

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 Supplementary Announcements

1. **Hartsholme Centre – Lincolnshire’s Psychiatric Intensive Care Unit for Men**

Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (LPFT) has announced a delay to the planned partial re-opening of the Hartsholme Centre in Lincoln, as a result of legionella bacteria being found in the water system. LPFT is undertaking a programme of flushing, replacement of some pipework and associated water fixtures, chemical and thermal disinfections, and several rounds of retesting before a further date for re-opening can be confirmed. LPFT has stated that it is not expecting the unit to be able to reopen until the New Year, but if it receives the required negative tests before this, it will look to re-open sooner.

This news, which LPFT states is disappointing, follows an announcement in May 2023 that there were plans in place to have the required staffing levels to safely re-open the ward, on a phased basis, from November 2023.

2. **Branston and Heighington Family Practice – Rated as *Good***

As previously reported to this Committee, in November 2022, the Branston and Heighington Family Practice had received an *Inadequate* rating from the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and had been placed in special measures. On 18 October 2023, the CQC published an inspection report based on inspections which had taken place on 28 June and 4 July 2023. The CQC gave the practice an overall rating of *Good*, removed the practice from special measures and stated that it recognised the significant improvements that had been made to the quality of care provided. The practice was rated *Good* for four of the five CQC domains (Effective, Caring, Responsive and Well-Led), with one domain (Safe) rated as *Requires Improvement*.

The CQC also stated that the practice:

- had taken reasonable steps to protect patients and others from the risks posed by healthcare associated infections;
- had implemented effective oversight of the systems and processes designed to deliver safe and effective care;
- had started to analyse telephone data to gain oversight of where delays in call handling may be occurring; and
- had put in place new management, systems and staff had resulted in improved performance and oversight.

All reports and evidence tables from the latest and previous inspections can be found at: [Branston & Heighington Family Practice - Care Quality Commission \(cqc.org.uk\)](https://www.cqc.org.uk/publications/branston-heighington-family-practice)

3. Non-Emergency Patient Transport – New Base in North Hykeham

The East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS), which has been operating non-emergency patient transport in Lincolnshire since 1 July 2023, has announced that it has opened a new base at the Lindum Business Park, North Hykeham. EMAS is providing this service as part of a nine-year contract, awarded by NHS Lincolnshire Integrated Care Board.

The Lindum site is now the new base for EMAS’s call-handling team, control room, a fleet of over twenty ambulance and electric vehicles, and also an office hub for supporting over 140 members of staff, who are based throughout Lincolnshire.

4. Revised Health Scrutiny Regulations and Statutory Guidance

The Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (CfGS) has announced that it is expecting revised health scrutiny regulations to be laid in Parliament in January 2024. These new regulations, which have been expected for nearly two years, will complement provisions in the Health and Care Act 2022. The new regulations are expected to limit the powers of health overview and scrutiny committees to make referrals to the Secretary of State in instances where a committee disagrees with a proposal from the local NHS for a substantial reconfiguration of NHS services. The CfGS also states that new statutory guidance is also expected for health overview and scrutiny committees, and also for NHS commissioners in relation to NHS reconfigurations. More details will be provided to the Committee, when the regulations are laid.