

Save Our Services - S.O.S
at
Pilgrim Hospital

April 2016:

Explanation of what has been happening over the last 9 months

Reconfiguring of clinical services has been going on for many years with United Lincolnshire Hospitals - the process has now been accelerated initially via the Lincolnshire Sustainable Services Review.

Present LOCAL services at PILGRIM Hospital at risk are Accident and Emergency, Midwifery, Obstetrics, Paediatrics and Vascular services.

Current Options put forward by ULHT:

- One site maternity and neonatal unit - Midwifery nurse led unit(s)
- Paediatric and gynaecology care – to MOVE to Lincoln County Hospital.

What do you think about this statement?

Are you aware that the proposed model to downgrade for Boston's A & E department for Emergency care is ONLY:-

***Advice by phone,
GP and Primary Care
Urgent Care Centre
Paramedic at Home
Community Pharmacy***

and , crucially

the currently overcrowded Lincoln Emergency Centre and Major Emergency Centre will be expected to receive and treat ALL emergencies - including vascular and acute Cardiology Hyper-acute Stroke, Renal, Vascular Surgery etc.

Is it acceptable that patients and their families will have to travel from the coastal strip and Boston surrounding areas under emergency conditions to Lincoln and have to cope with getting there for outpatient appointments there also, or to visit their loved ones?

Consider A JOURNEY TIME OF UP TO TWO HOURS IF THE WEATHER IS BAD AND AT PEAK TIMES –AND WHAT OF WINTER SNOW AND ICE WHEN THE HILLS OF LINCOLN TOTALLY SHUT DOWN TRAFFIC FLOW?

Public transport is poor and prohibitively expensive ; zero hour contracts make it difficult to take time off from work usually meaning no paid time off work; a whole day out will be needed and peak time travelling is expensive and very time consuming.

Families with young children would find it particularly difficult!

Patients would be put off making travel arrangements - to what effect (detrimental) might that have on their health?!

- ***Lincolnshire is England's fourth largest county (geographically).***
 - Lincolnshire is particularly challenged by its road networks having some of the largest number of B and C roads in the country.
 - Transportation of patients to and from LINCOLN's health and care services is a continual problem.
- Is it acceptable that we should have to travel to LINCOLN when we have a perfectly GOOD and LOCAL hospital at BOSTON?

Large migrant population:

We acknowledge we have a very large migrant influx into East Lincolnshire all of which adds to increasing pressure on Local services. The Government denies us the real figures (only that now National Insurance figures being released will show a more truer picture) so that the local NHS Services are being underfunded! We must ask our MP to lobby to rectify this injustice.

SKEGNESS and Coastal:

- Holiday periods in particular double population numbers.
- Did you know that in the summer one million visitors come to Skegness and nearby coastal areas?
- That places a huge seasonal strain on services....

Professionals leaving the region:

- Are you aware that GPs and Consultants are already leaving the area because they are fearful about current services being maintained?

- This has happened after ULHT released their strategy documents that evidence their deliberate and definite target to downgrade services at Boston's Pilgrim Hospital.
- There were meant to be two public consultations – BOTH dates have passed and they have been delayed even further forward while they modify their downgrading strategy to present a “fait accompli” to us - the Lincolnshire residents who will be most affected by the cuts - what many are calling a “done deal” to put it bluntly.

Please consider what will this mean to you and your family when even MORE services are taken to Lincoln to join the ones that have disappeared surreptitiously over the past few years....