



North Middlesex and Royal Free London

Working together for better care

Partnership update

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Partnership overview

We are strengthening our partnership to deliver better care for local communities and more opportunities for our staff.



reduced waiting times



more access to specialist care



the new surgical hub at Chase Farm Hospital, reducing delays for surgery



a louder voice to attract more health funding locally



a collective call for more community services wrapped around North Mid



more career and development opportunities for staff



more money for frontline services by reducing duplication in how we run our hospitals

Benefits of partnership

Recent benefits of our collaboration include:

- Mutual aid as part of the Omicron response, including increasing NMUH's use of Chase Farm to relieve pressure on emergency beds.
- Joint appointment of Head of Learning and Development to enhance staff development across both organisations.
- Appointed Operational Director for Group Clinical Services at RFL with strong relationships and deep knowledge across both trusts, creating more opportunities for effective collaboration between teams
- Secured funding from the NCL Inequalities Fund to expand the Community Mentoring Scheme for young people, established by NMUH in 2021. This is also in collaboration with the Whittington, and BEH Mental Health Trust.

Why now?

North Mid has been a clinical partner with the RFL group since 2017. Now collaborating more closely around a number of workstreams.

Together, provide a significant proportion of the care in NCL. Partnership is a vehicle for change to improve outcomes for patients.

Ambition to create opportunity beyond the pandemic: strengthening the resilience of services in both trusts, sharing back-office functions, and enabling better planning for times of pressure.

Opportunity to strengthen and support workforce with better local training and employment offers, more career development opportunities for staff at both trusts and more shared clinical learning and development.

Golden thread of the partnership is to tackle inequalities, reduce variation and improve outcomes and experiences

Partnership focus

By March 2023 we aim to have:

- Strengthened the resilience of our breast radiology, ENT and rheumatology services, with shorter waits, less variation, and better patient outcomes
- Embedded a model of routine joint reporting of health inequalities data
- A joint elective strategy to reduce the number of cancelled surgical appointments
- Better value for money from shared third party contracts
- Joint working between our back-office teams to improve support (HR, IT etc.) for frontline teams
- Identified opportunities for closer join-up between our clinical support services such as pharmacy, pathology and imaging
- Improved same day access and 'front door primary care' at North Mid, Barnet and the Royal Free through joint working and sharing best practice with primary care
- Increased access to clinical research trials, in particular for NMUH patients.