

		<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

## **HEALTHY LIVES, HEALTHY FUTURES**

### **Hyper-Acute Stroke Services and Ear, Nose and Throat Inpatient Surgery Response of the Health Scrutiny Committee to the Consultation**

#### **Introduction**

The Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire recognises the importance of the services provided to Lincolnshire residents by Northern Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Foundation Trust, in particular at Diana Princess of Wales Hospital in Grimsby, and at Scunthorpe General Hospital. The Committee understands that a significant number of patients from the Lincolnshire East and Lincolnshire West Clinical Commissioning Group areas fall within the Trust's notional catchment area.

#### **Hyper-Acute Stroke Services**

The Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire supports the proposal to make permanent the relocation of hyper-acute stroke services at Scunthorpe General Hospital.

The Committee recognises that the decision to relocate hyper-acute stroke services temporarily at Scunthorpe General Hospital was implemented in November 2013 in response to the Keogh inspection earlier in 2013, effectively a decision made on the basis of the safety of patients.

As a result of the relocation of these services, ambulance journey times from Louth, Mablethorpe and the surrounding area to Scunthorpe will be longer, compared journey times to Diana Princess of Wales Hospital in Grimsby. This is a particular concern for the Committee, although the Committee has been advised that an ambulance travelling on a blue light would reach Scunthorpe General Hospital in one hour on average from Louth, Mablethorpe and the surrounding area. This would meet with the relevant NICE quality standard.

The Committee also understands that also in accordance with a NICE quality standard, where patients arrive at a specialist stroke centre, they should receive a scan within one hour and where appropriate receive thrombolysis treatment.

Stroke patients would generally stay in the hyper-acute stroke unit for 72 hours, before transferring to ongoing care and rehabilitation. The Committee understands that these services will continue to be provided from Diana Princess of Wales Hospital, and patients will transfer there for this care, where this is closer to their home. However, the Committee is concerned that the families and friends of patients from parts of Lincolnshire will be expected to travel further to visit during the first 72 hours. The Committee has been partially reassured that the *Healthy Lives, Healthy Futures* Programme is looking at the impact of its proposals on transport, and has tried particular journeys on public transport.

The Committee notes that there has been a small capital investment in 2013 of £25,000 to relocate the services to Scunthorpe and the preferred option does not deliver any savings to the Trust overall.

### **Ear, Nose and Throat Inpatient Surgery**

The Committee supports the proposal to relocate Ear, Nose and Throat Surgery from Scunthorpe General Hospital to Diana Princess of Wales Hospital in Grimsby. The Committee accepts the rationale for concentrating surgery on one hospital site.

The Committee notes that outpatient appointments will continue at Scunthorpe General Hospital.

The Committee would like to reiterate its comments relating to transport and accessibility, where services are concentrated on another hospital site, although the transport impact from this proposal would be less as most Ear, Nose and Throat surgery is planned day-case surgery.

We are also aware that the financial effect of this proposal is minimal, as most surgery is already undertaken at the Diana Princess of Wales Hospital site.

### **General Comments and Conclusion**

The Committee is impressed by the content of the consultation document, as each proposal is described clearly and in a way that makes it accessible to members of the public. The consultation document also clearly sets out the options, together with a clear rationale for the preferred option. The Committee is also grateful that other supporting documentation is available on the *Healthy Lives, Healthy Futures* website, which provides further detail for those who require it.

The Committee commends the work being undertaken by the *Healthy Lives, Healthy Futures* Programme in establishing the Transport Group to assess the impact of its proposals on the ability of patients, and their families and friends, to access public transport. This is important in Lincolnshire, with the limited availability of public transport and the distances involved when travelling to hospitals. The Committee itself is planning to consider non-emergency transport provision, as it is aware of concerns in this area.

Whatever decisions are made on these options, it is important that these services are continually reviewed and assessed, so that they continue to meet with developing demographic needs within the Trust's catchment population. In particular, this would apply to stroke, where the prevalence in East Lindsey is higher than the national average. The Committee would also like to see the outcomes continually monitored over the next two years, and would suggest that local health and wellbeing boards and Healthwatch are involved in this.

The Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire would urge that West Lindsey District Council and East Lindsey District Council are asked directly to respond to future consultations and would suggest that in future consultation documents are sent to these councils directly.

The Committee looks forward to participating in further consultations as part of the *Healthy Lives, Healthy Futures* programme

The Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire has been established by Lincolnshire County Council to discharge the health overview and scrutiny functions set out in Sections 244-246 of the National Health Service Act 2006 and the Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013. In accordance with regulation 31 of these Regulations, one representative of each of the district councils in Lincolnshire has been co-opted as a member of the Health Scrutiny Committee. Lincolnshire Healthwatch is also represented as a member of the Committee.