

# Agenda Item 4

		<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

Report to	<b>Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire</b>
Date:	<b>19 February 2020</b>
Subject:	<b>Chairman's Announcements</b>

## 1. **Healthy Conversation 2019 Engagement Exercise – Proposed Final Report**

The proposed final report on the *Healthy Conversation 2019* engagement exercise is now available at: -

<https://lincolnshire.nhs.uk/healthy-conversation/healthy-conversations-2019-report>

During February 2020, NHS boards are being asked to consider the proposed final report on *Healthy Conversation 2019* and make any comments or additions so it can be finalised and approved. The local NHS aims to publish the final report in early March 2020. The Committee had planned to consider the report at this meeting. However, the Committee will now consider the report at its next meeting on 25 March 2020, when it has been finalised.

## 2. **Grantham and District Hospital A&E – Overnight Closure**

On 29 January 2020, South Kesteven District Council agreed that its Leader should write to the Accountable Officer of the Lincolnshire CCGs and the Chief Executive of United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust, asking them to encourage the local NHS to consult on its preferred options for the future of Grantham Hospital and to re-open Grantham A&E from 6pm to 8am.

South Kesteven District Council had also agreed that its Leader should seek publication of the outcomes of the *Healthy Conversation* engagement exercise. As stated above, the proposed final report on *Healthy Conversation* is now available online and is being considered by NHS boards, prior to an intended finalisation in early March 2020.

### **3. Changing Places Toilets – United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust**

On 24 January 2020, funding of £97,000 was awarded for Changing Places toilets at United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust, as part of a national award of over £500,000 to ten NHS trusts in England.

Changing Places are toilets with additional equipment for people who are not able to use a toilet independently, including adult-sized changing benches and hoists. People with severe disabilities, such as muscular dystrophy, cerebral palsy and multiple sclerosis, and their carers say Changing Places facilities can be life changing and allow them to go out in public or attend hospital appointments without fear or stress.

In the absence of Changing Places facilities, disabled people and their carers face:

- limited drinking to avoid the toilet when they are out, risking dehydration and urinary tract infections
- sitting in soiled clothing or nappies until a suitable toilet is found
- having to be changed on a dirty toilet floor
- manually lifting someone out of their wheelchair – risking safety
- reducing their time out of the house – restricting their social lives

The Department of Health and Care has announced that in addition to the £500,000, which has been made available for 16 new facilities across ten NHS trusts, there is a further £1.5 million available for bidding from other NHS trusts.

There are currently just over 50 of these Changing Places facilities on the NHS estate. With this first wave of funding, it is expected that the total number of Changing Places toilets in hospitals will eventually increase to over 100.

### **4. Northern Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Foundation Trust**

There have been two issues this month, relating to Northern Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Foundation Trust, which manages the Diana Princess of Wales Hospital in Grimsby and Scunthorpe General Hospital (as well as Goole Hospital).

#### **(1) Oncology Outpatient Services at Scunthorpe General Hospital**

Owing to staff shortages, there have been changes to the oncology outpatient services provided by Northern Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Foundation Trust (NLG), which operates Scunthorpe General Hospital and the Diana Princess of Wales Hospital, Grimsby.

From 27 January 2020 oncology outpatient services have no longer been provided at Scunthorpe General Hospital. From this date face-to-face consultations have been provided at Diana, Princess of Wales Hospital, Grimsby. NLaG has stated that this was due to significant medical staffing shortages faced by oncology teams across the Humber region. Day case chemotherapy and advanced nurse practitioner clinics have continued unchanged and are still being delivered at Scunthorpe.

Oncology services at Grimsby are based in the Amethyst Unit, which provides a dedicated inpatient, day case and outpatient clinic facility. The unit offers a seamless and personalised service to patients using multi-disciplinary expertise, which includes provision of an acute oncology service.

This change of service is likely to have an impact on a small number of patients in the Lincolnshire area who have outpatient oncology appointments at Scunthorpe General Hospital.

## (2) Care Quality Commission Report

On 7 February 2020, the Care Quality Commission (CQC) published its most recent report on NLaG following inspections in September 2019. NLaG has maintained its rating of 'requires improvement' overall and for each of its hospitals and our community services.

The CQC recorded improvements with the rating for Well-Led moving from 'inadequate' to 'requires improvement'. However, NLaG has been rated 'inadequate' for safety, owing to waiting list delays in some specialties, delays in diagnostics reporting, end of life care and in emergency departments.

NLaG has stated that the following progress since the inspection:

- an initial investment of £1.1 million for extra nursing staff;
- additional resources to improve radiology reporting times;
- a new MRI suite is due for construction at Grimsby; and
- reductions in waiting times.

The CQC now also prepares 'use of resources' reports, which compare how trusts use resources, such as staff, money, estate, drugs, diagnostics and equipment, effectively to provide care. NLaG has been rated as 'requires improvement' for using its resources and remains in financial special measures.

## **5. Access to GP Services for Skellingthorpe Residents**

As reported to the Committee on 16 October 2019, a proposal to close Skellingthorpe Health Centre, a branch surgery of the Glebe Practice in Saxilby, was approved in September 2019. The Committee was also advised that there would be consideration of the transport arrangements, so residents in Skellingthorpe could continue to access their GP services.

Skellingthorpe Health Centre is due to close in March 2020 and the current proposal is that from 30 March 2020 a revised *Call Connect* service will commence which will allow residents to book journeys between Skellingthorpe and Saxilby. It will also be possible for residents to book journeys to the Birchwood Health Centre, if they choose to change their GP surgery to Birchwood.

The Glebe Practice in Saxilby operates an open clinic in the mornings, so the County Council intends to pilot a fixed route service (using the *Call Connect* bus) leaving Skellingthorpe at 9am and returning from the Glebe Practice at 10.45 am. This will be run on a trial basis and will not need to be booked.

The *Call Connect* bus will also be available to book journeys between Skellingthorpe and a number of other locations such as Teal Park, Hykeham Railway Station and Doddington Hall, so it will hopefully be a useful public transport option for the village.

## **6. Older Adult Mental Health Inpatient Services**

Brant Ward in Lincoln was the subject of a report to the Committee at its January meeting. On 4 February 2019, Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (LPFT) confirmed that it is due to reopen in mid-February following a £4 million refurbishment to improve the privacy and dignity for patients.

The 18 bed ward for older people over the age of 65 in mental health crisis previously had dormitory style bays, which are no longer considered good practice in a modern mental health care environment. Brant Ward now has single en-suite bedrooms in a modern, accessible and therapeutic environment.

Brant Ward, which had been closed since October 2018, is now ready for patients to return and will become LPFT's main older adult mental health ward in the county.

The Rochford Unit in Boston, which is based on the first floor and has dormitory style rooms, does not meet essential quality standards for mental health wards. As identified by the Care Quality Commission, it is difficult to protect the privacy and dignity of patients in this setting. LPFT plans that the Rochford Unit will no longer be used and Brant Ward will be the main older adult mental health unit. Patients currently receiving care at Rochford Ward are being informed of the change, and the intention to move to Brant Ward in the coming weeks.

During the closure of Brant Ward, a home treatment team was established and this will continue to operate seven days a week across the county, with an additional hub in Boston.

LPFT will also be hosting an open evening at the newly refurbished Brant Ward on Thursday 13 February for anyone wanting a tour of the new environment. People can drop in at Brant Ward in Lincoln anytime between 5pm and 8pm.

## **7. Ash Villa School, South Rauceby – Consultation on Proposed Closure**

On 22 January 2020, the Committee considered a report on Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), which made reference to the temporary closure of inpatient facilities for young people at Ash Villa, on the basis that the Ash Villa building was no longer fit for purpose. A community-based intensive home treatment model is being piloted.

On 27 January 2020, the County Council's school organisation team launched a consultation, which closes on 9 March 2020, on the future of Ash Villa School, with a view to a decision on the closure of the school in July 2020, with potentially an effective closure date of 1 September 2020.

Consultation letters have been sent to all members of this Committee. Individual members of the Committee may respond to the consultation. However, I would like to stress that the Committee will not be responding to the consultation on the proposed closure of the school, as this is beyond its remit. The outcome of the consultation will be reported to the Council's Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee in July 2020.

## **8. East Midlands Ambulance Service – BBC Investigation**

On 29 January 2020, the BBC published the results of its investigation of ambulance services across the UK. Of the ten ambulance trusts in England, eight had provided data to the BBC. The East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS) was found to have had the highest percentage of responses (12.8%) to category 2 incidents (serious, but not life threatening), where patients had to wait more than one hour. The target is that on average category 2 incidents should be responded to in 18 minutes.

In response to the BBC investigation, EMAS has indicated that throughout the year there has been a significant increase in the demand on its service, with an additional 75 responses per day experienced during December 2019. EMAS says that many of these patients were very poorly and needed to go to hospital. For example, in December 2019, 79% of EMAS's responses were for patients in either category 1 (life threatening) or category 2 (serious, but not life threatening).

To respond to the growing demand and other pressures, over the last twelve months EMAS has recruited more than 300 clinical staff and call handlers, and invested in new additional ambulances and other resources. EMAS has also stated that it is delivering faster average response times for category 1 (life threatening) calls than two years ago.

EMAS has also stated that hospitals have seen significant pressures this winter, with flu and norovirus in particular, leading to significant increases in A&E attendances. These and other factors have meant that in many cases after taking someone to an emergency department, EMAS ambulances have not been able to get back on the road quickly.

A report to the EMAS Board on 14 January 2020 indicated that in December 2019, EMAS had increased its double crewed ambulance output by 14,235 hours compared to December 2018. However, in December 2019 handover delays at hospitals had led to a loss of 13,062 hours of EMAS response time across the region. This equates to 1,088 twelve hour shifts. This means that owing to the hours lost through handover time at hospital only 9% of the additional crew time in December was available for EMAS to respond to patients.

In terms of Lincolnshire, handover delays in December 2019 at Lincoln County Hospital and Pilgrim Hospital Boston had led to total lost ambulance response times of 1,454 and 946 hours respectively.

The Committee is due to receive a report from EMAS at its April meeting.

## **9. *999! Research in the Ambulance Service – University of Lincoln – 11 March 2020***

On 11 March 2020 (5.30 – 7.00 pm) the University of Lincoln's Community and Health Research Unit, together with the East Midlands Ambulance Service and other UK ambulance services, is hosting an event entitled *999! Research in the Ambulance Service*.

The first half of the session will discuss research on breathing equipment for patients and how to manage pain in children. The session will also discuss the new Paramedic Science degree at the University of Lincoln.

The second half of the session will include equipment and mannequins to provide hands-on experience of performing chest compressions and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).

The event is due to take place at the Sarah Swift Building (School of Health & Social Care and Psychology), 8 Brayford Wharf East, Lincoln. Places can be booked at the following link: -

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/999-research-in-the-ambulance-service-tickets-92205853189>

## **10. Organisational Developments**

### **(1) Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group – Appointment of Chair**

As reported to the Committee on 22 January 2020, the four existing Lincolnshire clinical commissioning groups are due to merge into a single Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) with effect from 1 April 2020.

On 27 January 2020, as part of the appointment process for a single governing body and executive team, it was announced that Sean Lyons had been appointed as the Chair of the new Lincolnshire CCG with effect from 1 April 2020. Sean Lyons has a professional background in engineering, management and leadership in the steel industry and was Chair at Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Trust from 2013 to 2016, and is currently also the Chair at West Nottinghamshire College.

A further report will be presented to the Committee when all the governing body and executive team appointments have been made.

(2) Chief Executive – United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust

On 7 February 2020, it was announced that Andrew Morgan, the acting Chief Executive of United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust (ULHT), had agreed to extend his contract as Chief Executive until 31 March 2022. Andrew Morgan joined ULHT in this role in July 2019, having previously served as the Chief Executive of Lincolnshire Community Health Services NHS Trust.

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