



**HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR
LINCOLNSHIRE
20 JANUARY 2021**

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR C S MACEY (CHAIRMAN)

Lincolnshire County Council

Councillors C J T H Brewis (Vice-Chairman), M T Fido, R J Kendrick, C Matthews, R A Renshaw, M A Whittington and R Wootten.

Lincolnshire District Councils

Councillors S Woodliffe (Boston Borough Council), B Bilton (City of Lincoln Council), Mrs S Harrison (East Lindsey District Council), S Barker-Milan (North Kesteven District Council), G P Scalese (South Holland District Council), Mrs A White (West Lindsey District Council) and L Wootten (South Kesteven District Council).

Healthwatch Lincolnshire

Dr B Wookey.

Also in attendance

Dr Kakoli Choudhury (Consultant in Public Health Medicine), Katrina Cope (Senior Democratic Services Officer), Simon Evans (Health Scrutiny Officer), Tony McGinty (Consultant in Public Health) and Tracy Pilcher (Director of Nursing, Lincolnshire Community Health Services NHS Trust).

County Councillor Dr M E Thompson (Executive Support Councillor for NHS Liaison and Community Engagement) attended the meeting as an observer.

50 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE/REPLACEMENT MEMBERS

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Mrs Rosemary Kaberry-Brown (South Kesteven District Council).

The Committee noted that Councillor Linda Wootten (South Kesteven District Council) had replaced Councillor Mrs Rosemary Kaberry-Brown (South Kesteven District Council) for this meeting only.

An apology for absence was also received from Councillor Mrs S Woolley, (Executive Councillor for NHS Liaison and Community Engagement).

51 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTEREST

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No declarations of members' interest were made at this stage of the proceedings.

**52 MINUTES OF THE HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR
LINCOLNSHIRE MEETING HELD ON 16 DECEMBER 2020****RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire meeting held on 16 December 2020 be agreed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

53 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Further to the Chairman's announcements circulated with the agenda, the Chairman brought to the Committee's attention the supplementary announcements circulated on 18 January 2021.

The supplementary announcements provided information on the following:

- The UK Covid-19 Vaccines Delivery Plan;
- Vaccination Programme in Lincolnshire;
- Community Testing for Covid-19 in Boston and Lincoln;
- East Midlands Ambulance Service Performance Report, which was attached to the supplementary announcements at Appendix A;
- Grantham Hospital – Correspondence with the Government; and
- Review of Do Not Attempt Resuscitation Cardiopulmonary Decisions during the Covid-19 Pandemic.

RESOLVED

1. That the Supplementary Chairman's announcements and the Chairman's announcements as detailed on pages 11 to 17 of the report pack be noted.
2. That the Chairman on behalf of the Committee be authorised to write to the Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, to request for the local NHS to be allowed to share local information on the rate of vaccinations being achieved.

**54 LINCOLNSHIRE COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES NHS TRUST - COVID-
19 UPDATE AND ENGAGEMENT EXERCISE ON URGENT TREATMENT
CENTRES**

The Committee gave consideration to a report which provided an update from the Lincolnshire Community Health Services NHS Trust (LCHS), concerning Covid-19 and the Louth and Skegness Urgent Treatment Centre (UTC) Engagement Exercise.

The Chairman invited Tracy Pilcher, Deputy Chief Executive, and Director of Nursing, Allied Health Professionals and Operations, to present the report which was detailed on pages 19 to 61 of the agenda pack.

The following two Appendices were attached to the report, for the Committee to consider:

- Appendix A – Covid-19 Trust Board report to the Board of Directors of Lincolnshire Community Health Services NHS Trust Board – 12 January 2021; and
- Appendix B – Louth and Skegness UTC Engagement Findings report to the Board of Directors of Lincolnshire Community Health Services NHS Trust Board – 12 January 2021.

The Committee were advised that LCHS were continuing to respond effectively to the Covid-19 pandemic level 4 national emergency which had come into force from 5 November 2020. It was highlighted that one of the key elements of the response to Covid-19 was the delivery of an effective vaccination programme. The Committee was advised that the NHS had commenced the national vaccination roll out of the first vaccines on 8 December 2020. The United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust (ULHT) was one of the first 50 hospital hubs to have been approved to commence vaccinations with the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine. The Committee was advised that LCHS was working with the Lincolnshire system in developing the mass vaccination sites, which would be working alongside the hospital hubs and the Primary Care Network (PCN) locations to maximise delivery to the Lincolnshire population.

The Committee noted that LCHS had commenced testing of asymptomatic staff with the introduction of lateral flow testing. It was noted further that so far there had been approximately a 1% positivity rate. At the present time LCHS had 20 staff self-isolating.

It was reported that integrated urgent care services were a key component of the LCHS response to Covid-19, and that the Clinical Assessment Service (CAS) had been instrumental in supporting patients to be cared for safely at home, and ensuring that patients were only conveyed to hospital if absolutely necessary. It was noted that CAS capacity had been increased to support the rise in the number of calls through to CAS from East Midlands Ambulance Service crews on scene. This initiative had commenced at the beginning of November 2020, and had been a direct impact on ambulance conveyance levels.

It was reported that the Grantham Urgent Treatment Centre was still open as a 24/7 walk in facility. It was noted that activity had remained stable since the service had been transferred, with referrals to Emergency Departments being predominantly below 5%.

It was highlighted that as part of the restore programme, Gainsborough Minor Injuries Unit had now re-opened as a UTC, offering a comprehensive range of urgent care services to the local population, including booked appointments and home visiting.

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The Committee was advised that the organisation had agreed to pilot an approach with an East coast practice in relation to same day urgent primary care. This would then allow GP practices and PCN's to release capacity to support the Covid-19 vaccination programme, as well as support the delivery of urgent primary care services to the local population. The pilot had commenced on the 18 January 2021, with 20 booked appointments a day being provided to primary care, alongside the UTC services at Skegness hospital.

It was reported that as part of the Lincolnshire system bed management plan, the organisation had continued to deliver an effective patient flow response.

Appendix B provided the Committee with the results of the Louth and Skegness UTCs Engagement findings. The key messages arising from the engagement were detailed on page 45 of the report pack. The Committee noted that the feedback received highlighted a number of concerns, some of which could be addressed quite quickly. It was noted that all the information gathered would be used to help shape any emerging proposals for the urgent treatment centres opening hours after March 2021. Reassurance was given if there was to be a permanent change to service delivery; a formal consultation would be carried out

During discussion, the Committee raised the following points:

- Some concern was raised as to the distance that some vulnerable individuals were being asked to travel to receive their Covid-19 vaccination. The Committee was advised that as more local hubs became available; this situation would improve over the coming weeks as it was the ambition for everyone to be within a ten mile radius of a vaccination hub/centre.
- The need to reinforce the message of Hands, Face, Space;
- Clarification was sought regarding the 5% of patients being referred to EDs. The Committee was advised that this figure was the number of patients referred by LCHS to EDs, and did not include patients who chose to go direct to an ED. The Committee noted that the longer term focus for Grantham Hospital was to provide a greater range of services;
- Some concern was raised that although the Grantham UTC provision was 24/7, some patients had been advised to call 111 first. The Committee was advised that patients were encouraged to ring 111 first so that they could be given advice and sign posted to the correct service;
- One member enquired whether vaccinations for staff in the NHS and other care settings were mandatory. The Committee was advised that staff were encouraged to have vaccinations, but it was not possible to make it mandatory;
- Some concern was expressed regarding the discharge of patients into care homes. Reassurance was given that patients were not discharged direct into care homes. The Committee was advised that Community Hospitals and designated care beds played a significant part of Lincolnshire's response to people who were Covid-19 positive and being discharged from hospital. The Committee was advised that designated beds had been commissioned by the

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County Council. Confirmation was given that hospitals were aware of designated beds, as were social workers;

- The percentage of LCHS staff vaccinated and the percentage of staff not available for work. The Committee was advised that currently between 60 and 70% of LCHS staff had received their first vaccination. The Committee was advised that currently 19 staff were off work with either Covid-19 or Covid-19 related issues. The Committee noted that LCHS staff who were shielding were working from home, for example providing online consultations;
- The impact on other patients of Louth Hospital having a Covid-19 ward for patients. The Committee was advised that the hospital was providing support to the patient through the 14-day isolation period; and that this did have an impact on other services being provided;
- Whether the temporary opening hours at Louth and Skegness UTCs would be continued beyond 31 March 2021. The Committee was advised that the situation was continually monitored and that the matter would be reviewed in February 2021;
- Page 46, 5th bullet point, stated that stakeholders would be involved in developing the future UTC & integrated urgent care offer. One member enquired who the stakeholders would be? It was reported that a range of stakeholders would be approached which would include NHS commissioners, the local population, Healthwatch, and the Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire;
- Page 51 of the report, second paragraph stated that the overnight closure was determined not to have had a noticeable impact on increasing patients attending, Boston, North Lincolnshire or Goole. Concern was expressed that this decision had been determined at a time when tourism to the area was practically non-existent compared to normal years. Further concern was expressed that the engagement exercise had been conducted during a pandemic, and that the results of this exercise would help shape future provision. The Committee was advised that any changes to future provision would consider information from a range of years, as 2020 was not representative for example of activity in Skegness. Reassurance was given that there would be more comprehensive engagement. The Committee noted that capital investment was going to be made to upgrade the UTC at Skegness; and
- One member stressed the need to make sure that members of the Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire were kept fully informed of when new local vaccination centres/hubs became available across Lincolnshire.

The Chairman on behalf of the Committee extended thanks to the Deputy Chief Executive, and Director of Nursing, Allied Health Professionals and Operations for attending the meeting and providing the Committee with an update.

RESOLVED

1. That the Committee's support and thanks to all staff at Lincolnshire Community Health services NHS Trust for their efforts in delivering NHS services in Lincolnshire be recorded.

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2. That the report from Lincolnshire Health Services NHS Trust on Covid-19; and the Louth and Skegness Urgent Treatment Engagement Findings report be noted.
3. That a request be made for members of the Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire to be kept informed when new local vaccination hubs/centres become available across Lincolnshire.
4. That a further Covid-19 update be received at the April meeting.

55 DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH ANNUAL REPORT 2020

The Chairman invited Tony McGinty, Consultant in Public Health, Lincolnshire County Council to present the Director of Public Health Annual Report 2020 to the Committee.

Attached to the report at Appendix A was a copy of the Director of Health Annual Report 2020 for the Committee's consideration.

In guiding the Committee through the report, particular reference was made to:

- The impact of Covid-19 in Lincolnshire, page 69, chart 1, of the report pack detailed the number of positive cases each day in Lincolnshire since March 2020;
- Hospital Admissions, page 71, chart 4, provided information relating to United Lincolnshire Hospital Trust patients admitted or diagnosed with Covid-19 since April 2020;
- Deaths as a result of Covid-19, page 72, chart 5 of the report pack; advised of the number of deaths in Lincolnshire as at 13 November 2020, as being 370;
- Care Homes, page 72, chart 6 of the report pack, advised that there had been 277 care homes reporting an outbreak during the Covid-19 pandemic. It was highlighted that the months September and November had seen the highest number of outbreaks in a month with 73 and 74 respectively;
- Schools and Education, page 73, chart 6 of the report pack advised of the school outbreaks in Lincolnshire. The Committee noted that there had been 444 reports of outbreaks by 312 education settings during the Covid-19 pandemic. The Committee noted further that October saw the highest number of outbreaks, with 165 outbreaks being reported;
- Multi Agency Response to Covid-19 in Lincolnshire, page 77 of the report pack advised of the work of the Lincolnshire Resilience Forum in continuing to respond in a proactive and coordinated manner to Covid-19 in Lincolnshire; and
- Longer Term Health and Wellbeing Implications of Covid-19, page 82, Figure 2, provided the Committee with information relating to the expected Covid-19 burden of disease over time.

During discussion, the Committee raised the following points:

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- The vaccination programme and to the fact that some residents within the Lincolnshire were being asked to travel long distances to have their vaccination. The Committee was advised that the vaccination programme was a herculean task; and that Lincolnshire posed lots of challenges with its geography and age profile. The Committee noted that it was hoped that all adults would have received their vaccination before the winter of 2021;
- GP support to care homes. The Committee was advised that as part of the preparation for Covid-19, the public health team had provided support and technology to care homes to assist them in preventing and managing Covid-19. It was noted that primary care teams had responded in a different ways, with some managing remote consultations;
- How going forward, vaccination against Covid-19 would be managed. It was highlighted that at the moment it was not known how long current vaccines would provide protection; and if there were more variants, then vaccines would have to be adapted accordingly, similar to what was currently being done with the flu vaccine. It was however highlighted that the Covid-19 virus tended not to mutate as much as the flu virus. The Committee noted that the vaccination programme for Covid-19 would in place for all, or some of the population for the next few years;
- Why the death figures recorded were only to include deaths with Covid-19 diagnosed up to 28 days before death. The Committee was advised that this was a national process, which was introduced on 25 August 2020 only to include deaths with Covid-19 diagnosed up to 28 days before deaths;
- The need for continued reinforcement of the fundamental message of Hand, Face, Space, Some concern was expressed to mixed messages portrayed to the public, with some televised sporting events ignoring the fundamental message;
- The longer term health and wellbeing effect of Covid-19, particular reference was made to the effect on mental health. The Committee noted that the full effect of Covid-19 would not be fully known for some time. Figure 2 on page 82, provided details of the expected burdens;
- One member expressed thanks to the Public Health Team for all their hard work through the last year;
- Pages 72, 73 and 75 of the report pack, provided information that the number of cases was rising during the month of September 2020. A question was asked whether that was an early warning for lockdown to have happened sooner. The Committee noted that the public health system had learnt a great deal; and that a new body had been established to ensure that going forward lesson were learnt;
- The lack of reference to North East and North Lincolnshire in the document; and whether the public health team worked closely with colleagues from bordering authorities. The Committee was reassured that the Public Health team worked very closely with colleagues from other areas, particularly North and North East Lincolnshire;
- The effect of the virus, virus mutations and origins – The Committee was advised that the Covid-19 virus attacked the surface of the lungs. The Committee was advised further that currently there were four main significant variants in the UK; and that the current vaccine would be able to deal with

three of the variants. It was highlighted that any new variant would be tested. The Committee noted that the virus had originated from Wuhan in China, it was of animal origin, which had then spread to human; and then from human to human; and

- Gender specific – The Committee was advised that from the data provided so far, it would appear that the figure for premature mortality was slightly higher in men who had contracted the virus, than in women.

The Chairman on behalf the Committee extended his thanks to the Consultant in Public Health for his presentation. The Chairman also extended his thanks to Tony McGinty for his support to the Health Scrutiny Committee over the years and wished him well in his new role, after he left the Council at the end of January 2021.

RESOLVED

1. That the Annual Report by the Director of Public Health be received.
2. That the updated information on the Covid-19 pandemic be noted.

56 UNITED LINCOLNSHIRE HOSPITALS NHS TRUST - OUTPATIENT SERVICES AT COMMUNITY HOSPITALS

The Chairman invited Simon Evans, Health Scrutiny Officer, to present the report to the Committee, which highlighted that concerns had been raised in local communities in Lincolnshire on the possibility of changes to the delivery of outpatient services by United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust.

The Committee was referred to the recently circulated document, which detailed correspondence between Councillor Carl Macey, Chairman of the Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire and Andrew Morgan, Chief Executive of United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust, relating to the concerns raised by several county councillors.

RESOLVED

1. That the response of the Chief Executive of United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust on outpatient services at community hospitals be noted, which includes statements to the effect that:
 - a. Owing to Covid-19, discussions with staff on any changes have been suspended;
 - b. There is no agreed timetable for discussions with the Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group or Lincolnshire Community Health Services NHS Trust; and
 - c. Consultation and engagement will take place before any substantial changes or development take place in the provision of services at community hospitals.

2. That the Committee's view that all the county's community hospitals provide a valued contribution to the delivery of NHS services across Lincolnshire be put on record.
3. That an item be added to work programme, specifically to cover any future development at Lincolnshire's community hospitals.

57 URGENT AND EMERGENCY CARE - MODELS OF CARE AND MEASUREMENT

The Chairman invited Simon Evans, Health Scrutiny Officer, to present the report, which invited the Committee to make a response to the Transformation of Urgent and Emergency Care: Model of Care and Measurement consultation, which had been launched on 15 December 2020 by NHS England and NHS Improvement.

The Committee was referred to the draft response document circulated previously, which had taken on board comments raised by the Committee.

RESOLVED

That the draft response as circulated be approved as the Committee's response to the consultation on Urgent and Emergency Care – Models of Care and Measurement.

58 HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR LINCOLNSHIRE - WORK PROGRAMME

The Chairman invited Simon Evans, Health Scrutiny Officer, to present the report to the Committee.

Consideration was given to the work programme as shown on pages 96 to 97 of the report pack.

Items highlighted to be included on the work programme were:

- United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHHS Trust – Outpatient Services at Community Hospitals; and
- CQC report: Do Not Attempt Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation.

RESOLVED

That the work programme presented be received subject to the addition of the items listed above.

The meeting closed at 12.00 pm