



**NCH**  
new children's hospital

# connect:

July 2016

Working Together For Our Children



URGENT CARE AND OPD SATELLITE CENTRE AT TALLAGHT HOSPITAL ▲



URGENT CARE AND OPD SATELLITE CENTRE AT CONNOLLY HOSPITAL ▲

## A Giant Step Forward for Children's Healthcare in Ireland

“ children and young people finally getting a world-class hospital ”

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](mailto:info@nph.ie)

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# Frequently Asked Questions

The new children's hospital project has been widely welcomed as a giant step forwards for children's healthcare in Ireland.

There are many reasons why the campus of St. James's Hospital has been selected as the location for the new children's hospital, but the primary one is that it will best support the delivery of better services and clinical outcomes for our sickest children and young people.

It is recognised international best practice from a clinical perspective to locate children's hospitals on the same campus as an adult teaching hospital with the breadth and depth of specialities 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 is relocated to the campus the Coombe Women & Infants University Hospital - will create a campus of clinical expertise to support highly specialist service delivery, research, innovation and education.



**▲ MEDICAL LEADERS IN CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL CELEBRATE PLANNING APPROVAL**  
FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: PROFESSOR PAUL MCNALLY, OUR LADY'S CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL CRUMLIN; ELISHA HARDIMAN, CEO, CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL GROUP; DR SEAN WALSH, CLINICAL DIRECTOR, OUR LADY'S CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL CRUMLIN; DR CIARA MARTIN, CLINICAL DIRECTOR, NATIONAL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL, TALLAGHT; PROF JOHN MURPHY, TEMPLE STREET CHILDREN'S UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL; MINISTER FOR HEALTH, DR. LEO VARADKAR; DR. ADRIENNE FORAN, CLINICAL DIRECTOR, TEMPLE STREET CHILDREN'S UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL; DR MARTIN J WHITE, OUR LADY'S CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL CRUMLIN; DR PETER GREALLY, CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL GROUP CLINICAL DIRECTOR; PROFESSOR ALF NICHOLSON, TEMPLE STREET CHILDREN'S UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL.

## The project in numbers

- 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
  - Play areas, external gardens and courtyards
  - Therapy areas with hydro-pool and gym
  - Hospital school and third level education centre
  - 53-bedroom family accommodation unit adjacent to the 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



TYPICAL PATIENT ROOM ▲

## 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 specialities and national services in the acute adult hospital system. It also has the widest range of adult sub-specialities that can support paediatric services, ensuring patients with conditions whose prevalence does not warrant paediatric-only consultants, get the best support. For example, St James's Hospital is home to the national Radiation Oncology (cancer) department and the Irish Blood Transfusion Service Board. It also has one of the leading cardiac departments in the country. The new children's hospital and St. James's Hospital are both large acute teaching hospitals, meaning they have matching levels of service complexity delivered by highly specialist staff. To bring Connolly Hospital up to a comparable level would require very significant investment – something that would delay the ambition to deliver a world class children's hospital in Ireland even further.

**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 young people concerned. Examples include cardiac surgery, ophthalmology, plastic surgery, ENT, burns and maxillofacial surgery. In Ireland, because of our population these cases are better managed by those surgical specialists who work with both adults and children, as they can develop and maintain their skills through their work with the greater number of adult patients and they can apply the skill and expertise to the case of children and young people with similar issues.

(It is likely to be some decades before the new children's hospital has a fully individual consultant staff, and this may never be practical (given our population) for some specialities.) There are many clinicians that are working between St James's Hospital and the children's hospitals already (in areas such as immunology, haematology, plastic surgery, dermatology, radiation oncology and maxillofacial surgery), and this will increase once the new children's hospital opens. Having them on the same campus will lead to inevitable efficiencies, as currently, consultants have to travel between the hospitals for appointments.

**Co-location with St James's Hospital will drive the development of a best practice model for the transition to adult services for children and young people with chronic medical and surgical conditions.** Some examples of this transition include: sickle cell, haemophilia and other blood disorders, cancer, cleft lip, craniofacial, arthritis, epilepsy, gynaecological disorders, chronic skin conditions and immunodeficiency conditions.

**Research:** Research will play a central part at the new children's hospital. 'Today's research is tomorrow's cures'. St James's Hospital is one of Ireland's leading research hospitals. It has an excellent, internationally recognised, clinical, research and education culture and infrastructure. The new Children's Research and Innovation Centre which also received planning permission as part of the project, and the provision for active research within the hospital and on the wider campus, will foster the type of research intensive environment that is required on a campus of healthcare excellence.

**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 was recognised in the McKinsey "Children's Health First" Report (2006) that co-locating with an adult teaching hospital facilitates clinical and academic 'cross-fertilization', helping to attract and retain top staff.

**Economies of scale:** Co-locating with St James's Hospital will mean that the new children's hospital will have access to highly specialised equipment that it would not otherwise have access to. An example of this is a PET scanner; St James's Hospital is the only adult hospital in Dublin to have a public PET scanner.

*"We are unequivocal in our certainty that the campus at St. James's Hospital is the right location for Ireland's much needed and much wanted new children's hospital. Sharing a campus with St. James's Hospital will deliver better clinical outcomes and improved survival rates for the sickest children and young people."*

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. JUNE 22, 2016

## What about maternity? Shouldn't a maternity hospital be located on the same campus?

It was announced in June 2015 that the Coombe Women 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, the benefits of tri-location are maximised where the adult hospital provides the broadest possible range of clinical specialities, sub-specialties and expertise, which are readily available to assist in the treatment of paediatric and maternity patients on a shared campus. Also, tri-location on a single campus facilitates the most significant depth and breadth of clinical and academic research and innovation which will drive the best clinical outcomes.

## Is there room for expansion at the campus at St James's Hospital?

The new children's hospital is designed to meet projected child population growth as well as unmet clinical need. The hospital campus is over 50 acres with 12 acres dedicated to the new children's hospital. The new children's hospital site plan layout is based on meticulous healthcare planning to future proof the development which can provide for 30% future expansion within the current building footprint and up to 50% outside of the current building footprint.

## 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 an expanse of quality outdoor spaces. There will be more publicly accessible open spaces, more green areas, more feature areas outside and more recreational spaces inside - and all are being created to be at the fore of child friendly design.

For example, the central Rainbow Garden which will be the length of Croke Park is overlooked directly by children's rooms, and is just one of one of many purpose designed outdoor areas at the new children's hospital.

## Have you considered the access needs of families – should you not be locating it at a greenfield site where there is unlimited parking for families and staff?

### Access for families at the campus at St James's Hospital

The design of the new children's hospital has recognised the need of most parents to access the hospital by car and parking has been provided for families based on current and future demand, with three times the combined parking currently at the three children's hospitals in Dublin being provided. There will be 1,000 car parking spaces in the new children's hospital and 675 of these spaces are dedicated entirely for families. The parking system will allow families to reserve spaces ahead of arriving to the hospital and specific car parking spaces are also planned for emergency parking outside the Emergency Department.

### Access for staff at the St James's Hospital campus

The campus at St. James's Hospital is convenient to Heuston Station which is Ireland's largest public transport hub which means the campus benefits from arguably the best public transport facilities in the country and certainly the best of any other hospital with a full suite of public transport options available. The site also lends itself to pedestrians and cyclist access. The campus is already rolling out a Smarter Travel Programme to inform commuters and help make public transport an easy choice to reduce staff car dependency. Notably, An Bord Pleanála have reviewed the projected statistics and ambitions with regard to increasing public transport usage and stated that; "There is nothing on file to indicate that this not achievable or deliverable."

There are Dublin Bus routes through the campus and along the streets immediately adjacent to the campus. The Red Luas line has three stops serving the campus and that Red Luas line is currently being connected to an expanded Green Luas line serving the north and south of the city, and is also to connect to the Maynooth rail line commuter service at Broombridge. The Red Luas line connects the site to nearby Heuston Station where a number of rail commuter services from the south-west of the greater Dublin area (GDA) terminate. It also connects the campus to Connolly Station where Dart services and diesel commuter services serving the south-east, the north-east and the north-west of the GDA pass through. It also connects the site to 'park and ride' facilities at the Red Cow and Cheeverstown, the St. James's Hospital campus Smarter Travel Programme has recently introduced free parking for staff at these facilities. There are also two Dublin Bikes outlets on the campus currently and a third just outside the existing Rialto Gate entrance.

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

Relative to the campus at St. James's Hospital, Connolly Hospital has a far inferior public transport service. The assertion that unlimited parking would be available at Connolly (or any other site) is also untrue.

To quote the inspector's report from An Bord Pleanála: "There is a flaw, in my opinion, in the argument put forward by some of those who advocate a greenfield site adjacent to the M50. They appear to assume that unfettered (car) access off the national and primary route and unfettered access to on-site car parking can be accommodated. The same national, regional and local transportation policies are equally applicable at that location as they are at the application site and do not support such a strategy."

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 approach roads such as the already busy M50. While St James's Hospital is recognised as having the best public transport links of any hospital in the country.

## What do the medical community think?

The vast majority of the clinical professionals (doctors, nurses, health and social care professionals) working in the three children's hospitals and paediatric services in Ireland support the development of the new children's hospital on a shared campus with St James's Hospital.

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 'unequivocal' in their certainty that the campus at St. James's Hospital is the right location for Ireland's much needed and much wanted new children's hospital.

## I have heard that 75% of children attending the new children's hospital will come from outside the greater Dublin area? Is that true?

The statement that '75% of children attending the hospital will come from outside the GDA is untrue. 77% of children attending the existing children's hospitals come from INSIDE the GDA. Less than 23% of children admitted to the existing 3 children's hospitals are from outside the GDA. The new children's hospital will provide secondary care for children living within the M50 and also tertiary level or specialist care for children from all over Ireland. The two new Paediatric OPD and Urgent Care Centres at Tallaght and Connolly Hospitals will provide secondary care for children who live in GDA, and outside of the M50. The regional paediatric units around the country will also play an important role - the vast majority of paediatric services are delivered on a same day basis and as close to the child's home as medically appropriate.

## 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 within the hospital. There will also be direct access through the new children's hospital helipad to the St James's Hospital for services as required. The helipad has been designed in close consultation with the Air Corps and Department of Defence. Air Corps helicopters can land on a raised landing site or the roof of a building which is designed and certified for such operations. Use of elevated landing sites on the roof of buildings is widespread in the UK and Europe. The design of the elevated helipad is in accordance with the ICAO Helipad Manual which is in accordance with Irish Aviation Authority standard.

The Irish Coast Guard also provides aerial support through its Sikorsky S92 search and rescue fleet, while these are not licensed to land on roofpads and, for access to the St James's campus, would land in the Royal Hospital Kilmalham from which patients are transferred by road, as currently happens when needed for patients being transported to St James's.

## Is the quality of air at an acceptable level?

The area at St James's Hospital does not breach any EU ambient air quality standards as was incorrectly presented at the An Bord Pleanála by those who were campaigning for the hospital to be located at Connolly Hospital.

Incidentally levels of nitrogen oxides (NOx) are higher at Connolly Hospital than they are at St James's Hospital, based on nearby EPA recording stations.

# Did you know?

**P**  
**1000**  
Parking Spaces  
675 of these will  
be dedicated  
to families

## 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

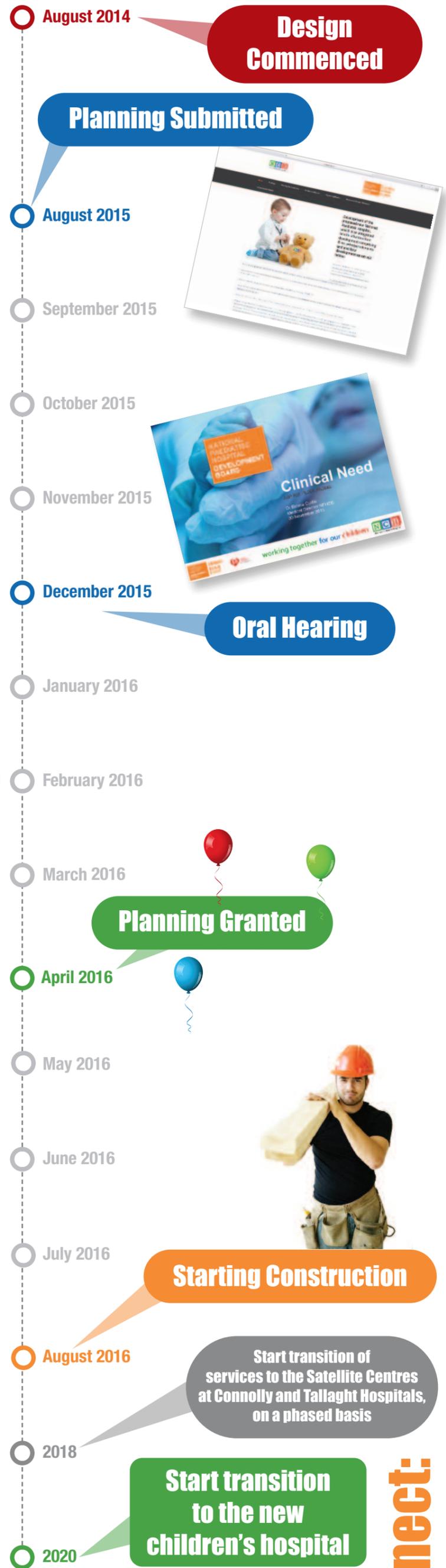
- The campus at St. James's Hospital has in excess of 50 acres equivalent to 25 soccer pitches
- 12 acres are being made available for the new children's hospital and the Family Accommodation Unit
- The site proposed for the relocated Coombe Women & Infants University Hospital is 3 acres
- The hospital 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



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