

## Update on Lowestoft Hospital for the LTC full council meeting on Tuesday 27.2.24.

Key Points to date:-

1. The Lowestoft Hospital Contact Group have been in communication with the NHS Norfolk & Waveney Integrated Care Board (ICB) as a result of which the following information was received:
2. In a reply from the NHS ICB's Chief Executive Tracey Bleakley on the 15.12.23. the key points below were made:-
  - *'...our view is that even reopening part of the hospital would not be the best use of our resources. NHS capital funding is currently very limited and there are many other competing demands. As such we do not feel using some of the funding we do have to repurpose part of Lowestoft Hospital would be right, as it doesn't fit with the way modern health and care services have developed, in Lowestoft and the rest of the country, in response to people's changing needs'*
  - *...Working with social care colleagues in Suffolk, the ethos is very much 'home first', with people encouraged to remain or return home for a period to settle and re able with support from East Coast Community Health Care and Suffolk County Council's HOMEFIRST Team. This model supports national guidance with the move away from bedded care. However, we recognise that not all patients are safe to return home and during periods of peak pressure as seen during the COVID-19 pandemic and winter pressures, we review our demand and capacity and commission further bedded support as required.*
  - *...some services previously delivered from the former hospital site are now being delivered in general practice. For example phlebotomy and warfarin monitoring are now available at every surgery site across Lowestoft Primary Care Network (PCN). Appointments are available across the PCN in a general practice setting with physiotherapists, mental health practitioners, enhance recovery works, health and wellbeing coaches and social prescribers.*
  - *Many of these, as well as appointments with GPs, nurses and health care assistants, are available outside General Practice core hours (M-F*

*between 18.30-20.00 and Saturdays 09.00-1700 hours) through practices working together as a network and they can be accessed through local surgery teams. Within the network footprint there is access to enhanced services, including tele-dermatology, minor surgery, minor injuries and point of care testing, which are over and above what is covered in the General Medical Services contract. Maternity and health visiting teams also deliver services from various locations across the PCN, including children's centres and GP Practices.*

- *...the relocation of the Bridge Road Surgery to a significantly bigger premises at Woods Meadow will enable us to create a hub in North Lowestoft.....capital funding is limited and so we want to use the opportunity arising from the relocation of the surgery to also deliver a hub – this will enable us to get the best value for money from our budget.....More detailed information will be shared as the business case is developed and through the planning process, but the new site could potentially be almost double in size, opening up opportunities to provide a greater range of services in much more modern premises to people living in North Lowestoft.`*

*I will update members at the meeting if further information is received.*

*SVB – 18.2.24.*