

Press release

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NHS equality and diversity projects moving on

Four projects being run by the NHS in Lincolnshire to improve equality of access to services and jobs are coming on in leaps and bounds.

The projects form part of the national Pacesetters programme, which tests out innovative and new ways of working that address inequalities in health, health services and employment.

In Lincolnshire, United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust and NHS Lincolnshire joined the programme in 2008 and are running projects on:

- Black and minority ethnic (BME) women and access to breast screening
- Older people and self care of diabetes in hospital wards and nursing homes
- The representation of disabled people in the workforce
- Improving the collection and monitoring of workforce equality data

Diversity Manager for ULHT, Rachel Taylor, said that after a lot of hard work to explore all of the issues in these areas, some very exciting developments are being planned to significantly improve access to NHS services for many groups of people within Lincolnshire.

“The breast screening project is being delivered in partnership with HMP Morton Hall and has looked at the some of the barriers that women face in accessing screening. We have already identified that we can help educate women from BME groups about breast screening, by providing them with information and support, to improve the uptake,” she said.

“The project focusing on older people with diabetes will result in training resources for staff on the self care of diabetes. We also hope to be able to tailor more of our hospital buildings and equipment to their needs.”

In addition, more training for NHS staff and managers is being developed to help in improving access to employment and employment opportunities for deaf, deafened or hard of hearing people, and work is ongoing to improve the monitoring of the NHS workforce so that more is known about the experiences of staff groups.

“It is incredibly exciting to see these projects all moving on. We have now finished much of the research work and can really use what we have learned to make sure we introduce changes that really make a difference in reducing health inequalities and reducing inequality in employment,” said Rachel.

Equality and Human Rights Project Manager for NHS Lincolnshire, Rachel Higgins, said: “The collaborative working between NHS Lincolnshire and ULHT has been essential for the success of the Pacesetters project. Our hard work has laid the foundation for strong working relations between the Trusts and within all four projects the aim to reduce health inequalities and employment inequality is fast becoming a reality.”

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