

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:	8 November 2023
Subject:	Chairman's Announcements

1. **Richmond Medical Centre, North Hykeham - CQC Rating**

Richmond Medical Centre in North Hykeham has been rated as 'Inadequate' and placed in special measures after an inspection by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) that took place in May 2023, in response to concerns it received about the service.

The GP surgery's overall rating declined, with several categories, including safety and well-led, effectiveness, and responsiveness dropping, but the 'caring' category remains 'Good,' and Richmond Medical Centre has actively worked with the CQC to undergo a re-inspection after making various improvements since the initial assessment.

A spokesperson for Richmond Medical Centre recently (October 2023) expressed that they have made significant improvements following a CQC inspection in May 2023 and the practice was working with the CQC for a re-evaluation, while also acknowledging the challenges faced and the positive recognition of staff-patient interactions, with support from NHS Lincolnshire ICB. They argued that "the [latest] report published no longer reflects our current position, and we are working closely with the CQC in order to be reinspected as soon as possible."

2. **House of Commons Health and Care Committee on NHS dentistry**

Sarah Fletcher and Chris McCann from Healthwatch Lincolnshire and Healthwatch England (HWE), respectively, presented compelling evidence to MPs during an inquiry by the House of Commons Health and Care Committee on NHS dentistry.

Issues highlighted included the scarcity of NHS dental services, long travel distances, financial challenges for patients, the need for prioritizing those in greatest need, and the call for a new national oral health needs assessment to reform the system. The contribution was followed by discussions with Primary Care Minister Neil O'Brien and NHSE

Officials, focusing on improving access and extending the roles of dental hygienists and therapists to address dental care challenges.

3. Plans for Dentistry Services in Mablethorpe

In a recent publication by Healthwatch Lincs, it has been confirmed that, subsequent to a well-executed procurement process in Mablethorpe, a preferred bidder has been identified to deliver general dental services at the Marisco Medical Centre, beginning in early 2024. It was acknowledged that there has been a noticeable absence of such services for several years in the local area, and this initiative will address this gap by offering NHS general dental care to patients in need.

4. Pilgrim Hospital concerns about A&E and the loss of ward

A whistleblower nurse at Pilgrim Hospital in Lincolnshire raised concerns about the relocation of acute stroke services to Lincoln, the strain on the busy A&E department, patients waiting times, and the closure of the stroke ward with the loss of 24 beds, highlighting potential impacts on the healthcare system.

In response, the United Lincolnshire Hospital NHS Trust (ULHT) mentioned the changes following a public consultation and ongoing efforts to improve patient care and reduce emergency department wait times. They encouraged the public to consider alternative healthcare options when it is not a 999 emergency.

5. Lincolnshire NHS – Recognition for Improvements Made for Heart Failure Patients

Lincolnshire Community Health Services NHS Trust (LCHS), United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust (ULHT), and Lincolnshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) were jointly shortlisted for the HRH The Prince of Wales Award for Integrated Approaches to Care. They collaborated with primary care partners to make substantial improvements in heart failure patient care in Lincolnshire, including creating a virtual ward, a seven-day heart failure specialist service, and a direct admission pathway for prioritising and expediting care for patients in need, along with enhancing specialist heart failure capacity in hospitals.

6. New 24/7 Urgent Treatment Centre for Grantham and Surrounding Areas

The new 24/7 Urgent Treatment Centre (UTC) at Grantham and District Hospital, eagerly anticipated by patients and the public, is set to open on October 31, 2023, in response to feedback from a consultation led by Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group (now Lincolnshire Integrated Care Board) known as the Acute Services Review. This decision followed a 12-week consultation and aims to provide around-the-clock urgent care services for the people of Grantham and the surrounding areas.

7. Storm Babet

Lincolnshire was devastated in previous weeks by storm Babet that hit the County on 20th October 2023. As part of the County's Local Resilience Forum multi-agency response during

Storm Babet, the county council's highways team responded to more than 450 urgent call-outs, and Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue dealt with more than 500 emergency calls across Lincolnshire.

Communities impacted by flooding will benefit from thousands of pounds of Government funding to help them recover from the impact of Storm Babet.

Under the measures announced on 25 October 2023:

- Flooded households in affected areas can apply for up to £500 to give cash quickly to help with immediate costs.
- Households and businesses significantly affected by recent flooding will be eligible for 100% council tax and business rates relief for at least three months.
- Small-to-medium sized businesses in affected areas will be eligible for up to £2,500 from the Business Recovery Grant to help them return quickly to business as usual.
- Eligible flood-hit property owners will be able to apply for up to £5,000 to help make their homes and businesses more resilient to future flooding via the Property Flood Resilience Repair Grant Scheme.

The support will be made available through a scheme known as the Flood Recovery Framework, which is used in exceptional circumstances to support councils and communities following severe flooding.

In Lincolnshire a statement is awaited later this month by the Lincolnshire LRF and Fire & Rescue Services on disruptions caused due to the storm and an update on emergency evacuation routes.

7. Earlier Mental Health Support Announced for Thousands Nationwide

The government has announced almost £5 million to fund early support hubs nationwide to deliver mental health support for children and young people. The information was released on 25 October 2023.

- Government funding drop-in early support hubs nationwide to deliver early mental health and wellbeing support for children and young people.
- Backed by government's Youth Mental Health Ambassador Dr Alex George following campaign for more services to provide earlier intervention.
- Additional £2.3 billion already helping an extra 345,000 children and young people to access NHS-funded mental health support by 2024.

Thousands of children and young people will receive earlier mental health treatment in a move to help save lives and ensure fewer youngsters reach crisis point, through early support hubs across the country.

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