

##### Wednesday April 6th 2011

## Media Release

A NEW hospital-based service has been launched providing people with a streamlined one-stop service.

The North Lincolnshire Community TB Service, as of April 4th 2011, will be provided by staff from Scunthorpe General Hospital’s Respiratory Team – Respiratory Consultant Dr Stuart Baugh and Respiratory/TB Specialist Nurse Andrea Gough for the adult patients and Dr Jim Devlin, Consultant Paediatrician and Marjorie Carling, Children’s Nurse and Children’s Outpatient Manager for the under 16s.

Previously, the service – which includes contact tracing and routine checks for people from high risk countries - has been provided by North Lincolnshire Primary Care Trust.

Andrea said: “We are delighted to be able to provide this streamlined service for local people. They will be able to come into hospital and have all of the necessary tests carried out by the respiratory team under one roof.”

She said the service would focus on contact tracing and the testing of people from high risk countries and would sit alongside the team’s hospital TB service.

Andrea explained: “When someone has confirmed TB or is being treated for TB on clinical suspicion, the Health Protection Agency is notified and refers the person to the community TB team which carries out contact tracing to try and identify those people who may be at risk of having contracted the disease.

“This testing has historically been carried out in the community. However, from April 4th we will be doing this testing. What it means to the individual is that they will come to the hospital for their tracing. For children who require testing this will be provided in the Children’s Outpatient Department, which benefits from a child friendly and welcoming environment.

“We will also be providing a screening service for people who have come into the UK from a high risk country to ensure they do not have TB.”

Collette Cunningham, Service and Business Development Manager for General Medicine, said: “I am absolutely delighted that our Respiratory Team is able to offer this extension to their current services. It means people will be able to come to hospital to see an expert, have the necessary screening tests and if positive, be treated by the same team.”

**Ends**

**For further information contact PR and Communications Officer Lisa Webster on (01724) 387739 or PR and Communications Manager Simon Rigg on (01472) 875475.**

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