


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:	6 December 2023
Subject:	Chairman's Announcements

1. Committee Membership

There have been two changes to the membership of the Committee: Councillor Paul Martin has been appointed as a County Council representative; and Councillor Glynis Scalese has been appointed as the representatives of South Holland District Council, although she is unable to attend the meeting on 6 December 2023.

2. Information Requested at Previous Meetings

Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services

On 13 September 2023, the Committee requested additional information, which has been provided by Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust as follows:

Month	Number of Calls			Average Call Length	
	Tier 2 (Out of Hours)	Hear4You (In Hours)	Total Calls	In Hours	Out of Hours
April	19	200	219	n/a	20:15
May	32	296	328	n/a	11:56
June	23	305	328	n/a	10:52
July	14	225	239	n/a	15:21
Aug	8	146	154	n/a	12:30
Sept	20	250	270	n/a	08:30
Total	116	1422	1538		

The caseload for each Family Liaison Worker (as of 6 October 2023) was: Lincoln 132; Louth 86; Boston 73; and Grantham 50. Support is provided by all Lead Professionals, Clinical Leads and Team Co-ordinators, so any complex cases or identified risks can be picked up and supported quickly.

The average active (in treatment) caseload for CAMHS practitioners is 15 children and young people. Lead Professionals also have around 15 - 20 cases of children and young people, who have had an assessment and are awaiting treatment for any needs, while waiting. Therefore, the total caseload averages between 30 and 35 children and young people.

3. Outcome of Consultation on Paediatric Services at Pilgrim Hospital, Boston

On 28 November 2023, the NHS Lincolnshire Integrated Board (ICB) is due to consider the report on a consultation by United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust on paediatric services at Pilgrim Hospital, Boston, and make a decision on the future service configuration. The decision of the ICB will be reported in my supplementary announcements. The consultation period ran from 7 June to 4 September 2023.

On 19 July 2023, this Committee approved its response to the consultation, which included the following conclusion:

The Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire accepts the rationale put forward by United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust for the new model of paediatric care at Pilgrim Hospital. This represents a significant improvement to the position in August 2018, when there was only one substantive middle grade doctor, with cover being provided by agency staff and locums.

4. Mental Health Urgent Assessment Centre, Lincoln County Hospital

On 15 November 2023, Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (LPFT) announced that with effect from 4 December 2023, the Mental Health Urgent Assessment Centre, located at the Peter Hodgkinson Centre at Lincoln County Hospital, would become an all-age assessment centre. LPFT opened the centre in January 2022, to assist patients (aged 17 years and 9 months and above) presenting in mental health crisis, with a view to reducing demand on local emergency departments.

From 4 December 2023, the Mental Health Urgent Assessment Centre will be accepting mental health assessment referrals for children and young people directly from the East Midlands Ambulance Service and Lincoln County Hospital's A&E department, where patients are fit to be transferred and have no physical healthcare needs. LPFT has added that self-referrals or referrals from other agencies will not currently be accepted, however further updates would be provided should this position change.

LPFT has stated that it is incredibly proud of the significant positive impacts the centre has had, and continues to have, on patients, and expanding the service will help prevent children and young people and their families waiting in the emergency department for a mental health assessment. Whilst LPFT has mental health liaison and crisis teams embedded and closely linked to emergency departments, we are aware that A&E is not the best environment for those waiting for a mental health assessment and the MHUAC will provide a better alternative.

5. Queen Elizabeth’s Hospital, King’s Lynn – Latest Developments

Queen Elizabeth’s Hospital, King’s Lynn, which is used by a number of patients in the Holbeach, Long Sutton and Sutton Bridge has advised of the following improvements:

- opening of the enlarged emergency department;
- approval for relocation of the hospital’s helipad;
- beginning an eighteen month project installing roof supports and prevention of corrosion in respond to the faults arising from Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC), to extend the life of the existing building in advance of the new hospital, which is due for completion in 2030.

6. National Prostate Cancer Screening Trial

Prostate cancer is the most common cancer in men in the UK and has no screening programme. The current blood tests can miss some cancers and often suggest prostate cancer when no cancer is present. Prostate cancer usually has no symptoms until it has grown large and may be more difficult to treat and, sadly, 12,000 men die each year as a result.

On 20 November 2023, the government announced that together with Prostate Cancer UK it was initiating a £42 million screening trial to find ways of detecting prostate cancer earlier. As part of the trial, which will be called TRANSFORM, hundreds of thousands of men across the country will receive an MRI scan.

7. Chief Medical Officer’s Annual Report 2023 – Health in an Ageing Society

On 10 November 2023, Professor Chris Whitty, the Chief Medical for England, published his annual report for 2023. This year the report is entitled *Health in an Ageing Society* and its emphasis is on improving the quality of life rather than longevity, and asserts that ill health and disability in old age are not inevitable. The report also refers to ‘peripheral areas’ which includes semi-rural and coastal areas, where there will be a substantially higher proportion of older people. The report gives examples of how local authority teams around the country are supporting older adults in some of these areas.

The report argues that people's independence can be maintained by reducing disease, to minimise disability and frailty; and by changing the environment, so people can maintain their independence for longer. Primary prevention by central and local government, and secondary prevention by the NHS are important. The report also refers to improving the quality of life in old age with less medicine, as some treatments extend life, but at the expense of reducing its remaining quality and independence; and the decision about how to balance these should be the patient's.

The report makes six recommendations, which are summarised as follows:

- A) The NHS, social care, central and local government must start planning more systematically on the basis of where population will age in the future rather than where demand was ten years ago.
- B) It should be easy and attractive for people to exercise throughout their lives, as this is one of the most effective ways of maintaining independence. Reducing smoking, air pollution and exposure to environments that promote obesity are other examples that may delay or prevent ill health and disability.
- C) Secondary prevention by the NHS, such as monitoring cholesterol and blood pressure, and screening programmes must be prioritised.
- D) The medical profession needs to respond to the rise in multimorbidity and the NHS needs to minimise the probability of the same person attending multiple clinics for a predictable cluster of diseases.
- E) The NHS, the Office for National Statistic, and central and local government need systematically to collect and share data on the health and care needs of older adults.
- F) There needs to be more research, for example research into multimorbidity, frailty and mental health needs to be accelerated.

The full report is available at the following link:

[Chief Medical Officer's Annual Report 2023 – Health in an Ageing Society \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/115427/cmo-annual-report-2023-health-in-an-ageing-society.pdf)