


Agenda Item 4

		THE HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR LINCOLNSHIRE	
Boston Borough Council	East Lindsey District Council	City of Lincoln Council	Lincolnshire County Council
North Kesteven District Council	South Holland District Council	South Kesteven District Council	West Lindsey District Council

Report to	Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire
Date:	13 December 2017
Subject:	Chairman's Announcements

1. East Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust - New Operating Model

As reported in these announcements last month, the East Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust (EMAS) is implementing the national Ambulance Response Programme (ARP).

As part of this implementation, EMAS is consulting with staff on fast response vehicles and double crewed ambulance on changes to their rotas. The intention is to launch the new operating model from 2 April 2018.

EMAS has also indicated that across Lincolnshire it is looking to increase the number of ambulances available from 47 ambulances on average during the day to 48; and from 26 ambulances during the night to 32.

There have been discussions in some parts of the county, for example, in Gainsborough on the number of ambulances based at particular ambulance stations. EMAS has stated in response to these discussions that as an emergency healthcare provider its staff travel in ambulances to where help is needed and patients are not treated in ambulance stations. When an ambulance crew starts their shift, it is very rare for them to return to their base station until their meal break several hours later. This means that the ambulance that you see in your local town might well have started their shift from a base many miles away.

Performance information under the ARP is gradually being released. For example, the EMAS Board of Directors received performance information at a trust-wide level at its November meeting, which covered the months of August and September. Information at a Lincolnshire level would be welcome.

2. Lincoln County Hospital - Neonatal Unit Refurbishment

On 16 November 2017, United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust announced that a newly refurbished neonatal unit, which cares for premature and unwell babies at Lincoln County Hospital, opened following a £2.1 million refurbishment.

The modernised unit now provides two intensive care, three high dependency and twelve special care cots. It is more flexible in its design and includes two further cots for babies requiring isolation should they require it.

The new unit provides a more comfortable and modern space for parents to use during their baby's stay: three parent bedrooms; a kitchen; sitting room facilities; and a play area for siblings.

The total refurbishment means that the layout of the unit is more open-plan providing a bright and airy environment for staff to deliver care to those babies and their families that require it.

3. Louth Fire and Ambulance Station

On 17 November 2017, Louth Fire and Ambulance Station was officially opened. It is part of the blue light collaboration programme, whereby emergency services work together to improve services to the public and provide value for money. This is the first joint fire and ambulance station in the County as part of the blue light collaboration programme. I look forward to further instances of collaboration between ambulance and fire services in Lincolnshire.

4. Lincolnshire East Clinical Commissioning Group Governing Body Meeting

On 23 November 2017, I observed the meeting of the Governing Body of Lincolnshire East Clinical Commissioning Group, as well as an extraordinary meeting of the Primary Care Commissioning Committee. The Governing Body considered a full agenda, which I understand included all the standard reports on performance, assurance, and finance, as well as updates on the Sustainability and Transformation Partnership and the Lincolnshire Winter Plan, which is on the Committee's agenda.

I would like to draw the Committee's attention to two matters referred to at the meeting. Firstly and most importantly, NHS England is seeking assurance from Lincolnshire West CCG, as the lead commissioner for cancer care, and United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust, as the lead provider of cancer treatment in the county, on how improvements to cancer performance can be made.

Secondly, reference was made to the creation of a single Accountable Officer and single Executive Management Team for Lincolnshire.

I look forward to seeing further information on these two issues.

5. Lincoln Medical School Bid

The University of Nottingham in partnership with the University of Lincoln has submitted a joint bid to the Higher Education Funding Council for England to provide undergraduate medical education in Lincoln.

As part of the bid, it is proposed that in the future, students will be able to apply to study for the University of Nottingham medical degree based in a new building on the Lincoln campus. This is part of a national bidding process and it will be several months before Higher Education Funding Council for England announces the results of the bidding process.

6. Out-of-Hours GP Service – Care Quality Commission Report

On 29 November 2017, the Care Quality Commission (CQC) published its inspection report on the Lincolnshire Out of Hours GP Service, which is managed by Lincolnshire Community Health Services NHS Trust. The latest inspection took place in August and September 2017 and concluded that the service is 'Good' overall. This follows a previous report in August 2016, which had led to a rating of 'Inadequate'.

The full report is on the CQC website: <http://www.cqc.org.uk/location/R55H1>

The CQC recorded the following improvements:

- There was an open and transparent approach to safety and an effective system in place for recording, reporting and learning from significant events.
- Patients' care needs were assessed and delivered in a timely way.
- The trust had systems in place to engage with staff and obtain their views about the out-of-hours service.
- A 'green card' system saw palliative care patients being given a dedicated telephone number so they or their carers could access the out-of-hours service directly via their clinical assessment service (CAS), without the need to call NHS111.
- Staff assessed patients' needs and delivered care in line with current evidence based guidance.
- Patients experienced a service that was delivered by dedicated, knowledgeable and caring staff. They were positive about their interactions with staff and said they were treated with compassion, dignity and respect.
- Information about services and how to complain was available and easy to understand. Improvements were made to the quality of care as a result of complaints and concerns.
- Primary care centres had good facilities, were well equipped to treat patients and meet their needs with the exception of Lincoln primary care centre, where this inspection highlighted areas for improvements. The vehicles used for home visits were clean and well equipped.

7. United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust – Grantham A&E

I would like to remind the Committee that United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust is due to hold its Board of Directors meeting on 15 December. I expect the agenda for the Board will include a report for decision by the Board on the opening of Grantham A&E overnight. This follows the decision of the Board last month to support the overnight re-opening of Grantham A&E, subject to a review being undertaken on behalf of NHS Improvement. If there is any further information available, it will be reported to the Committee at the meeting.

8. Louth GP Practices

On 19 July 2017, the Health Scrutiny Committee was advised of consultations on several proposed mergers of GP surgeries in the Louth area. On 23 November 2017, the Primary Care Commissioning Committee of Lincolnshire East Clinical Commissioning Group approved the merger between the New Coningsby Surgery, Newmarket Medical Practice and the Wolds Practice with effect from 1 April 2018. In a separate decision the Primary Care Commissioning Committee approved the merger of James Street Family Practice and the Kidgate Surgery into a single practice, with effect from 1 April 2018. As a result of this merger the Kidgate Surgery premises would close.

9. Lincolnshire Community Health Services – Draft Quality Priorities 2018/2019

Lincolnshire Community Health Services NHS Trust (LCHS) has begun stakeholder consultation on its quality priorities for 2018/19. Quality priorities are key elements of the Quality Account process and this Committee has a specific statutory role making statements on draft Quality Accounts during the spring of each year.

LCHS is seeking comments on the following proposed quality priorities for 2018/19:

- Priority 1: Improving management of the deteriorating patient and reducing sepsis in community settings
- Priority 2: Insulin administration - Right dose, right time
- Priority 3: Deep vein thrombosis (DVT) - Improved DVT management
- Priority 4: Patient Reported Outcome Measures - to be developed for the diabetes care pathway and leg ulcers
- Priority 5: Leg ulcers - Improving our healing rates to improve outcomes for patients
- Priority 6: Complaints - Improve the response times for handling of complaints
- Priority 7: Suicide Safe

Further information is available from the Health Scrutiny Officer.

10. Centre for Public Scrutiny Event: Scrutinising Sustainability and Transformation Partnerships

On 9 November 2017, I attended a course entitled Scrutinising Sustainability and Transformation Partnerships (STPs), which was run by the Centre for Public Scrutiny. Materials from the course have been emailed to members of the Committee. I would draw your attention to two documents in the email: *Ten Questions to Ask About Sustainability and Transformation Plans / Partnerships* and *Ten Questions to Ask About Service Reconfiguration*, which we will make use of at the appropriate time.

11. Gary James – Accountable Officer – Lincolnshire East Clinical Commissioning Group

Gary James, the Accountable Officer of Lincolnshire East Clinical Commissioning Group, is retiring at the end of December. Gary has acted as the special advisor to this Committee over the last three years. I would like to put on record the Committee's thanks to Gary for undertaking this role.

Samantha Milbank has been appointed as the Interim Accountable Officer for Lincolnshire East CCG. In terms of the special advice to this Committee, this role will now be shared in the future by several colleagues from the local CCGs.

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