

## **What is a cancer hub?**

NHS staff are working together to ensure cancer treatment continues in a way that ensures patient and staff safety, and balances the risks from treatment, clinical need and capacity during the COVID-19 pandemic. This work includes the NHS starting to set up 'cancer hubs' to coordinate cancer treatment, provide dedicated sites and ensure cancer treatment can continue safely during the pandemic. 'Cancer hubs' are a way of working that supports hospitals across the NHS and the independent sector to work together make sure people receive the care that they need.

In the North East and North Cumbria our cancer hub will be managed from two locations, one in the south of the region and one in the north. They will be responsible for coordinating cancer treatment across our region during the pandemic if needed at a safe, COVID-free location that is closest to the patients' home.

## **How will this affect cancer patients in our region?**

Some cancer patients may receive treatment in a hospital from the independent sector or NHS hospital that is different to one they would normally attend. Patients will discuss any changes to treatment and appointments with their expert clinical team, ensuring they are involved in the decisions about their care and treatment. They will also discuss any concerns or questions patients may have about any changes to their care and treatment.