

# Agenda Item 6

		<b>THE HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR LINCOLNSHIRE</b>	
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	<b>Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire</b>
Date:	<b>19 July 2017</b>
Subject:	<b>Lincoln Walk In Centre – Consultation by Lincolnshire West Clinical Commissioning Group</b>

**Summary:**

As reported to this Committee on 14 June 2017, Lincolnshire West Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) launched a consultation on the future of the Walk In Centre in Lincoln on 12 June 2017. The 'Frequently Asked Questions' relating to the consultation are set out at Appendix A. The consultation document is set out at Appendix B.

Dr Sunil Hindocha, the Chief Clinical Officer from Lincolnshire West CCG, and Wendy Martin, the Executive Lead Nurse and Midwife – Quality and Governance, from the CCG are due to attend the Committee meeting.

On 14 June, the Health Scrutiny Committee set up a working group, which is due to meet on 14 July to consider the consultation. The outcomes of the working group will be circulated to the Committee.

**Actions Required:**

The Health Scrutiny Committee is invited to: -

- (1) consider information on the consultation on the future of the Lincoln Walk In Centre;
- (2) consider the outcomes from the Health Scrutiny Committee's working group on 14 July; and
- (3) make arrangements for finalising the Committee's response to the consultation.

## 1. Background

On 12 June 2017, Lincolnshire West Clinical Commissioning Group launched a consultation on the future of the Walk-In Centre in Lincoln and issued the following statement:

*"NHS Lincolnshire West Clinical Commissioning Group has today launched a public consultation with patients and stakeholders around replacing services at Lincoln's Walk-in-Centre with extended hours in alternative GP surgeries, an enhanced NHS 111 service and supporting people to self-manage their health conditions.*

*Following a review of the service, evidence suggests most of the users at the Monks Road site are either students and/or patients registered with Lincoln city centre medical practices. Research indicates 95 per cent of Lincoln Walk-in-Centre users required no investigation or treatment, or received minor treatment for minor ailments. The latter includes help for minor illnesses such as a cold, headache or conjunctivitis - which could be treated using over the counter medicines from pharmacies.*

*Proposed are these following alternatives:*

- *Convenient student access to GP practices close to Lincoln College and Lincoln University. This will include Skype consultations and drop-in opportunities.*
- *Same day access to GP services for children – where clinically appropriate.*
- *Same day access for more urgent cases.*
- *Working towards seven day GP services – via a hub of several practices.*
- *Enhanced NHS 111 service. Talk before you walk by calling NHS 111 for medical advice where you need medical guidance fast but it is not an emergency.*
- *Continued promotion of self-care tips around minor illnesses like colds, conjunctivitis, headaches and diarrhoea.*
- *Utilisation of local pharmacies for simple health and care advice.*
- *Out of hours GP service.*

*Wendy Martin, executive lead nurse, midwife and quality at NHS Lincolnshire West CCG, said: "These proposals focus on ensuring patients are seen in the right place, at the right time and by the right people. We want to simplify services, reduce duplication and ensure the free-to-call NHS 111 is used to access urgent care services. Our services must change to reflect the growing demands of our local population and be in line with Government policy which says that seven-day access to a GP for routine appointments must be in place within the next three years. This links to the GP Forward View document.*

*"We must reduce duplication and for this reason we cannot offer extended access to routine GP services every day during the week and also sustain the Lincoln Walk-in-Centre. So it is proposed we close the Walk-in-Centre and focus*

*on primary care. Walk-in centres create demand for care for self-limiting, minor conditions and evidence suggests resources would be better spent on other priorities. We completely understand replacing the Walk-in-Centre may disappoint some people but we are confident our proposals to improve access to GP services, with our GPs working more closely together, we can ensure people have access to a GP when they need one. Similar steps have already been taken in other parts of the country.*

*NHS Lincolnshire West CCG remains committed to ensuring patients can continue to access good quality health services. It is vitally important we capture views before a formal decision is made by the CCG and I would encourage people to have their say.”*

### Consultation Period and Drop-In Events

The consultation period began on 12 June 2017 and will continue until 6 August 2017.

Three drop-in events have been held at the Abbey Access Training Centre, Monks Road, Lincoln, on 27, 28 and 29 June.

### Consultation Documentation

The frequently asked questions on the consultation are set out at Appendix A, with the consultation document at Appendix B.

## **2. Links to the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment**

By its nature, the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2013-2018 focuses on prevention and early intervention, as well as environmental factors that determine overall health and wellbeing. The Strategy does not make explicit reference to urgent health care, which is provided by the Walk in Centre in Lincoln.

## **3. Conclusion**

This item invites the Committee to give consideration to the consultation on the Walk-In Centre in Lincoln and to make arrangements for finalising the response.

## **4. Consultation**

The Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire is being consulted on proposals from Lincolnshire West Clinical Commissioning Group on the Walk-In Centre and the potential alternatives should the walk-in centre close.

**5. Appendices**

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Lincoln Walk-In Centre Public Consultation 2017 - Frequently Asked Questions on Our Proposals ( <i>Lincolnshire West Clinical Commissioning Group</i> )
Appendix B	"Have Your Say... Lincoln Walk-In Centre Public Consultation" - Consultation Response Form

**6. 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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