

A NEW provider will take over the management of non-emergency patient transport across Lincolnshire.

Thames Ambulance Service will take over from current provider NSL on July 1, 2017, following a thorough procurement process.

The service provides eligible patients non-emergency transport to hospital appointments, community surgery units and theatre slots and home again after they have been seen or discharged.

The scheme benefits so many people across the county – with around 200,000 journeys undertaken each year.

Craig Esberger, contract liaison manager at Lincolnshire West Clinical Commissioning Group, the lead commissioner for the transport contract, said: “Following a two-stage procurement process containing a pre-qualifying shortlisting process and full evaluation of shortlisted bidders, we are pleased to say we have awarded a five-year contract to Thames Ambulance Service.

“Thames Ambulance Service will make contact with NSL and its staff to begin the transfer process of both staff and any applicable assets and information – including patient journey bookings.

“I’d like to take this opportunity to thank the staff at NSL who, over the last four years, have shown real dedication to help make the non-emergency patient transport service a success.

“The service provides an essential service to patients who are otherwise unable to get to their hospital appointments because of their medical condition.

“It means that patients do not miss out on their treatment just because they can’t use public transport or don’t have friends or family to take them to appointments. It aims to help improve access to healthcare while reducing health inequalities.”

For further enquiries, call Mark Williams on 01522 515380.