

DONCASTER'S NEED FOR A NEW HOSPITAL

Public Health Care Proposal



Nick Fletcher MP
for Don Valley

Previous Proposals.

Freeport: www.nickfletcher.org.uk/news/freeport

Role Models  : www.role-model.co.uk // facebook.com/rolemodelsdonvalley

Doncaster's Need: www.newyounewhospital.co.uk



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IT'S TIME
TO UPGRADE

Level up Doncaster Relationships

Environment Shovel ready Problem

Pandemic **Value** Economy Building

New Hospital Heart Health

Green Economy Hope Build Money Spend

Role Models **Build back better**

Hand-Up **More** Next steps Aspirations

Investment Care Get fit DRI GreenBookReview

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Foreword



This is my third proposal which sets out what I want to achieve as the Member of Parliament for Don Valley. The first was on the benefits of Freeports and the second, which I have only recently completed, was on my Role Model initiative. I am especially pleased that this is really moving forward. All these proposals have had different audiences, but all have one thing in common - levelling up the North. You see, as a businessman I always have a plan and although the proposals have come out in a slightly different order than what I initially planned, the objectives behind them remain the same. We need our children to have great Role Models so they can aspire to be great citizens who can be schooled in Doncaster, trained in Doncaster and with a new Freeport and a new hospital, will be able to work in Doncaster. And who would not want to work in a new hospital right in the heart of the town?

I believe Doncaster is a wonderful place, but I also understand that many see us as a forgotten town, and when investment has been as low as it has for the last 40 years, it is hard to argue otherwise. You will read throughout this proposal of the need for a new hospital, what it will be able to do in the event of a future pandemic, the benefits of a new architectural layout and the efficiencies that can be created. Yet more than anything, a new hospital will inspire our town. It will be a symbol of hope, a symbol of change and a symbol that the North-South divide is truly a thing of the past. I have heard before that Doncaster is the gateway to the South. Yet in Doncaster, people would argue that Doncaster is the gateway to the North. However, I would argue that a new hospital would take down any barriers that are preventing Doncaster from reaching its full potential and would make the town a beacon of prosperity throughout the whole country. This is our chance, and with a Conservative Government committed to Building Back Better. That time is now!



Comment



Richard Parker OBE Chief Executive of DBTH



"With the site built primarily in the 1930s and 1960s, our biggest challenge is our ageing estate and facilities. We need a 21st century hospital to provide 21st century care. Working through solid and proven partnerships with Doncaster Council and many other key stakeholders, we will create a state-of-the-art hospital campus which will help make the town a vibrant northern centre, stimulating regional economic activity, carving out opportunities for local people, and ultimately, offering the very best care and treatment."

Hazel Brand Lead Governor



"Doncaster Royal Infirmary has grown in size over the years as more services are provided for more patients. Having such services available locally is a good thing - but the site is now difficult for patients and carers to use with long distances between wards and departments

In short, DRI provides terrific services despite the drawbacks the buildings present - think how much better services could be in a building that is fit for the 21st century and beyond."





Levelling Up



Levelling Up?

“Levelling up” is a phrase that has been used frequently over the last year, but what does it actually mean? We can ask a hundred different people and get a hundred different answers. One thing which was apparent on the doorsteps of Doncaster when mentioning “levelling up” is that it frequently leads to the phrase “left behind”. Unfortunately, if a town’s people feel like this, the pride of many people is damaged, and a community suffers. A new hospital would help correct that feeling amongst Doncaster’s population and its hospital’s staff. A new hospital is desperately needed. Doncaster voted for change in 2019. Now is the time and the opportunity to deliver that.

Doncaster Royal Infirmary is nearly a hundred years old. The site was acquired in 1920 and opened its doors in 1930. It was followed by the building of a children’s hospital in the 1950s. The modern part of the building was built in 1968, with the woman’s hospital opening a year later. The 1960s was an awful time to have any building constructed, as asbestos was the building product of the day. As we know now, this is a terrible product that has killed thousands of people.

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”

When asbestos is embedded within many parts of the building, refurbishment becomes costly and is never without danger. It is no coincidence that DRI has one of the largest backlogs of repairs of any hospital. With £60 million needing to be spent to keep the building safe, along with ongoing repairs, keeping DRI fit for purpose is not too much different from painting the Forth Bridge. This is public money that should and could be better spent.

It’s not just the people that feel uncared for - it’s the buildings too!

Doncaster needs a new hospital.





Comment



Leanne Ball House Keeper



"As part of the House Keeping role, I constantly have to report problems, such as waste disposal and toilets not flushing correctly on a daily basis. When the building was built it was not for the capacity of toilets that have been added to the individual cubicles over time. Systems are very dated. For example, the Wi-Fi isn't at the speed the hospital requires for the number of computing systems we have running at the same time, which is problematic when we are continuously updating electronic services. Across the hospital the bed capacity is never enough, and we are always limited to the amount of people that can pass through the doors."

The Past





Leveling Up



The Green Economy

Having spoken to the maintenance team at DRI about the aforementioned issues, it is also apparent that the Government's net-zero target is unachievable with regards to the hospital; with the heating system that is in operation on the site being far from environmentally friendly.

There are many new technologies that are available, yet even if these were adopted on the existing site, much would go to waste. This is due to the fact that they can only perform economically if the fabric of the building itself was designed to reduce energy losses, yet buildings from the 1930s to 1960s were not. Inefficiency in energy is also met with inefficiency in the movement of staff and patients. The site is a sprawling metropolis of corridors and wards, with insufficient bed space to carry out the procedures that much of the qualified staff would like to engage in. Offices are often broom cupboards and many routes lead only to 'dead ends'. It is not unlike Westminster, but less Victorian architecture and more sticking plasters and asbestos board. The smooth transfer of patients around a well-designed hospital will save millions of hours a year in wasted time and therefore make the hospital more efficient in numerous ways.



The Future





Leveling Up



Transport

The existing hospital car parks are a continual source of frustration for staff, patients and local residents. The park and ride for staff has been a welcome change and has helped many people over the years, yet it is still not ideal. The main problem is that unless you live on the east of the town, it takes two bus journeys to get there. Consequently, many visitors and staff continue to travel there via car. A new hospital in the centre of the town would eliminate this problem immediately.

No matter where you live in Doncaster, the new hospital site would only be one bus ride away. This would carry enormous environmental benefits, as it would encourage people to use public transport rather than a car. There would be no need for a park and ride, which would lead to an increased reduction in the pressure for car parking spaces. There would also be a massive increase in bus journeys, thus making private investment in those routes more viable. With the increasing use of electric buses, the new hospital's external carbon footprint will be close to zero.

Housing

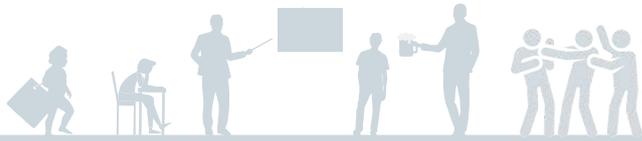
After a transfer of equipment and staff to the new hospital, the existing site can be safely rid of all the asbestos and demolished. Meanwhile, as the old DRI site would be in a prime position for new housing to be built, thus reducing the housing shortage in the town. This would also complement the Government's ongoing promotion of brownfield sites being better used to provide housing.

The potential new housing estate would only be a short journey away from the new hospital.





Leveling Up



Doncaster's Problem

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**Obesity;
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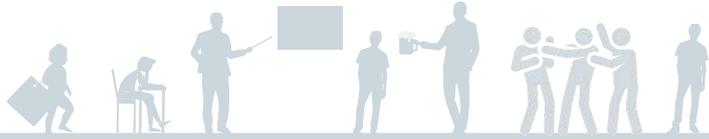
The impact of uncared for buildings and uninspired employees in one of Doncaster's largest institutions does not help to create a happy local workforce. In turn, this leads us onto Doncaster's biggest health problem - obesity. Since obesity is a national problem, it is often overlooked at a local level. However, I am afraid Doncaster ranks very highly nationally, which is not a competition any town wants to win. When investment is low within an area, the council often has no choice but to let an empty site be converted into a fast food restaurant, no matter how short sighted it is.

So what is the answer? You may think a new hospital will not help with this but combined with a grassroots programme which is discussed in the conclusion of this document, it will go a long way in improving the health inequalities in the town.





Comment



Damian Allen

Chief Executive Doncaster MBC



"The Waterfront in Doncaster's town centre is one of the largest brownfield sites in the UK that once developed could bring significant social, environmental and economic regeneration benefits. The central catalyst for this site is the opportunity to build a hospital, which has been under development for three years and includes an integrated teaching facility and research centre which will improve the Borough's research and educational offer. The planned development will be a carbon neutral building to ensure it is to be fully compliant with NHS Standards and potentially be one of the first carbon neutral hospitals in the country. However the development is more than a new hospital, it is a chance to create new prosperity, new opportunities and help us deliver the Borough we want for the future."

Suzy Brain England OBE
Chair of the Board



"Building a new hospital would be building new hope for the people and a new future for the town of Doncaster. This is a chance to end years of health inequality in our region.

This is an opportunity to regenerate our town and create much-needed jobs. We would aim, as much as possible, to buy for the build from local companies. This means they will thrive and grow as we design and deliver a modern approach to meeting healthcare needs."





Adding Value



Giving a Town a Heart

The Towns Fund is a wonderful policy, which will help revitalise many busy towns and make shopping and dining out a more pleasurable experience. Unfortunately, Doncaster's streets are emptying with cleaner and brighter shopping opportunities being a mere 20 minute drive away. As a result, towns like Doncaster need a reason for people to visit the high street.

“

Towns like Doncaster need a reason for people to visit the high street.

”

A new hospital would be that reason. Previously, residents used to once go into town to see their bank manager, book their holiday, tax their cars or get a passport, among other things. Yet with the advent of internet shopping, many of these reasons are gone. While the Towns Fund will help make the town's streets more attractive, with no shops, people will have no reason to venture into their local town.

Yet a hospital with six thousand staff and hundreds of thousands of visitors would attract the right kind of footfall that, in turn, would be the catalyst for a new Doncaster. A busy town only encourages more people to come, increasing investment and making the streets safer.

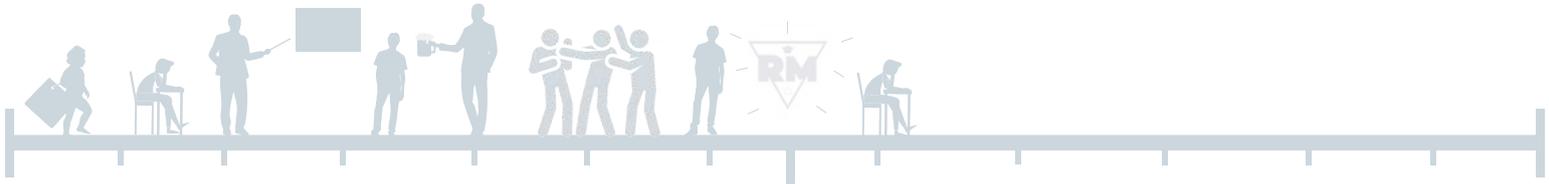
Furthermore, what about our children and their aspirations? A new hospital will inspire all the children of Doncaster whether they want to work in the hospital or around it. It will spur their imaginations and give them hope. It will also attract the best of the best, with amazing rail and road transport links. Being a teaching hospital with a department that focuses on specialist procedures and being pandemic resilient, the brightest minds would want to work here.

New Hospital - New Town, New Aspirations and a New People





Adding Value



Covid



The Covid-19 pandemic has created a hole in the public purse larger than any crisis in living memory. The Government has supported the country wherever and however it can, Doncaster has benefited hugely with close to four thousand five hundred Bounce Back Loans and eight thousand people furloughed and many self employed supported.

Yet as necessary as this was, it has only managed to keep Doncaster afloat. Doncaster needs investment, not handouts. Doncaster people need hope and aspirations not 'tea and sympathy.' They need positivity in their lives. They need 'levelling up'. A new hospital will bring that hope. It will shine like a beacon. Doncaster will then progress to a new era.

Money spent on this project will bring money into the town for years to come. Yet it is more than that. More than anything, it will help the people of Doncaster feel they finally matter. A hospital will end generations of people who have, through no fault of their own, had to manage on handouts. This new generation will be a generation that thrives not from a hand out, but a helping hand lifting them up.

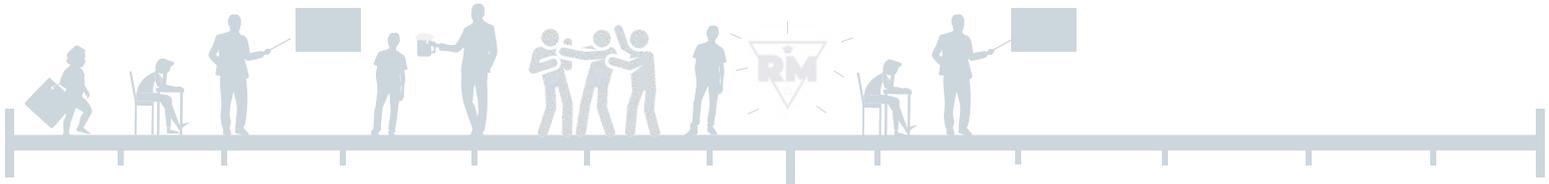
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”

The paradox was, as much as covid separated us all physically it actually brought back the community spirit. A vaccine administered and a population on the move again. A hospital will transform the town into a bustling urban centre, filled with entrepreneurial spirited people striving for success who care for each other.





Shovel Ready



Let's Get Started!

With a visit from the Secretary of State for the Department for Health and Social Care in January 2020 and a CEO on tenterhooks texting his local MPs on the 1st October that year hoping for a decision to be made the very next day, Doncaster was ready for a hospital. However, the town would not be given its new hospital. Yet the fact remains that a new hospital is a shovel ready project. After all, the land is in the hands of the council and is almost clear. Work is also well underway on both Strategic Outline Case and the Outline Business Case. With modern building technology and the right partners in place, boots could be on the ground and shovels in hand by early 2022.

Yet to get the maximum use out of a new hospital for Doncaster, we need to use Doncaster's people wherever possible. With one of the best national Chambers of Commerce on board to help, utilising the region's skills is not a 'could' but a 'must'. A new hospital which utilises the skills and experience of companies within the Chamber will help new companies to emerge. This will have a domino effect on expanding an already skilled population, and also help train the many young people in modern construction. This could be the greatest opportunity for our town's people.

New Companies, New Apprentices, Shovel Ready, New Hospital



Secretary of State visit - January 2020



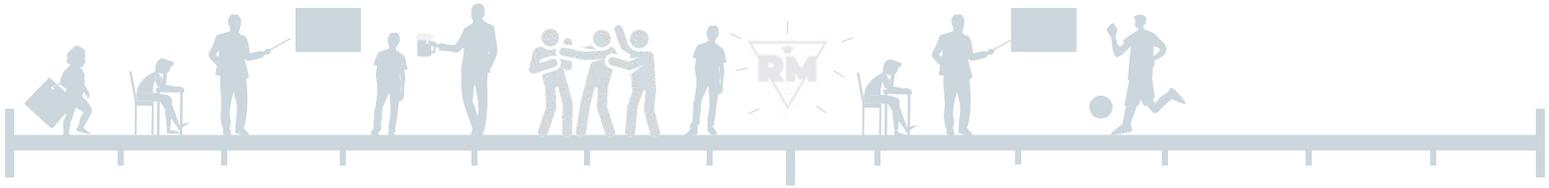
Proposed site for new hospital





Public Health Care Proposal

More Than Money



Relationships and Buildings

Relationships

There is a fascinating story in everyone's life if one takes time to ask them about it. There is also a fascinating story in every country. Our national story over the past 20 years has been extremely engaging and that is why at the top and bottom of each of these pages I have told the story of a young person and our country.

These two stories, as most stories, are connected. They also both reach the same conclusion.

The top of the page shows the story of a young boy not unlike the one I spoke about in my maiden speech. He starts out with no real role model and despises most authority. His town is as deprived as is he. He doesn't really know this, yet he just doesn't know any different.

His life soon ends up with him being in the wrong crowd. He gets into fights and is soon on the path to drugs and jail. Yet eventually, his life is turned around by someone who cares. Someone who is a good role model who helps put him on the right path. The child ends up going back to school and then eventually works at a new hospital. Someone cared. A Government cared, and then eventually the boy cared about himself and his community. He cared enough that his life became a success and his children's lives were a success too.

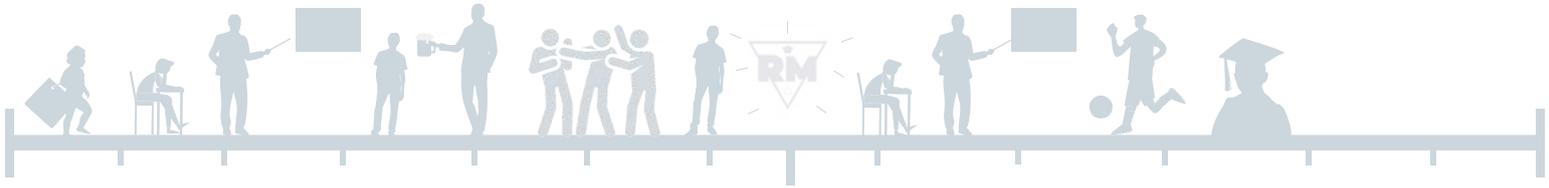
The bottom line of this document tells us of our nation's recent history. Of a country wanting to, and struggling to understand its place in the world, and whether it was to be sovereign or part of a new federalised state.





Public Health Care Proposal

More Than Money



It is a Northern electorate feeling looked down upon, ignored and uncared for. A decade of to and fro, until a final impasse and a result no one expected down in the Westminster bubble. This was followed by a to and fro again until a second impasse was reached, and a wall finally shattered. Finally, a first promise being honoured and then a second one on levelling up and building back better being made.

“
**Two stories,
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”

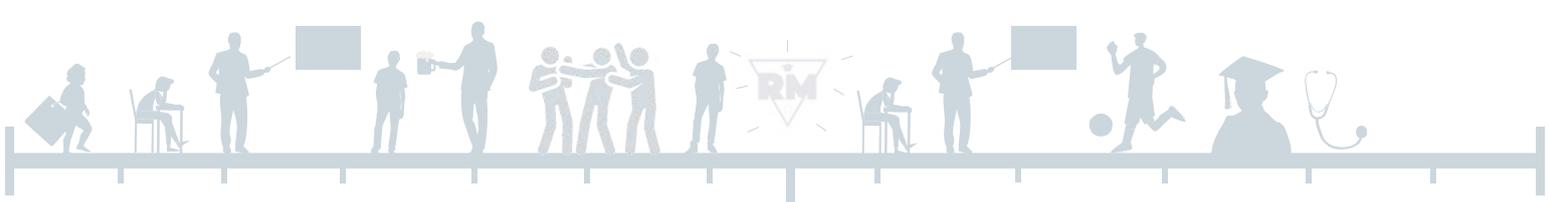
Two stories, two promises kept.
Lives changed forever.

Buildings

Buildings are merely bricks and mortar. They alone are not the answer to any problem, although many people (especially politicians) think they are. It is often too easy for them to believe that a building project here or there will fix all problems. While a politician can stand outside a new building and say something meaningful in front of the camera, this does nothing for the people who will be using it.

Yet if a new hospital were to emerge in Doncaster, I would know all too well that for the people working there and for visitors, it would be a symbol of hope. A symbol that things have changed. Inside the hospital, there would be people attending to important work and caring for each other. This would again reflect what is best about our NHS – the fact that it cares.





Dr Anuja Natarajan Consultant Paediatric Endocrinologist Clinical Director Paediatrics



"The children's department at Doncaster Royal Infirmary caters for the wellbeing of all the children of Doncaster, Mexborough and Conisbrough and as a department we provide inpatient and outpatient facilities including a special care baby unit for premature babies. On a personal front I am very proud of my department and my hospital and the work the entire team does but professionally I feel dissatisfied that in spite of having a wealth of clinical expertise my team and I have to curb the services we can provide due to the constraints of not having space and the modern technology required.

Whilst our neighbouring hospitals seem to have expanded and built new structures creating the facilities needed to deliver both basic and advanced care for their patients we at Doncaster have lagged behind in the hope that soon we will have the infrastructure to grow and expand our services. Whilst being proud of what we can provide I am acutely aware of the space constraints the special care baby unit has been faced with for years and how distressing that is to the staff and families. We struggle to increase capacity whilst having the skill set to do so within the team. Parents are limited in how many can stay back as there are not enough rooms. The space between the cots is very tight and this has meant huge restraints due to infection risks.

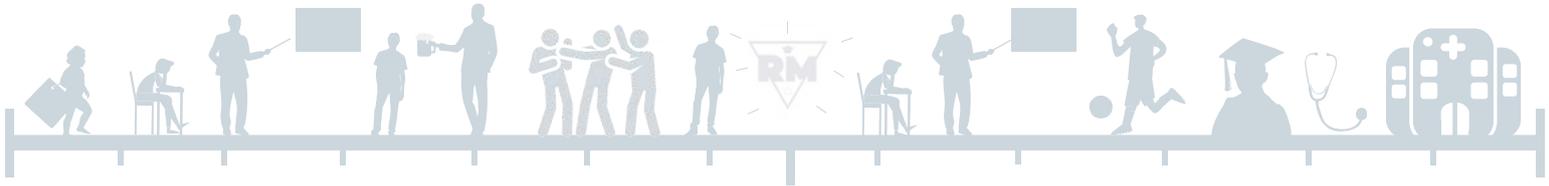
The building structure is old and not compatible with installing new technology, theatre space is limited so we have to rely on Sheffield often to operate on cases as we don't have the capacity but have the surgical skill set."





Public Health Care Proposal

Conclusion



I hope you have enjoyed the read and can now understand the real need and the real benefits that a new hospital will bring. ‘Build Back Better’ was one of our manifesto pledges, and I really cannot think of a better way to fulfil this in Doncaster than building a new hospital.

I have spoken with many people to put this proposal together, and I thank them all for their time and patience with me. I hope they feel their effort was worthwhile after reading this. I really didn't realise until this point how fundamental a new hospital would be to Doncaster and its people. I do hope this has come through.

I am a firm believer that anything worth having is worth working for. With that in mind, I have built a new website called New You, New Hospital. I hope this will engage everyone in Doncaster in our quest for a new hospital and also our quest for a healthier population. The details of this can be found over the page. Yet for now, I just thank you again for taking the time to read this, and I look forward to seeing you all very soon.





Public Health Care Proposal

Next Steps



2021 will be remembered as the year the United Kingdom finally came out of the covid-19 pandemic and beat the virus that put the world on hold. However, this was only after a huge cost to human lives. The virus put the health of the population on the front page of the news yet again, as it exposed the health inequalities which exist in our society.

Doncaster is unfortunately an area which is a victim to such health problems. With 71.5 percent of adults aged 18 and over being classed as overweight or obese, compared to the national average of 61.3 percent. While a new hospital will inevitably address some of these health issues, the responsibility also lies with the people of Doncaster. It is up to them to take simple steps to improve their health by making changes to their lifestyle.

To complement my campaign to get the Government to build a new hospital in the town, I have also created a website (www.newyounewhospital.co.uk) and an app – Get Fit for Doncaster. The app, ready to launch in the spring, if the pandemic allows will encourage people to take positive steps in changing their life for the better and make their town a healthier place to be. Along with making my constituents and the people of Doncaster fitter both physically and mentally, it would also send a clear signal to the Government that our town is serious about tackling its obesity problem.

The app will allow people to make a change in their own way and at their own pace. By engaging in “actions”, individuals can collect points in different ways – such as running five miles to gain five points, cutting the number of cigarettes smoked in a day by 10 to gain 10 points, reading for 30 days to gain 30 points and so on. Each action will be designed to improve an individual’s physical and mental wellbeing. The main thing is that the app will be simple to follow and will ensure that people feel rewarded for their efforts. All someone would have to do is download the app, enter their name, the first three letters of their postcode and begin!

Other than building a new hospital, what better way is there to address some of the town’s health problems in the aftermath of the pandemic?

It’s time to Get Fit for Doncaster.





Public Health Care Proposal

Next Steps



NEW YOU **NEW HOSPITAL**

www.newyounewhospital.co.uk

**'GET FIT FOR DONCASTER'
APP COMING SOON!**

**LET'S HELP
OUR NHS
BY HELPING
OURSELVES**

**LET'S GET FIT
FOR
DONCASTER**

Sign up today to improve your health and help your town!



LET'S LEVEL

UP



Need More Information?



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Public Health Care Proposal



Nick Fletcher MP
for Don Valley