

HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR LINCOLNSHIRE 17 OCTOBER 2018

SUPPLEMENTARY CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **Grantham and District Hospital – Overnight Closure of Accident and Emergency Department**

Correspondence

As reported to the Committee on 12 September, I had received a letter from Steve Barclay, MP, Minister of State for Health, in relation to Grantham A&E and the Committee's referral in January 2018. Following the meeting on 12 September, I wrote the Minister of State, stating that I looked forward to receiving the information on how South West Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust (ULHT) plan to carry out engagement and consultation on Grantham A&E.

I also sought clarification from the Minister of State on the status of the referral made by the Committee on 31 January 2018. In particular, I requested an indication whether the Minister's letter represented a determination of the January 2018 referral.

A response from the Minister of State is awaited.

Referral Processes

It is usual practice for the Secretary of State to pass referrals to the Independent Reconfiguration Panel (IRP) for initial advice, but guidance on the IRP's website indicates that this is not the practice in every instance and there is no legal requirement to do this. The Health Scrutiny Committee's referral in January 2018 was submitted on the grounds that the Committee "**found that consultation on the continued closure** [of Grantham A&E overnight] **had not been adequate**". As part of its submission, the Committee cited the IRP's report of March 2017, including the following advice:

"... CCGs, as commissioners must as a matter of urgency work with the local providers (including mental health care and community providers as well as ULHT) and the HSC to engage and consult the public across Lincolnshire on current services and what might be achievable and sustainable in the future."

It could be interpreted that seeking plans for engagement and consultation from the CCG and ULHT represents an implicit acceptance by the Minister of State of the Committee's arguments for consultation. Furthermore, a request was made to detach the consultation on Grantham A&E from the rest of the Lincolnshire Sustainability and Transformation Plan / Acute Services Review, but this has not been accepted.

2. Who Cares Wins – Best Nurse Award

Ward Sister Kat Mayer, who works at Lincoln County Hospital, has been awarded *The Sun's Who Cares Wins Best Nurse* prize. She spent more than three hours walking ten miles to get to through the snow during the 'Beast from the East' to get to work in March this year.

After Sister Kat Mayer realised that driving was not possible, she decided to film and live stream her treacherous journey to motivate herself. Her live stream caught the nation's attention and was widely viewed.

Sister Mayer has acknowledged that she was not the only one who walked to work that day, she was just the only one to film herself doing it. She has stated that the award is for every one who went the extra mile that day.