

Lincolnshire Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire – 8 November 2023

Humber Acute Services Review Programme - This review will affect residents living in the north of East Lindsey who are taken to both Grimsby and Scunthorpe Hospitals and as such it would be useful if East Lindsey would make an official reply to the consultation, which will close on January 5 2024. There will be a consultation session at Louth Library on November 29 from 11am to 1pm with officers on hand to explain the changes. The presentation given to Health Scrutiny can be viewed by linking to: [HOSC_Lincs_08.11.23](#)

The move to consolidate services has been put forward to help ensure the future quality and safety of certain services. At present both hospitals experience significant demand and they do not deliver to national standards on waiting times or ambulance handovers. The service also fails to meet some of the clinical standards because staff are spread too thinly across hospital sites. Gaps in rotas put pressure on existing teams meaning that agency staff and locums have to be brought in, which last year cost over £37m. Unfortunately, potential recruits state as a result of the low numbers of patients there it's not attractive to work there. The backlog of essential maintenance now would cost in the region of £100m and there is limited access to the investment needed to improve or replace them. Longer hospital stays (higher than the national levels) are the result of senior clinicians not always being available every day, 24/7.

Services that might change are the trauma unit, emergency overnight surgery, some inpatient specialised care and paediatric overnight inpatient care.

*Urgent Care Services are to be streamlined at both hospitals to ensure patients are treated more quickly and pressure would be reduced on services for patients with the most life-threatening needs.

*A and E Services will continue at both Grimsby and Scunthorpe following an investment in both sites of £35m

*Trauma Services would be provided at Hull Royal Infirmary, which is a regional centre.

*Inpatient gastroenterology (stomach), cardiology (heart) and respiratory (lungs) who need a higher level of specialist care or need to be in hospital for more than 72 hours will be provided at just one hospital ie Grimsby.

*24/7 Emergency Surgery and acute surgical admissions would also in future be delivered at Grimsby, but Day Case emergency surgery would continue at both sites.

*Inpatient Care for Children and Young People who need to be in hospital for more than 24 hours would be centred at Grimsby.

*Stroke Services would be centralised at Scunthorpe rather than Grimsby.

This would mean that staffing levels would ensure such services as cardiology would be available at Grimsby 24/7 and not be a five day a week service as at present.

Any increased travel for residents will be by ambulance or via free inter-hospital transported if they need to be admitted for a longer period of time or for more specialised care.

It has been proposed the Princess Diana Hospital in Grimsby is the only viable option to deliver the new services because it will directly impact on fewer people than Scunthorpe. It would also cost three times as much to make changes to the buildings in Scunthorpe and the service changes can be delivered more swiftly at Grimsby with the monies available.

Lincolnshire Acute Service Review update on Orthopaedics and Stroke Services - when the changes were introduced it was agreed once in place there should be a number of updates to the committee following their implementation in 2018.

The orthopaedic Hub has proved successful with lengths of stay reduced to 1.9 days, compared with 3.5 to 3.9 nationally. Grantham Hospital, which provides a day case service, also delivers SuperPath keyhole procedures, one of a very few hospitals to offer such a service (with this both hips can actually be done at the same time!) Louth County Hospital will continue to deliver day case work too. In April this year the Ward at Grantham achieved the Silver Diamond Quality Award and is now working towards achieving Gold. The Ward has a five-star rating for cleanliness. From January to September this year 1110 elective procedures were delivered at Grantham with no procedures needing to be cancelled due to transport issues.

The single Lincolnshire Stroke Service is now centred at Lincoln. A joint stroke board has been established and plans are being developed to expand the current provision for strokes at Lincoln County and they are supported by an enhanced Community Stroke Rehabilitation team. Monthly meetings, attended by partners, take place to take the improvements further. Outpatient appointments linked to the stroke service continue to be held at Boston Pilgrim, as well as TIA clinics three days a week at Boston. Medical outliers at Lincoln County will continue until approximately the end of the year. In the future there will be a multi-million-pound development at Lincoln to increase the Stroke Unit by 7 beds to take the total to 35. Architects are soon to be appointed with work due to start September 2024 and completed within a year.

Hartsholme Centre - Lincolnshire Psychiatric Intensive Care Unit for Men

There is going to be a delay in the planned partial re-opening of this unit due to finding legionella in the water system. Pipework is being flushed and various other associated work is being carried out, so it's not expected the unit will be able to open until 2024. Sad news given there had been a recruitment campaign to find the required staffing levels to open the unit safely again this month.

Branston and Heighington Family Practice and Richmond Medical Centre, North Hykeham-

Following an inadequate rating and special measures being announced, intensive work with the first practice has resulted in a new inspection rating them Good in four of the five domains. Richmond has put in place significant improvements and now awaits a further inspection.

Non-Emergency Patient Transport - EMAS has a new base at the Lindum Business Park at North Hykeham. This is part of a nine-year contract awarded by the NHS Lincolnshire Integrated Care Board. It is the base for all the call handling team, control room, fleet of over 20 ambulances and electric vehicles, as well as an office hub supporting over 140 members of staff who are based throughout Lincolnshire.

Revised Health Scrutiny Regulations and Statutory Guidance - The Centre for Governance and Scrutiny has announced that is expecting revised health scrutiny regulations to go before parliament in January 2024. These new regulations have been expected for the last two years and are expected to limit the powers of health overview and scrutiny committees too, such as referrals to the Secretary of State in instances where a committee disagrees with a proposal from the local NHS for a substantial configuration of NHS services. This also applies to NHS Commissioners in relation to reconfigurations. More details will follow....

House of Commons Health and Care Committee on NHS Dentistry - Two members of staff from Healthwatch Lincolnshire have given evidence at the inquiry instigated by the Commons Health and Care Committee into dentistry. They highlighted the scarcity of NHS Dental Services, long travel distances, financial challenges for patients, the need for prioritising those in greatest need and the call for new oral health needs assessment to reform the system.

Plans for Dentistry Services in Mablethorpe - A preferred bidder has now been identified in Mablethorpe to deliver services at the Marisol Medical Centre, starting in early 2024. The initiative will address the long gap in services in Mablethorpe by offering general dental care to patients in need.

Pilgrim Hospital concerns about A and E and the loss of a Ward - A whistle-blower nurse at Pilgrim has raised concerns about the relocation of acute stroke services to Lincoln, with the loss of 24 beds all which impact on the healthcare service. There has been extensive public consultation and ongoing efforts to improve patient care and reduce emergency department wait times. The ULH Trust are encouraging the public to consider alternative healthcare options when it is not a 999 emergency.

Recognition for Improvements made for Heart Failure Patients - Lincolnshire Community Health Services Trust and ULHT were jointly shortlisted for the HRH Prince of Wales Award for Integrated Approaches to Care. They collaborated with primary care partners to make substantial improvements in heart failure patient care in the county, including creating a virtual ward, seen day heart failure specialist service and direct admission pathway for prioritising and expediting care for patients in need along with enhancing specialist heart failure capacity in hospitals.

Urgent Treatment Centre for Grantham and surrounding areas - The new 24/7 unit at Grantham and District Hospital opened at the end of October. The decision to open the unit followed a 12-week consultation and aims to provide round the clock urgent care services for the people of Grantham and the surrounding area.

Storm Babet - Storm Babet hit on October 20 and there were more than 450 urgent call outs and Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue dealt Edith more than 500 emergency calls across the county. Communities impacted by flooding will benefit from government funding to help them recover through a scheme called the Flood Recovery Framework.

Earlier Mental Health Support announced - Almost £5m of government monies was allocated on October 25 to fund early support hubs nationwide to deliver mental health support for children and young people. This will provide earlier mental health treatment in a move to help save lives and ensure fewer youngsters reach crisis point through early support hubs across the country.

General Practice Quality Assurance and Improvement - each practice is quality tested by the Integrated Care Board Nursing and Quality team and Primary Care Teams. The delivery framework looks at delivery, relevant incidents, complaints, patient participation groups, patient surveys and CQC ratings and inspections. Any concerns go to the ICB Primary Care and Quality Teams and practices are then supported in making improvements on a prompt basis. It is felt that the processes are well established, working with relevant partners including the Lincolnshire ICB General Practices. This is further enhanced through implementation of the Primary Care Access Recovery Plan and the associated Support Level Framework and General Practice Improvement Programme.

The next meeting will be held on 6 December 2023.