

## **1,000 lives saved at Lincolnshire Heart Centre**

### **Background**

People who suffer a heart attack or cardiac arrest in Lincolnshire have a greater chance of survival than most areas of the country, thanks to the innovative work of the Lincolnshire Heart Centre. Since it opened in 2013, a thousand lives have been saved by the specialist centre treating patients rather than other hospitals in the county.

### **Outcomes**

The latest statistics released by the National Institute for Cardiovascular Outcomes Research (NICOR) show that the heart centre is outperforming all of the national targets for treating heart attack patients.

Anyone suffering a heart attack caused by the blockage of an artery is treated by using a balloon catheter called an angioplasty. This is where a balloon is placed into the obstructed artery and inflated to relieve the narrowing. Currently:

- The national target is 150 minutes for all patients to receive this treatment from their first 999 call to when the balloon is inflated. Nationally, 75% of patients are treated within this window. In Lincolnshire, despite the large geographical area and the road network, 85% of patients are treated by the heart centre in the timeframe.
- On average it takes the specialist team just 32 minutes from the moment a patient arrives at hospital to open the artery – the national average is 40 minutes.
- Patients spend an average of 2 days at Lincoln, when nationally it is 3 days.
- 100% of appropriate patients are discharged home on a combination of the five government recommended medicines to reduce the chance of having another heart attack - nationally it's 90%.
- 100% of patients suffering from a heart attack caused by a partial blockage of the arteries are all seen by a cardiologist at the heart centre, compared with 96% nationally and 91% are offered a coronary angiogram compared to the national average of 83%.

We are seeing more and more people every year, but by having a centralised, specialist service we are able to offer some of the best care in the country.

### **Lessons learnt**

The heart centre is a great example of what ULHT can achieve by cross-team working at the Trust and by working with our partners – mainly EMAS and CCGs – by investing in our staff and equipment, and having great clinical leadership.

In developing our 2021 strategy, and implementing service changes, we will learn from the heart centre to ensure more of our services lead the way regionally and nationally.

### **Next steps**

Later this autumn, the heart centre will be expanding the range of services it offers to patients in Lincolnshire. The Trust will be working in partnership with Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust to offer a local complex device service.

The service will be delivered locally by the local team and will prevent patients having to travel out of county for procedures like implantable cardiac defibrillators (ICDs) which treat abnormal heart rhythms and can prevent cardiac arrest in high-risk patients. Work is progressing well with our partners and our specialised commissioners and we are recruiting additional consultants to support the delivery of this new service.