

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:	16 December 2020
Subject:	Chairman's Announcements - Supplement 2

1. Vaccination Programme in Lincolnshire

Further to Section 2 of my announcements, the national vaccination programme for Covid-18 began on 8 December 2020. As one of the hubs, United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust began its vaccination programme on the same day. Patients aged 80 and above who were already attending hospital as an outpatient, and those who were being discharged home after a hospital stay, were among the first to receive the vaccine.

In line with the national approach, the NHS in Lincolnshire stresses that people will be contacted by the NHS with the offer of vaccination, and they are asked not to approach their GP practice to request an appointment for a vaccination.

2. United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust – Imaging Equipment for Treatment of Cancer and Vascular Disease

On 11 December 2020, United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust announced that in March 2020 two new multi-purpose imaging machines had been installed to help with the diagnosis and treatment of cancer and vascular disease. The new machines, which were part of a £1.2 million investment in new fluoroscopy suites, are able to combine different types of x-rays to provide clinicians with modern imaging to perform patient procedures and deliver prompt diagnosis and treatments. They are able to show real-time moving images of what is happening within a patient's body, for example the swallowing mechanism and blood flow.

For patients this has meant reduced waiting times and local appointments, therefore removing the need to travel to other hospitals. The team has been able to undertake more complex procedures, with the specialised imaging equipment that has exceptional image quality enabling very accurate diagnosis. It also has the ability to support vascular suites, reducing the possibility of any future delays for patients.

The first system was installed at Pilgrim hospital at the end of March 2020 and despite the pandemic, the second system was up and running shortly afterwards. This was only possible thanks to the support of building contractors, installation teams and a lot of training with staff to be able to maximise the benefits of the new technology. Since then, 500 patients have benefited from the new machines.

3. Capital Funding of £600 Million for Maintenance Backlog in NHS Hospitals

On 10 December 2020, the Government announced the allocation of £600 million of capital to help address the maintenance backlog in NHS hospitals in England. The funding has been released to 178 NHS trusts to cover almost 1,800 maintenance projects. The Government has stated that projects are now underway, and will be completed by March 2021.

As part of this announcement five projects would be funded at United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust (ULHT) at a total cost of £9.6 million. ULHT has stated that this announcement is new funding and represents great news for its hospitals. It will fund essential water, roofing, electrical, heating and fire infrastructure replacement projects and will provide its staff with the facilities they need to deliver safe and top quality care for patients.

The Government announcement also referred to allocations at the following hospital trusts used by Lincolnshire residents:

Trust	Number of Projects	Value (£m)
Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	17	9.4
North West Anglia NHS Foundation Trust	6	2.2
Northern Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Trust	2	3.5
Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust	18	17.8
Queen Elizabeth Hospital, King's Lynn NHS Foundation Trust	5	1.5

4. Primary Care Services

On 11 November 2020, the Committee requested additional information as part of its consideration of Primary Care Services (*Minute 39 – 11 November 2020*).

Formal Complaints

Formal complaints on primary care are managed by NHS England / Improvement (NHSE/I) rather than by each CCG. From January 2020 to date there were 78 complaints received by NHSE/I. Of these, eight have been upheld, 24 were not upheld and 46 are still being investigated. Of the 32 complaints that have been closed, two related to access issues and neither of these was upheld.

The collection and publication of data on other complaints managed by practices has been suspended by NHSE/I during 2019-20, so that GP practices can concentrate on their response to Covid-19.

Engagement

Lincolnshire CCG continues to work with Healthwatch to strengthen engagement arrangements, so that the CCG can ensure that the future development of primary care services takes account of the issues that are important to patients and local people. Telephone access has been identified as a key issue.

Roll Out of E-Consultations

The CCG's IT Team has been diverted to support the Covid-19 vaccination programme, so there are no further 'go live' dates at this time.

Data from Case Study

The information requested on the case study will be circulated to the Committee when it becomes available.

5. Healthwatch Lincolnshire Citizens' Panel

Healthwatch Lincolnshire has begun recruiting an online citizens' panel that will help guide NHS services in Lincolnshire. The NHS in Lincolnshire will ask panel members to share their views about where the county's healthcare priorities need to be in the near and long term future.

Healthwatch Lincolnshire states that this is an opportunity for people to make a direct impact on strategic decision making in Lincolnshire is open to everyone in the county over the age of 18. For the panel to be truly representative of the county's population, it is essential people from all walks of life contribute to this hugely important project. Information is available at:

<https://hwlincs.co.uk/citizenspanel/>

6. Judicial Review of Decisions on Grantham and District Hospital

The High Court has given permission for a legal challenge over the decision by United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust in June 2020 to close Grantham and District Hospital's A&E department and replace it with an urgent care centre until; to close medical beds; to relocate many outpatient services from the hospital; and to convert the hospital to a 'green site' for planned and urgent cancer surgery in a Covid-19 safe environment. These actions were on a temporary basis, at least until 31 March 2021.

The claimant in the actions is stating that the plans were implemented without appropriate public consultation or engagement. It is understood that the High Court will consider the legal action during January 2021.