

Open Report on behalf of Richard Wills, Executive Director for Environment and Economy

Report to:	Economic Scrutiny Committee
Date:	21 February 2017
Subject:	Medical Training in Lincolnshire - Update

Summary:

This report updates the Economic Scrutiny Committee with progress on broadening the provision of medical training in Lincolnshire.

It shows that significant progress has been made by education and training providers in delivering medical training and in planning future provision.

Actions Required:

It is recommended that the Economic Scrutiny Committee notes the progress that has been made, and continues to offer support for any bids for funding that are made to broaden medical training provision.

1. Background

The Economic Scrutiny Committee received a report on 12 April 2016 describing the range of medical training that is being delivered in Lincolnshire.

Lincolnshire's training and learning providers continue to deliver a wide range of provision, notably at each of the Further Education colleges in Lincolnshire and both universities.

Professor Sara Owen from the University of Lincoln will attend the Economic Scrutiny Committee and will update members on the work that the University of Lincoln are doing – and planning - in this regard. This includes new nursing and allied health programmes, new Continuing Professional Development activities, and research activities at the Institute of Health.

Since the last report to the Committee, the Secretary of State for Health, Jeremy Hunt, has announced that a new approach is likely to be taken to increasing the number of medical school places. Existing medical schools appear to have been asked if they would be able to take extra places, and universities without medical schools have been asked if they would be interested in opening a medical school – recognising that only a very small number of medical schools would be likely to be

created and that the process of planning for new medical schools would be highly onerous, time consuming, and of high cost.

Reports in the media suggest that any new medical schools would be in areas which do not currently have provision and would need to be focused on preparing a future medical profession workforce; all the time having a substantial local cost. In summary, then, creating a new medical school remains a difficult challenge, but the conditions for creating a new school do appear to have changed.

In addition, the United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust (ULHT) has undertaken pioneering work to work towards creating a National Centre for Rural Health and Care. The work has started to explore new ways of recruiting staff in healthcare by making “rural” a key selling point to attract new NHS staff to work in our hospitals.

This work has been financed by ULHT and the Lincolnshire Economic Action Partnership, and research has been commissioned from Rose Regeneration, a consultancy from Lincoln. ULHT are working closely with the Lincoln Institute of Health at the University of Lincoln as well as with businesses to understand what a National Centre for Rural Health and Care might look at and achieve.

The work culminates in a conference which is being held in early February 2017. Several senior politicians and managers from Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) will be attending the conference.

At the previous discussion about medical training, members discussed the scope of engagement from an Economic Scrutiny perspective. This was as set out below, and remains valid.

- How could current students be encouraged to seek placements/employment in the local medical sector?
- Do the ways of attracting returning, older graduates differ from those for recent graduates?
- Are sufficient training places available in Lincolnshire?
- How could regeneration funding programmes be adapted to meet the ambitions of a medical school in Lincolnshire?
- How would a medical school increase local purchasing and other local economic activity?

2. Conclusion

In conclusion, an increasing volume and range of medical training is being delivered across Lincolnshire. A useful contribution from an economic development perspective would be to support ways of retaining people who have been trained in the various medical disciplines within local medical providers.

3. Consultation

a) Have Risks and Impact Analysis been carried out?

No

b) Risks and Impact Analysis

Not Applicable

4. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

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