

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 10 DECEMBER 2021

Statement from: Councillor Mrs W Bowkett – Executive Councillor for Adult Care and Public Health

ADULT CARE

Hospitals

Due to the Covid pandemic although the Adult Social care staff continued to work in the acute hospital they were not able to visit service users on wards due to the infection prevention measures that were in place. Adult care has worked closely with colleagues in the acute trust to enable adult care staff to be able to return to the wards where there is no prevalence of Covid to assess service users face to face, which has been of benefit to service users, and ensures people are discharged from hospitals safely and when they ready for discharge.

Adult care in the acute hospitals are leading on the implementation of an integrated discharge hub which will support the further development of a discharge to assess model, which will ensure that service users leaving hospital receive the right care in the right place at the right time. Work is also on-going to design a joined up therapy/reablement service between LCC, LCHS and ULHT. This will enable customers to be discharged and receive therapy at home instead of in hospital beds. The use of this model is also evolving to support customers to remain at home and prevent hospital admissions.

In 20/21 there were 11,077 discharges from acute sites where there was some intervention from the hospital teams. 22% went on to have an assessment or review. In the 6 months since April 4446 patients have been discharged with 20% requiring an assessment or review. Earlier this year the community hospital adult care teams transferred to the acute hospital services. The transfer of care team support discharges from the 34 health funded transitional care beds in care home across the county as well as the community hospitals in Louth, Skegness, Spalding and Gainsborough. In the 6 months from April 21 385 patients have been discharged 555 have required an assessment or review.

Pressure in Homecare

The executive leads across the Lincolnshire health and care system have agreed to deliver an integrated approach to occupational therapy which makes best use of the capacity across Lincolnshire. This work will enable more people to return home directly from hospital with integrated services operating with the objective of maximising independence and reducing reliance on commissioned home care. There has been an increased use of short term beds to support patients being discharged from hospital safely however a Lincolnshire County Council led project has started to work with people using interim care beds to speed up the return home by increasing independence and releasing capacity in the home care sector.

The wider Lincolnshire system continues to be challenged by availability of home care services. These issues are due to increased pressures within the acute hospital system in Lincolnshire and beyond, as well as issues faced by the home care providers. They include reduced capacity as a result of lack of low recruitment for vacancies and well as on-going issues of sickness due to Covid-19. 149 customers are currently in interim care beds awaiting

home care packages. As part of an action plan to manage this, regular meetings are taking place between home care providers and operational social care teams to review existing capacity in order to maximise it. This includes daily updates and on-going contract management by the Commercial Team. This sits alongside regular review of customers already in interim care beds to monitor their changing needs.

Extra Care Housing

The new De Wint Court extra care housing scheme is approaching the end of the construction phase and will provide 70 new homes for older people who require additional support. This is the first scheme to be delivered as part of the LCC capital grant programme and in partnership with City of Lincoln Council and Homes England. This exciting new option will maximise independence and safety for people who will have their own individual apartment with access to communal areas such as dining room and a resident's lounge. Social activities are being arranged by City of Lincoln and any personal care being commissioned by LCC. This is the first of many schemes which are being supported by LCC in collaboration with partners to achieve the objective of delivering better outcomes for people at lower costs.

At the beginning of November Executive approved the future development of a new extra care scheme in Welton. The project, in partnership with LACE Housing and West Lindsey District Council will see 62 one-bedroom apartments being developed for older people. LCC has committed £1.6million to the scheme which will enable the council to nominate people for tenancies and aid the council in reinvesting resources into preventative measures, with the aim of maximising independence, diverting individuals from residential care, and improving wellbeing. This type of accommodation will be vital going forward with the forecast increase of older aged people and vulnerable adults in the county. It will provide quality housing for people who want to remain in their own homes with the option of on-site care as they grow older.

The Lincolnshire Safeguarding Adults Board (LSAB)

The LSAB is making good progress against the objectives of its Early intervention and prevention strategy. The prevention subgroup of the LSAB has now been established, Chaired by Linda Mac Donnell, LCC Head of Safeguarding. Terms of reference and membership have been agreed. The group has made good progress on linking actions to work of other groups, identifying leads and seeking assurance. The subgroup is currently working to develop a Prevention Charter which will be presented to LSAB Partnership and Exec for agreement by all agencies. The Team Around the Adult initiative which is part of the prevention strategy has also been shortlisted for a national award.

In-House Day Services

Lincolnshire County Council's in house day services continue to work closely with families to support disabled people across the County. Service uptake continues to increase following the national lock downs and in October 2021, the service was operating at 87% of pre pandemic levels in terms of people supported, whilst still adhering to Covid 19 guidance. The services are supporting people to develop Person Centred Plans in order to maximise their independence.

The National Strategy for Autistic Children, Young People and Adults: 2021 to 2026

The Government has published its autism strategy, which sets out how it plans to support autistic adults and children in England over the next five years. The strategy includes six priorities:

1. Understanding and acceptance of autism within society
2. Autistic children and young people's access to education, and supporting positive transitions into adulthood
3. Supporting more autistic people into employment
4. Tackling health and care inequalities for autistic people
5. Building the right support in the community and supporting people in inpatient care
6. Improving support within the criminal and youth justice systems

Lincolnshire County Council has supported the Lincolnshire All Age Autism Partnership in arranging a number of co-production workshops in order to consider the National strategy and to agree priorities for Lincolnshire. These sessions will help to inform the development of the local strategy.

To Celebrate

We're delighted that the Community Care Nurse Specialist service we commissioned to work within the Adult Social Care Hospital Teams has been awarded the Michael Howard Award for Innovation by Hospice UK. This is the first time this award has been presented. We awarded funding to St Barnabas Hospice in 2019 (£100,000 a year over 2 years proof of concept arrangement) to improve the end of life pathway in and out of hospital. Nurses act as community/acute liaison, to support hospital and community adult care staff to facilitate and promote end of life pathways. Community Care Nurse Specialists from St Barnabas Hospice work alongside the ASC teams in Lincoln County Hospital and Pilgrim Hospital Boston to support in identifying patients in the last year of their life, design advanced care plans, and ensure that residents of Lincolnshire receive care and support in the right place, at the right time. There is no other service in Lincolnshire that provides this holistic person-centred approach. Since the start of the two-year proof of concept, 695 referrals have been received for service users from the age of 25 years upwards. A well-deserved accolade and LCC are continuing to fund this invaluable service on a permanent basis.

It's also worth highlighting our 'Team around the Adult' (TAA), a multi-agency approach to safeguarding, was recently selected as a finalist in the Lang Buisson 'Innovation in Care' category against wide-ranging national competition. TAA aims to achieve change where more traditional engagement/intervention methods have not been successful and is firmly established within the LSAB policy and protocols, with strong links to its Early Intervention and Prevention Strategy. TAA was developed in order to test a more joined-up, person-centred approach to support individuals who are reluctant to engage with services and can often 'fall through the cracks'.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Covid-19 Update

Covid-19 continues to threaten the health of the population in Lincolnshire. Throughout the winter months, it is anticipated that the combined burden of Covid-19 and Flu may place

strain on our NHS. Consequently, I would like to reiterate the importance of eligible individuals getting the flu vaccine and the Covid-19 booster vaccine.

The key messages remain the same:

- Wash your hands regularly
- Social distance wherever possible
- Wear a face covering where recommended
- If you have symptoms, self-isolate and take a PCR test
- If you test positive, self-isolate for 10 days from the onset of symptoms

Over the past two months, a framework has been developed by the Council Health Protection Team to assist schools with mitigating and managing Covid outbreaks. This framework specifies the level of response that schools should consider according to the severity of the outbreak.

In order to protect the most clinically vulnerable individuals, Lincolnshire has continued to implement mandatory vaccinations for staff who enter care homes. In addition, one-to-one sessions have been delivered to address vaccine hesitancy among staff; these sessions were well-received. Care staff who are medically exempt from vaccination have been supported through implementation of the medical exemption process via the NHS Covid Pass.

Know Your Numbers

Over the next few months we will be working with local health colleagues to develop a local Know Your Numbers campaign. This campaign is intended to raise awareness of hypertension by encouraging all adults to have their blood pressure checked. Work is currently focused on gaining a deeper understanding of need and to develop the local campaign, which will run from April until September 2022.

Mental Health and Suicide

A proposed set of actions for 2022 have been identified following collaboration between Public Health and the Mental Health, Learning Disabilities and Autism Group. These actions will support mental health promotion and prevent mental illness across Lincolnshire. More information on these actions will soon be available.

The Suicide Prevention Steering Group is also in the process of developing the Suicide Prevention Action Plan for 2022, following the completion of the 2021 action plan. Using recent data on suicide cases will enable the Suicide Prevention Support Group to work at pace around suicide prevention.

Lincolnshire Rural Strategic Partnership with the Centre for Ageing Better

I was delighted to meet colleagues from the Centre for Ageing Better on 1 December to review the first year of our five-year partnership to improve outcomes for those approaching later life. Despite the impact of the pandemic, good progress has been made. I attended the national launch of the Good Homes Enquiry commissioned by Ageing Better. Stemming from this, work is hand to test what a Good Homes Agency could look like in to better align services and provide a one stop shop for information, advice and support. The aim is that what we develop in Lincolnshire becomes the blueprint for similar services nationally. Discussions are

also progressing to support those in later life in the workforce and those currently outside the workforce to fulfil their ambitions, through the Fulfilling Employment Theme.

A new partnership Manager, Navaz Sutton, started in post in October, employed by Ageing Better and hosted in our Public Health Team. Navaz has extensive knowledge of Lincolnshire, and of preventative services, from his previous roles with Active Lincolnshire.

Digital Services

I am pleased to announce that Lincolnshire has been successful in obtaining digital support funding for the next six months. The Local Government Association will fund collaboration between Lincolnshire County Council and Rethink partners as we work towards the aim of achieving digital “Access for All”. This will educate residents on where to find digital solutions and how these solutions can be utilised for care and wellbeing purposes.

Our financial assessments self-service online form is being offered to people with a mental health social care need from 1st December. The trials of this form showed that the forms were popular with LPFT staff and service users by allowing people to fill out when they were comfortable to do so and having supporting text and films to help.

Our [Adult Care Charges Calculator](#) is now available so people can find out if, or an estimate of how much they are likely to pay towards the costs of their care. It takes about 5 minutes to complete, and people do not need to give their name or address or have had a care needs assessment to fill out.

We have started our ‘Technology first’ sessions with social work teams, gathering ideas, caser studies and understanding barriers on use of tech in care situations. The sessions have allowed our staff to trial smart speakers and communications apps as part of care packages to help understand how they can benefit people.

I urge my fellow councillors to continue to promote Connect to Support Lincolnshire to the groups and services they interact with. Connect to Support Lincolnshire is currently accessible via telephone, email and an online live chat service to provide information and advice relating to care and support, care providers, community assets, activities, events and care homes. Lincolnshire is awaiting approval from Apple and Android to launch the Connect to Support mobile app. This app will provide another access route to Connect to Support Lincolnshire, further engaging the local population and widening the reach of the information and aid available.

Afghan Families in Lincolnshire

Councillor colleagues will have seen the huge efforts in recent months to bring people out of Afghanistan. Since the summer, agencies in Lincolnshire have worked together through the Lincolnshire Resettlement Partnership, convened by North Kesteven District Council to ensure that those temporarily housed in the county have had their needs met. Children’s Services colleagues are leading on behalf of LCC, ensuring that the needs of the children and their parents are met. Public Health colleagues are supporting infection prevention measures. Whilst some evacuees remain in the county awaiting offers of suitable accommodation, many have now moved into settled into accommodation across the country.

The efforts of our staff and those of our partners, have been recognised nationally as having been excellent. We applaud everyone in Lincolnshire who has played a part in helping with this national and international relief effort.