

The need to improve Lincolnshire's health system: A clinician's view

As the most senior doctors, nurses, and health professionals working in our hospitals, GP practices and throughout the community in Lincolnshire, we are passionate about delivering the highest standards of care to you, the patients we serve.

Over the past few years, we have heard from some of our patients that the quality of care received is variable and it can be difficult to access. Many patients would like the choice to receive care in their own homes, or much closer to home, rather than in hospitals. This feedback is a reflection of the changing needs of our population and we are determined to address it.

To do this, we have been meeting on a regular basis over the last year to consider evidence and best practice in health care, not just from this country but from around the world. Employing this strong clinical evidence base, combined with our knowledge of our own health system, and the valuable feedback we have from patients, staff and colleagues, we are recommending a series of changes to the way we deliver care to you.

We are determined that any changes will retain the compassion and caring attitude which you tell us is so well demonstrated by all of our staff. Providing the highest levels care is what, as NHS staff, we strive for. Healthcare will focus on your needs, on keeping you well and treating your illness, and is better provided in or near to your home. Our priority is to increase the breadth and depth of care you can access outside of hospital. Going to hospital will be only happen when there is a real need to do so.

Our hospitals will change so that you will spend the least time possible in there, and the expertise we have there will be able to focus on getting you well and back home without unnecessary delay when you are ready to leave hospital. The hospital care that you receive will be timely and delivered by the right people who have the knowledge, skills and ability to access all the tests that you need in one place. Our community teams will link with the hospitals so they can arrange any on-going care that you need at home. That community team will be familiar to you, people who you will know and have met in the past, for example, members of your GP practice will deliver this care.

As the most senior doctors, nurses, and health professionals in Lincolnshire, we believe that these changes are right and necessary and will improve the standard of care and outcomes for our patients, now and in the future.

We recommend all of these changes to our public and patients.

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