

# THE FUTURE OF YOUR HOSPITAL SERVICES IS ABOUT TO RADICALLY CHANGE



**Local NHS bosses have received government funding of £450 million to reorganise hospital services across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR). The public consultation has already begun and will last until December 21, but these plans need improving.**

## What will change?

- ⇒ **Leicester General Hospital (LGH) will close as an acute hospital and most of the site will be sold for other use. The only services remaining on the site will be the Diabetes Centre, an imaging hub, possibly an administrative block, and possibly a midwife-led unit on a trial basis.**
- ⇒ **Much of the remaining publicly owned land and buildings at LGH will be sold-off. Services from the General will then be crammed into the sites at the Royal Infirmary and the Glenfield.**
- ⇒ **All maternity services will be transferred into a new maternity hospital on the site of the Royal Infirmary, with the possible exception of a midwife led unit on the site of the General.**
- ⇒ **St Mary's Birthing Centre in Melton Mowbray will be closed.**
- ⇒ **A children's hospital will be created at the LRI through refurbishment.**
- ⇒ **There will be a new planned care Treatment Centre at the Glenfield.**
- ⇒ **The number of intensive care beds will increase from 50 to 100.**

## Why you should be concerned

**Impressive brochures, consultation documents and leaflets will be coming through your door to sell you these plans. We welcome additional funding for our NHS, but the current plans will create a number of very serious long-term problems for people in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (see overleaf).**

**We are asking supporters and the wider public to delay filling in the consultation documents. Formal public consultation on these plans will last for 12 weeks between 28th September and 21st December 2020. We ask you to engage with the debate and listen to what both NHS bosses and campaigners have to say.**

**Contact:** [secretary@saveournhsleicestershire.org](mailto:secretary@saveournhsleicestershire.org) or 07896 841 902

**Follow the campaign:** on Facebook @SONHSLeicester and on Twitter @SONHSLeics

**Read full reports here:** [www.SaveOurNHSLeicestershire.org](http://www.SaveOurNHSLeicestershire.org)

# SAVE OUR NHS LEICESTERSHIRE

**1 Not enough beds** Huge sums of money are being spent, but the 2 remaining reorganised hospitals will not be big enough. Additional theatres and intensive care beds are welcome, but there are no apparent plans to expand the number of hospital beds after 2024, despite large population growth projected for LLR in the coming decades and an already existing crisis in hospital admissions. The plans have also not costed the new buildings to be carbon neutral.

**2 Can community services take up the slack?** NHS bosses say that an expansion in community services will compensate for the rising need for hospital beds. However, we are not given enough detail about how this will be done and the profound crisis faced by community care due to years of austerity is not acknowledged.

**3 Lessons from COVID-19** The plans do not consider the important lessons from the pandemic. Outside of the documents sent to people's homes, the 1,500 page 'detailed' plan makes no mention of Covid-19 and pandemic preparedness. We need extra room and more beds to allow flexibility in the use of space. Selling land at the General does the opposite.

**4 One Maternity site** St Mary's Birthing Centre in Melton will be closed. All maternity services will be moved to the LRI – the proposal for a midwife led unit at the General is a trial which might fail because of the Trust's conditions. The risks of putting all births (apart from home births) on one site, especially when surrounding roads are frequently gridlocked with traffic, have not been fully considered.

**5 Privatisation** The founding principle of the NHS is to provide treatment for all free at the point of use. Cuts and underfunding, however, makes this a challenge. Plans that only provide for less need than we will have will only deepen the involvement of the private sector. Profit should have no place in public health.

**6 Is the consultation meaningful?** The public have a legal right to be meaningfully consulted. The proposals involve the closure of a hospital – and yet local NHS leaders are holding a public consultation during a period of intense concern about Covid-19, when very strict social restrictions are in place. We think the consultation could be found unlawful if a judicial review were to take place.

**What you can do** We invite you to get involved. The hospital plans need to be improved and we can do this by acting together so that we have hospitals that are fit for purpose, now and long into the future. Get in touch today.