

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Wednesday 17 December 2013

**Response to the announcement of UHL financial pressures**

The Chairs of the Healthwatch for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland said today that they had been aware that UHL had financial pressures but that the scale of the problems announced today were greater than had been realised.

Healthwatch, as the consumer champion for patients and the public, was pleased to see the hospital's Chief Executive's reassurances there would be continuity of patient care and will hold him to that promise.

Healthwatch also called on all three Clinical Commissioning Groups to work with UHL to ensure that the service to patients did not suffer as a result of UHL's problems.

The Better Care Together initiative was the best way to enable UHL, the Clinical Commissioning Groups and the wider health and social care community to be seen to be collaborating to sustain the services of our great hospitals and make the transformation of services a reality - the public deserves nothing less.

**About Healthwatch Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland**

Healthwatch Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland are the independent consumer champions for health and social care in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. The organisations will help to shape and improve local health and social care in local communities. Healthwatch Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland are part of the Healthwatch national network, established by the Government to ensure local patients and users have a greater input to shaping and designing local services.

**About Healthwatch England**

Healthwatch England is the new, independent consumer champion for health and social care in England. The organisation has independent statutory powers, as stated in the Health and Social Care Act 2012, to ensure the consumers' voice is heard and best practice is delivered in health and social care nationally. Healthwatch is also focused on providing leadership, guidance and support to the development of the Healthwatch network. To find out more please go to [www.healthwatch.co.uk](http://www.healthwatch.co.uk).