

HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR LINCOLNSHIRE 19 JULY 2017

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **Additional A&E Funding for United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust**

On 15 June 2017, United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust was awarded £968,000 of capital funding by the Department of Health, to support its A&E departments. This was part of an allocation of £21 million awarded to 27 hospital trusts in England and followed the £56 million awarded to 70 hospital trusts in April 2017.

This capital funding will be used to set up GP streaming services in front of the A&E departments at Lincoln County Hospital and Pilgrim Hospital, Boston. These GP streaming services will release the A&E departments to deal with emergencies more quickly and effectively. As part of these new services, patients will be assessed by a clinician on arrival at A&E, and directed to the place where they can receive the most appropriate care. United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust has announced that work will start on developing the new facilities in the coming weeks.

2. **Proposed Merger of GP Surgeries in Coningsby, Louth and Tetford**

On 26 June 2017, a formal consultation was launched on the merger of three GP surgeries in Coningsby, Louth and Tetford. The three surgeries are:

- New Coningsby Surgery, Coningsby (*8,033 registered patients*);
- Newmarket Medical Practice, Louth (*10,946 registered patients*); and
- the Wolds Practice, Tetford (*2,867 registered patients*).

(The number of patients registered relates to 1 June 2017.)

The consultation stresses that none of the three premises will close and the current opening hours will continue as they are now. The stated rationale for the proposed merger is that it will deliver sustainable healthcare, and provide continuity of care for patients; and will protect the provision of local GP services. The proposal will also increase opportunities to provide a wider range of services and access catered towards the needs of patients.

Letters have been sent to all patients, asking for feedback. Seven patient engagement events have been organised. Two events have already taken place (3 and 4 July in Louth and Tetford). The remaining events are due to take place on:

- Monday 24 July at 1pm – Coningsby Community Hall
- Tuesday 25 July at 7pm - Coningsby Community Hall
- Monday 31 July at 7pm - Trinity Centre, Louth
- Tuesday 1 August at 1pm - Hamilton Hall, Tetford
- Monday 7 August at 7pm- Tattershall Village Hall

The consultation period closing date will be 25 September 2017.

3. Proposed Merger of Two GP Surgeries in Louth

On 10 July 2017, two GP surgeries in Louth launched a consultation on their proposed merger. The two surgeries are: -

- James Street Family Practice (*8,267 registered patients*); and
- Kidgate Surgery (*3,921 registered patients*).

(The number of patients registered relates to 1 June 2017.)

The rationale for the proposed merger is that the two GPs at the Kidgate Surgery are both over retirement age; and it has not been possible to recruit another partner. Additionally, the building where the Kidgate Surgery is based is no longer fit for purpose. As a result it is proposed that the Kidgate Surgery building will close and all the patients will be incorporated in one list and be treated at James Street. There are also plans for renovations at the James Street Surgery to accommodate the additional patients. All the staff at Kidgate have been invited to transfer to James Street.

Patient Engagement sessions have been scheduled for: -

- Thursday 20 July 2017 - 1.00 – 3.00pm – Eastgate Union Church; and
- Thursday 27 July 2017 - 6.30 – 8.30pm – Eastgate Union Church.

The consultation period closing date is 9 October 2017.

4. Proposed Merger of GP Surgeries in Lincoln

On 10 July 2017, a consultation has been launched on the proposed merger of two GP practices in Lincoln:

- Portland Medical Practice (*9,439 registered patients*)
- The Witham Practice (*2,015 registered patients*)

(The number of patients registered relates to 1 June 2017.)

The Witham Practice is located at the Newland Medical Centre in Lincoln. The surgery's two GPs retired in March 2017, and since that time GP services have been provided to Witham patients by the Portland Medical Practice, which operates a branch surgery at the Newland Medical Centre. Patients are now being consulted on a formal merger, which would provide continuity of GP services for both sets of patients.

It is stressed that neither of the two premises will close and the current opening hours will continue as they are now. The consultation closes on 21 August 2017.

5. Hawthorn GP Surgery, Scotter – Merger with Kirton Lindsey Surgery

The Hawthorn Surgery in Scotter (*4,356 registered patients*) is located in the Lincolnshire West CCG area and the Kirton Lindsey Surgery (*5,700 registered patients*) is located in the North Lincolnshire CCG area. In May 2016 these two GP surgeries submitted a merger application to these two CCGs. In January 2017 a consultation on the proposed merger was undertaken, with a questionnaire sent to all registered patients. The consultation results have been released and include the fact that 72% of the patients at the Hawthorn Surgery support the proposed merger.

This merger is more complicated than usual as the two practices are located in two different CCG areas and a full practice merger will be subject to final approval by NHS England and both North Lincolnshire CCG and Lincolnshire West CCG. At this stage Lincolnshire West CCG has supported the merger in principle, but financial arrangements will need to be agreed by the two CCGs, prior to final approval. The rationale for the merger is that a combined surgery would be able to continue to provide personalised care to meet the particular needs of the local communities, and would maximise the benefits that can be provided by a larger organisation. It has also been stated that a merger would help to sustain the future viability of both practices.

6. The Hartsholme Centre, St George's Site, Lincoln

On 27 June 2017, the Hartsholme Centre was formally opened. The new ten-bed male psychiatric intensive care unit has been built by Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust within the footprint of a former ward on the St George's site at Long Leys Road in Lincoln. The development of the unit has followed discussions with local commissioners to offer additional provision in Lincolnshire for adults who require intensive psychiatric care, and means that patients will no longer need to travel outside of the county to receive this support. The unit will be supported by a new team of around 40 staff, who have been working rigorously through processes, systems and training in anticipation of patients arriving during July.

7. Healthwatch Lincolnshire Reports

Healthwatch Lincolnshire has published two reports:

- *Prescribed Medication in Lincolnshire* (May 2017)
- *Annual Report 2016/17* (June 2017)

These reports are available on the Healthwatch website:

<http://www.healthwatchlincolnshire.co.uk/>

8. Care Quality Commission Summit on East Midlands Ambulance Service

On 19 June 2017, I attended the Quality Summit organised by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) on its East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS) Inspection Report. The Quality Summit included presentations by the CQC and EMAS. The CQC found that response times for emergency calls were consistently below the national target and patients were not receiving care in a timely manner. The overall finding was that EMAS 'requires improvement'. The Committee will be seeking assurances from EMAS at its September meeting.

9. East Midlands Health Scrutiny Network – 27 June 2017

On 27 June I attended the East Midlands Health Scrutiny Network. The main item of business was the East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS). The presentation was similar to the Quality Summit on 19 June. Both EMAS and the lead commissioners (Hardwick CCG) were questioned on approaches to improving ambulance performance. EMAS is seeking to participate in the Ambulance Response Programme - a national initiative, led by NHS England, with three key elements: using questions to identify those patients in need of the fastest response; despatching vehicles appropriate to the clinical needs of each patient; and a set of clinical codes covering each patient's condition and response/resource requirement.

10. Stamford and Rutland Hospital Redevelopment

On 4 July 2017, North West Anglia NHS Foundation Trust, which manages Stamford Hospital, announced that the improvements works at Stamford Hospital are expected to complete on 28 July. The third and final phase of the works includes an upgrade of the new reception area, new administration spaces, redecorated corridors, improved lighting and new flooring.

Other areas completed previously under the £2 million redevelopment include a brand new MRI scanner and imaging department, a new outpatient department with additional rooms for adults and children, a second ultrasound room, improved physiotherapy gym, a pain management department and new clinic rooms.

11. Working Groups

Since the last meeting of the Committee, two working group meetings have taken place. Firstly on 20 June, the Quality Accounts Working Group considered the Quality Accounts of United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust; and St Barnabas Hospice.

On 4 July, the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy Prioritisation Working Group met to consider the priorities for the Health and Wellbeing Strategy. Their report is set out on this agenda.

A meeting of the Walk in Centre Working Group is due to take place on 14 July, after the despatch of this agenda.

Councillor Carl Macey
Chairman of the Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire