# Press Release | 23 December 2024

**A group of people standing together

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Caption: Jack, Kaci, Libby and Kelly at the inaugural Youth Council meeting

**First QEH Youth Council members share priorities**

Ensuring health care is linked up, better communication about younger people’s care, apprenticeships and shaping services at the New QEH were all top of the agenda at the QEH Youth Council’s first meeting.

The Youth Council at The Queen Elizabeth Hospital is the first of its kind in Norfolk and has been set up to ensure the voice of young people is heard. It aims to make sure decision-makers know what 16- to 25-year-olds think about the services and care they receive, and also act as a link between the hospital and the local community to create stronger bonds with local people.

Following a recruitment campaign, the first meeting has now been held, giving the first members an opportunity for them to meet and discuss what they would like to focus on first.

They will then meet again in January to start deciding their first priorities as well as the best ways to spread the news about their work with their peers and the local community.

The members are:

* Jack, a trainee midwife from King’s Lynn
* Kaci, from King’s Lynn, who works in digital administration at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital
* Libby, from Holbeach, who works in administration at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital
* A-Level student Kelly, from Holt, who is interested in a career in psychology.
* Fellow A-Level student Rosie, who lives near Fakenham, who wants to work in health and care.

Kaci said: “I am excited to see how the Youth Council develops for The QEH and the wider community.  We will play a key part in the future of The QEH and I am looking forward to being a part of it.”

The Youth Council has been created by The QEH in partnership with Healthwatch Norfolk, which gathers the views of patients and those who use care and share it with organisations to help shape services.

The Youth Council will be looking for additional members in 2025 to ensure that the council represents the wide geographical area that the hospital serves as well as increasing the diversity of the group.

**A person in a suit smiling

Description automatically generated**QEH Board member and Non-Executive Director William Van’t Hoff (pictured) has played a pivotal role in helping to set up the Youth Council. Commenting on the first meeting, he said: “I was truly inspired by their thoughtful discussions, recognising this was the start of an exciting journey to empower young people in West Norfolk to get involved in improving current and future healthcare.”

Alex Stewart, chief executive of Healthwatch Norfolk, added: “The enthusiasm and passion which the first members have for their work is really strong. They are going to be pioneers for their peers and have some really interesting ideas around perceptions and knowledge of healthcare, and how things can be improved.

“Their wisdom, thoughts and suggestions are particularly important as the work continues to prepare for a new hospital in King’s Lynn.”

**Ends. Notes to editors;**

You can find out more about the Queen Elizabeth Youth Council at [www.teamqehyouth.co.uk](http://www.teamqehyouth.co.uk)

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