

Where would you like to be cared for?

**South Lakes & Furness Patient
Engagement Document**

What is this engagement document about?

We would like feedback on where you and your relatives would like to be cared for now and in the future.

The type of care we would particularly like your views on is “Step-Up” and “Step-Down” care within south Cumbria. This document explains what this means. Within Morecambe Bay, Step-Up and Step-Down care in south Cumbria is provided in ward facilities at three sites, Abbey View on the site of Furness General Hospital in Barrow, the Langdale units on the site of Westmorland General Hospital in Kendal and nine beds at Millom Hospital.

What is Step-Up and Step-Down Care?

Step-Up care provides nursing or therapy support for someone who is unable to safely remain in their own home without some care but where residential care or an acute hospital admission is not immediately necessary. Step-Up Care is only intended to be a short term solution until it's safe to go home.

Patients are stepped-up from home because:

- They have an infection or have fallen and may need some extra nursing support because they're unable to look after themselves, especially during the night. The rehabilitation ward will support them to regain their independence to return home.
- They need end-of-life care. The unit can look after them in the last days of life if someone is unable or chooses not to be cared for at home.

Step-Down care happens when someone has spent time in hospital and no longer needs the level of care given on a hospital ward but needs a higher level of support than can be given at home currently.

Patients are stepped-down from an acute hospital bed because:

- They may have been in hospital for surgery and need to rehabilitate before it's safe for them to go home. The ward staff including nurses, physiotherapists, occupational therapists and social workers who will support them.

More information is available on the longer version of the [engagement document](#).