



Briefing on plans for a new ambulance station for Sheffield

July 2026

This is a briefing from Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust (YAS), on a potential new ambulance station for Sheffield.



Executive summary

Strategy: One of the Trust's strategic ambitions is to invest in our ambulance stations, which need expansion, have buildings that are in need of improvement, and to improve facilities for staff, which will result in benefits to patient care.

Current issues: Sheffield ambulance stations and training facilities in the region are in poor condition, weren't intended for the number of staff currently operating from the stations, require alternative facilities to be found and don't provide opportunities to make efficiencies in providing training, and in our fleet and cleaning services. Ambulance stations aren't publicly accessible, but are operational bases for our staff who start and finish their shifts there, with the majority of our staff dispatched to patients from their previous patient, from the hospital or from standby points across the city.

Proposed solution: We want to develop a new station for Sheffield, bringing together our three stations across the city to one site.

Expected benefits: We know that providing a station that is fit for purpose, providing a safe, modern and efficient working environment will not only benefit our staff, but will improve patient care, with improved response times. The location of fleet and vehicle preparation services on one site ensure our ambulances spend less time unavailable and are prepared more quickly, enabling our staff to respond to patients more quickly. Bringing together training in one location improves accessibility for staff and efficiency for the Trust, as well as providing facilities that are suitable for training.

Funding dependency: The opportunity to invest in a new ambulance station in Sheffield is dependent upon a successful bid for capital funding of up to £10m from NHS England. This business case must demonstrate how the improvements in a new station, and the co-location of our services, will improve efficiency and ultimately improve patient care and response times. We have identified a potential location in the lower Don Valley in Sheffield, which will meet these criteria and will meet our requirements.

Next steps and engagement: We are currently developing our business case, ready for submission and final decision. We are also engaging with our staff – we already know about the concerns they have about the facilities, condition, parking and over-crowding on our current stations and other facilities. We are talking to them about our plans and listening to their ideas, with ongoing engagement planned over the next few months. We are also engaging with stakeholders about our plans and welcome feedback and discussions.

Briefing

The Trust has a strategic ambition to create workplaces that are fit for purpose, with modern and effective facilities and equipment, that ensures our staff can deliver care and services effectively. As part of that ambition, we have several areas of our estate we would look to invest in when any capital funding becomes available. These areas include Hull (where we are creating a new ambulance station), Sheffield, Wakefield, Rotherham and York.

As part of our estate plans, we have a number of locations where we want to invest and that includes in Sheffield and South Yorkshire. The Trust now has the opportunity to apply for NHS England capital funding which provides the opportunity to develop a new station for Sheffield. The funding available is to invest in improvements to estate which will improve facilities for staff and ultimately result in benefits to patients through improved response times. The funding of up to £10m, is subject to a competitive bidding process, requiring the Trust to provide a business case, to be submitted in the next few months. This will outline how an investment will improve the efficiency of our services, support our staff and ultimately enhance the quality of care delivered to patients across the city and wider region, through improvement in response times.

YAS operates 66 stations and sites across the Yorkshire and Humber region, with varying age and condition. Our long-term strategy is to deliver safe, modern, and efficient working environments, supporting both staff wellbeing and high-quality patient care. We continue to seek capital funding to modernise our estate, addressing issues such as poor building condition and inadequate facilities, which, once resolved, will further improve staff morale and operational effectiveness. This opportunity provides potential for significant improvements for Sheffield.

The proposal for a new station is based on the need to address issues with our current estate in Sheffield, which includes three stations, Batemoor, Longley, Middlewood, (see map attached), where we have outdated facilities, insufficient space, and limited parking, impacting our staff. By bringing staff from previously separate stations together onto one modern site, we will be able to introduce operational improvements (including a dedicated team to provide Ambulance Vehicle Preparation, AVP) improve scheduling, increase ambulance availability and improve staff morale, retention and recruitment. Although Sheffield will maintain the same number of ambulance resources, the changes are intended to support improved response times and benefit patients.

It is important to note that ambulance stations are not publicly accessible, but are operational bases for our staff, who start and finish their shifts here and return for rest breaks. The majority of our crews are mobile during their shifts, responding to incidents across Sheffield and South Yorkshire according to clinical priority. Ambulances are dispatched dynamically, usually from their last patient or from the hospital, with standby points used across the city where they can be based to respond to patients.

Improvements for Sheffield

Sheffield has been prioritised for investment given the challenges of the current estate. All three of our ambulance stations and fleet workshop need expansion to meet future requirements and our stations at Middlewood and Batemoor are no longer fit for purpose and require upgrades and modernisation to meet environmental and regulatory requirements. With an expanding workforce, there are space constraints at the current sites and there are ongoing parking challenges for staff, residents, and local businesses. The new station will resolve these issues, providing a single, modern station for staff and vehicles.

Centralising our teams will improve staff rostering, increase vehicle availability, and ensure we are better positioned to respond to the needs of our community with a more resilient and effective ambulance service.

Our non-emergency patient transport service (PTS) will also be based at the station, bringing together staff from across the Trust, co-locating the management team who are currently at a separate site and also providing the opportunity to invest in electric vehicle charging infrastructure for our growing fleet of electric PTS vehicles.

The introduction of Ambulance Vehicle Preparation, AVP, for all vehicles will mean there will be dedicated staff to replenish stock, refuel and clean vehicles, improving efficiency, as clinicians will no longer need to prepare their vehicles at the start of their shift, releasing more time to care for patients.

With an on-site fleet workshop at the new station, staff will not have to transport vehicles to the workshop for maintenance, reducing travel and resource time spent moving vehicles and ultimately reducing the time vehicles spend 'off road', increasing availability for patients.

The new station will also provide a dedicated training space, which will reduce costs and travel time for staff, who currently have no available site for training and learning in Sheffield, and have to travel out of the city to other facilities. Our current training facilities based in Doncaster are leased, with the buildings no longer fit for purpose and in a very poor condition, with changes expected to the site which require the Trust to vacate the sites.

Staff based in Sheffield have already told us about the improvements they would like to see and highlighted the issues with the limited space and problems with the current stations. We will be undertaking a full programme of engagement and communication with staff about any proposed changes. We anticipate feedback from staff will be positive, and plans for the new station will directly address the top concerns highlighted by our teams, improving both working conditions and service delivery. We will be working with union colleagues on these plans.

Operating model

The location of our ambulance stations, while important for staff welfare and operational planning, has limited direct impact on response times for patients. Our Emergency Operations Centres taking 999 calls, use sophisticated data on demand patterns to deploy ambulances dynamically and efficiently to patients.

Our staff across Sheffield and South Yorkshire do not serve fixed geographies and collectively respond to incidents across the region. No ambulance is ringfenced to serve a specific area. Our crews are dispatched based on the clinical priorities of the 999 calls and response times are determined by the real-time location of our crews, rather than the physical distribution of stations. We predominantly look to dispatch ambulances to incidents within their area and staff do not return to their base station after an incident but rather respond to another 999 call, which can be anywhere in the region. At any given point, the vast majority of our crews on shift will be mobile. As such, response times are driven by the location of active ambulances around the geographical footprint rather than the distribution of ambulance stations.

This flexible, patient-centred approach ensures that care is prioritised for those most in need, and ambulances remain available across the region.

A typical shift begins and ends at the base station. Once staff are ready, they are normally dispatched to their first patient within minutes and remain mobile throughout their shift, providing care either at the scene, transporting patients to hospital or specialist units, or referring to alternative care pathways. When they complete an incident, they are then dispatched to their next 999 call, based on their location at that time.

If there are periods of lower demand, ambulances may be directed to a standby point, which is a decision made by our Emergency Operations Centres, based on the location of crews, calls and data on patterns and trends of previous demand, ensuring there is cover across the area. We already have a number of standby points across Sheffield and we will be reviewing the location and number of these alongside our plans for a new station.

Ambulances may be parked outside stations and this can happen for several reasons, including vehicles awaiting maintenance, staff finished a shift, being made ready for delivery to another site or staff on an official break. It doesn't necessarily mean that it is an available ambulance for a 999 call.

Further information

We welcome engagement with our stakeholders and would welcome any discussions or meetings – either in person or online – with our local operational managers to discuss our plans and answer any queries you may have.

Information about our developing plans will be published on our website and any questions can be directed to yas.corporategovernance@nhs.net

Appendix

Location of current ambulance stations in Sheffield

