

Public questions

Here are responses to questions received about items on the agenda of the interim ICS Partnership Board meeting on 8 April 2021.

What do the ICS and provider collaborative developments mean for the future of our acute hospitals in Norfolk? Will this mean one hospital board? Reducing services in the smaller hospitals? How will the views of patients be considered before any potential service changes or patient pathway changes between hospitals?

Our three acute hospital trusts all play a really vital role in our health and care system, and will continue to do so in future. We are waiting to see what is contained in the proposed new legislation, but in the meantime the three trusts continue to work closely together as they have done over the past few years. For example last year they created a single urology service working across the three trusts and in September formed a committee in common to progress further joint initiatives.

Our acute providers will be forming a provider collaborative in line with the ICS guidance, subject to the new legislation. This is a national requirement however a 'provider collaborative' just means trusts working closely together, for example by having a committee in common.

As always, we are looking at how our hospitals, general practice, community care and social care can work better together to improve the services that local people receive, and at the moment this includes responding to the impact that the pandemic has had on local services and people's care. Understanding the views and experiences of patients, carers and the public is imperative and we will continue to engage and involve them as we plan for the future.

Is getting QEH a new hospital one of the ICS's priorities?

We share the aspirations and plans of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital King's Lynn NHS Foundation Trust for a new build. We are aware of the issues regarding the hospital building and work is taking place to look at our full health and care estate to make sure it is fit for the future. We continue to work closely with NHS England and NHS Improvement as a system to look at options for improving and enhancing our estate across the county.

I note from your first paper you are talking about the redevelopment of the JPUH site and how this will create space for closer integration of mental health services. Can you explain more please?

The James Paget has received national seed funding to explore all options for the building of a new hospital – one of 40 which will be built across the country by 2030. At the moment we are in the early planning stages and are looking at what options are available to us, including how we could take this opportunity to improve care for people with mental health conditions. We will continue to inform and involve hospital staff, local residents and health and care system partners in the development of our plans, and information will be shared as soon as we have developed further details.