

Paper 4

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By email
13 May 2021

Andy Williams, Chief Executive, LLR Clinical Commissioning Groups

Dear Andy.

Healthwatch Rutland is currently investigating what people want from better local health and care services at Place. We aim to produce a report by mid-July 2021 which will help to inform the Place-Led Planning process that is being undertaken by the Rutland Health and Wellbeing Board.

At a recent engagement meeting with members of the public, the following comments (recorded and transcribed verbatim with participants consent) were raised. Although all the anonymised data will be available with the report, we feel it appropriate to draw your attention to the comments sooner rather than later, given the timescale for decision-making on the proposed UHL reconfiguration.

- 1. "I raised the question formally last night and I went back and looked at your submission on the UHL reconfiguration¹. And you have a question which says, 'Should the public be expected to comment on the consultation survey before the results of the community service redesign.' And you got the reply, 'we would love to have done it but covid has got in the way.' And next month will be the decision to close Leicester General. That'll scupper many, many plans because there'll be nothing left to transfer services to. You won't have the infrastructure that [the Rutland PCN clinical director] asked for. I don't see why you as a Healthwatch can't add to the many voices saying, 'stop Leicester General closure until the legal requirements are met to provide alternative services'. It's a legal requirement. It's not as though we are dreaming it up. But there is nothing on offer and Rutland will lose greatly."*
- 2. "I've asked a question twice and I haven't had an answer I would like Healthwatch to consider making representations to the CCG about making a decision without alternative provision having being provided for Rutland. It's key - absolutely key. Can I just get an answer to my question."*

¹ This refers to the Healthwatch Rutland (November 2020) 'University Hospitals of Leicester Pre-consultation Business Case (September 2020 update v3.2) for the Acute and maternity reconfiguration plans: The impacts for Rutland?' pp 9-10 retrievable from <https://www.healthwatchrutland.co.uk/sites/healthwatchrutland.co.uk/files/editors/UHL%20PCBC%20considerations%20for%20Rutland%20.pdf>

3. *“But I understand the frustration [of the speaker in bullet point 1 and 2] because I think that what we're seeing in this is the start of a community services and care local to home programme but we have the clock ticking on the decision on the UHL reconfiguration. And I think it is absolutely necessary to get that process slowed on the reconfiguration until community and care closer to home catches up with it. So, my question is what are the next steps both in this programme that is running under the health and wellbeing board? What is the timeline for it? Because we have an end timeline of 2025 ... So here we are in the 30th of April 2021. So, I would like to see what the timelines and stepping-stones are. Having put an hour of my time into this, I want to see what the stepping-stones are to [20]22 when we are moving forward on this and I also want to know what Healthwatch is doing to help the Rutland public to mitigate the disadvantage that Rutland will receive from the UHL changes.”*

Healthwatch Rutland appreciates the desire and reasons for a swift progression of the reconfiguration plans. We also know that work is ongoing in the development of services closer to home and Place-led planning. But it is incumbent upon us to pass these comments on to commissioners and providers of health and care services as members of the public clearly recognise an interdependency of moving care out of hospital with adequate provision of community services.

Yours Sincerely,



Dr Janet Underwood
Chair, Healthwatch Rutland

CC: David Sissling, Chair, LLR Integrated Care System
Rebecca Brown, Acting Chief Executive, University Hospitals of Leicester
John Morley, Director of Adult Services and Health, Rutland County Council