NHS Leicester City has announced that it on track to deliver on many of its key areas of work for this financial year.

Chief executive Tim Rideout reported the organisation has either successfully implemented, or is making good progress against, a number of initiatives designed to improve the health of people in Leicester - as set out in its annual operational plan unveiled last April. That plan included a commitment to delivering:

- More GP surgeries open longer
- Tackling unhealthy lifestyles
- Better, more rapid treatment for stroke sufferers
- Shorter waiting times for hospital treatment

Tim Rideout said: “This was the year our plans for improving Leicester’s health really took off. We began the year in a better place to make a real difference to the health of people living in Leicester, with £27 million more to spend – and no debts to repay. That has enabled us to concentrate on delivering against promises made, and I’m delighted to report we are well on course to achieve our goals.”

His comments came on the day the organisation’s board reviewed the progress of its annual operational plan against the targets that had been set.

Some of the biggest successes achieved so far this year include:
A new GP-led health centre opened in Charnwood which will allow more than 3,000 patients to register and will also provide a walk-in centre for unregistered patients, open from 8am to 8pm seven days a week. That will provide more choice and flexibility for patients.

Almost two thirds of Leicester’s GP practices are now opening longer - a mixture of early mornings before 8.00am, evenings after 6.30pm, weekends and public holidays - meaning it is easier for patients to see a doctor at a time that is convenient to them.

More pharmacies are offering advice and treatment for minor ailments, helping to reduce the burden on other NHS services including GPs and A&E. That is freeing up time and resources to treat those patients most in need.

The new Stroke Centre at Leicester General Hospital is providing rapid treatment for ‘mini strokes’ within 24 hours, cutting patient risk of a full stroke by 80 per cent, while specialist blood-clot treatment is now available 24/7.

Patients are being diagnosed and treated much quicker after NHS Leicester City met its national target at the end of December – 95 per cent of non-admitted patients and 90 per cent of admitted patients are now diagnosed and treated or discharged within 18 weeks following referral by their GP.

Midwives are undergoing extra training to help mothers quit smoking in pregnancy, while specialist support has helped hundreds of smokers across the city kick the habit – an important part of the fight against cardiovascular disease.

Tim added: “All this has been achieved with the widespread participation from local patients and the public, who have helped shaped the way these improvements are being delivered. I would also like to personally thank all our staff for their tireless work – without their dedication we would not have been able to fulfil our promises.”
“However, now is not a time to rest on our laurels and we know that there is much more to be done. We are just ten months into our five year strategy which we believe will transform standards of health and healthcare in this city.”

-ENDS-

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