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Dear Jan

Review of Accident and Emergency Services at Grantham & District Hospital (United Lincolnshire Hospital NHS Trust)

I am writing to you following the receipt of the Independent Clinical Senate's report, following their review of staffing across ULHT's A&E Departments on the 22nd November 2017.

NHS Improvement and NHS England commissioned the review to allow for an independent examination of the current arrangements for Accident and Emergency Services in the three United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust, (Lincoln Hospital, Pilgrim Hospital and Grantham Hospital). The purpose was to provide the ULHT Trust Board with clear evaluation and recommendations on the staffing levels across the three departments. This would allow the board to consider the panel's findings and inform discussions regarding the advisability of reopening the A&E Department at Grantham overnight.

The review was conducted with a clear Terms of Reference and was led by an experienced clinical chair. The panel members involved had the required experience, clinical expertise and breadth of knowledge to effectively scrutinise the evidence and make informed recommendations. Evidence was submitted to the panel by ULHT and South West Lincolnshire CCG. During the review the panel had the opportunity to discuss the evidence with you and other members of the Executive team from ULHT. The Accountable Officer and Chair of South West Lincolnshire CCG also spoke with the panel. The previous Independent Reconfiguration Panel report was also taken into consideration by the panel.

The Report produced following the review was detailed and outlined 4 clear recommendations, most notably that the A&E Department at Grantham should remain closed overnight and to not extend the current opening hours. One of the key reasons for the recommendation is on the grounds of patient safety.

Due to the ongoing concerns around the delivery of A&E services at Lincoln County and Pilgrim Hospital and specifically the sustainability of your staffing model, NHS Improvement strongly advice that the Trust Board follow the recommendations in the report.

Yours sincerely



Jeffrey Worrall
Delivery & Improvement Director - Central & South Midlands
NHS Improvement