

Tel: 01772 522692

Email: karen.partington@lthtr.nhs.uk

Ref: KP/msw

**Chief Executive's Office**  
Royal Preston Hospital  
Sharoe Green Lane  
Fulwood  
PRESTON  
PR2 9HT

**VIA EMAIL:**

Councillor Sylvia Liddle

[Sylvia.Liddle@blackburn.gov.uk](mailto:Sylvia.Liddle@blackburn.gov.uk)

05 October 2020

Dear Councillor Liddle

We wish to update you on the outcome of the tender process to deliver improved renal haemodialysis and outpatient services across Lancashire and South Cumbria.

Our renal project group, including patient representatives, initiated this project in April 2016. Our trust, Lancashire Teaching Hospitals, formally agreed the process to retender haemodialysis and outpatient services in November 2018 and we issued the invitation to tender earlier this year.

The process took longer than originally anticipated due to the Covid-19 pandemic, but we are now pleased to inform you that yesterday the board of Lancashire Teaching Hospitals gave formal approval to award the contract to Diaverum Facilities Management.

You will hopefully recall that we presented to your committee in September 2019 where we were delighted to receive your approval for our aspirations and plans. Now that we have identified the successful bidder we wanted to share this news with you as promised.

We are confident that the new sites and service will deliver on our clinical vision of dialysis care at home or as close to home as possible, with an emphasis on individualized treatment, improved experience and more holistic care.

We wish to draw your attention to the following key points:

**Services in East Lancashire**

- Current haemodialysis services in East Lancashire are subcontracted to Fresenius in Blackburn and Diaverum in Burnley and Accrington.
- Under the new arrangement Diaverum will deliver the service for the whole of East Lancashire.
- We plan to move out of existing locations in Burnley and Accrington to a new single unit near Burnley. Existing Accrington patients may live closer to either this new unit or the planned new Blackburn unit. Predictions indicate 100% of patients in East Lancashire will achieve the 30 minute travel time standard – which was one of our key aims for this improvement exercise.
- Many patients who live in or near Blackburn currently travel to the Accrington or Chorley units due to lack of capacity in the existing Blackburn unit.
- In Blackburn, where the service currently operates from a temporary facility, a new purpose-built facility will be created with significantly increased capacity.

- The new site near Burnley is projected to open in September 2021, with the Blackburn site to follow in January 2022.

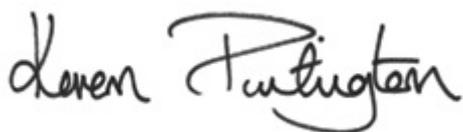
**General Information regarding the entire project:**

- The new contract agreed with Diaverum specifically applies to services in East Lancashire, North Lancashire and South Cumbria.
- An initial contract term of 7 years has been agreed, with provision to extend to 10 and 14 years subject to the agreement of both parties.
- New renal centres will include services for haemodialysis and outpatient clinic capability. Diaverum will support staffing for both.
- The Kendal unit will be staffed entirely by NHS staff, as it is now.
- The tender award is subject to a 10-day stand-still period in which unsuccessful bidders will have the right to challenge the outcome. Any challenge received has the potential to cause delays to improvements for patients.
- Services currently delivered by Fresenius at the Clifton site are outside the scope of the tender but a separate agreement for service improvement is being implemented.
- Lancashire Teaching Hospitals continues direct delivery of dialysis services at its sites in Preston and Chorley.
- The new arrangements will allow 94% of patients across Lancashire and South Cumbria to access haemodialysis within the national target of 30 minutes travel time from home (as stated 100% in East Lancs). The current figure is 89% overall, and only 65% in South Cumbria.

We hope you will join us in welcoming this development, which will improve access to local care delivered for haemodialysis patients in particular, as well as creating much-needed outpatient space to cater for renal transplant patients and others closer to home. Following the standstill period we will be able to share more detail regarding proposed sites in particular.

We will of course keep you informed regarding progress during implementation but if you require further information we would be delighted to discuss it further at any point.

Yours sincerely



**KAREN PARTINGTON**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**



**Dr Mark Brady**  
**Clinical Director for Renal Services**