


Agenda Item 10

		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:	19 July 2023
Subject:	Paediatric Service at Pilgrim Hospital, Boston – Proposed Response of the Committee to the Consultation

Summary

On 14 June 2023, the Committee considered a proposed received a presentation on a consultation by United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust (ULHT) on the *Pilgrim Hospital Paediatric Service*. This followed pre-consultation consideration by the Committee on 17 May 2023. The Committee has agreed that a response would be prepared based on the comments made at these two meetings and submitted to this meeting for consideration and approval as the Committee's final response. As part of the consultation, ULHT is proposing to make permanent its existing model of paediatric care at Pilgrim Hospital.

The consultation was launched on 12 June 2023 and is due to conclude by 4 September 2023. As part of the consultation process a series of consultation events has been planned, both online and in person at Pilgrim Hospital.

Actions Requested

The Committee is requested to consider the draft response (attached at Appendix A) and subject to any further amendments approve it as the Committee's final response to the consultation on *Pilgrim Hospital Paediatric Service*, being undertaken by United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust.

1. Background

Previous Committee Consideration

On 17 May 2023, the Committee considered a pre-consultation engagement item on the paediatric service at Pilgrim Hospital. It was reported to the Committee that in August 2018, owing to staffing challenges the service model had been adapted from a children's inpatient ward to a paediatric assessment unit, where children requiring a length of stay longer than twelve hours were often transferred to Lincoln County Hospital. Since 2018, in response to patient and clinician feedback, the model has been developed into one that enables almost every child or young person to receive all of their care at Pilgrim Hospital, without the need to transfer to other hospitals.

As the service had been stabilised, United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust was now seeking to make the current model a permanent arrangement, which will give certainty around the long term future of the service, help with staff recruitment and also ensure ongoing support for Boston-area children and their families.

On 14 June 2023, the consultation: *Pilgrim Hospital Paediatric Service – Have Your Say* was presented to the Committee by Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust. The Committee agreed that a response would be prepared based on the comments made at both the May and June meetings and submitted to this meeting for consideration and approval as the Committee's final response. A draft response is attached at Appendix A to this report.

2. Consultation

This item enables the Committee to make a response to the consultation on *Pilgrim Hospital Paediatric Service - Have Your Say*, currently being undertaken by United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust. The consultation period opened on 12 June and closes on 4 September 2023.

Consultation Events and Documentation

The consultation document was circulated to members of this Committee on 13 June 2023. The consultation documentation included three online engagement events, and three in-person events. The consultation document is available at: [Consultation on Pilgrim Paediatric Service \(ulh.nhs.uk\)](https://ulh.nhs.uk)

3. Conclusion

The Committee is requested to consider a draft response and subject to any further amendments approve as the Committee's final response to the consultation on *Pilgrim Hospital Paediatric Service - Have Your Say* being undertaken by United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust.

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached to this report:

Appendix A	Draft Response of the Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire to the Consultation by United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust on <i>Pilgrim Hospital Paediatric Service - Have Your Say</i>
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5. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972, were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Simon Evans, Health Scrutiny Officer, who can be contacted via 07717 86893 or via Simon.Evans@lincolnshire.gov.uk

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Consultation on Pilgrim Hospital, Boston, Paediatric Service By United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust

Response of the Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire

A. Response to Survey Questions

Set out below is the response of the Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire to the questions, as part of the consultation materials.

- Please tell us to what extent you agree or not with the proposal for children's (paediatric) services at Pilgrim Hospital, Boston.**

Strongly Agree	
Agree	✓
Disagree	
Strongly Disagree	
Don't Know	

- Please tell us why you agree or disagree with this proposal.**

The Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire accepts that the new model of paediatric care at Pilgrim Hospital is not dissimilar to the pre-2018 inpatient service, but nevertheless represents a change in service provision. The Committee is satisfied that this model is in the best interests of children and their families in Boston and the surrounding area, as well as Lincolnshire as a whole. The Committee further believes that the model of care has benefited from testing and developments since 2018. As a result, very few children, usually those with

complex or specialist needs, are transferred to other hospitals for their treatment, which was always the case prior to 2018.

3. Please tell us if you have any other suggestions which you feel would address the challenges experienced by this service.

The Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire is pleased to see the progress on recruitment in both nursing and medical posts in paediatric services at Pilgrim Hospital since 2018. The Committee accepts the rationale put forward by the Trust that stabilising the service has aided recruitment and retention of staff, and will continue to do so. Allied to this, is that there are no longer any long term nursing or medical agency staff at the unit. **The Committee suggests that the Trust continues its efforts on recruiting and retaining staff at the paediatric unit.**

The Committee has been advised that since 2018 there has been engagement with representatives of the community served by Pilgrim Hospital. The Trust advises that their experiences have been helpful in developing the service model. Furthermore, staff have been engaged throughout the process. **The Committee values both community and staff feedback and suggests this should continue as a source of learning for the service.**

The Committee accepts that the number of children and young people transferred from Pilgrim Hospital to other hospitals, either Lincoln County Hospital or tertiary and specialist centres outside the county remains small. **The Committee suggests that the number of transfers continues to be monitored, as a measure of impact on the local community.**

4. Do you think you or your community might be impacted by this proposal, and if so, in what way?

Positively Impacted	✓
Negatively Impacted	
No Impact / Don't Know	

5. If positive or negative, please tell us how you think you or your community might be impacted by this proposal.

The Committee acknowledges the following positive impacts arising from the proposal:

- Tier 1 Medical Placements at Pilgrim Hospital – The return of tier 1 medical placements to Pilgrim is a benefit of the new model of care.
- The Care Quality Commission (CQC) Rating of 'Good' – Following inspections in November 2021, the CQC's inspection report for children and young people services at Pilgrim Hospital rated the service as 'good', which was derived from 'good' ratings across the five CQC domains.

B. Summary and Conclusions

The Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire accepts the rationale put forward by the Trust for the new model of paediatric care at Pilgrim Hospital. This represents a significant improvement to the position in August 2018, when there was only one substantive middle grade doctor, with cover being provided by agency staff and locums.