



Sheffield City Council Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee

Update on proposed Sheffield ambulance station

General overview



- We have a strategic ambition to invest in improving our response to patients through ambulance stations and operational facilities that are safe, modern and fit for purpose.
- Sheffield has been prioritised due to the current estate (Batemoor, Longley and Middlewood) no longer being suitable and unable to expand to meet growing demand.
- Sheffield was identified as providing the largest return on investment for patient response. This additional major investment in Sheffield will help to deliver improved services for patients across South Yorkshire.

General overview cont'd



- The Trust is developing a business case for one new, modern ambulance station for Sheffield. £10m of NHS England funding has been earmarked and a potential location has been identified in the Lower Don Valley.



- Current estate will be sold and the capital from this used to support the new ambulance station.

Operating Model



- Ambulance stations are operational bases where staff begin and end shifts and take rest breaks; they are not public-facing facilities and most ambulance resources are not dispatched directly from stations.
- Only around 33% of ambulances in Sheffield are dispatched from ambulance stations, the majority of which are at the start of shifts or following rest breaks.
- Ambulances are deployed dynamically by Emergency Operations Centres, using real-time demand and location data, and crews are usually dispatched from their previous patient, hospital sites or standby points across the city.

Improvements



- Improved response to patients
 - Independent modelling indicates that, combining the stations together with the introduction of Ambulance Vehicle Preparation and a variety of other improved efficiencies, alongside the use of standby points across Sheffield, the proposal could improve mean response times in South Yorkshire by:
 - **25 seconds for Category 1** incidents (immediately life-threatening)
 - **2 minutes and 27 seconds for Category 2** incidents (life-threatening).
- Provision of better facilities for staff:
 - to improve staff wellbeing (including physical space, areas for rest and reflection, meeting spaces and additional parking).
 - to support recruitment and retention, allowing space for a growing workforce, improve rostering and reduce inefficiencies created by operating across multiple constrained sites.

Improvements cont'd



- Dedicated training space in Sheffield would support access to local learning and development, including direct access to educators for support for clinical skills, and reduce staff travel time and costs.
- Co-locating fleet repairs and vehicle preparation services would allow ambulances to be repaired and maintained on-site, and cleaned, restocked and refuelled more quickly (moving 'checking' time from 20 minutes to 6 minutes), reducing vehicle downtime and releasing more clinical time for patient care.
- Improved patient care by increasing ambulance availability and supporting more efficient deployment across Sheffield and South Yorkshire. All staff on one site avoids unavailable time travelling to another site to 'pair up' or to collect equipment or resources.
- Opportunities for improved non-emergency Patient Transport Service facilities, including electric vehicle charging infrastructure as the Trust develops its fleet.

Demand and response times



Demand in Sheffield

Financial Year	Total Demand (All Categories)
2020/21	46,723
2021/22	49,062
2022/23	46,177
2023/24	78,133
2024/25	80,222
2025/26	81,442
2026/27 *	13,860

Demand continues to increase year on year, requiring a more efficient response to patients in the use of resources. Current estate does not allow for any additional growth of resources.

Average Response Times in Sheffield

Financial Year	Cat1	Cat2	Cat3
2020/21	00:07:07	00:22:40	00:59:15
2021/22	00:08:44	00:44:19	02:31:55
2022/23	00:09:14	00:51:12	02:29:10
2023/24	00:07:51	00:32:44	01:43:45
2024/25	00:07:07	00:26:19	01:18:46
2025/26	00:07:03	00:22:58	01:11:48
2026/27 *	00:07:16	00:22:40	01:16:46

*up to 31 May 2026

Despite this, continuous improvements within South Yorkshire, and with NHS partners, has allowed for improved performance standards and quality of care to patients.

The national performance for Category 2 incidents in 2025/26 was 30:04. From April 2026 to the end of May 2026 it was 26:53.

Hospital handover times



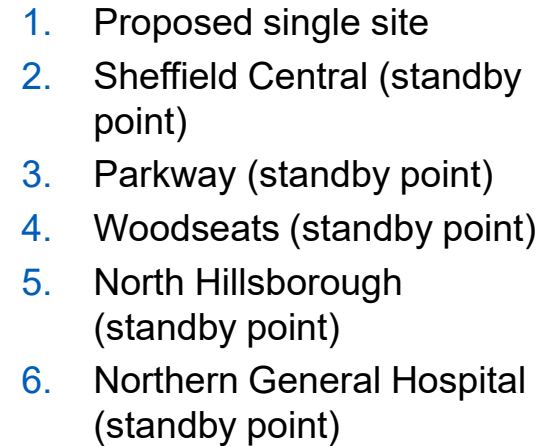
Calendar Year	Northern General Hospital	Sheffield Children's Hospital
2020/21	00:19:55	00:17:02
2021/22	00:33:41	00:37:18
2022/23	00:41:24	00:44:03
2023/24	00:27:21	00:36:00
2024/25	00:30:05	00:35:20
2025/26	00:17:58	00:16:59
2026/27 *	00:17:14	00:14:22

***up to 31 May 2026**

Hospital handovers have been known to be an indication of system pressure overall, and considerable work has taken place with Sheffield Teaching Hospitals which has delivered considerable and sustained improvements to patient handovers.

In June 2025 YAS and Sheffield Teaching Hospitals introduced a maximum handover time of 45 minutes.

NHS
Yorkshire
Ambulance Service
NHS Trust

The NHS Crest is a circular emblem. It features a central shield with a caduceus (a staff with two snakes entwined and wings at the top). The shield is surrounded by a wreath of oak leaves. Above the shield is a crown. The words 'NHS' are inscribed on a banner across the middle of the shield.

We are working with emergency service colleagues with an aim of facilitating co-located standby points; these are unconfirmed presently.