

# Agenda Item 9

Report by Derek Ward, Director of  
Public Health for Greater Lincolnshire

Meeting: 1 July 2022

Agenda Item: *(Leave blank)*

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>GREATER LINCOLNSHIRE</b> <b>JOINT STRATEGIC OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE</b></p>
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## GREATER LINCOLNSHIRE PUBLIC HEALTH PILOT UPDATE

### 1. OBJECTIVE AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

This report provides an update on the Greater Lincolnshire Public Health Pilot which began in February 2022. Progress includes:

- the establishment of a single Health Protection Service for Greater Lincolnshire
- a shared approach to Public Health Intelligence
- sharing of knowledge and expertise across the Greater Lincolnshire team and a consolidation of some internal processes
- a joint recruitment exercise.

The report also includes an update from the Local Government Association following their initial benchmarking exercise conducted in April 2022.

### 2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 In February 2022 Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) entered into a Section 113 Agreement to second the Director of Public Health (DPH), on a fixed term basis, to North Lincolnshire (NLC) and North East Lincolnshire (NELC) Councils.
- 2.2 Under the Agreement, the DPH remains employed by LCC and is seconded to NLC and NELC for the purpose of fulfilling their public health functions alongside the LCC's own functions.
- 2.3 The Greater Lincolnshire Public Health Pilot ('the pilot') began on 22 February, for 18 months, with a review and decision point at 12 months.
- 2.4 The Local Government Association (LGA) has been commissioned to carry out an independent evaluation of the pilot. The results of the evaluation will feed into the decision-making process on whether to formalise the arrangements on a permanent basis; continue for a further fixed amount of time; or to stop the arrangement.

- 2.5 The overriding principle of the pilot sees the single management of the public health function across Greater Lincolnshire so expertise, knowledge, skills, and efficiencies can be shared, and things are done once, where it makes sense to do so, or with local nuances as required.

### 3. UPDATE ON THE PILOT

- 3.1 The Greater Lincolnshire Public Health Oversight Board (GLPHOB) has been established to provide a steer to the pilot and make any necessary recommendations to the constituent authorities. The board is made up of Executive Councillors, Integrated Care System (ICS) representation and a senior officer from each authority. The first GLPHOB meeting, on 19 May 2022, received updates on the early opportunities that are being progressed.
- 3.2 A single Health Protection Service covering Greater Lincolnshire has been established. The Strategic Delivery Plan builds resilience and capacity across Greater Lincolnshire ensuring local arrangements are in place to act as a system lead for Outbreak Identification and Rapid Response across the three authority areas, based on the following strategic objectives:
- **Prevent** – reduce infection and transmission as far as possible in communities across Greater Lincolnshire using evidence-based health protection principles.
  - **Protect** – commission services that help support and protect communities and individuals.
  - **Control** – work in partnership to deliver a collective response to control the spread of disease and support the development of robust plans to mitigate infections across the population of Greater Lincolnshire.
- 3.3 All three Public Health Intelligence functions have worked together to agree a set of core principles on how they will work together for the duration of the pilot, and to identify specific opportunities where the teams can work more closely together to achieve greater outputs across Greater Lincolnshire. These include:
- Greater Lincolnshire Director of Public Health Annual Report 2022
  - Covid-19 Intelligence
  - Suicide Surveillance
  - Knowledge and Evidence Services
  - Public Health Skills Audit
  - Sharing of tools, software, and technical expertise on data presentation
- 3.4 Other potential areas for a Greater Lincolnshire approach, which are currently being explored, include Substance Misuse Services and Workforce Development.
- 3.5 Both the Public Health Grant (PHG) and Covid Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) returns have been co-ordinated to bring financial management processes together.

Work to bring together a combined Greater Lincolnshire Public Health (GLPH) Budget Position Statement is ongoing.

- 3.6 A number of internal processes have been consolidated into a single Greater Lincolnshire approach. For example, the Public Health Forward Plan and agenda management process. This process enables the DPH to understand the work being carried out across the GLPH team and ensures any reports, briefings, or information released by GLPH, is accurate and consistent.
- 3.7 The GLPH Senior Leadership Team (GLPHSLT) meet fortnightly and have regular joint planning sessions. All staff are invited to the DPH fortnightly staff briefing and GLPHST are discussing options for a whole team event, later in the year, to build relationships and develop a 'one PH team' approach.
- 3.8 A joint exercise to recruit two Consultants in Public Health, one to be employed by LCC and one by NLC, was launched in June. Both positions are permanent roles that will work across the Greater Lincolnshire area during the pilot, whilst remaining an employee of the respective council.
- 3.9 The Local Government Association (LGA) is working with GLPH to develop an evaluation framework; to act as a critical friend; and to produce an independent evaluation report at the 12-month point. A benchmarking exercise was conducted by LGA in April 2022. This comprised 25 interviews with key Executive Councillors, senior officers, PH Consultants, and representatives from the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) and each of the ICSSs.
- 3.10 The LGA presented a summary of initial findings and conclusions to the GLPHOB meeting, in May 2022. The LGA's initial assessment is positive:
- Interviewees understood that change was necessary to strengthen population health in Greater Lincolnshire.
  - It was inefficient for each public health team to commission key services separately.
  - The value of a larger public health network for training and development was recognised.
  - The placing of public health, so it could inform and influence corporate and system-wide strategies, was seen as a big prize which could help to shape the wider determinants of health.
  - Most interviewees favoured trying the pilot, which would allow the practicalities of unified leadership to be tested and evaluated.
  - Interviewees stressed the importance of a strong senior team, better integrated procedures, a visible local presence for public health, and flexible delivery programmes that could take account of the local context.
  - There was concern that the DPH would become overloaded, although it was recognised that his systematic approach should lessen this risk.
- 3.11 The Evaluation Framework will be presented to GLPHOB for approval in July.

4. **RESOURCE AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**
- 4.1 The pilot includes a Section 113 Agreement enabling the DPH to work across Greater Lincolnshire.
- 4.2 An equal financial contribution to the Agreement from each authority.
5. **RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES (INCLUDE EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT IF RELEVANT)**
- 5.1 Not applicable
6. **CONSULTATION/ENGAGEMENT**
- 6.1 Not applicable
7. **GOVERNANCE – DECISION(S) FOR MEMBER COUNCIL’S REQUIRED (in accordance with the Joint Committee’s Terms of Reference).**
- 7.1 Not applicable
8. **RECOMMENDATIONS**
- 8.1 JSOC is asked to note the contents of this report and the progress that is being made with the Greater Lincolnshire Public Health Pilot.

**DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH FOR GREATER LINCOLNSHIRE**

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**Background Papers used in the preparation of this report –**

Report Title	Where it can be accessed
Public Health Arrangements for Greater Lincolnshire	<a href="#">Lincolnshire County Council Executive Report (February 2022)</a>