

## **Statement from the *Healthcare for the Future* Stakeholder Advisory Group**

*We were shocked and saddened to see that, during the early stages of the public consultation on Healthcare for the Future, a NHS clinician was the subject of foul and inexcusable online racist abuse. This has rightly been referred to the Police, who are treating it as a hate incident.*

*It is important to remember:*

- *Those who work in the NHS give huge expertise and lifetimes of work to looking after all of us: they are worthy of our respect.*
- *The communities of West, North, and East Cumbria are being asked to consider big changes and are understandably anxious: feelings run strongly.*
- *The public consultation is the way in which we can express our views; we will be most effective if we listen well and speak wisely.*
- *All those involved in these discussion – all “sides” – want the best for West, North and East, Cumbria, even if we disagree about what and how.*

- **The Venerable Richard Pratt, Archdeacon of West Cumberland**
- **Sue Stevenson, Chief Operations Officer, Healthwatch Cumbria**
  
- **The members of the *Healthcare for the Future* Stakeholder Advisory Group**