

Agenda Item 4

		THE HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR LINCOLNSHIRE	
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	Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire
Date:	11 November 2020
Subject:	Chairman's Announcements

1. **NHS Response to Covid-19 Measures Announced on 31 October 2020**

In response to the Prime Minister's statement on coronavirus on 31 October 2020, the NHS Medical Director, Professor Stephen Powis, issued the following statement on 1 November 2020:

Daily hospital Covid-19 admissions are now higher than on 23 March 2020 when the Prime Minister announced the first national lockdown. NHS doctors and nurses in many areas of England – including Liverpool, Lancashire and Nottinghamshire – are now treating more Covid-19 patients than at the peak of the first wave.

The NHS has learned a lot since the start of the pandemic and has used the summer to prepare further while also restarting services that were disrupted by the first Covid-19 wave. We have new life-saving Covid-19 treatments such as dexamethasone, trialled and tested here in the NHS. We better understand the type of oxygen therapies patients need and the best ways in which to care for them to aid recovery.

Fourteen day survival rates in intensive care have improved from 72% to 85% since the pandemic began. Capital investment is helping hospitals boost their A&E capacity and treat patients safely by separating Covid-19 and non-Covid-19 general and critical care beds. We also announced that three of the Nightingales in the North of England are ready to mobilise with Manchester taking its first patients this week.

However, it takes around a fortnight for today's infections in the community to result in hospital Covid-19 admissions – so what happens over the next two weeks is partly baked in. But the measures announced today will help reduce the number of admissions beyond that, preventing more people contracting this debilitating and sometimes fatal disease for which there is currently no cure or vaccine.

Throughout the first wave, care was available to everyone who needed it and the NHS continued to treat thousands of people with and without Covid-19. Doctors, nurses and all NHS staff are determined to do the same throughout this second wave.

2. East Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust

The Committee was due to receive a report from the East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS) at this meeting. Owing to pressures from the Covid-19 pandemic, this item has been deferred and provisionally listed for the Committee on 16 December 2020.

The EMAS Board meeting took place on 3 November 2020, with its agenda and reports available at the following link:

<https://www.emas.nhs.uk/about-us/trust-board/next-board-meeting/>

The EMAS Board papers report EMAS activity for the East Midlands as a whole. For example, in the year up to 22 October 2020, EMAS received on average 2,212 calls per day, with daily responses averaging 1,911. The mean response time to Category 1 calls (life-threatening calls) was seven minutes and two seconds, just slightly over the national standard of seven minutes.

3. Meeting of the Primary Care Commissioning Committee – 11 November 2020

At its last meeting, the Committee agreed to make responses to the proposed closures of St Mary's Medical Centre in Stamford and the Woolsthorpe Branch Surgery, near Grantham. The Committee's responses were sent on 21 October 2020 and are attached to these announcements:

Appendix A – Letter to Dr Gerry McSorley (21 October 2020), enclosing letter to Lakeside Healthcare.

Appendix B – Letter to Dr Gerry McSorley (21 October 2020), enclosing letter also Vale Medical Group.

Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group's Primary Care Commissioning Committee (PCCC) is due to consider and determine these two proposals at its next meeting on 11 November 2020. The papers for the meeting will be circulated to the Committee, when they are available.

Dr Gerry McSorley
Chair of Lincolnshire CCG Primary Care
Commissioning Committee

(via email to: S.Bates@nhs.net – Deputy Secretary,
Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group)

21 October 2020

Dear Dr McSorley

ST MARY'S MEDICAL CENTRE STAMFORD - PROPOSED CLOSURE

On 14 October 2020, the Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire authorised me as its chairman to write to you on the proposed closure of St Mary's Medical Centre in Stamford, which is due to be considered by the PCCC on 11 November 2020.

The Health Scrutiny Committee acknowledges the decision-making role of Lincolnshire CCG's PCCC, which is summarised by the following extract from a statement issued by the CCG on 23 September 2020:

- "10. *The CCG's Primary Care Committee ... will require details of the engagement with patients that has taken place, the concerns and issues that have been expressed and the mitigations and response to these concerns.*
- "11. *It will be for the Committee to review the application and evidence presented before it can determine its position in relation to the proposal from Lakeside Stamford.*"

Further to this statement, I strongly urge that the PCCC takes full account of the views expressed by patients, together with the submissions made by the Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire (enclosed with this letter), and any received from South Kesteven District Council and Stamford Town Council. The Health Scrutiny Committee looks forward to the PCCC making a decision in the best interests of patients in Stamford and the surrounding area.

Yours sincerely,



Councillor Carl Macey
Chairman of the Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire
(Email: CllrC.Macey@lincolnshire.gov.uk)

Professor Robert Harris
Chief Executive Officer
Lakeside Healthcare

Andy Rix, Chief Operating Officer (South Locality)
Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group

21 October 2020

Dear Professor Harris

ST MARY'S MEDICAL CENTRE, STAMFORD - PROPOSED CLOSURE

I am grateful for the attendance and participation of Lakeside's Chief Operating Officer, Adam Cocks, at the Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire on 14 October 2020.

I am setting out the Health Scrutiny Committee's response to the patient engagement exercise. The Committee opposes the proposed closure of St Mary's Medical Centre, as the Committee is not convinced that this proposal is in the best interests of the patients in Stamford and the surrounding area. The reasons for reaching this conclusion are set out below:

Capacity and Demand Analysis and Equality Impact Assessment

As you know, Lakeside Healthcare at Stamford is the largest GP practice in Lincolnshire, with almost 32,000 patients registered. Lakeside's capacity and demand analysis as to how it would operate from the Sheepmarket premises alone is not publicly available. Without this, it is not possible to reach any satisfactory conclusion on how patient consultations would be managed by Lakeside, if St Mary's were to close on a permanent basis. The Committee understands that this will be made available to the CCG's Primary Care Commissioning Committee, together with the equality impact assessment.

Changing Approaches to the Delivery of GP Services

Temporary changes to the way patients access primary care have necessarily occurred as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, with more telephone and video-calls replacing face-to-face consultations. The extent of patient satisfaction with these new approaches is not fully known. It seems reasonable to assume that there will always be patients for whom a telephone or video-call appointment will not provide adequate reassurance that their medical needs are being met.

Lakeside's Q&A document states that:

"After the closure of St Mary's, working with the Patient Participation Group, we will commit additional resources to seeking and assessing patient feedback and, where appropriate, make further improvements to our service model as we move forward."

Aside from Lakeside implying that a decision has already been made to close St Mary's, the Committee believes that seeking patient feedback on new ways of working should occur before bringing forward any substantial proposal for change.

Covid-19 Pandemic

This proposal has been brought forward during the Covid-19 pandemic. The Health Scrutiny Committee fully understands the reasoning for the temporary arrangements in place since March 2020, for the safety of both patients and staff. However, the Committee is not convinced that this is the right time to propose such a significant permanent change to service provision.

Lease of St Mary's Medical Centre

Discussions on the lease for the St Mary's premises are rightly confidential, but it is clear that the lease expires on 1 December 2020. There is conflicting evidence on the extent of Lakeside Healthcare's commitment to continuing the lease, and its engagement with other parties about its continuation. I refer to Lakeside's statement in its Q&A document: *"There is currently no feasible option to extend the lease on St Mary's..."* The Committee questions this statement, as it is aware of discussions taking place with interested parties on its extension.

Decision Making Process and Timing

As you are aware, the CCG's Primary Care Commissioning Committee (PCCC) is the decision making body on this proposal. The PCCC is due to consider the proposal on 11 November 2020, fewer than three weeks prior to the lease expiry date. The Health Scrutiny Committee cannot support a timetable, where public engagement is launched on 14 September and closes on 25 October, for a decision on 11 November, with a notional implementation date of 1 December. This timetable appears unrealistic and does not provide sufficient time to take account of the views of patients in a meaningful way.

I look forward to Lakeside Healthcare taking full account of the views of the patients in Stamford and the surrounding area, together with those of the Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Carl Macey', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Councillor Carl Macey
Chairman of the Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire
(Email: CllrC.Macey@lincolnshire.gov.uk)

County Offices, Newland,
Lincoln, LN1 1YL
www.lincolnshire.gov.uk



Dr Gerry McSorley
Chair of Lincolnshire CCG Primary Care
Commissioning Committee

(via email to: S.Bates@nhs.net – Deputy Secretary
Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group)

21 October 2020

Dear Dr McSorley

WOOLSTHORPE BRANCH SURGERY - PROPOSED CLOSURE

On 14 October 2020, the Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire authorised me as its chairman to write to you on the proposed closure of Woolsthorpe Branch Surgery, which is due to be considered by the PCCC on 11 November 2020.

When the PCCC makes its decision on Woolsthorpe Branch Surgery, I strongly urge that the PCCC takes full account of the views expressed by patients, together with the submissions made by the Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire (attached to this letter).

The Health Scrutiny Committee looks forward to the PCCC making a decision in the best interests of patients in Woolsthorpe.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Carl Macey', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Councillor Carl Macey
Chairman of the Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire
(Email: CllrC.Macey@lincolnshire.gov.uk)

Vale Medical Group
Stackyard Surgery
1 The Stackyard
Croxtan Kerrial
NG32 1QS

Clair Raybould, Chief Operating Officer (South West
Locality), Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group

21 October 2020

Dear Colleague

WOOLSTHORPE BRANCH SURGERY - PROPOSED CLOSURE

On 14 October 2020, the Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire considered the Vale Medical Group's proposal to permanently close the Woolsthorpe Branch Surgery. The Health Scrutiny Committee concluded that it is not convinced that this proposal is in the best interests of patients in Woolsthorpe, and thus opposes the permanent closure. The reasons for reaching this conclusion are set out below:

Access and Public Transport

As you know Woolsthorpe is an isolated village in the Vale of Belvoir. There is no direct bus service which would enable Woolsthorpe patients to travel to the Stackyard Surgery in Croxtan Kerrial, which is at least three miles away by road. Added to this, the Practice's plan to relocate from Lincolnshire CCG to East Leicestershire and Rutland CCG will lead to further access difficulties, if patients are required to access community health and other services from Leicestershire, rather than from Lincolnshire.

The engagement materials issued by Vale Medical Group make no reference to any mitigation for the impact on those Woolsthorpe patients, who rely on public transport, either for their travel to Croxtan Kerrial or in the future to other parts of Leicestershire for community health and other services. This is a significant concern for the Health Scrutiny Committee.

Facilities at Woolsthorpe Surgery

There is reference in the engagement documents to the size of the Woolsthorpe premises and its unsafe car park. The Health Scrutiny Committee believes more information is required before it can accept this rationale. For example, are there any options for making the car park safe for both patients and practice staff? Is there any way the building could be adapted internally to make it safe for patients and practice staff?

Capacity and Demand Analysis and Equality Impact Assessment

The Health Scrutiny Committee understands that the capacity and demand analysis and the equality impact assessment will be made available to the CCG's Primary Care Commissioning Committee, when it makes a decision on the proposal, but these have not yet been published. Without these documents, it is not possible to reach any satisfactory conclusion on how patient consultations would be managed by the Vale Medical Group.

Changing Approaches to the Delivery of GP Services

Temporary changes to the way patients access primary care have necessarily occurred as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, with more telephone and video-calls replacing face-to-face consultations. The extent of patient satisfaction with these new approaches is not fully known. It seems reasonable to assume that there will always be patients for whom a telephone or video-call appointment will not provide adequate reassurance that their medical needs are being met.

Covid-19 Pandemic

This proposal has been brought forward during the Covid-19 pandemic. The Health Scrutiny Committee fully understands the reasoning for the temporary arrangements in place since March 2020, for the safety of both patients and staff. However, the Committee is not convinced that this is the right time to propose a permanent change to service provision.

I look forward to Vale Medical Group taking full account of the views of the patients in Woolsthorpe, together with those of the Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire.

Yours sincerely,



Councillor Carl Macey
Chairman of the Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire
(Email: CllrC.Macey@lincolnshire.gov.uk)

This page is intentionally left blank