

## Welcome to the Children's Unit at Royal Blackburn Hospital

The Children's Unit at Royal Blackburn Hospital (RBH) consists of a 50 bedded in-patient ward, a 4 bedded High Dependency Unit and a 9 bedded Children's Observation and Assessment Unit.

The Paediatric Department is staffed by experienced Children's nurses and doctors. Many of them have worked at the Children's Hospital in Manchester or other large Children's Hospitals in the UK and abroad.

The Children's Unit at Royal Blackburn Hospital offers a shared care facility to the children undergoing oncology treatment – this will have already been explained to you by the doctors and nurses on ward 84 at RMCH. The Blackburn service is also offered to children and families with other conditions who are from Blackburn but their main treatment centre is RMCH.

If your child is unwell you will have been given a contact number for Ward 84 at RMCH. If staff feels your child could be seen at Blackburn you will need to ring the Children's Observation and Assessment Unit on the direct line: **Tel: 01254 732624**. This number is also on the open contact form you will have received from Dr Msimanga, Consultant Paediatrician.

- Tell the nurse you are under the care of the Oncology team at RMCH and/ or the Christies
- Explain what your concerns are or what the problem is.
- The nurse will ask for your child's name and date of birth.
- You will then be asked to attend the unit.
- If your child is in an ambulance they can be told that your child has open contact and they will take you to the drop off area outside the COAU 2.
- Light snacks and refreshments are available for your child whilst on the assessment unit.

Parking at the Royal Blackburn Hospital is Pay as you go. Charges are (as per Sept 2023):

- 0 – 3 hours      £1.90
- 3 – 8 hours      £2.80
- 8 – 24 hours    £3.50

If you are travelling by car, park on the main car park. You will enter the hospital via the main entrance – take the lift opposite W H Smith's to level 2, when you come out of the lift keep to the corridor on your right and follow until you see signs for COAU, which is also on your right.

On arrival your child will be allocated a cubicle and will initially be seen by a nurse and then by a doctor.

The doctors at RMCH will be informed of your attendance at the Children's Unit. The doctors and nurses work closely with the oncology team at RMCH and will liaise with them frequently about your treatment and care whilst on the Children's Unit at Blackburn. Both parents and carers are welcome to stay with your child at all times to support your child and each other. For further support, an additional two visitors at one time, including siblings, are welcome between 10am and 8pm.

Please bring all your child's medicines with you and any hand-held notes you may have.