



Royal Free London
NHS Foundation Trust

Statement of Community Involvement

**Proposal to create two new vascular theatres for the Royal
Free Hospital**

September 2024

Contents

Executive summary	3
Introduction	6
Development proposals	7
Planning policy context	8
Engagement objectives	9
Key engagement activity	10
Engagement feedback	12
Evolution of the proposals	13
Conclusion	14
Appendix	15

Executive summary

This Statement of Community Involvement has been prepared by the Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust in support of the planning application proposing the following development at the Royal Free Hospital, Pond Street, London (“the Site”):

“Proposed extension to hospital at second and third storey level (above ground) with undercroft area beneath to deliver extension to hybrid theatres including roof-level plant and enclosure and associated works”.

We have discussed our plans with officers at Camden Council, local residents, hospital staff and patients and other key stakeholders to keep them informed and to respond to their feedback. We would like to thank them for their valuable input.

Prior to the preparation and submission of the planning application, we undertook a programme of engagement as follows:

- Pre-application meetings with planning and design officers at Camden Council in April 2022 and April 2024.
- Informed Royal Free London staff and governors through our regular corporate communications channels and via existing meetings.
- Encouraged stakeholders to email the dedicated inbox for the project (rf-tr.theatreproject@nhs.net) with any general queries or feedback. Emails have been responded to directly and where appropriate responses have been added to the FAQs on our website.
- Email to councillors, colleagues who work in the Pears Building (home of the UCL Institute of Immunity and Transplantation) and the Royal Free Charity — whose buildings are in the close vicinity of the proposed work — informing them of our plans and inviting them to set up an individual meeting with the project team if they wished to discuss the plans further.
- Letter drop to 800 neighbours (including St Stephen’s Church and Hampstead School) in the following streets informing them of the plans and inviting them to our online session on 25 June 2024:
 - Pond Street
 - Hampstead Hill Gardens
 - Haverstock Hill
 - Belsize Lane
 - Lyndhurst Road
 - Eldon Grove
 - The southern end of South End Road
 - Fleet Road
 - Byron Mews

- Email invite to our online session to residents' groups including:
 - Belsize Residents' Association
 - NW3 Community Land Trust
 - I love Hampstead
 - Hampstead Neighbourhood Forum
 - Mansfield Conservation Area Advisory Committee
 - Community members of the trust's Environmental Liaison Group

- An online presentation and question and answer session for the local community and staff was held on 25 June 2024. This consisted of a presentation from the Royal Free Hospital medical director Jennifer Cross, consultant vascular and endovascular surgeon and clinical lead for vascular surgery Jason Constantinou and Royal Free London Property Services project team (senior project manager Oliver Miller, strategic development manager Peter Martin, Montagu Evans planning consultant Colin Sinclair and HazleMcCormackYoung architect Nathaniel Seall) about the need for two new theatres, the design and features of the plans and how we would be minimising disruption to residents during the construction period.

- Following feedback from the online session, we ran a further drop-in event on 24 July 2024 between 5pm and 7pm in the Atrium of the Royal Free Hospital. All the residents, stakeholders and staff that were invited to the online event, were issued with a second invite and a further letter drop was undertaken. We also extended the invitation to Camden residents within our trust membership and newly elected MPs as, unlike the online session, this event fell outside of the general election period. We also asked Camden Healthwatch to share the plans and the invite with its members. The Royal Free London's vascular lead and Royal Free London Property Services project team were in attendance again to answer questions and encourage feedback.

- Patient groups were informed of the plans and received an invite to our drop-in session via our patient experience teams.

- We publicised both events on the trust's internet, as well as providing an overview of the plans and FAQs.

- The invite to our drop-in session was also shared on social media and in our stakeholder newsletter on 11 July 2024.

Feedback shared via email, and at our online and drop-in sessions, helped to inform our proposals. Residents and staff understand, and are supportive of, the need for two new vascular theatres. Our immediate neighbours wanted reassurance around what measures would be taken to minimise disruption during the construction period, in particular around traffic, noise and pollution. The feedback can be summarised as follows:

- general support for the proposals and what they aim to achieve
- no significant design comments received during the public engagement events
- concerns raised over construction management

We have taken their concerns into consideration and a robust Construction Management Plan has been devised and will be submitted as part of this application. This will aim to:

- provide proactive communication to our residents about the work happening on site
- ensure business continuity for the hospital and neighbouring organisations
- traffic management
- congestion mitigation
- respect for pedestrians
- dust and noise pollution management

The design of the proposals is also the result of engagement with Camden Council planning and design officers. A summary of the design, and how we have responded to officer feedback, is included within the Design and Access Statement submitted as part of this planning application.

We will continue to engage with both Camden Council and the local community throughout the duration of this project. This will be through further online or drop-in sessions, written updates and by responding to email feedback. During the construction phase a contact number will be available to log any concerns.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) has been prepared by the Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust in support of its planning application to construct two new vascular theatres at the Royal Free Hospital.
- 1.2 The application site is located next to the existing theatre block (on the western side of the main hospital building which looks onto Pond Street). This location is fundamental to hospital operations as it enables a direct connection to the existing theatre facilities.
- 1.3 In line with the trust's clinical vision for cardiovascular services, and as the designated vascular surgical hub for north central London, the theatre expansion will enable the Royal Free London to treat more patients, reduce the time people have to wait for surgery and improve outcomes for those with cardiovascular disease. Tackling cardiovascular disease is one of the Royal Free London's three group clinical priorities as it is one of the leading causes of mortality and morbidity in the UK and within north London.
- 1.4 Across London there is increased demand for vascular surgery with cases having risen by 30% in the past 10 years. The hospital's current hybrid theatre was one of the first to be built in the NHS and, after years of heavy use, the imaging equipment needs replacing. Hybrid theatres are equipped to conduct both open surgery and have full x-ray facilities to carry out interventional radiology procedures.
- 1.5 Several options were considered prior to this application, including refurbishment of the existing space, but this was not considered to be viable as the impact to existing services, including the need to reduce the number of operations we deliver, would be detrimental to patient care.
- 1.6 The Royal Free London is firm in its belief that constructing two new theatres is a sustainable way forward, allowing the trust to meet patient demand, improve care and outcomes, employ the latest technology, and provide a suitable environment for staff.
- 1.7 Before the submission of the planning application, the Royal Free London was keen to hear from the local community and stakeholders about its proposals. A communications and engagement strategy was prepared outlining how the trust intended to inform and engage with its stakeholders during the pre-planning application stage.
- 1.8 This SCI provides details of the engagement and our commitment to working with our partners and the community, and to take into consideration their feedback, to realise our vision for cardiovascular care.

2. Development proposals

- 2.1 Full details of the application are set out in the Design and Access Statement. Royal Free London is seeking consent to construct two new vascular theatres at the front of the hospital near the Heart Attack Centre.
- 2.2 The hybrid theatres have been designed by architects HazleMcCormackYoung LLP.
- 2.3 Achieving planning permission is essential to Royal Free London's role as the vascular surgical hub for north central London.
- 2.4 The Royal Free London is confident of the benefits the new theatres will bring patients, including:
 - A state-of-the-art theatre space with the latest technology which will provide a modern environment for staff to work and a more comfortable area for patients undergoing operations.
 - A building that complements the existing site, will not impact parking provision (once built) and retains the existing access arrangements to the wider hospital site by vehicle or on foot via the undercroft area.
 - Ability to combine procedures so treatment can be delivered in one session, reducing hospital visits.
 - Reduced waiting times due to increased capacity.
 - Greater opportunities to take part in clinical trials and research.
 - Expansion of education and training programmes.

3. Planning policy context

31. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. It outlines and encourages positive community engagement between all parties involved and affected by the proposals. Specifically, the NPPF states that:

'Early engagement has significant potential to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the planning application system for all parties. Good quality preapplication discussion enables better coordination between public and private resources and improved outcomes for the community.'

- 3.2 The NPPF also recognises that the planning system can play an important role to 'enable and support healthy lifestyles, especially where this would address identified local health and well-being needs...'
- 3.3 Camden Council's SCI sets out its commitment to community involvement in planning. It explains how Camden Council strongly encourages all applicants to engage with local residents who may be affected by the proposals before a planning application is submitted.
- 3.4 Camden Council's SCI was adopted by the council in 2016.

4. Engagement objectives

4.1 Royal Free London's stakeholder and community engagement strategy is focused on the following key objectives:

- To inform the local community and stakeholders of the plans.
- To take our stakeholders – staff and external – on the journey with us from start to finish.
- To develop a dialogue with stakeholders to hear their feedback and any concerns so they could be addressed at an early stage.
- To effectively communicate the need for the development and share key messages about the benefits of the new theatres clearly and succinctly.

4.2 At all stages in the process, the team has been open and transparent about its plans and will continue to be so. Dialogue with the local community and stakeholders will continue throughout the project and we will respond to feedback as it arises.

5. Key engagement activity

Pre-application meetings with planning officers at Camden Council

- 5.1 Royal Free London undertook two formal pre-application meetings with London Borough of Camden officers in April 2022 and April 2024. During these meetings, emerging iterations of the proposals were presented and discussed from a planning and design perspective. This engagement has informed the design of the proposals in various ways (please see the submitted Design and Access Statement for further details).
- 5.2 Our proposed community engagement strategy was also shared and agreed with Camden officers at an early stage. Officers also recommended that we reach out to the Mansfield Conservation Area Advisory Committee concerning the proposals and a letter was posted at the contact's address.

Engagement with Royal Free London staff and governors

- 5.3 Staff have been informed of the plans via the trust's regular communications channels (intranet, internal and governors' newsletter, cardiovascular service and local executive committee meetings) and invited to the online and drop-in sessions.

Engagement with stakeholders

- 5.3 An email was sent to councillors, the Pears Building and the Royal Free Charity informing them of our plans and inviting them to set up an individual meeting with the project team if they wished to discuss the plans further. No-one requested a meeting but Councillor Linda Chung asked to see any preliminary plans if these were available. Following the online session, this information was shared on the trust website (<https://www.royalfree.nhs.uk/news/drop-session-plans-construct-two-new-theatres-royal-free-hospital>) and emailed out to the councillors with an invite to the in-person event. Councillor Jenny Mulholland said she was unable to attend the event but that prior to having seen the specifics of the application or construction management plan, she supported the need for the new theatres in principle.
- 5.4 As our engagement fell during a general election period, MPs were communicated with post 4 July 2024. They received an email invite to the drop-in session as shown in the appendix.

Engagement with neighbouring residents

- 5.5 Following advice from Camden Council, a letter was distributed to residents within the vicinity of the hospital (800 addresses in total) area of neighbouring residents. The letter advised them of the plans and invited them to the online session on 25 June 2024. A second letter drop was undertaken inviting them to the in-person event on 24 July 2024. The second event was organised following feedback from attendees at the online session that they would have liked more notice and that they would like to see the plans in person. Three weeks' notice was given for the second event.

- 5.6 Community and resident groups were also invited to the online and in-person sessions via email, as well as all five community members of the trust's Environmental Liaison Group.

Online session 25 June

- 5.7 An online session on June 25 2024 was hosted by Royal Free Hospital medical director and ran from 6pm to 6.45pm. This consisted of a presentation from the Royal Free London vascular lead and Royal Free London Property Services project team about the need for two new theatres, the design and features of the plans and how we would be minimising disruption to residents during the construction period.
- 5.8 Following the presentation, attendees were invited to ask questions and share feedback.

Drop-in session 24 July

- 5.9 Following feedback from the online session, we ran a further drop-in event on 24 July 2024 between 5pm and 7pm in the Atrium of the Royal Free Hospital. All the residents, stakeholders and staff that were invited to the online event, were issued with a second invite. We also extended the invitation to Camden residents within our trust membership and newly elected MPs as, unlike the online session, this event fell outside of the election period. We also asked Camden Healthwatch to share the plans and the invite with its members. The vascular lead and Royal Free London Property Services project team were in attendance again to answer questions and encourage feedback.
- 5.10 Attendees were asked to complete a feedback form, or they were emailed a link to the form to be returned by 16 August 2024.

Ongoing engagement

- 5.11 Stakeholders were encouraged to share their feedback and ask questions via the project email in all our communications. A phone number was also provided for those who did not have access to digital communications.

6. Engagement feedback

Online event – Tuesday 25 June 2024

- 6.1 A total of eight invitees attended the meeting. Two representatives from the Environmental Liaison Group, one from Mansfield Conservation Advisory Committee (also a Frognal ward councillor), one local resident and four members of staff.
- 6.2 Following a presentation from the project team, attendees were invited to ask questions and share their thoughts. Overall, attendees were positive about the project and the need for two new theatres but raised concerns about the likelihood of additional traffic, noise and pollution during the construction phase in what is already a congested area.
- 6.3 Positive feedback included the following comments:
- *'...thanks very much for having initiated contact with the community on what is undoubtedly a very worthy project'*
 - *'the building proposed seems perfectly reasonable'*
 - *'location won't affect neighbours as it won't join them'*
 - *'... thank you for the clinical need slides. Very interesting. I can totally understand that vascular services are growing and I appreciate that.'*
- 6.4 Attendees also wanted to understand what the impact on the community may be during the period of construction and after completion, sharing the following concerns:
- *'I'm slightly worried...that this will cause a right old pickle with the already very tricky transport situation with cars coming onto Pond St only being allowed to turn left'*
 - *'...traffic and congestion. It's a really big issue. Oh, sorry. Also noise. Air pollution as well, which goes alongside this. It's a real issue for us here in Pond St and in Southend Green'*
 - *'... I think transport is really important because this area gets incredibly congested very quickly. One bin truck and the whole thing backs up all the way in all different directions. I live in Fleet Rd. It takes the ambulances, it takes all the buses, it's considerably congested, a lot of the day'*

In-person drop-in session – Wednesday 24 July 2024

- 6.5 A total of 10 people attended the drop-in session. Two local residents, one trust member, one trust governor, a patient representative from the Royal Free Hospital Patient Voices Panel and five members of staff.
- 6.6 The presentation from the online session was available for attendees to view along with large scale images of the design and situation of the theatres. Attendees were able to ask questions of the team and share their thoughts. Similarly to the online

session, there was overall positivity about the need for the theatres but concerns from the residents about increased traffic, noise and pollution during the construction phase. They were keen for the trust to continue its conversations throughout the project so their views could be taken into consideration.

6.7 Attendees were invited to share their thoughts via an anonymous questionnaire (see appendix). Positive comments received were as follows:

- *‘seems to fit in the current site very well’*
- *‘vascular patients wait ages for surgery and deteriorate in the waiting time. We support anything that can improve patient care and timely procedures.’*
- *‘A good continuity to already existing theatres and outbuildings.’*

6.8 Attendees also wanted to understand how the construction would affect access to the main building and how it would impact the existing view:

- *‘My concerns are about disruption and congestion during construction – the impact on the nursery school etc and its appearance including the blocking of existing sight lines.’*
- *‘Hope that the pedestrian access to the main building is not affected by the construction work.’*

Website, intranet and social media interaction

6.9 As of 18 July 2024, there have been 849 views from 581 users of the proposals on the trust intranet, which is above average, 58 views from 32 users on the trust website and 981 views on X and 1,884 views on Facebook. The social media engagement is consistent with the average figures the trust receives for these channels.

7. Evolution of proposals

- 7.1 We have listened to the feedback from our stakeholders and taken their concerns into consideration. A robust Construction Management Plan has been devised and will be submitted as part of this application.

The design of the proposals is also the result of engagement with Camden Council planning and design officers. A summary of the design, and how we have responded to officer feedback, is included within the Design and Access Statement submitted as part of this planning application.

8. Conclusion

- 8.1 Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust is grateful to everyone who shared their valuable feedback during this pre-planning application engagement process. This feedback has helped inform our proposals and the mitigations we will make to minimise the impact of construction on our neighbours.
- 8.2 The Royal Free London is committed to ongoing dialogue with its stakeholders and the local community and people are encouraged to continue to email any feedback to our dedicated inbox at rf-tr.theatreproject@nhs.net
- 8.3 We will share regular updates throughout the process; at key milestones (submission of planning application), outcomes of transport and noise surveys and during the construction. If required we will hold further online or drop-in sessions.
- 8.4 Once the planning application is submitted, we will encourage people to submit representations to Camden Council in the usual way, as well as monitoring this feedback and liaising with officers to ensure that appropriate responses are provided.

Appendix

Letter to neighbours about online session	17
Email to stakeholders about plans	18
Letter to neighbours about drop-in session	19
Social media post	20
Feedback form	21
Presentation	23

17 June 2024

Dear neighbour

Patients set to benefit from proposed expansion of vascular theatres at Royal Free Hospital

Hear more about our plans to deliver better patient care at an online event on Tuesday 25 June

The Royal Free London would like to invite you to an online event with a Q&A session about its plans to build two new vascular theatres at the front of the Royal Free Hospital near the Heart Attack Centre.

In line with the trust's clinical vision for cardiovascular services and as the designated vascular surgical hub for north central London, the proposed theatre expansion will enable us to treat more patients, reduce the time people have to wait for surgery and improve outcomes for those with cardiovascular disease.

We are currently at the pre-planning application stage and are keen to hear your views about our project.

The event will take place on Tuesday 25 June at 6pm for approximately 45 minutes.

The Royal Free Hospital has been the designated vascular surgical hub for north central London since 2011. Since then, we have seen an increased demand for surgical vascular services in the area. Across London cases have risen by 30% in the past 10 years. We have one theatre, known as a hybrid theatre, for this type of surgery at present, which means patients can sometimes have their operations cancelled at the last minute due to emergency admissions. This can lead to people having to wait longer than we would like for their planned surgery.

The expansion of our vascular theatres will enable us to deliver elective and urgent cases and ensure we can provide the very best clinical care for our patients.

If you would like to attend, please RSVP to rf-tr.theatreproject@nhs.net. You will be sent the link to join closer to the event.

If you are unable to access the online event, please call us on 020 7794 0500 ext 35735 so we can arrange for you to receive the information in another format.

We will also be recording the session and sharing it on our website at www.royalfree.nhs.uk

Kind regards,

Steve Sperry, interim chief executive
Jennifer Cross, medical director
Royal Free Hospital

Email subject line: Patients set to benefit from proposed expansion of vascular theatres at Royal Free Hospital

Dear partner

In line with our commitment to provide the very best care for every patient, I am writing to inform you of our plans to construct two new vascular theatres at the Royal Free Hospital which will enable us to deliver elective and urgent care, reducing the time patients have to wait for surgery.

As part of the trust's clinical vision for cardiovascular services and as the designated vascular surgical hub for north central London since 2011, the plans will enable us to meet the increased demand for surgical vascular services in the area. Across London cases have risen by 30% in the past 10 years. Tackling cardiovascular disease is one of the trust's three clinical priorities as it is one of the leading causes of mortality and morbidity in the UK and within north London.

We are currently at the pre-planning application stage and are keen to hear your views about our project.

Patients undergoing vascular surgery at RFH currently have their procedures in our hybrid theatre, which was commissioned in 2010, making it one of the first vascular hybrid theatres in use in the NHS. Hybrid theatres are equipped to conduct both open surgery and have full x-ray facilities to carry out interventional radiology procedures.

However, with more patients requiring vascular surgery, having access to only one theatre means that patients can sometimes have their operations cancelled at the last minute due to emergency admissions.

Under the plans, two new hybrid theatres would be built as an extension to the current theatres department on level three and will be visible at the front of the hospital near the Heart Attack Centre.

The expansion of our vascular theatres will enable faster access to treatment and ensure we can provide the very best clinical care for our patients.

We are currently working towards submitting our planning application to Camden Council in September 2024 and over the next few weeks will be engaging with staff, patients, local residents and neighbours, and key partners to inform them of our plans.

We will also keep you updated as this work progresses, but please contact us if you would like to arrange a conversation to discuss this further.

Yours sincerely,

Steve Spoerry, interim chief executive
Jennifer Cross, medical director
Royal Free Hospital

28 June 2024

Dear neighbour

**Drop-in session about plans to construct
two new theatres at the Royal Free Hospital**

Wednesday 24 July, 5 to 7pm
The Atrium, Ground Floor, Royal Free Hospital

The Royal Free London would like to invite you to a further event about its plans to build two new vascular theatres at the front of the Royal Free Hospital near the Heart Attack Centre.

Drop in at any time between 5 to 7pm on Wednesday 24 July where you will have the opportunity to speak to the project team about the proposals, which are currently at pre-planning application stage.

The team will be on hand to answer questions about:

- Why the hospital needs two new theatres
- The design and features of the plans
- What we are doing to minimise the impact of construction for residents and patients

To find out more about the proposals beforehand, please visit our website at <https://www.royalfree.nhs.uk/news/drop-session-plans-construct-two-new-theatres-royal-free-hospital> where you can view the presentation shared at June's online event, preliminary drawings of the plans and frequently asked questions.

The Royal Free Hospital has been the designated vascular surgical hub for north central London since 2011. Since then, we have seen an increased demand for surgical vascular services in the area. Across London cases have risen by 30% in the past 10 years. We have one theatre for this type of surgery at present, which means patients can sometimes have their operations cancelled at the last minute due to emergency admissions. This can lead to people having to wait longer than we would like for their planned surgery.

The expansion of our vascular theatres will enable us to deliver elective and urgent cases and ensure we can provide the very best clinical care for our patients.

If you would like to attend the drop-in session, please RSVP to rf-tr.theatreproject@nhs.net

How to get to the Atrium: From the main hospital entrance on Pond Street, take the corridor to the left of the main reception area and the Atrium is just on your right, opposite the hospital picture gallery and just before the M&S café.

Kind regards,

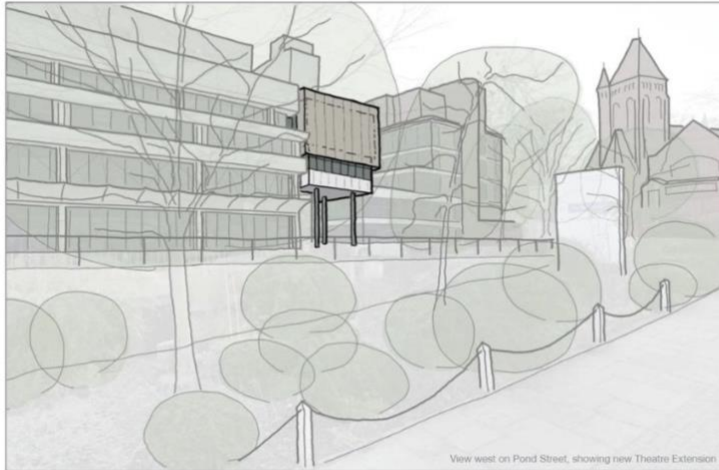
Steve Spoerry, interim chief executive
Jennifer Cross, medical director
Royal Free Hospital



Royal Free London @RoyalFreeNHS · Jul 9

We're developing exciting plans to build two new theatres at the Royal Free Hospital to improve cardiovascular care. Come along to a drop-in session on Wednesday 24 July, from 5 to 7pm to find out more and share your feedback.

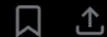
RSVP and learn more royalfree.nhs.uk/news/drop-sess...



4

9

963



**Royal Free Hospital
Vascular theatres project
Feedback form**

In what capacity did you attend this event? (Please tick)

Local resident	
Elected representative	
Patient	
Trust member	
Member of staff	
Trust governor	
Other (please state)	

How did you find out about this event? (Please tick)

Letter	
Email	
Website	
Social media	
Trust intranet	
Other (please state)	

Do you think Royal Free Hospital and its patients will benefit from having two new theatres?

Yes No

Tell us more

Do you like the proposed designs for the vascular theatres?

Yes No

Tell us more

Did you find the drop-in session helpful?

Yes No

Tell us more

Any further feedback or questions?

By completing this form, you are acknowledging that the information you provide can be used by the Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust for the purposes of its engagement around the construction of two new vascular theatres. Your comments may be shared with Camden Council. Please leave your details in the box above if you wish to receive further updates about this project. We will only use your personal information for updating you about the project and will not share it with third parties

Faster access to vascular surgery: Two new theatres for the Royal Free Hospital

24 July 2024



Our clinical vision for cardiovascular care

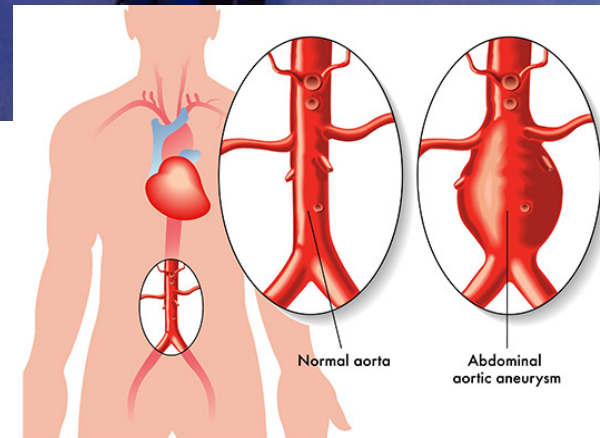


Cardiovascular disease remains one of the leading causes of mortality and morbidity in the UK and within north London

- One of three clinical priorities for the Royal Free London where we know we can make a difference to population health.
- Identified in the NHS Long Term Plan as the single biggest condition where lives can be saved by the NHS over the next 10 years.
- We propose to build two new hybrid theatres for vascular services to enable us to treat more patients, reduce the time people have to wait for surgery and improve outcomes.

Vascular surgery at the Royal Free London

- Royal Free Hospital has been the vascular surgery hub for north central London since 2011, operating out of one hybrid theatre.
- Expert care for vascular disease, 24 hours a day.
- 50% of vascular surgery cases are emergencies or urgent.
- Critical for other major specialist services including ICU, renal transplantation and cancer.



world class expertise  local care

Why we need two more theatres

- Across London vascular surgery cases have risen by 30% in the past 10 years.
- Our vascular hybrid theatre was one of the first to be built in the NHS and after 18 years of heavy use the imaging equipment needs replacing.
- Refurbishment is not a viable option as the service downtime would be detrimental to patient care.
- Constructing two new theatres is a sustainable way forward, allowing us to meet patient demand and provide a suitable environment for staff.



Diabetes: a reason for increasing workload

- 4.8 million people have diabetes in the UK
- 5 million people will have diabetes in the UK by 2025
- Over 40% of admitted vascular patients with blocked arteries have diabetes
- Early intervention is key to prevent complications such as loss of limb
- Over 40,000 vascular procedures are performed in England each year and it is on the increase



The benefits for patients and our community

- Enhanced patient care and outcomes (minimally invasive procedures)
- Ability to combine procedures so treatment can be delivered in one session, reducing hospital visits
- Reduced waiting times due to increased capacity



The benefits for patients and our community

- Latest technology (state of the art equipment)
- Greater opportunities to take part in clinical trials and research
- Fewer complications, improved patient safety and reduced risks
- Better education and training of staff



What the proposed development will look like

The proposal, which is subject to planning permission, is to build two new vascular theatres at the front of the Royal Free Hospital near the Heart Attack Centre.



Key design features

The design of the proposals has been informed by pre-application discussions with planning officers at Camden Council. The location of the proposed extension is fundamental given that it enables a direct connection to be made into the existing theatre facilities.

Location

Adjacent to the existing theatre block (on the western side of the main hospital building and fronting onto Pond Street).

Size

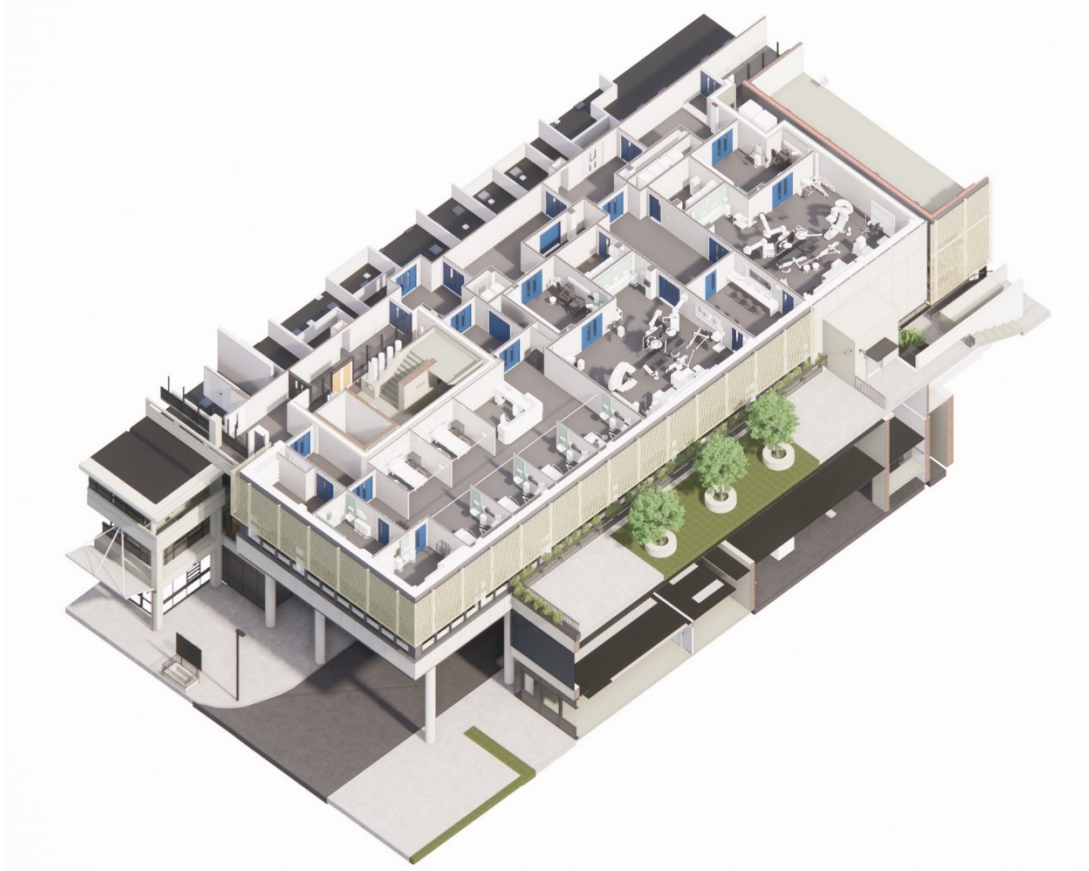
A two-storey extension at podium level is proposed (above an undercroft area) alongside rooftop plant accommodation.

Access

Patients and visitors will still be able to access the wider hospital site by vehicle or on foot via the undercroft area.



Key design features



world class expertise  local care

Minimising the impact on the community

Construction management:

- A construction management plan is in the process of being prepared and will be submitted as part of the planning application.
- We understand the importance of managing the construction process sensitively, to help minimise any potential impacts on the surrounding area.
- The overall construction period is anticipated to take c.52 weeks.

Parking:

The total number of car parking spaces will be the same as they are now. During part of the construction period, some of the RFH car parking spaces may be temporarily affected. We are currently looking at what this will mean as part of our construction management plan and will share further details in due course.

Transport considerations:

- As part of the planning application, we are preparing a detailed transport statement which will robustly assess the transport impacts of the proposals.
- We are in the process of undertaking local transport surveys now which will inform this assessment.

Noise:

- Detailed noise surveys are being undertaken currently and a noise assessment will also be submitted as part of the proposals.
- The site will include screening / mitigation to ensure no unacceptable noise impacts on nearby residential properties.

Target timeline

July to August 2024

Preparation of planning application (including consideration of community and stakeholder feedback)

September / October 2024

The council will formally consult the public on the application

May 2025

Construction works expected to start

September 2024

Submission of planning application to London Borough of Camden

October / November 2024

Planning decision

May / June 2026

Construction works expected to complete