



Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

**Please note below the information we have received from the NHS regarding the temporary closures of the Children and Young Peoples emergency departments at the Royal Free and University College London Hospitals (UCLH). Please read carefully.**

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 this week and we wanted to make sure all local parents and carers were made aware.

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.

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

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