

To:	Trust Board
From:	Lucy Ettridge, Associate Director of Communications and Engagement
Date:	2 August 2016

Title:	ULHT Innovation report		
Author/Responsible Director: Steph Tod, Communications Officer/ Lucy Ettridge, Associate Director of Communications and Engagement			
Purpose of the Report: To provide the Board with an update on innovation projects, service improvements and good news from across the organisation.			
The Report is provided to the Board for:			
<input type="checkbox"/> Information		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Assurance		<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Decision		<input type="checkbox"/>	
Summary/Key Points:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New service launched at Lincoln hospital to treat patients with damaged eyes • First corneal endothelial transplantation performed by Dr Mohammad Khan, Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon in February 2016 • The team hope to perform this operation on two-three patients each month 			
Recommendations:			
Strategic Risk Register		Performance KPIs year to date	
Resource Implications (eg Financial, HR)			
Assurance Implications			
Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) Implications			
Equality Impact			
Information exempt from Disclosure			
Requirement for further review?			

Lincoln County Hospital is offering an innovative new treatment to improve the sight of people with damaged eyes which means they can be treated in the county.

The service

This corneal transplant is performed on patients with eye conditions such as corneal endothelial dystrophy, which affects the innermost layer of the cornea (clear outer layer at the front of the eyeball). This can cause the cornea to become cloudy and blurred, cause pain or discomfort and lead to poor vision.

Previously Lincolnshire patients had to travel to Nottingham to have this procedure at considerable cost to the Trust and inconvenience to the patient. Now the new service is hoping to treat between two and three patients a month from across the county.

The treatment is offered by Dr Mohammad Khan, Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon and his team in the ophthalmology department at Lincoln County Hospital.

The treatment

Corneal endothelial transplantation involves no stitches as the corneal transplant is attached and held in place using an air bubble, which naturally attaches itself to the deep layer of the cornea a few days later.

This leads to quick visual rehabilitation and no need for contact lenses or further surgeries to correct the distorted surface of the cornea.

Previously the procedure would involve the whole cornea being removed and replaced with another. This treatment would involve the patient having 16 stitches to secure the transplant and it would take the patient between 12-18 months to regain useful vision.

The procedure would leave the patient with a permanently weaker eye and could lead to distorted vision, requiring the patients to wear contact lenses. There were also other potential associated risks, such as stitches coming loose or infections from stitches.

The first patient

The first corneal endothelial transplant was performed in the county this year on 52 year old Janet Brumpton from Market Rasen. This involved the damaged inner layer of her cornea being replaced and within one week her vision had drastically improved. She had the operation under general anaesthetic and was able to go home the same day.

Janet was diagnosed with corneal endothelial dystrophy in both eyes. She was unable to see out of her right eye and her vision was very misty. She was referred to Lincoln in October 2015 by her optician and had a cataract operation under local anaesthetic in January this year.

The patient said: "The operation was a fantastic success. My vision has improved 100%. I feel like I've got my life back and it's allowed me to regain my independence again. Mr Khan is lovely and the care I received from the ophthalmology department was first class."