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|  | | 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 Richard Wills, the Director Responsible for Democratic Services

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| Report to | Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire |
| Date: | 25 June 2014 |
| Subject: | Burton Road Surgery, Lincoln |

Summary:

NHS England Leicestershire and Lincolnshire Area Team is currently consulting on the future arrangements for the Burton Road Surgery in Lincoln, which has approximately 2,700 patients of the end of May 2014.

Actions Required:

To determine whether to respond to the consultation on the future arrangements for the Burton Road Surgery, Lincoln.

1. Burton Road Surgery, Lincoln

Background

NHS England Area Team is looking at the future arrangements for the Burton Road Surgery in Lincoln. This surgery has approximately 2,700 registered patients (as of the end of May 2014). GP services are currently provided at the surgery by Lincolnshire Community Health Services NHS Trust under a contract with NHS England, which is due to end.

NHS England Area Team held two drop in sessions on 3 June 2014 on the future of the Surgery. The NHS England Area Team has stated that they learned from patients how much they value the current service and the Burton Road practice team. It had also become clear to NHS England that a recent letter to the patients of the surgery had caused some confusion.

The reason for the confusion is that an earlier letter to all patients indicated that the Surgery would in fact be closing with effect from 30 September 2014. (A subsequent statement, dated 5 June 2014, stated that there would be no decision until July 2014.)

NHS England has confirmed that there are two options for the Burton Road Surgery. The first option is to close the surgery. In this instance, NHS England would then help patients to choose another GP practice in the area. The second option is to go out to tender to see if there is a provider willing to provide the service, which may be delivered from different premises and may impact on the current practice team.

NHS England has stated that it believes that there will be sufficient capacity at surrounding practices to accommodate patients. GPs will organise their practices in the best way to meet the needs of their patients. Alternative surgeries may offer different appointment systems from those that the patients of Burton Road are used to, however their care will not suffer as a consequence of this. There will not be any impact on other primary care services.

Letter to Stakeholders - 27 May 2014

In the week beginning 27 May, 2014, a letter was issued to stakeholders, advising them that the surgery would close on 30 September 2014. The letter stated the following:

"Services at Burton Road Surgery are currently provided by Lincolnshire Community Health services. This contract is due to end and NHS England (Leicestershire and Lincolnshire Area Team) has been looking at how services will be provided for patients in the future.

After careful consideration, the Area Team has decided that services will no longer be provided from Burton Road Surgery and the practice will close on 30th September 2014.

The reasons for the closure are:

- There are a number of other GP practices in the area and patients will be able to choose which one they register with (please note that patients need to live within the boundary of a practice to register with them).*
- The ability of smaller practices to provide services in the modern NHS is becoming more challenging."*

We know that some patients will be concerned that they will need to register with another practice and we are very sorry for any disruption that may cause patients. However, as stated above, there are a number of other GP practices in the area. NHS England will be working with these practices to ensure they are prepared for the Burton Road Surgery patients.

Patients registered with the Burton Road Surgery will receive letters from 27th May 2014 which will provide them with the above information and seek their views through a survey regarding access to, and choice of, GP practices.

NHS England (Leicestershire and Lincolnshire) is committed to ensuring patients have continued access to local, high quality GP services. Please be reassured that no one will be left without a GP as a result of these changes, and we will do everything that we can to minimize disruption for patients.

NHS England Statement on 5 June 2014

On 5 June, 2014, NHS England issued a statement, which confirmed that they are consulting on the future arrangements, with the two options outlined above. NHS England has stated that it wants as many patients as possible have the chance to give their views. Therefore, they will be writing to patients again in the next two weeks to remind them that they can do so via a questionnaire which is available on line at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/VT7VKXJ>. Alternatively, patients can pick up a copy from the Burton Road surgery itself.

2. Conclusion

The Committee is invited to consider whether it wishes to make a submission to NHS England Area Team in relation to the future of the Burton Road Surgery, Lincoln.

3. Consultation

NHS England is consulting on the future arrangements for the Burton Road Surgery in Lincoln.

4. Appendices - None

5. Background Papers

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

This report was written by Simon Evans, who can be contacted on 01522 553607 or simon.evans@lincolnshire.gov.uk