

Tweet of the month: @ULHT_News Read our CEO @JanSobieraj latest @thelincolnite column with helpful tips for staying safe this winter: <http://ow.ly/VXL9306iErL>

Can you help us shape our plans for the next five years?

We are developing a five year plan for how hospital services across Lincolnshire will improve, meet the needs of our local population and our staff and deliver the best possible quality of care within budget. We have identified six areas of work within our 2021 plan, and need your help to develop the options for what we do.

We want to hear from you! Over the next few months we will be going out to groups and talking to as many people as possible. Whilst we want to hear from everyone we are particularly looking to engage with patient and carer groups around the following health conditions/ areas: respiratory, renal, gastroenterology, stroke, breast cancer, maternity and paediatrics.

If you would like to get involved or know of a group that might be interested in speaking to us, please contact the membership office on 01522 572301 or email members@ulh.nhs.uk

Trust performance – September 2016

- 4 hour waiting time in A&E target in September 2016 was 78.40% against a target of 95% - an improvement from August
- The 18 week referral to treatment incomplete target was missed in September 2016 - 88.6% against a target of 92%

- Four out of the nine cancer targets were achieved in August 2016
- The latest mortality position is 101.76 for June 2015 – May 2016 (HSMR), which is in the expected range.

The next public Trust Board meeting is on Tuesday 6 December 2016 in training room 1 at Grantham and District hospital.

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.

Hand hygiene

We are looking for patient representatives to carry out hand hygiene audits across the Trust. The role involves visiting wards and departments and observing staff during their daily routine. The aim of this project is to ensure that the hand hygiene procedure is followed by all staff members at all times. Patient representatives interested in taking on the role will be asked to attend an additional training session. Please note the dates and times of observations will be flexible. If you are interested or have any questions please contact the membership office.

Learning from complaints forum

The forum meets every two months to look at complaints and their outcomes. The complaints team is looking for six members to join this project. The next meeting is planned for January. If you are interested in taking on the role, please contact the membership office.

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 listed below:

- Wednesday 8 December 1pm—2pm at Lincoln County Hospital

To find out more about the venue and what to bring, please contact the membership office.

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

Lincolnshire leading the way in developing excellence in rural healthcare

Lincolnshire's hospitals are working with specialists to make the most of the county's rural nature in recruiting NHS staff for the future.

ULHT has partnered with the Lincolnshire Economic Action Partnership (LEAP) to work towards creating a National Centre for Rural Health and Care.

This innovation is aimed at tackling NHS staffing shortages, and finding new and exciting ways of recruiting staff in healthcare by making "rural" a key selling point to attract new NHS staff to work in our hospitals.

Rural areas can suffer from acute staffing shortages, as demand rises due to an ageing population and because of the greater distances residents have to travel to access health care. ULHT currently has 318 full time nursing vacancies, 38 consultant vacancies and 92 vacancies for other grades of doctor.

Together, ULHT and LEAP have commissioned research led by Rose Regeneration, which will culminate in an international symposium in Lincolnshire in February 2017.

Jan Sobieraj, Chief Executive of ULHT, said: "Lincolnshire has the potential to build on its rural assets. While there are similar national and international initiatives to tackle workforce issues, particularly in rural areas, there are no well-known centres that bring together a range of disciplines and business opportunities around the provision of rural based health and care.

"We are working closely with health and care providers, local authorities, the Lincoln Institute for Health and businesses to understand what the centre could look at and achieve."

Lincolnshire hospital radiographer wins national award

Jane Hall, who works as an information and support radiographer at Lincoln County Hospital, was announced as the Radiographer of the Year by the Society of Radiographers at a glittering awards ceremony at the House of Commons in London on Tuesday 8 November.



Therapy radiographers like Jane are responsible for working with patients to plan and deliver radiotherapy treatment for people with cancer. This treatment uses high-energy rays to destroy cancer cells.

The annual awards are an opportunity to recognise the hard work and dedication of radiographers across the UK. They also provide the perfect opportunity to raise the profile of both the profession and radiography departments.

Jane was selected for the award in recognition of the work she has done to introduce new services to help patients and their families cope with radiotherapy and the side effects of treatment, including using her time off to organise open days for staff and members of the public to explain radiotherapy.

She has also been working alongside head and neck nurse specialists to improve the management of symptoms for patients, as well as working towards creating an oncology website that patients use to access information.

Lincolnshire patient walked the same day as knee replacement surgery

Lincolnshire's hospitals are offering an innovative treatment to speed up the recovery of patients with knee replacements which means they can be treated in the county.

This surgery involves replacing the whole bone around the knee and is usually performed as a last resort if a patient has had one or more knee replacements that have worn out or failed in the past.

Following a successful knee replacement Jennifer Peters, 70 from Brigg had to have the operation after fracturing her femur. Mr Prasad Antapur, Consultant in Orthopaedics at Lincoln County Hospital and his team operated on Mrs Peters and she was able to stand and walk a short distance the same day.

Speaking of her experience Jennifer said: "Once I'd had the operation I was back on my feet very quickly and out of hospital within days. I feel like I've got my life back."

What we've been doing

Over the last three months we had number of Trust members acting as patient representatives on different activities. We really appreciate your support and encourage everyone to get involved.

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.

Lincolnshire Healthcare Carol Service in Lincoln Cathedral

All are invited to an annual, traditional service of lessons and carols, taking place on Monday 12 December at 7.30pm in Lincoln Cathedral.

The Lincolnshire Hospitals Band, the only NHS brass band in the country, will be playing and the Lindum Ladies Choir will support the carol singing at the Lincolnshire Healthcare Carol Service.

Admission is free and tickets are not necessary. An offering will be taken during the service and this year it will be presented to the dementia care charitable fund.