

Recipients Address

Andrew Morgan
Chief Executive
United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust

Your contact for this matter is:

Name: Cllr O Bierley

Date: 12 February 2021

Dear Mr Morgan.

Outpatient Services at John Coupland Hospital

I write to you in my capacity of, Leader of West Lindsey District Council, following a recent resolution passed by a Meeting of my Full Council.

At our meeting on 25 January 2021 the following motion was put, and supported: -

Following the removal of various services over several years at John Coupland Hospital, there is now speculation that Consultant led outpatient services are also to be withdrawn. I call on the Leader to write to ULHT explaining it is extremely concerned to protect services at John Coupland Hospital.

Whilst also seeking answers as to if ULHT can confirm if it does intend to withdraw some or all the outpatient services from John Coupland Hospital. If it does, then can it please provide details of the recovery plan it will put in place to manage the consequential long term impact on the health and wellbeing of Gainsborough residents?

We all appreciate that the Covid-19 Pandemic is stretching NHS services, but the impact of such a withdrawal of services from Gainsborough would have similar far-reaching consequences to both the physical and mental wellbeing of Gainsborough residents as the short-term impact of Covid.

The content of the motion did cause concern across the Chamber, and as result Council have requested I write to you direct.

John Coupland Hospital is not only a vital service for Gainsborough and its residents but is the main NHS hub within our District. We cannot dispute the unprecedented impacts this pandemic is having on our NHS services, however I and all Members are of the view we must seek to protect local services for local people wherever we can, particularly in rural communities, like ours where there are often already barriers to accessing services.

Please would you be able to confirm whether it is speculation or fact that consultant led outpatients services are to be withdrawn from Gainsborough?

If services are to be withdrawn, please could you provide details of the recovery plan that will be put in place to manage the consequential long term impact on the health and wellbeing of Gainsborough residents?

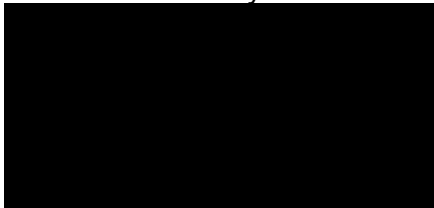
Will West Lindsey, as a Local Authority and its residents, be engaged as interested parties prior to service changes and will there be an opportunity to influence any proposals?

I cannot stress enough how valuable these local community services are. I would welcome any information or assurance you could share with my Members regarding your plans at John Coupland Hospital.

Could I also urge you to engage with West Lindsey District Council at the earliest opportunity should ULHT be considering changing service provision either now, or in the future.

We have a duty to work together to secure the best future possible for this District and its residents, I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely



Owen Bierley
Leader of the Council