



Next stage for the NHS - Highest Quality Care For All



As we all celebrate the 60th anniversary of the NHS on 5th July, important plans to give patients more of a say and staff more freedom to offer care were unveiled this week.

The work has been led by Labour Health Minister Lord Ara Darzi.

Ara is not only a Health Minister. He is also a highly respected leading surgeon with years of experience working in the NHS.

Under the plans quality of care will be raised, with doctors and nurses supported to offer big improvements in treatment at the bedside.

Quality of life will be improved and more lives will be saved. So I welcome this action.

After a major 12-month review into the NHS, involving 60,000 patients across the country, Lord Darzi set out plans to:

Give patients even greater influence over the services they use

Make healthcare more personal by ensuring that everyone with a long-term condition has their own personalised care plan

Create an NHS that helps people to stay healthy

Raise the standards on quality within the NHS

Give new funds and prizes to support and reward new ideas from staff

Enable frontline staff to lead and manage their organisations

Improve the quality of NHS education and training.

So there are big challenges for healthcare in Corby and East Northamptonshire ahead.

But the NHS is clearly in much better shape than it was ten years ago.

I'll keep you posted on how things progress.

Securing the future of the NHS

A draft NHS Constitution has been published this week.

This brings together for the first time all of the principles of care in our National Health Service and giving patients the right to choose both treatment and who they see.

The NHS is our proudest achievement and it is too important to be left to chance. That is why I will support this Constitution.

Smokefree Corby and East Northamptonshire One Year On

More people are trying to quit smoking since the ban on smoking came in last year.

I think this is partly because people trying to give up aren't faced with smoking indoors when they pop out for a drink down their local or for a meal.

People have told me that it makes things a lot easier.

If you are trying to give up visit www.gosmokefree.nhs.uk or call the free NHS Smoking Helpline on 0800 022 4 332.

It's open 7 Days a week, 7am to 11pm.



Did you know?.....

Over 234,000 people stopped smoking with the help of NHS Stop Smoking Services between April and December last year.

That's a rise of over a 1/5 in quitters compared to the same period in 2006 .