



**Open Report on behalf of Glen Garrod,
Executive Director, Adult Care and Community Wellbeing**

Report to:	Adults and Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee
Date:	16 January 2019
Subject:	The Role of Lincolnshire Community Health Services NHS Trust (LCHS) in Providing Sexual Health Services on behalf of the County Council

Summary:

This report provides an update on the role of Lincolnshire Community Health Services NHS Trust (LCHS) in providing sexual health services on behalf of Lincolnshire County Council.

Actions Required:

To note the role of LCHS provision of sexual health services to Lincolnshire County Council.

1. Background

The provision of integrated sexual and reproductive health services is a mandatory responsibility of local authorities under the Health and Social Care Act 2012, bringing together contraception and genito-urinary medicine services from 1 April 2016.

When re-commissioning these services in 2016 the Council made an associated agreement with the commissioner of treatment for people with HIV to integrate these services into the local service model.

All sexual and reproductive health services in Lincolnshire are free, accessible, non-judgemental, non-discriminatory and demonstrate respect and inclusion of people with protected characteristics, including the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender community.

Lincolnshire County Council commissioned (via competitive tender) Lincolnshire Community Health Services NHS Trust (LCHS) to provide a specialist integrated sexual and reproductive health service to meet local needs, as identified in the sexual health needs assessment 2014. Two subsequent revisions of the joint strategic needs assessment have been produced which provide evidence for service delivery and improvement.

An infographic summarising the sexual health of local people is provided at Appendix 1 and identifies that the sexual health of local people is primarily around the average for the east midlands and England, with some indicators significantly better.

The Needs of Local People

There are a range of indicators in the Public Health Outcomes Framework, comparing Lincolnshire to the east midlands and England. A selection of these is described below to give a picture of the sexual health of local people:

- The sexual health of people in Lincolnshire is broadly comparable to that of the rest of the east midlands and England.
- We are the best in the country at finding undiagnosed chlamydia in younger people, although still not meeting the national target set for this area of service.
- The rate at which young women are taking up immunisation against human papilloma virus (HPV), which is protective against the main cause of cervical cancer is lower than the England rate. The Lincolnshire rate is 77.7% of 13-14 year olds versus an England rate of 83.1%.
- Women in Lincolnshire take up longer acting forms of contraception at a higher rate than the east midlands and England.
- Both under 18 and under 16 (defined as 'unwanted' nationally) conception rates are around the average for the country and decreasing in line with national reductions. The Lincolnshire rate is 20.5 per 1,000 for 15 to 17 year olds compared to an England average of 18.8 per 1,000.
- Termination of pregnancy rates are lower in women aged over 25 in Lincolnshire compared to the rest of England. The Lincolnshire rate is 10.3 per 1,000 versus 15 per 1,000 for England.

Budget

The total expenditure on these services with LCHS is approximately £5.6m per annum, £1.55m of which is spent on behalf of NHS England and recharged to them. A Section 75 agreement was developed with NHS England for the provision of anti-retro viral therapy, which funds HIV treatment in Lincolnshire.

This is not the total expenditure on sexual health services and a further £1.5m is spent on services delivered by other providers like Positive Health, non-contracted out of area providers, general practices and pharmacies.

£250k of the total budget is provided from the 0-19 Children's Services commissioning budgets to support Lincolnshire Integrated Sexual Health services (LISH) to provide specific young people's sexual health services following the Lincolnshire County Council change of the 0-19 Children's Services model. This enhancement commenced in October 2017.

The Senior Responsible Commissioner for this service is Tony McGinty, Consultant in Public Health, supported by a pooled budget manager called Carol Skye, both are contactable at Orchard House on the Newland campus.

The Procurement Process for the Current LCHS Service

A full competitive tender process was carried out in 2015-16 by the then Public Health Directorate in line with the Department of Health sexual health service specification guidance:

[A framework for sexual health improvement in England](#)

Further guidance was issued in 2018 and the lead commissioner is working with LISH to ensure that this is being implemented:

[Integrated Sexual Health Services - A suggested national service specification](#)

(Source:-Public Health England and Department of Health and Social Care August 2018)

This service specification covers the specialist integrated sexual health services that local authorities are responsible for commissioning, including testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections and provision of the full range of contraception.

A sexual health needs assessment in 2014 underpinned the development of a service specification that was independently evaluated. Advertised on Official Journal of European Union and other contract finders, there were two tenders. Both were comprehensively evaluated and the contract was awarded to LCHS.

The LCHS contract and Section 75 agreement both commenced on 1 April 2016, on a block contract, for a period of five +one +one years. The young person's enhancement was achieved through a contract variation over the same timeframe, starting slightly later in October 2017.

Lincolnshire Integrated Sexual Health Service (LISH)

The service commenced on 1 April 2016 and combines sexual health and contraception services in a flexible delivery pattern. All LISH clinical staff are dual trained which provides a 'one stop shop' experience for clients, reducing the need for more visits and ensuring a holistic approach to prevention and promotion.

In summary LISH provides:

- Sexual health advice and information
- Contraception including long acting reversible contraception– sub-dermal implants and intra-uterine devices/coils
- C-Card scheme (free condoms ages 13-19)
- Pregnancy testing
- Emergency contraception
- Counselling and referral for termination
- Free condoms
- Opportunistic cervical screening
- Genito-urinary medicine
- On-Line free self-test kits for chlamydia and gonorrhoea
- Sexually transmitted infection diagnosis and treatment
- HIV diagnosis and treatment

- Post-exposure prophylaxis
- Pre-Exposure prophylaxis as part of the national pilot
- Training and conferences
- Psycho-sexual counselling
- Immunisation for human papilloma virus and hepatitis

LISH offer a Central Booking Line: 01522 309309 and on-line booking via the website (Lincolnshiresexualhealth.nhs.uk).

A full range of contraception services are available, including long acting reversible contraception and free condoms are issued as required.

Sexually transmitted infections are tested and treated appropriately, with an arrangement that any patient with symptoms who call to make an appointment, are seen on the same day in 'Flyby' clinics. All patients have a full sexual history taken and are offered an HIV test. Condoms are issued as required to protect transmission of sexually transmitted infections and genital warts can be treated in the clinic.

The Level 3 specialist clinics are located at fixed sites in Lincoln, Grantham, Boston, Spalding, Sleaford, Skegness, Louth and Gainsborough. Please refer to Appendix 2 for the clinic map and Appendix 2a for the clinic list. New clinics have started in Bourne, Market Deeping, Monks Road Lincoln, and at two maternity hubs.

Pop-up clinics are demand led and temporary, but experience indicates that they need to run more consistently with increased marketing to become established. Success is influenced by finding the right location.

A mobile community clinic is available to include rural areas and target areas of higher incidence of under 18 pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections. This planned action has been delayed and at present is not proving to be cost effective.

LISH provide specialist sexual health support to Positive Health clients, Addaction clients; and works closely with the school age immunisation team and looked after children.

Young People's Sexual Health Services

LISH is delivering a young person's universal sexual health service throughout Lincolnshire, for young people aged 13 to 19, or 25 if the young person has special education needs or disability. LISH have achieved the 'You're Welcome' standards, evidencing that all staff provide friendly, appropriate and confidential support. LISH work closely with a team of relationship and sex education advisors, to facilitate the new mandatory requirement for all schools to provide relationship and sex education from September 2020, embedded in the curriculum, alongside new guidance on health education.

The aims are:

- to support young people with managing their relationships and enhance their sexual and reproductive health
- to offer advice and information specifically targeted to young people
- to reduce sexually transmitted infections, especially chlamydia
- to maintain the downwards trend in teenage pregnancies
- to market the services appropriately
- to provide easy access to sexual and reproductive health services

C-Card Service

LISH develop and support a variety of community based sites in Lincolnshire, to provide registration for the C-Card for young people aged 13-19; to obtain education about sexual and reproductive health and free condom supplies. Regular training is provided to practitioners who are encouraged to discuss chlamydia screening, safe condom use and raise awareness of all types of sexually transmitted infections with young people and signpost to online testing and sources of information.

With diminished teenage pregnancy services and reduction of youth services generally, there are fewer local registration sites available and a review has been carried out to identify gaps and attract new sites.

National Chlamydia Screening Programme and the Public Health England Chlamydia Pathway

LISH are responsible for running this programme in Lincolnshire and have several ways through which they achieve a testing rate which compares very well with regional and national achievements. The LISH service has increased outreach and targeted work and is currently reporting a 9% positivity rate against a public health outcomes framework target of 8%. The Public Health England chlamydia pathway has been implemented, which focuses on achieving higher detection rates. Follow ups will be conducted after four weeks of the initial diagnosis, (reduced from 6 weeks) - for retesting, which can achieve a 14% positivity rate, and partner notification, which can achieve a 60% positivity rate.

LISH are working towards achieving the national public health outcomes framework key performance indicator - Detection Rate Indicator of 2,300. Currently they are the best performing provider across the east Midlands, working to a locally agreed target of 2,045, set by Lincolnshire County Council in response to the large rural area that is served. They are comparable to most other areas nationally, who generally are not meeting national targets, partly due to the lower number of young people entering sexual and reproductive health services, with an 8.5% reduction over the last three years. An action plan is in place.

On-line chlamydia and gonorrhoea testing is available through LISH which provides an online self-testing kit for personal use at home for under-25 year olds. This has proved extremely popular and achieves a positivity rate of 12-14%.

LISH sub contract GP practices to provide chlamydia screening and community pharmacies to provide chlamydia screening and treatment under a patient group direction.

HIV Support

A Section 75 agreement is in place between Lincolnshire County Council and NHS England to ensure the provision anti-retro viral therapy for patients diagnosed as HIV positive. As many anti-retro viral therapy medications have changed to open licence from their initial period of patent, NHS England has encouraged LISH to 'switch' patients to generic medications.

Currently LISH provide support and treatment for 300 HIV positive patients. There have been 15 new HIV positive cases in the last year and four late diagnoses. The latter are mainly economic migrants from other European countries, although two British patients were mis-diagnosed in the UK.

LISH genito-urinary medicine consultants have joined the NHS England pre-exposure prophylaxis pilot trial and had 60 places available - which are currently filled.

They also provide counselling and post exposure prophylaxis following sexual exposure: this is sometimes related to unprotected sexual exposure as a result of sexual assault.

Patients often have complex needs and require intensive clinical management. LISH work closely with another Lincolnshire County Council contracted provider, Positive Health, who provide excellent social care and support.

Psychosexual Counselling

LISH sub contract Relate to provide psychosexual counselling and any referrals are triaged by one of the sexual health consultants to determine the most suitable pathway. Between eight and twelve sessions can be provided. Patients that are referred have high regard for the help they receive.

Promotion and Prevention work

LISH has a Sexual Health Advice, Prevention and Promotion Team that focuses on the National Chlamydia Screening Programme, using the chlamydia screening pathway and providing advice, support and triage.

A dedicated communications officer supports client engagement and marketing for LISH. A new website will be launched in spring 2019 with signposting to other sources of support and designated areas for professionals and parents.

Social media outlets are used to advertise services and promote a healthy and safe sex life, including Instagram, Facebook and Twitter. Local campaign work through the Sexual Health Alliance Lincolnshire is planned to promote safer sex and personal responsibility, supporting national events such as Sexual Health

Awareness Week, National HIV Awareness Week, HIV Testing Week and the annual pride event.

The team also provides outreach services to 'vulnerable and hard to reach' groups. This has included visiting food production sites that employ mainly eastern European staff; working with P3 and the Nomads Trust to reach homeless people and rough sleeper; working in colleges and universities; developing schools assemblies; supporting the relationship and sexual education advisors; initiating new venues such as the maternity hubs, Addaction sites and looked after children.

LISH sub contract Relate for psychosexual counselling, using a triage system managed by a sexual and reproductive health consultant.

Training Provision

An accredited Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare trainer supports the planning and delivery of LISH training including:

- Dual competency training for LISH staff to provide a 'one stop shop' service for patients
- Royal Society for Public Health course in Understanding Sexual Health
- Long acting reversible contraception competency continuous professional development
- Basic and advanced contraception
- A bi-annual Sexually Transmitted Infection Foundation course
- A bi-annual Sexual Health Conference
- C-Card and chlamydia training, on a monthly basis, widely available to all stakeholders.

The genito-urinary medicine consultants are part of the Leicester HIV/ Genito-Urinary Medicine Network and attend regular clinical updates. They have a shared seat on the Peterborough multi-disciplinary team group to discuss clinical cases.

The Medical Director for LISH is responsible for disseminating any new sexual and reproductive health guidance to LISH staff and arranging development days for all staff. Staff complete mandatory training annually, which includes safeguarding and are extremely competent at identifying domestic and sexual violence, female genital mutilation, sexual exploitation and grooming. They can refer to children and adult safeguarding, Kooth on line counselling, early help teams, sexual assault referral centres and other community support agencies.

Activity Levels

Overall attendance in 2017-18:

16, 603 Genito-Urinary Medicine attendees (10,925 new)

5,049 contraceptive attendees

Outreach work cannot be accurately measured, as large numbers of people are reached through social media and at community events and depend upon the audience.

Performance Management

All contracts are performance managed and quality assured, using the Commercial Team's contract management process, which includes monthly and quarterly meetings and site visits. Open book accounting has provided greater clarity on how the block contract budget is being managed. Effective contract management is being enhanced with a quarterly Strategic Contract Management meeting to plan continuous service development. A case study is submitted monthly that demonstrates high levels of care by LISH staff. Please refer to Appendix 3 for examples.

LCCHS achieved a Care Quality Commission (CQC) rating of 'Outstanding' in 2018, however LISH was not reviewed. LISH are scheduled for CQC in January 2019. Should there be any untoward findings from the specific inspection of the sexual health service then a follow on report would be brought to the committee.

The Lincolnshire County Council annual assessment rated LISH as 'Good', with one area requiring improvement (Engagement and Marketing) and two areas that were 'Outstanding' (Clinical Services and Safeguarding and Protection from Abuse).

The 'friends and family' approval and recommendation rating is currently 98%.

Risk Assurance

A risk register is held by Commercial Services for LISH as part of a comprehensive contract management and assurance process. The current overall risk rating for LISH as of December 2018 is 'Fair'.

The main risk has been poor delivery of laboratory services from LCCHS's contracted provider. The remedial action has been regular and detailed meetings with the provider which has shown some improvements and ultimately a decision to re-procure the service.

Other Sexual and Reproductive Health Services - Not commissioned by Lincolnshire County Council

Services such as sterilisation, termination of pregnancy and complex gynaecological services are provided by United Lincolnshire Hospitals Trust (ULHT) and commissioned by the NHS.

GPs provide contraception under their General Medical Services contract which includes referral for erectile dysfunction, termination of pregnancy and infertility advice, through co-commissioning arrangements between Clinical Commissioning Groups and NHS England. Many practices are also commissioned by Lincolnshire County Council to provide long acting reversible contraception.

Pharmacies are commissioned by Lincolnshire County Council to deliver emergency contraception.

Sexual assault referral centres and human papilloma virus immunisation are services commissioned by NHS England.

Areas for Improvement

LISH are performing well against their key performance indicators and have a high approval rate from their patients. A number of areas for improvement have been identified and are summarised in the list below:

- LCHS are seeking re-procurement of laboratory services due to poor response times and repeated service failures.
- Improve chlamydia screening rates, whilst maintaining positivity rates to work towards the current national target.
- Increase the capacity and accessibility of LISH clinics to provide greater patient choice and reduce out of area costs.
- Improve the rate of sexually transmitted infection testing in Lincolnshire to match regional and national rates.
- Monitor outbreaks of syphilis and engage in targeted prevention work.
- Work closely with maternity transformation services to bring sexual and reproductive health closer to where women live and develop early post-natal access to long acting reversible contraception.
- Improve digital and self-serve options to increase the sexually transmitted infection testing rate and accessibility especially for young people.
- Target sexual and reproductive health services to vulnerable groups, such as young people with special educational needs or disability, eastern Europeans, travellers, men who have sex with men, homeless people and improve the sexual and reproductive health services offer for more mature women.
- Adopt the UNAIDS 90:90:90 ambition that sets out a global target for 90% of people living with HIV to have their status known, 90% of those diagnosed to receive treatment and 90% of those treated to be virally suppressed.
- Adopt the U=U message that 'Undetectable Equals Untransmittable' to bring hope and reduce the stigma of HIV.

2. Consultation

a) Policy Proofing Actions Required

n/a

3. Background Papers

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

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Sexual Health Statistical Overview
Appendix B	LISH Clinic Map
Appendix C	LISH Clinical List
Appendix D	Case Studies

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