

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:	19 January 2022
Subject:	Chairman's Announcements

1. Covid-19 Update

Since the Committee's last meeting on 15 December 2021, there have been several developments with Covid-19, in particular following the Government announcement on 13 December 2021 to offer booster vaccines to all adults by 31 December 2021, who had received their second dose more than 90 days previously.

The most recent available data on infection rates and vaccinations will be provided to the Committee on 19 January 2022. In the meantime, the following developments since the last meeting are highlighted:

Shuttle Bus Services to Lincolnshire's Mass Vaccination Centres

On 20 December 2021 shuttle bus services were introduced in Lincoln and Boston to transport people from Lincoln Bus Station to the Lincolnshire Showground; and from Boston Bus Station to the Princess Royal Sports Arena Mass Vaccination Centre for their Covid-19 booster vaccinations.

Patient Visiting – United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust

From 16 December 2021, patient visiting at Lincoln County Hospital, Pilgrim Hospital Boston, and Grantham and District Hospital was suspended, except for maternity, paediatric, neonates. There were also exceptions for patients nearing the end of their life; and in other special circumstances, such as patients with dementia or specific needs, such as learning disability.

Patient Visiting – Lincolnshire Community Health Services NHS Trust

On 7 January 2022, Lincolnshire Community Health Services NHS Trust announced that visitors at its four community hospitals (John Coupland Gainsborough, County Hospital Louth, Skegness Hospital, and Johnson Hospital Spalding) would be asked to take a lateral flow test prior to arrival and provide proof of a negative result. All visiting continues to be by appointment only, with visitors limited to one per patient to support social distancing on the wards.

Update on Booster Vaccinations in Lincolnshire

Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group has reported that by 30 December 2021, 440,000 booster vaccinations had been delivered in Lincolnshire, which represented the vaccination of 85% of those eligible to receive one. In addition to the two mass vaccination centres, vaccinations without appointment were offered at a number of one-day ‘pop up’ centres in Spalding, Lincoln, Long Sutton, Stamford and Horncastle, in the week beginning 3 January 2022.

2. NHS: 2022/23 Priorities and Operational Planning Guidance

On 24 December 2021, NHS England published *2022/23 Priorities and Operational Planning Guidance*. In addition to setting a new target date of 1 July 2022 (instead of 1 April 2022) for the implementation of integrated care system arrangements, NHS England asked local health systems to focus on the following priorities for 2022/23:

- A. **Invest in Workforce** – with more people (for example, the additional roles in primary care, expansion of mental health and community services, and tackling substantive gaps in acute care) and new ways of working, and by strengthening the compassionate and inclusive culture needed to deliver outstanding care.
- B. **Respond to Covid-19 ever more effectively** – delivering the NHS Covid-19 vaccination programme and meeting the needs of patients with Covid-19.
- C. **Deliver significantly more elective care** to tackle the elective backlog, reduce long waits and improve performance against cancer waiting times standards.
- D. **Improve the responsiveness of urgent and emergency care and build community care capacity** – keeping patients safe and offering the right care, at the right time, in the right setting. This needs to be supported by creating the equivalent of 5,000 additional beds, in particular through expansion of virtual ward models, and includes eliminating twelve-hour waits in emergency departments and minimising ambulance handover delays.

- E. **Improve timely access to primary care** – maximising the impact of the investment in primary medical care and primary care networks to expand capacity, increase the number of appointments available and drive integrated working at neighbourhood and place level.
- F. **Improve mental health services and services for people with a learning disability and/or autistic people** – maintaining continued growth in mental health investment to transform and expand community health services and improve access.
- G. **Continue to develop our approach to population health management, prevent illhealth and address health inequalities** – using data and analytics to redesign care pathways and measure outcomes with a focus on improving access and health equity for underserved communities.
- H. **Exploit the potential of digital technologies to transform the delivery of care and patient outcomes** – achieving a core level of digitisation in every service across systems.
- I. **Make the most effective use of resources** – moving back to and beyond prepandemic levels of productivity when the context allows this.
- J. **Establish integrated care boards and collaborative system working** – working together with local authorities and other partners across their integrated care system to develop a five-year strategic plan for their system and place.

The full document is available at: [B1160-2022-23-priorities-and-operational-planning-guidance.pdf \(england.nhs.uk\)](https://www.england.nhs.uk/media/1160/2022-23-priorities-and-operational-planning-guidance.pdf)

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