

Agenda Item 9

		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

Open Report on behalf of Lincolnshire West Clinical Commissioning Group

Report to	Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire
Date:	10 July 2019
Subject:	Glebe Medical Practice Consultation on Proposal to Close Skellingthorpe Health Centre

Summary:

This report is to give the Health Scrutiny Committee information on the consultation currently being undertaken regarding the proposed closure of the Skellingthorpe branch surgery of The Glebe Medical Practice.

Actions Required:

The Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire is asked to consider the contents of the report and authorise the Chairman to make a response to the consultation.

1. Background

On 26 April 2019 the Practice submitted a formal application to NHS England to close its branch at Skellingthorpe.

The Glebe Practice is a rural practice with a list size of 8,157 registered patients. It operates from two premises; the main surgery is situated in Saxilby, the branch operates from Skellingthorpe, which is located 4.6 miles away, closer to the city centre of Lincoln.

The practice serves the whole of Saxilby as well as its surrounding villages, providing primary medical services. The team includes four GPs, three practice nurses, a clinical pharmacist and two healthcare assistants as well as reception, administration, secretarial and dispensing staff.

There is no separate patient list attached to the branch site, all patients are registered at The Glebe practice.

The practice list size is 8,157 of which 2304 live in Skellingthorpe village. The patient demographics for Skellingthorpe are listed below:

- 0-59 -1532
- 60-79 - 605
- 80+ - 167

The branch premise is a converted bungalow owned by the GP Partners of the practice with a small car park to the front of the property. It is on the main road going out of Skellingthorpe towards the bypass. The building requires modernisation.

The current opening hours of the branch surgery are:

- Monday to Thursday 8am – 1pm
- Closed Friday

The services provided at the Skellingthorpe branch are:

- GP's - 4 sessions per week
- Nurse – 4 sessions per week
- Healthcare Support Worker – 5 sessions per week
- Reception cover Monday to Friday 8am – 1pm

The practice already provides home visits for patients who are housebound (this includes nursing visits as well as GP visits) and will continue to support and provide services to the nursing homes in Skellingthorpe.

The practice believes with all equipment and clinical teams working from one site, will improve access to both the GP's and the nursing team.

The GPs would have more time to invest in the vulnerable patients of the practice looking at ways to reduce unplanned admissions and allow time to provide comprehensive care plans.

2. Consultation

The consultation commenced on 3 June and ends 2 August 2019. The feedback will be analysed and included in a report for the Clinical Commissioning Group Primary Care Commissioning Committee to make an informed decision.

As part of the consultation each household of the patients registered received a letter, copy of questionnaire and a sheet of Frequently Asked Questions (enclosed in Appendix A)

The consultation period includes 5 drop in sessions for patients to ask questions and provide their feedback, these are being held on the below dates:

- Monday 24th June 6pm - 8pm Skellingthorpe Village Hall
- Thursday 27th June 12pm - 2pm Saxilby Church Hall
- Friday 28th June 10am -12pm Skellingthorpe Village Hall
- Monday 1st July 2pm - 4pm Skellingthorpe Village Hall
- Wednesday 3rd July 6pm - 8pm Saxilby Church Hall

Healthwatch are also holding two separate sessions, these are being held on:

- Thursday 20th June 2pm – 4pm – Skellingthorpe Youth Centre
- Tuesday 25th June 10.30am – 12.30pm – Skellingthorpe Youth Centre

Themes from the consultation to date:

At the time of writing this report there had been 651 responses submitted via the online survey and 3 of the consultation events have taken place, 40 people in total have attended these.

Analysis of the survey responses so far show:

- Individuals use of appointments was 47% at Saxilby and 36% at Skellingthorpe
- 74% of the 651 responses specified they travel to the appointments by car.
- In response to the question – In the event of Skellingthorpe closing, 72% said they would travel to Saxilby with 21% currently undecided.
- 60% of the responses stated they understand the practices reasons for the proposed closure.

Areas highlighted in the feedback both on the survey and at the consultation events are, concerns regarding transport and appointments being available.

The practice is working with the local parish council and Healthwatch to identify and look at all the options to address the transport concerns. There is an Age UK mini bus service within Skellingthorpe that is currently underutilised and the Dial a Ride service. The aim is to establish transport links for the village to encourage non-drivers to stay registered at the practice to receive continuity of care.

Working alongside this the practice is looking at the appointment schedules for example, block an afternoon clinic once/twice a week for Skellingthorpe patients.

Patients who choose not to remain with the practice have a choice of 3 other practices whose practice boundary covers Skellingthorpe (listed below). All of these practices are CQC registered 'good'.

- Woodlands Medical Practice
- Birchwood Health Centre
- Brayford Medical Practice

Decision Process:

Once the consultation period is completed (2 August 2019), the results will be analysed. These will be included in a report which will also address concerns raised and the impact on patients, taking into account the patient demographic and their health needs.

The report will be presented to the Primary Care Commissioning Committee for a final decision. If the decision is to agree the closure, the closure would not be before 31 March 2020.

The CCGs focus is ensuring patients continue to access high quality services provided by a caring and dedicated team.

3. Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy

This consultation does not impact on the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and the objectives identified in the Lincolnshire Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

4. Conclusion

The consultation is on-going until 2 August 2019 and a further update can be provided if requested.

5. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Consultation Letter, Frequently Asked Questions and copy of questionnaire

6. Background Papers

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

This report was written by Alex Newton, Lincolnshire West CCG Locality Delivery Manager, who can be contacted on alex.newton@lincolnshirewestccg.nhs.uk