


Agenda Item 7

		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

**Open Report on behalf of Andrew Crookham
Executive Director - Resources**

Report to	Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire
Date:	16 March 2021
Subject:	United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust – Outpatient Services at Community Hospitals

Summary

On 20 January 2021, the Committee considered changes to the delivery of outpatient services by United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust (ULHT) and was advised by Andrew Morgan, the ULHT Chief Executive, that there were no plans in place to make changes and there was an absolute expectation of engagement on any proposals for long term change.

Further concerns have been raised and this item enables the Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire to give further consideration to this matter.

John Turner, Chief Executive, Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group, and Andrew Morgan, Chief Executive, United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust, have been invited to attend for this item.

Actions Required

That the information presented be considered.

1. Background

In addition to its three main sites in Boston, Grantham and Lincoln, United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust (ULHT) provides a range of outpatient services at community hospitals in Lincolnshire: Louth County Hospital; John Coupland Hospital in Gainsborough; the Johnson Community Hospital in Spalding; and the Skegness and District Hospital.

This matter was considered on 20 January 2020, but since that meeting further concerns have recently been raised by local councillors on ULHT's intentions for the long-term provision of outpatient services.

2. Previous Committee Consideration

On 20 January 2021, concerns in relation to outpatient services were raised and Andrew Morgan, the Chief Executive of ULHT, replied by letter as follows:

"It was correct that following the first wave of Covid-19 we had a number of consultations in place with our staff who were based at peripheral clinic sites. The rationale being that during the first wave of the pandemic the model of delivering outpatients significantly changed to provide more appointments by telephone or video consultation, which have evaluated well. We do recognise the ongoing need for a number of patients to have a face to face appointment in a local setting. However, ULHT does not necessarily need to be the provider of many of these appointments and they could be better provided by our community colleagues at LCHS.

"At this point there were no plans in place but with an absolute expectation of engagement on any proposals. However it should be noted that due to the ongoing situation with Covid-19 affecting our ability to develop the plans and engage appropriately, all consultations with our staff ceased in December.

"There is broad agreement with system partners for us to review what services are provided and by who in peripheral locations. We are committed to providing accessible services across a range of locations increasingly using telephone and video consultations. Where face to face appointments are needed we need to review who is best placed to provide the service and ensure the right mix of specialties are catered for.

"As we remain in a difficult position with Covid-19 we do not, at the time of writing, have an agreed timescale to commence this work with LCHS and CCG colleagues. However please note that we are committed to undertaking appropriate engagement and where necessary consultation.

"Please do get in touch if you require any further information."

Following consideration of the above response, the Committee resolved that

- (1) That the response of the Chief Executive of United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust on outpatient services at community hospitals be

noted, which includes statements to the effect that:

- (a) Owing to Covid-19, discussions with staff on any changes have been suspended;
 - (b) There is no agreed timetable for discussions with the Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group or Lincolnshire Community Health Services NHS Trust; and
 - (c) Consultation and engagement will take place before any substantial changes or development take place in the provision of services at community hospitals.
- (2) That the Committee's view that all the county's community hospitals provide a valued contribution to the delivery of NHS services across Lincolnshire be put on record.
- (3) That an item be added to work programme, specifically to cover any future development at Lincolnshire's community hospitals.

3. Current Concerns

Further concerns have been raised by councillors on plans for outpatient services at the county's community hospitals. This follows some patients raising cancelled appointments with the local councillors.

To respond to these concerns, John Turner, Chief Executive, Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group, and Andrew Morgan, Chief Executive, United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust, have been invited to attend for this item.

4. Consultation

This is not a direct consultation item.

5. Conclusion

It is proposed that the Committee consider the information presented and the next steps.

6. Background Papers

No background papers, as defined by Part VA of the Local Government Act 1972, were used to a material extent in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Simon Evans, Health Scrutiny Officer, Lincolnshire County Council, who can be contacted via 07717 868930 or Simon.Evans@lincolnshire.gov.uk

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