



Rutland County Council

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Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Joint Health Scrutiny Committee: Report to Council

Outside Body	Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Joint Health Scrutiny Committee
Date(s) of Meeting(s)	18th December 2023

Issues to be highlighted to Council

1. Leicester General Hospital and Hydrotherapy Provision

During the pandemic in 2020 the Hydrotherapy Pool at LGH was closed as a consequence of the Covid19 regulations and has remained closed ever since.

The following response was received from UHL:

“A proposal was submitted during the 2023/4 planning round to fund the approximately £500,000 identified by a feasibility study to meet the costs of repairing the hydrotherapy pool and bringing it up to current standards.

Funds for capital expenditure are very limited and other projects identified as having greater clinical risk were identified and prioritised. The proposal will be re-considered in the 2024/25 planning round.

In the meantime, we are committed to support patients to find alternative community-based provision, where practical.”

2. NHS Dentistry Provision – the update to the 2022 plan is now expected to come before the March 2024 meeting.

3. Primary Care Services – Public Communication of Service Changes:

- It was reported at the 18th September that the communication of the Community Pharmacy expansion would be undertaken in “blocks”, and that Surgeries, together with their PPG’s, would manage the communication roll out.
- The present absence of a comprehensive communication plan was also raised by the ICB itself at the Rutland Scrutiny Committee of 23rd November 2023. From this a further question on the timing of a communication plan was raised at the LLR meeting.
- The ICB provided the following response: “The ICB has been promoting the changes taking place in primary care over the last 12 months and the

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development of new roles in GP practices has been a key part of our campaign. More recently, the focus on primary care recovery by reducing pressures on GPs and improving access for patients means there is renewed focus on the role of alternative health professionals in GP practices.

- The campaign on alternatives to GPs should be seen as an integral part of a broader campaign to explain the changes taking place in GP practices.
- A national campaign commenced in October to raise awareness of the of the different health professionals in GP teams.
- In the new year, the ICB will be working with practices to enhance the local campaign by:
 - Ensuring information is available on practice websites. In particular making the information clearly visible and high profile including how referrals to other health professionals works at the practice.
 - Creation of local materials to promote the different roles.
 - Social media and media campaign to raise awareness of the different roles and explain the support they can provide to patients. This will include examples of when a patient might be referred for an appointment with a different health professional as an alternative to a GP.
- The campaign will aim to create patient confidence in alternatives to GPs and support the local system level access and improvement plan."

4. Ambulance Response Times and Related

- At the 18th September meeting it was reported that average response times were close to 35minutes for LLR for year to date, but Rutland was above the average and this was being investigated. The target is 30min for 23/24 and 18min for 24/25.
- There has been a report of ambulances being used at LRI for holding patients prior to admission (BBC – 10th December 2023)
- The following response was received from UHL;

"... demand for urgent and emergency care services is currently exceptionally high, with a significant rise in emergency admissions when compared to the same period last year, driven by the onset of winter and higher patient acuity, particularly with flu and other....issues.."

We will continue to do all we can to bring handover times down, in line with the UHL urgent and emergency care plan we published in March 2023. This includes increasing our capacity, improving patient flow through our hospitals and working closely with our partners in the ambulance service..."

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- 5. Treatment Backlog** – intention to move more procedures to Community Facilities. Noted that new Hinkley Diagnostic Centre has received much community support.
- 6. Manpower Plan** – detailed plan developed to address aging workforce, improve skills levels, reduce staff turnover and absence levels.
- 7. UHL Hospitals Reconfiguration Plan: timing** - UHL retains its Cohort 3 status and hence there is a reasonable degree of confidence in the timing and quantum of funding.