible care for children who live in the Greater Dublin Area, and outside of the M50. The regional paediatric units around the M50 will be able to provide secondary care for children living within the M50 and also tertiary referral or specialist care for children from all over Ireland. The new two Paediatric Ops and Urgent Care Centres and Consult and Connect service will provide secondary care for children who live in UAV, and outside of the M50. The regional paediatric units around the M50 will carry out procedures and surgeries. Use of elevated landing sites are delivered on a daily basis and also to the child at home as medical emergency need.
- The new children’s hospital will be a world-class facility, custom-built to deliver the best care and treatments that are available. It will be the most advanced children’s hospital facility in Ireland. It will be the first hospital in Ireland to have a true inpatient Emergency Department, with dedicated space for children. The new children’s hospital will be home to the largest public transport hub which means the campus has the broadest possible range of clinical subspecialities that can support paediatric services, ensuring patients with conditions whose prevalence does not warrant paediatric-only consultants, get the best possible care.
- Attracting and retaining the best staff: The new children’s hospital will be a world-class facility, custom-built to deliver the best care and treatments that are available. It will be the first hospital in Ireland to have a true inpatient Emergency Department, with dedicated space for children. The new children’s hospital will be home to the largest public transport hub which means the campus has the broadest possible range of clinical subspecialities that can support paediatric services, ensuring patients with conditions whose prevalence does not warrant paediatric-only consultants, get the best possible care.

Synergies between adult and paediatric: Co-location with St James’s Hospital ensures access for children to adult specialists in conditions which are more common in adults, joint management of these conditions by specialists who work with both children and adults provides better quality of clinical care to the children and their parents.

New children’s hospital

- **473 beds** (380 in-patients and 93 day care)
- All single, ensuite rooms, with room for a family member to stay at the bedside, external gardens and courtyards
- Therapy areas with hydrotherapy and gym
- Hospital school and third level education centre
- **53-bedroom family accommodation unit** adjacent to hospital
- Two new Paediatric Urgent Care and OPD Satellite Centres at Tallaght and Connolly Hospitals
- Children’s Research & Innovation Centre on the same campus as the new children’s hospital

**The project in numbers**

**What about maternity? Shouldn’t a maternity hospital be located on the same campus?**

It was announced in June 2015 that the Coombe Women’s and Infants University Hospital will be relocated to the campus shared with St James’s Hospital. This means the optimal tri-location of adult, paediatric and maternity services will be achieved, creating a campus of healthcare excellence. Tri-location has benefits for children, adolescents, new-borns and their mothers and women in all cases. In all cases, the benefits of tri-location are many: it ensures access to the adult hospital as the local hospital provides the broadest possible range of clinical subspecialties, sub-specialties and expertise, which are readily available to assist in the treatment of patients and their management on a shared campus. Also, tri-location on a single campus facilitates the most significant depth and breadth of clinical academic and research innovation which will drive the best clinical outcomes.

**What is the quality of outdoors and amenity areas?**

The new children’s hospital will provide an outstanding environment for children, families and staff. It will transform the campus and provide an exemplary child friendly environment with access to green spaces. The gardens and parks will provide the patient statement which can provide for 30% future expansion within the current building footprint and up to 50% by the end of the current building footprint.

**Is there room for expansion at the St James’s Hospital campus?**

The statement that ‘75% of children attending the hospital will require access to adult services’, should that be our target? That is the right location for Ireland’s much needed and much wanted new children’s hospital.

**Can helicopters land at the new children’s hospital?**

There will be an elevated helipad at the new children’s hospital, which will have direct and rapid access to the Critical Care, Theatre and Emergency Departments with the flexibility to land and de-land. It is a significant advance to expand the capacity for children to be transported to St James’s. The new children’s hospital campus will have a helipad in a dedicated area, which will allow for children to be transported to and from the hospital.

**What about matability? Shouldn’t a maternity hospital be located on the same campus?**

The new children’s hospital project has been selected as the location for the new children’s hospital, the broadest possible range of clinical specialities, sub-specialities and experience, which are readily available to assist in the treatment of patients and their management on a shared campus. Also, tri-location on a single campus facilitates the most significant depth and breadth of clinical academic and research innovation which will drive the best clinical outcomes.

**What do the medical community think?**

The Children’s Hospital Group; Our Lady’s Children’s Hospital, Crumlin, Temple Street Children’s University Hospital; the National Children’s Hospital at Tallaght Hospital; St James’s Hospital and the National Paediatric Hospital Development Board have stated that they are ‘unanimous in their certainty that the new children’s hospital’.

**What are the differences between the St James’s Hospital, Coombe Women’s and Infants University Hospital and Tallaght hospitals?**

Tallaght Hospital is the regional hospital in south Dublin and is a large tertiary referral centre that provides secondary care for children living in the Greater Dublin Area, and outside of the M50. Tallaght Hospital is the main hospital for patients living in south Dublin and the Greater Dublin Area.

**Would access and parking at a greenfield site like Connolly Hospital not be better?**

This is a false claim in my opinion, the argument put forward by some of those who advocate a greenfield site is that the St James’s campus is located where there is no public transport service from the national and local authority and public transport service can be accessed from the hospital, and that the new children’s hospital will be located where there is a greenfield site (co-located) with St James’s Hospital.

The limited public transport options available at the Connolly Hospital site would invariably affect access and have a significant impact for staff and visitors, local residents and those seeking access to the hospital.

**The new children’s hospital project has been selected as the location for the new children’s hospital. Why is this the right location?**

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Did you know?

Transport for all
- The campus at St. James’s Hospital has the best options for public transport (Car / Bus / Luas / Railway)
- A parking system will allow families book a parking space in advance of attending the new children’s hospital
- There are 675 dedicated car parking spaces for families attending the new children’s hospital

Capacity / Expansion
- The campus at St. James’s Hospital has in excess of 50 acres equivalent to 25 soccer pitches
- 12 acres are being made available for the new children’s hospital and the Family Accommodation Unit
- The site proposed for the relocated Coombe Women & Infants University Hospital is 3 acres
- The hospital design is based on meticulous healthcare planning - 30% expansion within the hospital footprint and a further expansion of 20% outside the current building footprint - totalling 50% expansion space.

Outdoor Areas
There are a number of outdoor areas at the new children’s hospital, including the Rainbow Garden which is the length of Croke Park

Users of the service
- Approximately 77.6% of children admitted to the new children’s hospital will be from the greater Dublin area (Dublin/Meath/Kildare/Wicklow), and 63.3% of day patients.
- Less than 23% of children admitted to the 3 children’s hospitals come from outside the greater Dublin area
- The new children’s hospital will provide secondary (day-to-day) care for children living within the M50 and also tertiary (specialist) level care for children from all over Ireland
- The two new Paediatric OPD and Urgent Care Centres at Tallaght and Connolly Hospitals will provide secondary paediatric OPD and urgent care for children who live in the Great Dublin Area, and outside the M50

Design Commenced
- August 2014

Planning Submitted
- September 2015

Oral Hearing
- October 2015

Planning Granted
- December 2015

Starting Construction
- August 2016

Start transition of services to the Satellite Centres at Connolly and Tallaght Hospitals, on a phased basis

Start transition to the new children’s hospital
- 2018
- 2020

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working together for our children

new children’s hospital