

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 13 SEPTEMBER 2013

**Statement from: Councillor Mrs S Woolley, Executive Councillor for
NHS Liaison, Community Engagement**

Lincolnshire Sustainable Services Review

This is a review of health and care services driven by local leaders across the county. This includes primary, community, hospital and social care services. It is recognised that funding pressures and urgent care demand will continue to rise. The review will design a blueprint for future services across the county, following a central review of the current position.

The initial programme will run from now until November. The Programme Board leading the review includes officers of the County Council and is Chaired by the Council's Director of Public Health.

Healthwatch Lincolnshire

Monitoring meetings are now proceeding with Healthwatch Lincolnshire.

Healthwatch is in its infancy but we can see that the enthusiasm of volunteer Board members will help them to start something that we are confident will be a leading health and social care consumer champion for the people of Lincolnshire.

There are now seven locality meetings: Gainsborough, Lincoln, Louth, Grantham/Sleaford, Spalding, Coast and Boston – the increase in numbers of the locality meetings is seen as a priority, and we're really pleased that they have been set up so quickly and with so much positivity. Lincolnshire County Council is also utilising all of these meetings for community engagement purposes.

Healthwatch Lincolnshire has recruited its Chief Executive Officer, Sarah Fletcher, and has also increased its Board membership with co-opted volunteers. There are now strengthening relationships with County Council Elected Members, Public Health, Adult Care, Children's Services and Lincolnshire's Health Trusts, as well as with lots of voluntary and community services and regional Healthwatch Groups.

'Enter and View' visits are being organised and will be discussed during the next contract monitoring meeting which is taking place at the end of September. We are pleased Healthwatch Lincolnshire is now progressing and look forward to their first AGM which we expect to take place shortly.

Councillor Big Society Fund

The County Council's Big Society Fund is open again for the 2013-2014 financial year after Members voted to continue the fund at the last Council meeting on 12th July.

The fund gives each County Councillor £2,000 to award to community organisations and charities delivering projects that benefit communities throughout Lincolnshire. In previous years the fund has benefited residents of all ages, across Lincolnshire, funding a diverse range of projects from village halls to sports clubs, and play areas

to rescue boats. For more information on the Big Society Fund visit www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/big society fund .

Lincolnshire Armed Forces Community Covenant. (AFCC)

There have been a number of successful applications to the Lincolnshire Armed Forces Community Covenant (AFCC) partnership; RAF Scampton was awarded £70,000 for a Skate Park project and the Lincoln Emergency Medical Responders were awarded £20,000 towards the purchase of a new responder vehicle.

Recent applications endorsed by the Lincolnshire Armed Forces Community Covenant partnership has seen just over £100,000 awarded to projects in Lincolnshire. This funding was secured from the MoD Armed Forces Community Covenant Grant Scheme.

The AFCC partnership have now established themed working groups which will report back on issues that affect those serving in the armed forces, their families, veterans and widows. The first to be formed using established groups are Health and Wellbeing and Housing, with further themed groups to be formed in the coming months.

Grant and Community Engagement Support Given to Senior Forum

Four Older People's Senior Forums are currently supported by Public Health through a grant award process. The groups are Louth and District Senior Forum, Lincoln Elder's Forum, Holbeach Seniors' Link and Welland Seniors (covering Spalding and district). These four groups hold regular open meetings and many produce their own newsletters to reach a wider audience of local older people. Grants of £500 for each group for 2013-14 have now been awarded to provide support to the groups. The Excellent Ageing Steering Group and District level Health and Wellbeing Groups will provide a route for the Forums to engage two-way with the Health and Wellbeing Board.

The Community Engagement Team is looking to support any further Senior Forums that develop in the county, particularly in district areas not currently represented. Additionally, links are being re-established from the Excellent Ageing Steering Group with regional and national older people's groups such as the East Midlands Later Life Forum and the Older People's Advisory Group.

Official Opening of a new Community Kitchen Garden

The new community kitchen garden at Geoff Moulder Leisure Centre in Boston was being officially opened in August by the Mayor of Boston. The derelict area at the rear of the training pool has been transformed into a wonderful edible growing space. Funded through the Health and Wellbeing Fund and developed and maintained by Boston Greenscapers, with the support of Boston Borough Council, this kitchen garden complements the existing community cooking and growing work happening in Boston.