

# 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>14 October 2020</b>
Subject:	<b>Chairman's Announcements</b>

## 1. **Mental Health Promotion Fund**

On 29 September 2020, Lincolnshire County Council and Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust announced the latest round of their Mental Health Promotion Fund. The fund aims to support people to live independently in their own homes and local communities, reducing social isolation and building stronger connections and networks with people and communities.

Organisations and groups that support people to manage their mental health and wellbeing are being invited to pitch for a share of £300,000 community funding.

Projects which successfully receive an investment from the fund will become part of Lincolnshire's Managed Care Network for mental health. This network is an alliance of groups and organisations which provide a range of activities and services to give people support, structure, and choice in their lives.

Since the scheme launched in 2012, it has been great to see the number of people benefiting from projects enabled by the funding increasing year on year. People have been assisted to live independent lives in their own homes, with strong support from communities, for as long as possible.

For this round of funding, new projects are welcomed, with fresh and imaginative ideas that support key priorities including: physical activities which improve mental health, mental health advocacy and developing of befriending networks.

The application deadline is 5 November 2020.

## 2. Update on NHS Dental Services in the Midlands – Stakeholder Briefing

On 30 September 2020, NHS England / Improvement (NHSE/I) issued a stakeholder briefing on NHS Dental Services in the Midlands.

NHSE/I has stated that almost all dental practices in the Midlands are now open to provide face to face care and 90% are able also to offer aerosol-generating (AGP) procedures (anything involving the use of powered instruments like drills or scalers). There are also currently 93 Urgent Dental Care Centres across the Midlands providing urgent care for those patients who do not have access to a regular dentist or whose dentist is not yet offering the full range of services.

NHSE/I has added that it is aware that people are concerned about difficulties being experienced at present in accessing dental services and, in particular, about whether or not any further lockdown measures will affect this. Patients should be reassured that dentists have been trained and equipped to manage patients safely during the pandemic and that most practices will continue to stay open during any future national or local lockdown. Accessing urgent medical or dental care remains important and it would only be less essential or routine appointments that may need to be cancelled if restrictions were imposed e.g. on non-essential travel.

All people who have an urgent dental care need should have access to treatment. Due to the infection control and social distancing measures in place the capacity for dental practices to see patients is currently still very restricted and likely to remain so. Current enhanced infection control measures also include the requirement for each surgery to be left for up to an hour between patients prior to deep cleaning following an AGP procedure. The management of urgent patients and those in vulnerable groups is the priority. There is no restriction on the provision of routine dental care but, in many cases, practices will be prioritising the most vulnerable patients. This means that some regular attenders with good oral health are likely to have to wait for routine appointments.

AGP or aerosol-generating procedures are anything involving the use of high-speed drills and include simple procedures such as a scale and polish, previously provided as part of a routine check-up. Where these procedures cannot be avoided enhanced PPE is required and other strict safety measures need to be put in place.

In many cases patients can expect to have to speak to a dentist by phone or video consultation first prior to being seen in the dental surgery – especially when patients have an urgent dental problem. Dental practices can prescribe antibiotics or painkillers if needed and this can be done by phone.

### NHSE/I Advice

People should continue to contact their local dental surgery by phone for advice on dental care and treatment. Out of surgery hours patients should contact NHS 111. Patients are still expected to pay normal dental charges (unless exempt), but should not be charged extra.

NHS patients should not be told that they can only access care privately. In some cases patients may have to wait longer than normal for an appointment for treatment (particularly for AGP procedures) as dentists will be prioritising the most urgent cases.

If patients do not have a regular dentist or have not recently accessed NHS Dental care they are advised to contact NHS 111, with online quicker being quicker than phoning. Patients will then be directed to a dental practice, who can make an assessment by phone and if needed patients will be offered face to face care at a practice with capacity, which may be an urgent dental centre.

Anyone who feels unwell or has any Covid-19 symptoms or is self-isolating following contact from NHS Test and Trace should not visit their normal surgery, even if they have a confirmed appointment. It is important for patients to be honest about whether they are symptomatic or have been asked to self-isolate. Dedicated urgent dental centres continue to operate where symptomatic or self-isolating patients needing urgent care can be seen and treated.

### **3. Access to Community Defibrillators**

In recent years, a number of local councils, community groups and businesses have installed automated external defibrillators (AED) outside their premises. These can be in locations accessible to the public, through an access code to open an AED's storage box.

On 9 September 2020, North Kesteven District Council's Communities and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel considered the issue of access to community defibrillators. This was initiated by Councillor P C Lundgren, the Chair of the Panel, following reports of members of the public in North Kesteven not being able to access community defibrillators on 999 calls. For example, access codes to the AED's storage box were not known by emergency call handlers.

There is no requirement for any organisation to register their AED with the emergency services. However, linking the AED with the emergency service is clearly beneficial as allows the call handler to provide the caller with the access code.

The East Midlands Ambulance Service has produced a *Community AED Handbook*, which summarises the main issues and provides guidance to members of the public or organisations, who choose to purchase an AED. This guidance includes storage and regular maintenance, as well as urging the purchaser to register their AED with the emergency services.

The Committee is due to consider an update from the East Midlands Ambulance Service at its next meeting on 11 November 2020.

#### **4. Lincolnshire Primary Care Network Alliance Annual Report 2019-20**

The Lincolnshire Primary Care Network Alliance Annual Report for 2019-20 has been published and emailed to all members of the Committee. The report is available at the following link:

<https://lincolnshireccg.nhs.uk/about-us/our-gp-practices/primary-care-networks/>

#### **5. Care Quality Commission Strategy 2021**

On 29 September 2021, the Care Quality Commission (CQC) launched a two month engagement exercise on its draft strategy for 2021. This includes a document, which presents emerging themes that the CQC wants to explore and refine ahead of a formal consultation in January 2021. The document is available at the following link:

<https://cqc.citizenlab.co/en-GB/folders/strategy-2021-share-your-views>

#### **6. United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust – Appointment of Director of Nursing**

On 1 October, 2020, United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust (ULHT) announced that Karen Dunderdale had been appointed to the role of Director of Nursing.

Karen Dunerdale joined ULHT as Interim Director of Nursing in February 2020. Karen is also ULHT's Director of Infection Prevention and Control and has played a key role in making sure that patients, visitors, staff and our families are kept safe from Covid-19 and other infectious diseases.