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(via email)

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Dear John

**HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR LINCOLNSHIRE
RESPONSE TO GRANTHAM MINOR INJURIES UNIT**

Set out below is the response of the Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire to the consultation by South West Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group on its proposal to close the Grantham Hospital Minor Injuries Unit.

Emergency and Urgent Care in the Grantham Area

The Committee acknowledges that the minor injuries unit was opened on an interim basis as part of an 'enhanced' out of hours service, to reduce some of the impact of the overnight closure of Grantham A&E, and is located at the Kingfisher Suite in Grantham. For the Health Scrutiny Committee, in the overall context of emergency and urgent care provision in Grantham, it is a disappointment that there is a proposal to close yet another service. For the people in Grantham and the surrounding area, there is still no resolution to the 'temporary' overnight closure of Grantham Hospital A&E; and a proposal to remove another service could lead to a perception that in terms of urgent and emergency care, the NHS is giving up on the people of Grantham. As consultation on the Grantham emergency and urgent elements of the Lincolnshire STP will not now take place until 2019, the uncertainty for the residents of Grantham is set to continue.

Alternative Minor Injuries Provision

It has been stated that the nearest alternative place to receive urgent minor injuries treatment is Sleaford. The Committee would like some clarification of the CCG's statement, as the Committee understands that the Sleaford Medical Group only treats minor injuries until 8pm, whereas the Grantham Minor Injuries Unit is open until 11.30pm. Furthermore, Sleaford is 14 miles away from Grantham and many residents would not be able to travel this distance.

Finance

The consultation information refers to an overall cost of £130,000 per annum to run the Grantham Minor Injuries Unit. It also states that 65 patients received treatment during 2017, and thus there was a cost of £2,000 per patient. On the basis that the Unit is open for five hours each night, 1,825 hours per year, an hourly cost would be £71 per hour. The Committee would like to see further details on these costs, as even if agency staff are employed and other costs included, they appear to be high.

Signage to the Minor Injuries Unit

The Grantham GP out of hours service is also located in the Kingfisher Suite at the rear of Grantham Hospital site, so as the Minor Injuries Unit is in effect part of 'enhanced' out of hours, it is logical for the service to be located in the same place. However, as the rear of the hospital is not the ideal location, the Committee would like clarification on the on-site signage, which would enable members of the public to find the unit.

Publicity for the Minor Injuries Unit

The Committee would like reassurance that the 111 service has been signposting patients to the Minor Injuries Unit. Without adequate knowledge of the service, it would not be possible for patients to attend.

The Committee notes that the *Your Health Service – Pocket Guidance*, issued by the NHS in Lincolnshire, lists Lincolnshire urgent care services, including minor injuries units. The Committee is disappointed that the leaflet does not include the Grantham Minor Injuries Unit.

It appears that very few residents know of the existence of the Minor Injuries Unit at Grantham Hospital, so it is no surprise that the service is being underused. The Committee would like clarification of whether any consideration has been given to improving the publicity for the service.

Consultation Period

The Committee notes that the consultation on the Grantham Hospital Minor Injuries Unit was launched on 31 May 2018, and the deadline for responses is 28 June 18, a period of only four weeks. The timing of this has not enabled the Committee to give full consideration to this matter prior to the consultation submission date. Therefore, the Committee is requesting that South West Lincolnshire CCG present a report to the Health Scrutiny Committee's next meeting on 11 July 2018, with a full rationale for the proposal, including clarification of the points raised above.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Carl Macey
Chairman of the Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire

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