


Agenda Item 10

		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 Richard Wills the Director Responsible for Democratic Services

Report to	Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire
Date:	21 September 2016
Subject:	APMS [Alternative Provider of Medical Services] GP Surgeries

Summary

On 21 July 2016, Lincolnshire West Clinical Commissioning Group announced that interim management arrangements would be introduced in four GP practices in Lincolnshire from 1 August 2016. The four GP practices are:

- Arboretum, Lincoln;
- Burton Road, Lincoln;
- Metheringham Surgery; and
- Pottergate, Gainsborough.

The interim management arrangements at the four surgeries would be provided by Lincolnshire Community Health Services NHS Trust. Between them the four surgeries have over 11,100 registered patients. Lincolnshire West Clinical Commissioning Group, which has responsibility for the budgets relating to these four surgeries, has been consulting with the registered patients on what they want from their GP surgeries.

Actions Required:

To consider the information in the report, and await further information from Lincolnshire West Clinical Commissioning Group on the outcomes of the consultation.

1. Background

APMS GP Contracts

Most GP surgeries in Lincolnshire operate under either a *General Medical Services* (GMS) or a *Personal Medical Services* (PMS) contract. Both GMS and PMS contracts are 'in-perpetuity' contracts without a time limit. Five GP practices in Lincolnshire West for historical reasons area operate under *Alternative Provider of Medical Services* (APMS) contracts, which are fixed term contracts, where an open procurement exercise is undertaken periodically. Four of the five APMS GP practices are the subject of this report and the practices (with the number of registered patients for April 2016) are:

- Arboretum, Lincoln (3,160);
- Burton Road, Lincoln (2,444);
- Metheringham Surgery (1,703); and
- Pottergate, Gainsborough (3,858).

NHS England previously had full responsibility for all contracts with GP practices, but the management of GP contracts transferred to the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) in Lincolnshire with full delegated responsibility from April 2015. CCGs operate decision making arrangements to avoid conflicts of interest for the GPs in management positions within the CCG governing bodies. Lincolnshire West CCG, for example, operates a Primary Care Commissioning Committee, which has decision making powers and does not include any GPs.

Announcement on 21 July 2016

On 21 July 2016, Lincolnshire West CCG announced that interim management arrangements would be introduced in four APMS GP practices in Lincolnshire from 1 August 2016. This was because the previous provider at these four practices, Universal Health Ltd, had run into financial difficulties and had asked Lincolnshire West CCG to terminate the contracts. Lincolnshire West CCG announced that Lincolnshire Community Health Services (LCHS) NHS Trust would run the surgeries at least until 15 December 2016 on a caretaker basis.

The four APMS contracts had previously been awarded by NHS England to Universal Health Ltd. (The contracts for Arboretum, Metheringham and Pottergate were effective from 1 April 2015, and the contract for Burton Road surgery was effective from 1 July 2015.)

Engagement and Consultation with Patients

Lincolnshire West Clinical Commissioning Group has undertaken a survey of the patients, seeking their views on the services they currently receive and what they would like in the future. Patients have been asked to complete the surveys by 9 September 2016. In addition drop-in sessions were held in each area in the last week of July.

The questionnaires sent to patients contained the following questions: -

- 1) What do you like about your GP practice?
- 2) Is there anything that can be improved at your GP practice?
- 3) When choosing your GP, what is the most important factor for you in making that decision?
- 4) How far do you currently travel from your home to access your GP services?
- 5) How do you currently travel to your practice? Please tick all that apply.
- 6) On average, how often do you use your GP practice?
- 7) Who do you prefer to see?
- 8) How do you prefer to make your GP and nurse appointments?
- 9) What would you consider to be the most important areas for improvement at your GP surgery?
- 10) If you are willing to share your postcode, please do so below:
- 11) Please use the box below for any additional information you would like to include:

Procurement Exercise

Lincolnshire West CCG has launched a procurement exercise, which would require any provider to operate both morning and afternoon sessions at the surgeries on a Monday to Friday basis. The surgeries could not operate as a branch surgery to an existing GP Practice. Interested providers are required to return their bids by 14 October 2016. Where bids are received, there would be an evaluation process, and decisions made on whether to award the contract to an alternative provider. If necessary, the interim management arrangements could be extended beyond mid-December.

If no bids are received to run any or all of the GP surgeries, the CCG would need to look at dispersing the patient lists of these surgeries to alternative GP surgeries, as the interim management arrangements cannot continue on a permanent basis.

2. Conclusion

The Committee is requested to consider the information in the report, and await further information from Lincolnshire West Clinical Commissioning Group on the outcomes of the consultation.

3. Consultation

This is not a direct consultation item with the Health Scrutiny Committee, but refers to a consultation that has been undertaken by Lincolnshire West Clinical Commissioning Group with patients registered at four GP surgeries.

4. Background Papers

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

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