

## Healthwatch provider meeting - ULHT briefing January 2020

### Headline news

- **COVID-19 (coronavirus response)** – The NHS remains at a Level 4 national incident. We continue to care for large numbers of COVID-19 patients in our hospitals, as well as maintaining other hospital services as far as possible. This includes providing urgent and cancer surgery and diagnostics (especially through our Grantham Green site) as well as urgent and emergency care through our Emergency Departments.  
In recent weeks we, in common with other hospitals across the country, have seen an increase in the numbers of COVID-19 cases in our hospitals. We also continue to face significant staffing challenges across our sites with staff cases of COVID-19 and staff members self-isolating. At times, this is affecting our ability to provide timely care, particularly at Lincoln hospital. To date (to 04/01/2021) we have cared for a total of 2,070 COVID-19 patients in our hospitals and 532 COVID-19 patients have sadly died in our hospitals. Today we have 201 COVID positive patients in our hospitals.
- **'Restore' phase- green site working** - We moved to a 'Green' site model for Grantham and District Hospital on a temporary basis in June 2020, enabling us to isolate patients who are COVID-free from COVID positive patients whilst using our services. This has enabled us to continue carrying out clinically urgent and cancer surgeries, as well as being able to deliver chemotherapy treatments, during pressure from COVID-19.  
This model remains in place, but as agreed at the outset will be formally reviewed by our Trust Board at their meeting in early 2021.
- **Visiting** – Visiting remains suspended at all of our hospital sites, for all but exceptional circumstances. This is part of our response to the pandemic and the restrictions are in place to protect our patients and staff.  
All staff, patients and visitors in our hospitals are required to wear a mask whilst on our premises.
- **Vaccine** – We are pleased to have been one of the first hospital hubs to roll out the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine from December, at Lincoln County Hospital. We have now set up another hub at Pilgrim Hospital, Boston to administer the new Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine. Good progress is being made through these hubs and other community settings in vaccinating our priority groups across Lincolnshire, including over 80s, healthcare staff and care home workers.

### Headline news

- **Let's Do This Together**- Lincolnshire's NHS organisations have come together to launch a brand new, county-wide campaign called 'Let's Do This Together', in a bid to help our Lincolnshire NHS stay strong and sustainable, now and in the future. The campaign has been developed based on local research which identified five positive behaviours which have been adopted by people during the pandemic, and which are making a significant and positive difference to Lincolnshire's NHS.
- **Video consultations**- Thousands of patients have been able to have their hospital outpatient appointments from the comfort of their own home thanks to a new video consultation system. Patients who are suitable for this new style of appointment are being contacted in advance with advice and to check they have the suitable equipment to take part. Since April 2020, more than 5,500

hours of video consultations have taken place with 700 clinicians from across the Trust in 50 regular virtual clinics. More than 94% of patients have said they would like to see the service continue.

- **Chief Operating Officer-** We have announced the appointment of Simon Evans as our Chief Operating Officer, following a national recruitment process. Simon has been working at the Trust as interim Chief Operating Officer since January 2020 and has been leading Trust operations throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. He has previously held various senior healthcare management roles throughout the NHS over the past 20 years, in operational as well as informatics and strategic planning roles. As Chief Operating Officer for ULHT Simon leads on the operational running of the hospitals and delivery, as well estates and facilities.
- **£1.2 million imaging equipment-** Two new multi-purpose imaging machines have been installed in Lincolnshire's hospitals to help with the diagnosis and treatment of cancer and vascular disease. The new machines, which are part of a £1.2million investment in new fluoroscopy suites, are able to combine different types of X-rays to provide clinicians with modern imaging to perform patient procedures and deliver prompt diagnosis and treatments. They are able to show real-time moving images of what is happening within a patient's body, for example the swallowing mechanism and blood flow.