

Tweet of the month: “@ChSuptShaunWest Spent last 2 days on Waddington Ward visiting a patient. Saw staff doing v challenging job, with patient dignity.”

Come along to our central members meeting in May

These meetings are open to everyone and provide a chance to get involved with what's going on within the Trust. Please contact the membership office to confirm your attendance. The agenda will be sent to those who rsvp.

Venue	Location	Date	Time
Savoy Hotel	Skegness, PE25 2UB	Thursday 11 May	3pm—5pm

Getting involved with our hospitals

There are a number of ways our members can get involved with our hospitals. Please find details of our latest opportunities below. Some activities are only open to members who have been through our Trust members' training programme, so please contact us if you are interested in being trained.

Training for patient representatives to sit on job interview panels

It is recognised best practice to involve patients in the appointment of caring staff in our hospitals, therefore we are offering an exciting involvement opportunity to trained members.

If you are interested in taking on the role of a patient representative on a job interview panel, you will be required to complete a training session developed and delivered by our HR team. The training will take place on **Wednesday 5 April at 11.30am at Lincoln County Hospital**. The training will take about an hour and it will involve a session on our interview and selection processes and the role of the patient rep on the job interview panel.

Members training

If you are interested in becoming a patient representative on Trust meetings, helping to carry out visits and inspections to provide a patient perspective on our services, wards and departments or sitting on job interview panels, please come along to our members training session which will take place on **Wednesday 19 April 2017 at 2pm at Lincoln County**

Royle Eye Department clinical management team meeting

We are looking for a patient representative to join the Royle Eye Department meeting. These meetings are held every three months at Pilgrim hospital. If you are interested in taking on that role or would like more information please contact the membership office.

What we've been doing

We would like to kindly remind our active members that when taking part in patient representative activities, they are asked to fill out forms to log attendance and feedback contribution and questions. We find this feedback very useful and would like to share their input with the wider membership audience.

For any enquiries, comments and to express an interest in any of our meetings or activities, please contact the membership office on (01522) 572301 or email members@ulh.nhs.uk

Grantham A&E opening hours extended to 8am to 6.30pm

From Monday 27 March 2017, United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust has extended the opening hours of Grantham A&E to 8am to 6.30pm, 7 days a week.

In August 2016, ULHT made the difficult decision to temporarily change the opening hours at Grantham A&E due to a severe shortage of middle grade doctors at Lincoln and Boston A&Es. Since 17 August 2016, Grantham A&E has been open from 9am to 6.30pm 7 days a week.

There is a national shortage of A&E doctors, and ULHT is very much affected by this. We are overly reliant on short and long term agency doctors to fill staff rotas. Reducing the opening hours of Grantham A&E has allowed us to provide better patient care in Lincoln - where the most serious cases from across the county go to. Though not ideal, this was the safest option for the provision of emergency care for the people of Lincolnshire including those who live in the Grantham and district area.

Dr Suneil Kapadia, medical director at ULHT says: "We understand that Grantham people want A&E to be open 24/7 but we are unable to do this until we are confident that we can safely staff all of our A&Es at least eight weeks into the future. We remain committed to getting A&E open 24/7 but only when it is safe to do so."

Our recruitment drive will continue. We are still advertising in the UK and abroad and are working with UK and international recruitment agencies to ensure we recruit enough doctors. We will review the opening hours at our Board meeting in May.

Women encouraged to get breast screening

A mobile unit that provides a free breast screening service to women 50 years of age and over is coming to Horncastle and Long Sutton.



Women aged between 50 and 70 registered with selected practices will be automatically invited to attend an appointment at the mobile unit. Women aged 71 years and over who would like to be screened are welcome to ring the administration office to make an appointment on 01522 573999.

The mobile service tours the county on a regular basis, but only visits one area at a time and appointments must be made to use the service.

Spiritual boxes providing support to patients at the end of life

Patients and staff in Lincolnshire's hospitals are benefitting from an innovation that supports people's spiritual needs at the end of life.

A chaplain who works for both United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust and St Barnabas Hospice has come up with the idea of spiritual boxes, which are being used across the hospice, and are now being rolled out to hospital wards.

These boxes contain a number of items that are aimed at helping staff to communicate with end of life patients, bring families together and provide comfort and support.

The boxes were recently recognised as an innovation that benefits patients at the Fab Awards 2016. These awards are run by the Academy of Fabulous NHS Stuff, celebrating all the fab people, best practice and innovation happening across the NHS and social care.



Trust performance – January 2017

- We have a target that 95% of patients visiting A&E should be seen and either treated, admitted or discharged within four hours. For the month, our performance was 75.56%.
- We have a target to have seen 92% of patients within 18 weeks of a GP referral, and during January 2017 our performance was 88.17%.
- We achieved five out of the nine cancer targets set for us.
- Our latest hospital standardised mortality (HSMR) performance, for June 2015 to May 2016, is 101.76. This is at an expected level.

The next public Trust Board meeting will be held on Tuesday 4 April at the New Life Centre in Sleaford.