

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 01 DECEMBER 2022

Statement from: Councillor Sue Woolley - Executive Councillor for NHS Liaison, Integrated Care System, Registration and Coroners

NHS LIAISON AND INTEGRATED CARE SYSTEM

What is next for Integrated Care Partnerships research project?

In September I was approached by the Integrated Care System (ICS) network in partnership with the Local Government Association to take part in a one hour interview as part of a new research project called ‘What is next for Integrated Care Partnerships.’ The purpose of the research is to understand how ICSs in England are taking forward their Integrated Care Partnerships (ICPs), what their local ambitions are and how ICPs add value in improving health and wellbeing outcomes. The ICS network and LGA were particularly keen to find out more about what is happening in Lincolnshire, considering we are one of the few systems nationally that are coterminous between the council and NHS, and to understand how partners across our ICS are working together to improve health outcomes.

A report on the research findings, including a case study on Lincolnshire, has been produced detailing the ambition and learning to support ICSs to think creatively about how to drive and develop their ICPs.

Ministerial Panel Discussion

In October I was invited to participate in a Ministerial event at the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) as part of their ‘Integrated Care Systems Week.’ The purpose of the week was to raise awareness within the DHSC of the vital role of Integrated Care Systems (ICSs) and to give DHSC colleagues an opportunity to hear from people directly involved in ICSs about the work being done around the country.

I took part in an informal ministerial panel discussion with a number of other ICS leaders, the Minister, and the Director General of NHS Performance and Policy. The conversation focused on the opportunities and challenges presented by ICSs, our experience of the first year of statutory ICSs and the importance of partnership working.

I used this opportunity to emphasise that, whilst being a coterminous area brings benefits in terms of decision making, it does not make sense to have both a Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) and an Integrated Care Partnership (ICP). There is a risk of duplication with the additional layers potentially diverting resources and capacity. I pressed the point that areas such as Lincolnshire should be given greater local flexibility to use the HWB to fulfil the remit of an ICP.

Interview with NHS Confederation

In mid-August, a Senior Policy Adviser from the NHS Confederation, leading on Integration with a particular focus on social care, held a one-hour discussion with Glen Garrod and myself to seek our views on our system’s current integrated care strategy status, and whether there

is the potential to align with the Better Care Fund (BCF) 2023-2024 planning process. The discussion initially focused on BCF planning and the potential to help with the further development of longer-term integration and transformation plans or to act as a catalyst for these. This was in the context of the national focus on joint planning and delivery of longer-term outcomes in the BCF planning guidance national conditions, along with an announcement from NHS England regarding winter resilience. We explored the potential to shift the focus of winter pressures away from short term and time limited solutions to something that helps to tackle wider goals in prevention, including shoring up provision in social care.

We shared several examples of how we work in Lincolnshire where integrated health and social care is aiding patient flow. We particularly focused on preventative or support focused work. The NHS confederation will be producing a report for publication later in the year to provide examples of best practice and various support offers that may be in place to help. Both Glen and I were proud to be able to share and champion the work we are doing across our system.

Visit by Department of Health and Social Care

On 1 November 2023, John Turner and I hosted a successful visit by representatives from the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), including the Deputy Director for System Delivery. The visit was organised at the request of DHSC to learn more about how, as a coterminous area, we are working as an integrated care system. During the visit, the DHSC representatives met with colleagues from the county council, NHS Lincolnshire Integrated Care Board, district councils and the voluntary and community sector. A wider range of topics and examples of integrated working were shared including services for children and young people, personalisation, mental health transformation, winter planning and intermediate care.

We were able to use the opportunity to raise the profile of Lincolnshire and promote how well partners from across the health and care system are working together to meet the needs of our communities. The feedback from the DHSC has been very positive and they have asked us to share further information on several of the areas discussed.

REGISTRATION AND CORONERS

Coroners Service

In my September statement, I announced that we had approval from the Chief Coroner to fill the position of Area Coroner for Lincolnshire. Following the selection exercise, I am pleased to announce that Jayne Wilkes will be appointed as HM Area Coroner for Lincolnshire. Jayne is a welcome addition, bringing vast knowledge and experience to the service.

The Coroners Service has experienced another busy year with 3,000 deaths being referred in the last 12 months, which is comparable to last year's referrals. Performance improvement continues to be a key focus of the service, and this year for the first time the service is expecting to hear 600 inquests, and the service continues to drive down the number of older

cases which now stand at their lowest levels since the start of 2020 and has decreased by over 40% since this time last year.

We continue to await a decision from the Ministry of Justice on our business case to create a Greater Lincolnshire Coroners Service. Once a decision has been made implementation is now expected in 2024.

Registration Service

The registration service continues to expand its ceremony offering. Moving into 2024, more wedding and civil partnership options will be available than ever before. In addition, the service now offers Renewal of Vow and Baby naming ceremonies and will be developing its Citizenship offer across the county. Ceremonies continue to be popular within Lincolnshire with over 2,300 marriages and civil partnerships due to take place this year, and Citizenship Ceremonies increasing by 20% on last year's numbers.

New online functions will be introduced allowing residents to prepay for certificates when they book their appointments online through the council website. Excellent take up of online services continues with over 90% of ceremony payments and the vast majority of registration appointments being made online. We will be going even further in 2024 with the introduction of online wedding and civil partnerships bookings and a new ceremony planner allowing couples to customise their wedding choice.

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