

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:	21 February 2024
Subject:	Chairman's Announcements

1. Information Relating to the Items Considered at the Last Meeting

Set out below is a series of information relating to the previous meeting of the Committee on 24 January 2024

(a) Brant Road Surgery, Lincoln

The Committee sought clarification on the extent of the engagement exercise relating to the proposed closure of the Springcliffe branch of the Brant Road Surgery in Lincoln. NHS Lincolnshire Integrated Care Board has confirmed that in accordance with usual practice a letter was sent to all the patients potentially impacted, with communication via text messaging or one letter per household to the addresses of all patients registered at the surgery.

This communication included information about the consultation, the details of the three patient engagement events, the survey link or how to complete paper copies and links to further information. In addition to this, copies of the letter are available at the practice, together with a copy of the *Frequently Asked Questions*. Posters are also on display at both sites. Wider stakeholders, including local councillors, have been informed by an email and they are welcome to provide feedback on behalf of the community.

(b) East Midlands Ambulance Service

On 24 January 2024, the Committee requested information on:

- Response Rates for Staff Survey
- Future National Trajectories for percentages of patients treated via 'Hear and Treat' and 'See and Treat'.

This information will be circulated when it is available.

(c) Patient Transport

On 24 January 2024, the Committee considered an item on the Non-Emergency Patient Transport service, which is commissioned by NHS Lincolnshire Integrated Care Board and provided by the East Midlands Ambulance Service. It needs to be emphasised that this service provides transport for patients in accordance with criteria set by NHS England, and there is limited discretion for NHS integrated care boards to deviate from these criteria, which are set out here: [NEPTS Eligibility Criteria \(england.nhs.uk\)](https://www.england.nhs.uk/nepts-eligibility-criteria/).

The six criteria, as detailed in NHS England's document, can be summarised as: (i) patients with a medical need; (ii) patients with a cognitive or sensory impairment; (iii) patients with significant mobility needs; (iv) all travel for patients requiring haemodialysis; (v) in cases where there is a safeguarding concern for the patient; and (vi) patients with wider mobility and medical needs. There is limited scope for local discretion on criterion (vi), as detailed in the document.

The Committee's discussion expanded to the wider topic of patient transport in general and it was agreed that this would be considered for inclusion as part of the Committee's work programme. One of the options for patients on certain defined benefits is the NHS's Healthcare Travel Costs Scheme, with details found at: [Healthcare Travel Costs Scheme \(HTCS\) - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/healthcare-travel-costs-scheme/). This national scheme does not address all the issues raised on 24 January, as it is limited to patients who must meet all three criteria, which can be summarised as: (i) in receipt of a defined qualifying benefit; (ii) a referral for secondary NHS care; and (iii) an appointment date which is separate to the date when the referral was made. Again, it must be emphasised that the NHS Lincolnshire Integrated Care Board is working within NHS policies, which are set nationally.

(d) Use of Former RAF Scampton Site for Asylum Seekers

On 24 January 2023, the Committee considered a written report from NHS Lincolnshire Integrated Care. A representative from the Home Office attended to respond to questions, and there were several questions which could not be answered at the meeting, and the responses to these questions will be circulated to members of the Committee when they are available.

2. Review of High Dependency Mental Health Rehabilitation Care in Lincolnshire

On 23 January 2024, Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (LPFT) announced a review of high dependency mental health rehabilitation care for females in Lincolnshire. This service is provided at The Vales, a 15-bed ward located at Discovery House, Lincoln, and is intended to provide longer ward-based rehabilitation care to those with the most severe and enduring mental health needs, helping them gain control and understanding of their conditions and support them to learn to live as independently as possible again in the future.

LPFT has stated that over the past five years it has seen the needs of its female patients in wards grow in complexity, with an increase of people with personality disorder and complex trauma needing longer term inpatient support. This has occurred in particular at the Vales, as more people with complex trauma, personality disorder and other issues such as eating disorders and autism require a more adaptive approach to those who have traditionally been supported by the Vales.

LPFT adds that whilst patients are receiving caring, compassionate and safe care, it is not always fully meeting their needs and the staff, resources and environment are not always able to meet the changing needs of the patients. This is not a problem only seen in Lincolnshire and something many NHS trusts nationally are finding.

In response to this developing need, LPFT and NHS Lincolnshire Integrated Care Board have agreed that a review is required of its local provision to ensure it can best meet the needs of service users both now and in the future.

Local targeted engagement has begun with staff and the current patients on the ward, and LPFT will be widening this to other patients who may have had a stay on the ward over the last five years, as well as those who care for them. In addition, LPFT will also be talking to other local services that might refer to or support the Vales to understand any wider impacts.

LPFT states that its engagement will be taking place over the next couple of months to understand the current situation and what future options might be, after which LPFT then hopes to develop some possible proposals for consideration and more collaborative development over the summer.

3. Psychiatric Intensive Care Unit - Reopening Update

As reported to this Committee on 24 January 2024, the plans of Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (LPFT) to re-open Hartsholme Centre, Lincolnshire's male Psychiatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU), continued to be delayed due to water quality issues, caused by legionella bacteria.

On 8 February 2024, LPFT announced that due to the continued high levels of legionella at the Hartsholme Centre, LPFT is not able to re-open the ward in any capacity at this present time. Based on the progress made, LPFT is now aiming for a re-opening in May 2024, but this will depend on the results of testing.

The Hartsholme Centre was closed temporarily in October 2022, to enable staff to be redeployed on temporary basis to support other LPFT services. In May 2023, LPFT announced a plan for a partial re-opening beginning in November 2023, with the centre fully re-opened by March 2024. However, in November 2023, LPFT announced that during routine testing legionella had been found, and as a consequence there was a decision to continue with the Centre's temporary closure to allow remedial works on the water system, in the building which contains the Hartsholme Centre.

LPFT states that an extensive amount of works and a number of building-wide disinfections have been undertaken to good effect and as a result the extent of the legionella bacteria has now reduced from being systemic and building-wide to being isolated to just the Hartsholme Centre part of the building.

LPFT stated that tests during the week beginning 29 January indicated that there were high levels of the bacteria. Remedial action and regular testing will continue.

LPFT stated that it will continue to do all we can to clear the issue and re-open the ward as soon as possible and the LPFT Board is very aware of the impact this closure is having on patients, their families and the staff, who are currently redeployed supporting alternative adult wards across the division.

4. Grantham Urgent Treatment Centre

There have been some queries with regards to the Grantham Urgent Treatment Centre (UTC).

Ambulance Conveyances to Grantham UTC

When Grantham UTC went live in October 2023, a derogation was agreed for ambulance conveyances overnight during November. This was because NHS Lincolnshire Integrated Care Board wanted to gain information on the number of patients who would attend the UTC overnight.

This was reviewed in December, and it was agreed ambulances could convey patients to the UTC overnight and NHS England was notified, and the derogation removed. The UTC has always received patients via ambulance during the day.

Bookings via 111 at Grantham UTC

A derogation was also agreed with NHS England regarding bookings via 111. This was because there was a lead-in time to procure and install systemone (the IT system), which was needed to allow the 111 interface. This is due to be installed by 28 February 2024, which will ensure the UTC can take bookings from 111.

The decision was taken by NHS Lincolnshire ICB to open Grantham UTC in October 2023 with temporary derogations, as on balance it was better for the UTC to be open 24/7 to all walk-in patients, rather than wait until February 2024, when systemone had been installed.

A separate agenda item is planned for 12 June 2024 on Grantham UTC, at which data will be available for the first six months of its operation.

5. NHS Dental Recovery Plan

On 7 February 2024, the Government and NHS England announced that as part of the NHS Dental Recovery Plan, supported by £200 million of government funding, it would provide NHS dentists a 'new patient' payment of between £15 and £50 per patient (depending on treatment need), with the aim of treating up to 2.5 million patients in England receiving appointments over the next twelve months, including the delivery of up to 1.5 million treatments.

To attract new NHS dentists and improve access to care in areas with the highest demand, it was also announced that around 240 dentists will be offered one-off payments of up to £20,000 per year for up to three years working in under-served areas. NHS dental work will also be made more attractive with the minimum value of activity increasing to £28 (from £23).

In addition, the NHS website and the NHS App will indicate which practices are accepting new patients. The government is planning a campaign encouraging anyone who has seen a dentist in the past two years to access treatment. New ways of delivering care in rural and coastal areas will also be rolled out, including launching 'dental vans' to help reach the most isolated communities.

The Committee is due to consider an update on NHS Dental Services in Lincolnshire on 17 April, and this can include information on the impact of the above schemes in the county.

6. Pharmacy First Advanced Service

On 31 January 2024, the *Pharmacy First Advance Service* was launched by NHS England, who confirmed that 10,000 pharmacies in England had registered to deliver the service, which will enable community pharmacists to complete episodes of care for patients without the need for the patient to visit their general practice.

NHS England states that this service will save up to ten million general practice team appointments a year and help patients access quicker and more convenient care, including the supply of appropriate medicines for minor illness.

NHS England states that the Pharmacy First Service will enable community pharmacies to manage patients for seven common conditions, which are: impetigo (for ages one year and above); infected insect bites (for ages one year and above); shingles (for ages 18 and above); sinusitis (for ages twelve and above); sore throat (for ages five and above); uncomplicated urinary tract infections (for women aged between 16 and 64); and acute otitis media (for ages one to 17).

Patients will access the service by walking into the pharmacy (or where appropriate by video consultation). In addition, patients will access the service via referrals from:

- NHS 111 (online, telephone and NHS App);
- integrated urgent care clinical assessment services;
- urgent treatment centres;
- emergency departments;
- 999; and
- general practice.

NHS England will be launching a national marketing campaign from mid-February 2024.

7. Covid-19 Spring 2024 Vaccination Programme

On 7 February 2024, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) announced arrangements for the Covid-19 spring 2024 vaccination programme. The DHSC had accepted the advice provided by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation that for spring 2024 vaccines should be offered to:

- adults aged 75 and over;
- residents in care homes for older adults;
- individuals who are immune-suppressed (in accordance with set definitions).

Vaccines should be offered around six months after the previous dose (as part of the 2023 autumn programme), subject to operational flexibility, but with a minimum interval of three months since the previous vaccination.

Further details can be found at: [JCVI statement on COVID-19 vaccination in spring 2024 and considerations on future COVID-19 vaccination, 4 December 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/jcvi-statement-on-covid-19-vaccination-in-spring-2024-and-considerations-on-future-covid-19-vaccination)