



# Flu Vaccination Includes You

It's that time of year again; all frontline NHS staff get the flu vaccine for free. Get it now at your local GP service.

As NHS staff we know the Flu vaccination of frontline healthcare workers is not entirely a staff health and wellbeing issue. It is an issue that affects patient safety and experience. The most effective way of protecting our vulnerable patient groups is to promote and encourage staff vaccination programmes. Flu is regarded as the number one risk to the emergency planning and business continuity for the entire UK. A pandemic outbreak would be a major threat to the continued running of public services. Vaccination, along with good Infection Prevention standards is the first line approach to protecting our patients, staff and our own families.

NHS Employers, NHS England and PHE are all working on increasing the uptake of flu vaccination for frontline healthcare workers and in our local NHS Trusts. UNISON would like to ensure that you take full advantage of this vaccine that is offered to you too. UNISON would like to get on board with encouraging and supporting the message from our Infection Prevention and Control Nurse Specialist for staff to get vaccinated.

## Service Expansion and Transformation at LPFT

Richard Holmes, LPFT Lead Rep

LPFT is progressing towards a final decision with regards the long-term structure of service delivery affecting the current re-location of in-patient Older Adult Mental Health service provision from Rochford to Brant ward.

With the recent major refurbishment of Brant Ward (see right), the Trust has been able to pilot a new home treatment service that is delivering an increased community support. To enable the Trust to continue to deliver home treatment, they plan to no longer use Rochford Ward and instead use the recently refurbished modern and accessible therapeutic space at Brant Ward as their main older adult mental health unit.

At the other end of the age spectrum, management have been in discussions with staff regards the temporary closure of Ash Villa to new admissions due to lack of appropriate medical cover. Indications from NHS England are that they are now prepared to deliver the full monies that Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services were wanting for the unit to utilise carrying out a full community and home treatment model in line with the national agenda. The Trust are now waiting on official confirmation of this and it is now the commissioners expectation that work on this will commence straight away rather than re-opening the unit.

As a result of service expansion monies coming into LPFT discussions have commenced with staff looking at starting a community rehabilitation team. As part of this one of the models being considered for developing LPFT rehab inpatient services in the future is a 28 day 'fast track' intensive rehab service that will work in tandem with the community model.

It can be appreciated from this report that LPFT are going through vast unprecedented change and what I've touched upon is only a small part. However, members are not being left on their own as UNISON representatives have been available at all discussions. Staff will be actively engaged in helping to design new services and as part of future Newsletters I'll share regular updates as these plans develop further.

### Membership Benefits

The advertisement features a green car with a heart-shaped graphic behind it. Text includes: 'LIVE LIVERPOOL VICTORIA', 'UNISON members SAVE on CAR INSURANCE', 'and enjoy a MULTI CAR discount too', 'For your member discount, go to LV.com/UNISON', and 'UNISON Living'.

Additionally, as a UNISON member, our insurance deal with Thompsons allows you to cancel your motor legal insurance for yourself and your family.



# New Reps On The Job For UNISON Members

UNISON is set to nearly DOUBLE the number of trained stewards representing you across Lincolnshire in the New Year.

New reps have been recruited in ULHT, LCHS, LPFT and in the Private and Voluntary sector and we are looking recruit still more at Boston Pilgrim and other sites as the union looks to ensure comprehensive cover for our members.

Di Rastall (pictured right) is a new rep for LCHS at Louth County Hospital, she says;

"I have recently been approached to be a UNISON rep by the Lead LCHS Rep, Angie Tunncliffe. I have relied on Angie for help and support in the past and for Angie to ask me to join her team was incredibly flattering and I jumped at the chance.

Once Angie and I started to discuss the possibilities that are available it became even more interesting to me, to be able to support and aid people in difficult times, to be involved with the decisions made and also to gain a greater understanding of the rationale around decisions was too good an opportunity to miss.

I am also taking on the role of Health and Safety rep as I am very interested in this area and have just completed my Level 3 training with a credit. I am excited to see what the future holds for me now and this opportunity has given me avenue and interest to explore."



One of our members who has recently been helped by UNISON says;

"I am always a firm believer that just sometimes you need someone beside you who can look at things a different way than the "emotional" you are feeling right now. Your emotions can get away with you and in Grievances and Appeals this is not always a good thing as it masks the detail that you need to put across – the facts. That's why it is good to have Unison as they have your "back" and can steer you through the policy and jargon and get to the truth quickly.

I would class Unison as a dear friend that is always there by your side whatever the weather and you can ride the storm together. You may not always get the decision you want but at least if you have UNISON you have a better chance."

My UNISON rep was supportive, professional and knew the subject matter and advised accordingly. I would fully recommend having your rep and Unison support behind you."

### Thinking of becoming a rep?

Get in touch at: [lincshealthbranch@gmail.com](mailto:lincshealthbranch@gmail.com)

We'll put you in touch with your local Lead Rep, who can guide and help you to become a workplace representative.

### Not a member yet?

Fill in the form on the back of this newsletter and send it to;

UNISON Health Branch

34 Orchard Street

Lincoln LN1 1XX

Or alternatively, you can join online at:

[join.unison.org.uk](http://join.unison.org.uk)

