

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 15 DECEMBER 2017

**Statement from: Councillor Mrs S Woolley, Executive Councillor for
NHS Liaison and Community Engagement**

NHS LIAISON / LINCOLNSHIRE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

At the last Council meeting I reported how the latest Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) was now live on the Lincolnshire Research Observatory website to view. I wanted to return to this subject to detail how we ensure the JSNA is kept live and responsive to changing need within Lincolnshire. An annual review programme has been developed to ensure existing topics are refreshed. Work is also ongoing to explore new topic areas, particularly those identified by partners during the review of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

Of this latter work, I particularly want to make reference to work currently underway between Public Health and researchers at the University of Lincoln into neurological conditions. A full Health Needs Assessment (HNA) is now being undertaken, led by the local university, to try and better quantify local need and services. This is due to be completed early in the New Year when, it is hoped, the contents will inform both a new JSNA topic and better inform debate into these important causes of long term disability for local people.

Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy

I have previously reported to Council the work that has been undertaken over 2017 to inform the development of the new JHWS for Lincolnshire. A range of engagement opportunities occurred over the summer to gather the views of key stakeholders, partners and the public on what the health and wellbeing priorities are in Lincolnshire based on the evidence provided in the JSNA.

The findings from all the phases of engagement were collected for consideration by the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) at its meeting on 26 September 2017. The Board agreed to undertake further work on the following emerging priorities identified through the engagement:

- Mental Health – both Adults & Children and Young People
- Housing
- Carers
- Physical Activity
- Dementia
- Obesity

The further work is based on the need for the JHWS to emphasise prevention and early intervention so that there is collective action across a range of organisations working in partnership to deliver the strategy. There is also a requirement for the strategy to focus on tackling inequalities and equitable provision of services that support and promote health and wellbeing. The Strategy will be drafted during early 2018 for approval by the Health and Wellbeing Board next spring.

Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment

Completion of a Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) is a statutory duty for the Lincolnshire Health and Wellbeing Board every three years. Information contained within the PNA will be used to plan pharmaceutical services in the county to best meet local health needs. I previously reported on the work currently underway to produce Lincolnshire's next PNA to be published in March 2018. I am pleased to say work continues apace and will include public consultation on the draft for 63 days between early December and February to allow as wide as possible an audience to view, comment and respond to this important document on the provision of community pharmacies throughout the county.

Pharmacies play an important and increasing role in helping people to take better care of themselves and a clear local view of what sorts of pharmacy based services are important to support the NHS in commissioning the right things for our citizens.

Housing, Health and Care Delivery Group

The Housing, Health and Care Delivery Group (HHCDG) has been established as a sub group of the Health and Wellbeing Board under the chairmanship of my colleague Cllr Wendy Bowkett. Meetings were held on 5 September and 21 November. The Board is made up of representatives from all District Councils, NHS organisations, the housing sector and the County Council.

The importance of housing has never been so critical both locally and nationally. It is a high profile subject in central government which is leading to opportunities to look at solutions for the housing problems faced by Lincolnshire residents.

Relationships continue to develop between the seven District Councils and colleagues have welcomed the formation of this strategic group to facilitate partnership working and develop a collective approach to housing to support Lincolnshire's integration agenda. The inclusion of Disability Facility Grant (DFG) funding within the Better Care Fund (BCF), and in particular the increase in such funding, has created the opportunity to make stronger connections between multiple sources of funding to secure improved housing options that address housing, social care and health needs.

Better Care Fund (BCF)

The Lincolnshire 2017/18 BCF pooled budget is £226m and remains one of the largest pooled budgets in the country. The expansion of funding reflects:

- Improved BCF (iBCF) funding coming directly to the County Council in 2017/18 of £17.3m, rising to an additional £30m in 2019/20.
- Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) funding of £5.3m in 2017/18, increasing to £5.7m next year. This funding has, as required within the regulations, been transferred to the District Councils

The key performance areas continue to be Delayed Transfer of Care (DTC), Non-Elective Admissions, Reablement and Residential Admissions, though there is an ever increasing focus on reducing the rate of DTC. For the first time, the required improvements to DTC performance have been allocated out (by NHSE) with a

specific County Council performance and separate targets for each of the four CCGs. My colleague, Councillor Bradwell, refers to this in more detail in her statement. The Health and Wellbeing Board receives an update concerning the BCF at each of its formal meetings which includes performance against agreed targets.

Thames Ambulance Service Ltd (TASL)

Following a tendering exercise by the Lincolnshire CCGs, Thames Ambulance Services Ltd (TASL) commenced the Non-Emergency Patient Transport Service (NEPTS) for Lincolnshire on 1 July 2017. TASL are now also the NEPTS provider in other areas including Hull, South Yorkshire, North & North East Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire and Leicestershire.

Members may be aware from media coverage that TASL have had a range of operational issues since commencement of the Lincolnshire contract and similar issues have also been reported in other areas. As a result there have been a number of local and regional discussions between the Contractor (TASL) and relevant health bodies to address the issues reported. TASL are developing action plans to address performance and it is hoped that this will bring about timely operational improvement.

Grantham A&E

Members will recall a high level of continued interest in the future of Grantham A&E and indeed, of the Grantham Hospital generally. It is my understanding that ULHT have had some success in recruiting a number of Doctors to their service and that this might well bear upon how the configuration of A&E services at Grantham might operate. I also understand that there is likely to be a wider consultation concerning NHS services at some point in the New Year. This has been long awaited and a matter that this Council has been pushing the NHS in Lincolnshire to proceed with as soon as practicable.

Glenfield Congenital Heart Centre

I welcome the good news with regard to Glenfield Congenital Heart Centre in that NHS England have taken the decision to continue the service, albeit with conditions in regards to certain standards being met

Lincoln Walk-in Centre

NHS Lincolnshire West CCG's Governing Body met on 29 November and reviewed the Walk-in Centre report which provided details and evidence of the progress in implementing plans to enhance primary care services and its public awareness campaign regarding alternative provisions to the Walk-in Centre. Taking everything into consideration the Governing Body were assured of the progress of the alternative plans and the decision was taken to support the continued implementation of the transitional plan to enable the Walk-in Centre service to close at the end of the winter period.

Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP)

I have no significant updates to report on the STP since my last statement to Council.

Possible Flu Epidemic and Importance of Encouraging Flu Jabs

Even though the weather has turned colder and we have heard a lot about the need for some vulnerable people and key public sector workers to have this year's flu vaccination, the flu season is not yet officially upon us. Flu season is generally 'started' each year when the Chief Medical Officer notes that influenza is circulating in communities, and announces that the NHS can start the prescribing of antiviral medicines to people affected to help shorten the duration and seriousness of their illness.

Australia (and all southern hemisphere countries) has its flu season before us and based on the experience of Australians in their Winter of 2017, it is probably worth noting that the flu season in the UK this year is predicted to be worse than recent years. This is predicted by the circulation of some virus types which people have not been very exposed to in the past, and therefore have less immunity to, and relatively low uptake of flu vaccinations.

It continues to be important, and timely, for people at risk to get a flu vaccination whilst they remain on offer to avoid this debilitating and potentially fatal avoidable infection.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

'Join the Dots'

'Join the Dots' was a community networking and funding event held last year in Boston. Due to its success and the positive feedback received, a further round of Join the Dots events has been arranged for 2017/18 with the first event successfully being held in Lincoln in November. Over 50 people attended representing a range of community groups, charities, local authorities and town & parish councils. Speakers from the Big Lottery, Lincoln's Deputy Mayor and the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire and the Community Engagement Team presented on four key themes - collaboration, project delivery, funding and networking. A further six events will be held across the remaining districts over the next 18 months – two in spring, two in the summer and two in the winter of 2018/19, culminating in a county-wide celebration at the end of the Community Collaboration project in 2020.

Outcomes achieved so far include the facilitation of direct linkages between numerous community groups, Big Lottery and other funders, collaborative networks created for the purpose of delivering local projects, funding advice and guidance directly given to all attendees and collection of information about the needs of the groups in attendance.

Armed Forces Covenant Re-signing Ceremony

The purpose of the Lincolnshire Armed Forces Covenant is to encourage support for members of the Armed Forces Community (*Armed Forces Community refers to*

serving members of the Forces, Veterans [those who have served one day or more] and Reservists) who work and reside in Lincolnshire as well as to recognise and remember the sacrifices made by those serving members of the Armed Forces and Veterans. To enable the Lincolnshire Armed Forces Partnership to meet the purpose of the Covenant, the above activity will help in understanding where our Community is, particularly those no longer serving.

It is the Lincolnshire Armed Forces Covenant Partnership's desire to continue to build upon the good work already achieved between all partners and, to this end, they agreed to re-sign a revised Lincolnshire Covenant.

On 20 September a Lincolnshire Armed Forces Covenant Re-signing Ceremony was held at RAF College Cranwell; a positive indication of the continued commitment of the Lincolnshire civilian community to support its local Armed Forces community. Lincolnshire Armed Forces Covenant Partnership Board members, Covenant Champions and Lead Officers from a wide variety of organisations were in attendance at the ceremony and were able to sign the Lincolnshire Covenant.

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