

**LINCOLNSHIRE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD**

Open Report on behalf of Alison Christie, Health and Wellbeing Business Manager

Report to	<b>Lincolnshire Health and Wellbeing Board</b>
Date:	<b>30 September 2014</b>
Subject:	<b>Protocol between the Lincolnshire Health and Wellbeing Board, Healthwatch Lincolnshire and the Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire</b>

**Summary:**

The Health and Care Act 2012 set out the roles and responsibilities of Health and Wellbeing Boards and the local Healthwatch. It also modified the responsibilities of Health Scrutiny. This report contains a protocol setting out the respective roles and responsibilities of these bodies, and the framework to facilitate effective working relationships.

**Actions Required:**

1. That the draft protocol shown in Appendix A be approved;
2. That the draft protocol be referred to Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire and Healthwatch Lincolnshire for consideration and approval; and
3. That authority be delegated to the Health and Wellbeing Business Manager, in consultation with the Chairman, to make any necessary alterations following consideration by Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire and Healthwatch Lincolnshire that do not fundamental affect the intentions of the protocol.

## 1. Background

Lincolnshire Health and Wellbeing Board and Healthwatch Lincolnshire were established in response to the Health and Social Care Act 2012. The Act also amended the responsibilities of Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire. Each body has a role to play in reviewing and making recommendations about the way local health and care services are planned and delivered, and all share a common goal to improve the health and wellbeing of the people of Lincolnshire. However, there is the potential for duplication and a lack of clarity about how the three bodies interact.

The draft protocol, attached in Appendix A, aims to clarify the working relationship between Lincolnshire Health and Wellbeing Board, Healthwatch Lincolnshire and Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire. The document acknowledges the respective roles and responsibilities and is intended to formalise arrangements to ensure transparency and accountability by establishing mechanisms to:

- exchange information, intelligence and work programmes;
- recognise issues of mutual concern/interest and ensure they are dealt with in a spirit of co-operation;
- avoid duplication of effort;
- provide a shared understanding of the process of referrals and arrangements for dealing with such referrals.

The protocol has been prepared by officers supporting the Health and Wellbeing Board and Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire and has been shared informally with Healthwatch Lincolnshire and the Chairman of the Board and Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire. The protocol covers the following elements;

- Roles and responsibilities of the respective bodies;
- Working principles and commitments;
- What this will mean in practice – a number of scenarios detailing how the three functions can complement rather than duplicate each other's work;
- Referral mechanism and process.

It is anticipated, over time, that changes will need to be made to the protocol to reflect changes in the health and care system. It is therefore proposed that the protocol is reviewed a year after the agreement is made and bi-annually thereafter or in response to any new national guidance issued in relation to Health and Wellbeing Boards, Health Scrutiny or Healthwatch.

## 2. Conclusion

The agreement will help clarify and distinguish the role of the Health and Wellbeing Board from that of the Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire, and the role of Healthwatch Lincolnshire, which has statutory relationships with the Board and Health Scrutiny. By sharing work plans, this will help reduce duplication and also ensure that officers supporting the Board, Health Scrutiny and Healthwatch Lincolnshire are aware of each other's priorities in a timely manner. The protocol also sets out the potential for either Health Scrutiny or Healthwatch to undertake particular pieces of work (subject to available resources) which the Board has identified as a priority.

**3. Consultation**

N/A

**4. Appendices**

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Protocol between the Lincolnshire Health and Wellbeing Board, Healthwatch Lincolnshire and the Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire.

**5. 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 Alison Christie, who can be contacted on 01522 552322 or [Alison.christie@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:Alison.christie@lincolnshire.gov.uk)