

## **Hospital announces new University status**

Colchester General Hospital has just received a welcome boost to its NHS Foundation Trust (FT) application – it learned this week it has been awarded University Hospital status by the University of London.

The hospital trust, which is now half way through its 12-week public consultation to support its FT bid, has had its application to become an Associated NHS University Provider Trust approved by the Pro-Vice -Chancellor for Medicine and the Chair of the Medical Studies Committee at the University of London.

The new University Hospital status is a reflection of the high quality of teaching given to students by the hospital's senior medical staff.

Associate Dean Dr Paul Conn's role is to deliver the undergraduate curriculum at the hospital for medical students from prestigious learning centres such as Barts, University College London and Imperial College London, amongst others.

He said: "Many of the senior medical staff have given a lot of their time, effort and skill to teaching these young doctors over the years and this accreditation from the University of London is in recognition of that teaching and of the high quality of research carried out in the Trust."

Chief Executive Peter Murphy was equally pleased about the new status, saying: "In these times of patient choice, our formal association with Barts and The Royal London Medical School underlines our commitment to the highest levels of patient care for our patients. It will also enhance our ability to attract staff of the very highest calibre.

"All in all, it is very good news for the hospital, for our staff and for the people we care for."

Essex Rivers Healthcare NHS Trust, which runs Colchester General Hospital and Essex County Hospital is currently seeking people's opinions about how it will run as an NHS Foundation Trust.

Should FT status also be granted, the hospital trust is proposing changing its name to Colchester Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust.

To take part in the public consultation, or to register as a member, visit [www.essexrivers.nhs.uk](http://www.essexrivers.nhs.uk) or call David Hewitt on 01206 742733.

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