

# Agenda Item 7

 <b>Lincolnshire</b> COUNTY COUNCIL <i>Working for a better future</i>		<b>THE HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR LINCOLNSHIRE</b>	
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 Lincolnshire Integrated Care Board**

Report to	<b>Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire</b>
Date:	<b>24 January 2024</b>
Subject:	<b>Health Care Provision at the Proposed Home Office Development of Accommodation for Asylum Seekers at the former RAF Scampton</b>

**Summary:**

The Home Office is currently planning to utilise the former RAF Scampton site to provide accommodation for up to 2000 asylum seekers.

This report provides a summary of the proposed health care service provision to support the residents who would be living in this accommodation.

**Actions Required:**

The Committee is asked to note the information submitted.

## 1. Background

In early 2023, the Home Office outlined plans to utilise the former RAF Scampton site to provide accommodation for up to 2,000 Asylum seekers.

At present, there are ongoing legal challenges in progress between West Lindsey District Council and the Home Office with regards to the Scampton development and as such there is no confirmed date for when the site will be ready for occupation. Clearly, it is imperative to respect that these legal challenges are underway.

In initiating the development, the Home Office engaged with NHS England and the NHS Lincolnshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) to request support in planning health care service provision for the residents who would be living at the site.

As part of this process it was agreed that the approach would be to develop plans such that Scampton site residents could access health care, whilst ensuring that there would be no material adverse impact on access to health care services for the wider Lincolnshire population, particularly those living in the local vicinity. The Home Office confirmed that additional funding would be made available to the NHS to facilitate the development of services

## **2. Outline Approach to Health Provision**

Informed by feedback from the Home Office, other providers of health care for asylum seekers elsewhere in the country, and local experience in Lincolnshire of supporting asylum seekers in hotel accommodation, the Home Office approved the development of services to address the three main areas of need namely:

- Reducing the Risk of Transmittable Disease
- Primary Care
- Mental Health Support

The Home Office has committed to providing facilities and revenue funding to support the establishment and provision of the following:

- Comprehensive Health Checks for All Residents on Arrival
- Isolation Accommodation
- On-site Medical Centre
- On-site Primary Care Provision provided by a Dedicated General Practice Team
- On-site Mental Health Support provided by a Dedicated Mental Health Team
- Monitoring of utilisation of other health provision to ensure that there is no adverse impact on access to services for the Lincolnshire population.

## **3. Current Situation**

The NHS Lincolnshire ICB is continuing to work closely with the Home Office, NHS England and a range of partners to ensure that healthcare services can be available to meet the needs of the residents of the Scampton site, if the scheme progresses.

In terms of the healthcare facilities and services to be available on site, significant progress has been made in terms of the equipping of the medical centre, and in terms of general practice team services and mental health team services which will be provided on site. These are now at an advanced stage of development and could be mobilised at short notice.

By ensuring that these primary medical services will be available to meet the needs of Scampton site residents, this means that nearby local GP services and their practice services to their registered populations will not be impacted in any way.

Experience from elsewhere indicates that, with GP and mental health services being available on the site, that any impact on other NHS services (for example, hospital services) will be very modest and not at any material level.

The Home Office and the NHS Lincolnshire ICB have agreed an indicative overall funding arrangement, which will mean that the additional healthcare support required will be met from an additional Home Office allocation to the ICB, and as such there will be no negative impact on NHS funding for healthcare in Lincolnshire.

#### **4. Conclusion**

The NHS Lincolnshire ICB has worked closely with the Home Office, NHS England and other partners in relation to the Scampton site development. If the scheme progresses, the ICB is confident that health services will be able to be available to meet the needs of the Scampton site residents in line with the approach described above, without any material impact on NHS services to the local population and services, and supported by the additional Home Office funding. The ICB currently does not envisage any significant problems in satisfactorily meeting the requirements of the Home Office, and will continue to work closely under the guidance of the Home Office as matters progress.

This report was written by Sarah-Jane Mills, Director of Primary Care, Communities and Social Value, NHS Lincolnshire Integrated Care Board

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