**Copy for internal communications**

**LONG COPY**

**We Need to Talk - Our NHS. The next chapter.**

The local NHS across Humber and North Yorkshire is embarking on ***We Need to Talk*** – a four-week engagement exercise with our communities.

This big conversation, starting Monday 14 October, will lay bare some of the difficulties we face in the NHS and wider system, whilst giving you an opportunity to signal how you might want our local NHS to change to meet the challenges of today and the demands of the future.

In a snap poll carried out by NHS Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board ahead of this conversation, almost 63% of the 428 members of the public who responded said the NHS needed to change.

It’s important we hear from you, our valued colleagues. Please take a few minutes to answer these questions (<https://letsgetbetter.online/staff>) and share your thoughts – your feedback is essential in shaping the future of our NHS.

We are extremely fortunate to have such a dedicated and compassionate workforce - but we’re sure you share our frustration when we can’t always provide the care we would want to give because of the pressures we're under.

You will be acutely aware the NHS is struggling to deal with a population that’s generally in poorer health since COVID and buckling under the sheer volume of demand.

Without bold action and some big shifts in the way we deliver health and care (some of which is sketched out in the [case for change](http://www.ournhs.org/)), we know many of the issues we're facing will only get worse, which isn't fair on us, our colleagues or indeed our patients who are not always getting access to the care and treatment they need, when they need it.

The launch of *We Need to Talk* follows the publication of a [report by Lord Ara Darzi](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/independent-investigation-of-the-nhs-in-england/summary-letter-from-lord-darzi-to-the-secretary-of-state-for-health-and-social-care) into the state of our national health service. Lord Darzi concluded the NHS "is in a critical condition" but "its vital signs are strong".

Ultimately, we want our population to live longer in good health, with the best start for every child. We want each community to do all they can to live improved, healthier lives with treatment that’s better, smarter, quicker and closer to them.

If we are to turn the page on the story of the NHS, we need to do things differently. *We Need to Talk* is about understanding how people might feel about a broad direction of travel, and what matters to us all, so together we can start writing a new chapter for the NHS.

Further information and details of the various ways you can get involved, is available at [www.ourNHS.org](http://www.ournhs.org/).

**SHORT COPY**

**We Need to Talk - Our NHS. The next chapter.**

The local NHS across Humber and North Yorkshire is about to embark on **We Need to Talk** – a four-week engagement exercise with our colleagues and our communities.

This big conversation, starting Monday 14 October, will lay bare some of the difficulties we face in the NHS and wider system, whilst giving people an opportunity to signal how they might want our local NHS to change to meet the challenges of today and the demands of the future.

It’s important we hear from you, our valued colleagues. Please take a few minutes to answer these questions (<https://letsgetbetter.online/staff>) and share your thoughts – your feedback is essential in shaping the future of our NHS.

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