

## **COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 27 September 2022**

**Statement from: Councillor Mrs S Woolley, Executive Councillor for NHS Liaison, Community Engagement, Registration and Coroners**

### **REGISTRATION AND CORONERS**

#### **Registration**

The Registration Service continues to operate face-to-face appointments across all twelve service points within Lincolnshire with no national restrictions in place for births, deaths and ceremonies.

The Registration and Celebratory Service is pleased to announce the introduction of an online appointment booking System. The system allows residents to book their birth, death or notice of marriage/civil partnership appointments online via the council's website. The system has new self-service features which allows customers to manage their appointment bookings online with the ability to rearrange and cancel should they need to. Residents of Lincolnshire will be able to access the self-service function anytime which is a great step forward. The booking platform will be developed further in 2022, and we look forward to residents of Lincolnshire being able to prepay for certificates online, book a wedding or civil partnership and use an interactive customer ceremony planner.

Demand for birth and death registration appointments continues to remain high. All birth backlogs caused by the pandemic have been cleared and all death appointments continue to be prioritised to register the event in a timely manner.

The demand for marriage, civil partnership and citizenship ceremonies remains high. Since 1 April 2022 over 1,500 ceremonies have been undertaken and we continue to receive booking requests for ceremonies as far ahead as 2025. The service continues to expand its offering with new venues being approved and outdoor weddings and civil partnerships now taking place. In July, the Law Commission published its findings and recommendations following their review of marriage. If taken forward by government, the recommendations would see national change to how marriages and civil partnerships are undertaken. We await the government's response within the next 12 months.

Following the national removal of the Coronavirus Act which saw the withdrawal of telephone death registrations, the General Register Office has announced that in collaboration with DCMS, a government backed bill is due to be passed in 2023; which will permanently allow customers the option to undertake birth or death registration appointments either face to face or via the telephone.

#### **Coroner's**

The Coroner's Service remains a key part of the death management process within Lincolnshire. The service continues to experience a high level of demand with referral and post-mortem rates rising. Between 1 April 2022 and 31 July 990 referrals were made to the service representing a 9% increase on 2021 volumes, with 443 requiring a post-mortem

representing an increase of 4% on 2021 volumes. This is expected to continue into 2023 with the introduction of the statutory Medical Examiner Scheme within the community setting.

The service has undertaken a successful recruitment exercise appointing two new Assistant Coroners, both have now joined the service and bring with them a wealth of knowledge and experience. The Chief Coroner for England visited Lincolnshire in June of this year. The Chief Coroner was impressed with the progress being made by the service and with the vision the service has for the future.

Following the submission of a business case to create a greater Lincolnshire Coronial Service in early 2022 we continue to await an outcome from the Ministry of justice.

## **NHS LIAISON**

### **Lincolnshire Integrated Care System**

In previous statements I have provided updates on the planning of the Integrated Care System (ICS). I am now in a position to give more detail on the model developing in Lincolnshire.

The Health and Care Act 2022 received Royal Assent in April, this marks major changes to the NHS in England, including the introduction of ICSs from July 2022. ICSs are partnerships of organisations that come together to plan and deliver joined up health and care services, and to improve the lives of people who live and work in an area. The Act requires each ICS to establish two statutory bodies exercising statutory functions:

- An Integrated Care Board (ICB) bringing the NHS together locally to improve population health and care. Clinical Commissioning Groups have now been disbanded as of the 30 June 2022 and their functions conferred onto ICBs with additional responsibilities set out within the Act.
- An Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) a joint committee between local authorities with responsibility for the delivery of health and social care services and the ICB with specific statutory responsibility for preparing an Integrated Care Strategy for the ICS footprint. This strategy needs to have regard to the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JLHWS), which will remain the responsibility of health and wellbeing boards (HWBs).

NHS Lincolnshire ICB was formally established on 1 July 2022 in line with NHS England's requirements. The council has no role in how the ICB is established but are required to have a local authority partner member on its board. Cllr Wendy Bowkett, Executive Councillor for Adult Care and Public Health has been confirmed as the local authority partner member representative on the ICB Board. I also attend as a nonvoting member, in my capacity as Chair of the HWB along with Derek Ward, as Director of Public Health.

With regard to the ICP, the council has a duty under the act to jointly establish the ICP with the ICB as a statutory joint committee. This firstly requires an executive decision to agree to

convene a joint committee and secondly to confirm a nominated representative of the council to sit on the ICP.

The executive approved the decision on the 5 July 2022 to form the ICP and it was confirmed that I will be the council's nominated representative on the ICP. This is the extent of the council's involvement in the formal decision-making process for the setup of the partnership, once established any further membership is a matter for the joint committee itself and the members of the ICP can determine its own procedures.

Lincolnshire is one of only a small number of coterminous systems nationally, with means the ICS footprint is the same as the county council. Whilst there is an opportunity to benefit from this to achieve our ambitions and deliver lasting improvements, our challenge is to fully define the difference between the ICP and the Lincolnshire HWB.

In April, the HWB and representatives from the ICB held a planning and development session to discuss how a Lincolnshire ICP would operate effectively alongside the HWB. It was agreed that the overriding ambition of partners across the Lincolnshire system is to avoid duplication where possible by:

- aligning the meeting times, location, and frequency of the ICP with the HWB.
- mirroring the membership of the ICP with the HWB and reviewing annually to ensure as much alignment as possible with the membership of the HWB.
- aligning strategies and plans where we have the opportunity to do so.
- The inaugural meeting of the Lincolnshire ICP will be on the 27 September 2022.

The ICP has one statutory function and that is to prepare an Integrated Care Strategy, setting out how the assessed needs in relation to its area are to be met by the exercise of functions of the ICB, NHS England (NHSE), and the County Council.

In most areas the ICS has more than one upper tier local authority each required to maintain their duty to have a HWB and fulfil the duties set out as a committee of the council. In those areas the Integrated Care Strategy will bring together the collective priorities and ambitions for each HWB within the local system boundary. In the Lincolnshire system there will be one Integrated Care Strategy and one JLHWS which highlights the simplicity of our system compared to other areas.

There is a national requirement that an initial Integrated Care Strategy will be in place by December 2022 and that this should inform the NHS five-year plan to be submitted to NHSE by March 2023.

I am confident that the new arrangements will further strengthen and build upon our existing partnerships across the system

## **COMMUNITY ENAGEMENT**

### **Council's engagement activities**

Between April 2022 and August 2022, the engagement team supported 34 engagement activities carried out by services across the council. This includes 5 consultations, 29 public and wider stakeholder engagements and 8 internal engagements. An example of our engagement work during this period is the good home alliance pilot, which is still open to participate in, but has already seen 404 people provide responses.

The engagement team utilise a forward planning process to ensure clear oversight of engagement and consultation activities. The information, provided by services, informs the prioritising of engagement resources in the coming year. By developing this process, interaction and dialogue between the engagement team and services have been strengthened. This forward planning ensures our engagement approaches are proactive and effective, helping to maximise their impact.

We are committed to engaging with our residents and stakeholders, both internal and external. This council objective enables evidence-based, informed decision making with accountability and transparency at all stages of our work. Our engagement demonstrates the value and respect we have for local people, helping us to provide information and deliver services that meet their needs.

It is essential that people who participate in engagement see the impact of their involvement. We prioritise providing feedback to maintain dialogue and encourage further engagement. The embedded engagement process in place has a strong focus on clear reporting. Reports are shared widely to close the feedback loop and update local people on the impact of their contributions. Reports on engagement activities are shared internally and made available on Let's talk Lincolnshire.

### **Let's talk Lincolnshire**

The council has been using Let's talk Lincolnshire for a year, since its launch in September 2021. The online engagement platform has received 53,000 site visits and has nearly 2,500 active participants. We recently received nearly 1,500 responses to our Parental Childcare Survey and had almost 1,000 responses to Lincolnshire Resilience Forum's 'Are you prepared for emergencies?' survey. Online engagements like these help us to reach a wide range of people across Lincolnshire and what we learn from our respondents' priorities informs and shapes our work.

### **County Views citizens' panel**

The County Views citizen's panel has increased from 588 members in autumn 2021 to 1,059 in August 2022. The Spring 2022 survey, on the topic of roads, transport and highways, had 557 responses reflecting the importance of this topic to panellists. Lincolnshire County Council's highways team commented that these results are a fantastic tool that will provide invaluable insight to inform their work. The recent summer 2022 survey on the topic of media and communications will give us useful data to help ensure we reach out to our audiences in the most effective ways.

The spring 2022 survey data showed that eight in ten respondents (82%) felt their local area is a great place to live. The top three areas respondents said were most important in making an area a good place to live were access to nature, coast, parks and open spaces; education provision; and safety. The top three areas respondents said most needed improvement in their area were road networks and highway maintenance; public transport; and job prospects.

The results of all County Views surveys are available on Let's talk Lincolnshire.

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