

		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

Open Report on behalf of Andy Leary, Director of Finance and Commissioning, NHS England (Leicestershire and Lincolnshire Area Team)

Report to	Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire
Date:	25 June 2014
Subject:	NHS England: Leicestershire and Lincolnshire Area Team - Direct Commissioning Responsibilities

1. Summary

NHS England operates within a mandate agreed with the Department of Health which prescribes and describes the roles and functions, resources and responsibilities. It has one National Statutory Board, with Chief Executive Officer, Simon Stevens, and Chairman, Sir Malcolm Grant.

Under this national structure, there are 4 Regions and 27 Area Teams. The Regional Team act as coordinator for the larger geography. The 27 Area Teams cover the whole of England (see map – Appendix A).

An Area Team within NHS England has three roles:

- 1) Direct Commissioning of Health Care Services;
- 2) An assurance and development role in relation to the operation of Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs);
- 3) A system convenor/leader role relating to issues requiring multi organisation coordination or to improve patient experience or quality of care.

This document covers all three roles.

Action Required

To consider and comment on the information presented in the report on the activities of NHS England Leicestershire and Lincolnshire Area Team.

2. Direct Commissioning

This report sets out the health services, which the Local Area Team commissions for the 1.8 million people of Lincolnshire, Leicester City, Leicestershire & Rutland and for all providers of complex & specialised acute and mental healthcare who are based in the East Midlands, who primarily serve the 4.9 million people in this region, but also some services on a national basis.

3. Specialised Services

NHS England is now the sole commissioner of specialised services with a clear responsibility to show leadership in delivering the best outcomes and experience of care for patients. In doing so, NHS England is keen to demonstrate its commitment to working in partnership with patients, the public, clinicians, patient organisations, providers, industry, academia and others, to develop its priorities in the coming years. To support the delivery of this commitment, NHS England is working with the Specialised Healthcare Alliance and Rare Disease UK to develop a national 5 year strategy.

Ten of NHS England's 27 area teams have direct commissioning responsibility for specialised services. They account for over 10 per cent of the overall NHS budget. Area teams are required to implement these national policies at a local level, managing contracts with their providers on behalf of all patients in England.

The Leicestershire and Lincolnshire Area Team is one of these area teams with commissioning responsibility for commissioning specialised services for the population of England for all providers in the East Midlands.

4. Primary Care

All 27 Area Teams have direct commissioning responsibility for primary care services which include:

Primary Medical Services

- Essential and additional primary medical services through GP contracts and nationally commissioned enhanced services.
- Out of hours primary medical services (where practices have retained the responsibility for providing out-of-hours services).
- Improving the quality of primary care

Pharmaceutical Services

- Pharmaceutical services provided by community pharmacy contractors (not through a contract but the contractors' terms of service are included in Regulations), dispensing doctors and appliance contractors.

General Ophthalmic Services

- Primary ophthalmic services, NHS sight tests and optical vouchers.

Dental Services

- All dental services, including primary, community, and secondary care services, plus urgent and emergency dental care.

The strategic direction of NHS England is to enable primary care to play a greater role in the move to more integrated out-of-hospital services that deliver better health outcomes and deliver more personalised and proactive care, an excellent patient experience, high standards of quality, and the best possible value for money.

5. Public Health Services

The Area Team's public health function is responsible for commissioning the 30 services. Twenty six of these services relate to national screening programmes (for example antenatal and neonatal screening) and national immunisation programmes (such as the Measles, Mumps and Rubella programme and seasonal influenza immunisations). The remaining four services include health visiting services for those under 5 years, child health records departments, public health services for detained offenders and sexual assault referral centres.

6. Engagement with Clinical Commissioning Groups

The Area Team works together with providers and Clinical Commissioning Group commissioners to ensure that all elements of the care pathway are aligned and reflect local strategic reviews (for example, the *Better Care Together* programme for Leicestershire & Rutland, and the *Lincolnshire Health and Care* programme). Engagement includes dialogue with Clinical Commissioning Groups on progress, recognising our shared agenda and quarterly updates to the four Health and Wellbeing Boards through Executive Team representation.

7. Area Team Role with Partners

The second role of the Area Team is an assurance and development role in relation to the operation of Clinical Commissioning Groups. This relationship with Clinical Commissioning Groups relates to assurance and 'fit for purpose'. The third role of the Area Team, the *system convenor/leader role* is less clear and is evolving, but basically it is seen as the most senior NHS role within the geographical area covered by the Area Team.

The Area Team has developed links with local authorities and has a full member seat at each of the four Health and Wellbeing Boards (Leicester City, Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, and Rutland) in the Area Team's area.

On 10 June 2014, the Lincolnshire Health and Wellbeing Board considered the Area Team's Draft Operational Plan 2014-2016 and Emerging Strategy Update. This detailed document details the Area Team's plans for the services, which NHS England commissions.

8. Conclusion

NHS England is committed to working with local partners to ensure that for all services NHS England's values and principles are upheld. These principles are that:

- Services should be patient centred and outcome based
- Plans should drive improved outcomes in the five domains set out by government
- Fairness and consistency of access to address health inequalities
- Improvements in productivity and efficiency allow improved quality within available resources

Our direct commissioning plans, and those of our CCGs, operate in tandem with a full and active programme of quality improvement led through the NHS England area team and its partners.

9. Consultation

Our plans have been shared with key stakeholders including providers, CCGs and HWB's.

10. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	NHS England Regional and Area Teams

Background Papers - No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

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NHS England

Regional and Area Teams

