

Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire – Wednesday 9 October 2024

ULHT teaching Hospital Status: This was confirmed on September 16 and so the Trust in future will be known as United Lincolnshire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust. As a benefit this will help the Trust attract and retain staff in the county. It demonstrates the importance of the development of its workforce, providing training, learning and education opportunities for all staff. It will in turn attract top tier talent, engage in ground-breaking research and innovation in collaboration with its university partners. The Trust states this will improve upon the highest standards of patient care for the people of Lincolnshire. Congratulations were sent from the Health Scrutiny Committee.

Construction of Norton Lea Mental Health Unit at Boston: The Lincolnshire Partnership Trust laid the first bricks on September 23 for the construction of this new unit on London Road. The unit will include a new 19 bed mixed gender adult in-patient Ward, which will be the base for the Boston Mental Health Crisis Team. It replaces the outdated dormitory accommodation on Ward 12 at Pilgrim.

Your Voice: On October 23 between 10am and 1pm Healthwatch Lincolnshire will hold its next YourVoice@Healthwatch event at Jakeman's Football Stadium in Boston.

Healthwatch Lincolnshire: On 2 October 2024, HWLincs announced that they had been recommissioned by Lincolnshire County Council to deliver the Healthwatch Lincolnshire service for a further five and a half years. HWLincs has stated that they have delivered the Healthwatch Lincolnshire service over the past ten years, with strong relationships with stakeholders, healthcare providers, commissioners, and local authorities. HW Lincs has stated that they remain committed to ensure that the voices of Lincolnshire's residents continue to drive service improvement and policy development; and they will use the next five and a half years providers, commissioners, and local authorities to build on progress and deepen their engagement with the sector.

Cancers diagnosed at ULHT Hospitals as requested at the meeting of 11th September: Tumour Status Primary - 6865; Recurrence 235; Total 7100. Treatments Recorded on the National Cancer Registry - First Treatment- 5352; Subsequent Treatments - 3822, Event Type Not Recorded - 23; Total - 9197. *A total month by month is available on the Health Scrutiny website for anyone interested.

Humber Acute Services Review: The Department of Health and Social Care has acknowledged the Committee's request for intervention by the Secretary of State and has indicated a further update will be provided in six weeks.

GP national pilot: The Lincolnshire Integrated Care Board is one of seven selected to test changes to the GP operating model. Three practices in the Lincoln area, covering a population of 170,000, will run the pilot until March 2027. The interventions include expanding the use of the NHS app and Pharmacy First, improving communication to patients about the primary care workforce, implementing digital methods to reduce the administrative burden and reducing workload, both clinical and administrative, across the primary-secondary care interface.

GP Collective Action: After a national ballot GPs voted in favour of collective action which can take the form of ten actions to stop or reduce certain work. GPs will make individual and practice-based decisions on whether they will take any collective action. There is no specific end date on the horizon and doctors may vary the actions they may choose to take. Whilst many practices will advise NHS Lincolnshire ICB they are not obliged to do so. Patient safety

is para7 so if a practice does decide to take action, the ICB will establish alternative arrangements to ensure patients can access the services they need. There is an information page available for local enquiries on GP Collective Action - Lincolnshire ICB.

Public Engagement Event – to be held in Sutton Bridge on November 13 from 6.30 to 7.30 to discuss the proposed new Kings Lynn Hospital.

Response from Health Minister on Section 106 funding for healthcare facilities: After the July meeting the Chairman wrote to the Secretary of State about use of 106 monies for GP facilities.

Suicide Prevention in Lincolnshire: In 2023 there were 105 suicides in the county, which equates to 14 per 100,000, higher than the National average of 11.4. It represents an 8 percent increase on the previous year. The county's Public Health Department looks for trends and over time look for patterns by geography too. Lincoln has the highest number at 20.1 per 100,000, in the top 10 in the country, but East Lindsey, Boston and South Holland have above average numbers too. Men in the 30 to 50 age group are the highest risk group but causes cover a multitude of different factors. Deprived areas show a 3 times higher propensity for suicide. The team works with people with "lived experience" and there is a Recovery College supporting families and colleagues too. (Health Scrutiny has had a working group supporting this work too) there are actions that can be taken to prevent suicide, led by a multi-agency Steering Group working along guidelines set out in the Lincolnshire Suicide Prevention Strategy 24-28, which has an annual action plan. Data shows 3/4 of suicides were men, aged between 30 and 39, and a quarter women, aged predominantly between 40 and 49. Over half the suicides took place in the home and 48% were single at the time. Before the pandemic 34% had previously made attempts to take their own life but this now stands at 40%. Key priorities for this year are to embed the voice of lived experience; encouraging open conversations and reducing Stigma and additional support for people who have attempted suicide. Next year the priorities are mapping characteristics and risk factors for suicide; improving support for children and young people, and suicide prevention and postventions support in key local organisations/employers. There was praise for the Lincolnshire Rural Support Network who do play such an important role supporting rural communities.

**There is a 20-minute online course which members can access through the Zero Suicide Alliance Training course.

Implementation of Lincolnshire Community Rehabilitation Service: the Lincolnshire Partnership Trust provides mental health services along with some learning disability, autism and social care service in the county. The Trust were asked to inform Health Scrutiny of progress since the formal closure of Ashley House, a law dependency rehab unit in Grantham in July last year. The Trust reports the service is now available countywide but unfortunately there are some challenges recruiting to the Eastern Hub ie this area! But the good news the service is demonstrating a positive impact with shorter length of stay and higher volumes of patients being supported by the community-based approach. Monitoring access, outcomes and people's experience will continue. All patients felt staff listened and spent time with them, 94% felt informed and given options about treatment and 97% felt the service provided was good or very good.

Reduction of inappropriate out of area mental health placements: Over the last few years there has been a national mandate to reduce inappropriate out of area placements to zero by next spring. Services should be commissioned and provided locally. However, some specialist in-patient services are not available due to low numbers of demand, so travel is deemed appropriate. Lincolnshire's performance has been good in the past, but it is higher than the zero mandate! Demand for adult acute mental health inpatient demand is exceeding the available local bed capacity which it is felt means people being hospitalised away from

their families, which hampers recovery. So, hitting the target will be a challenge plus placing people outside the county comes with a price tag of over £1m. So, recovery action is in progress with the Trust working closely with the Integrated Care Board.

Councillor Jill Makinson-Sanders
ELDC Outside Body Appointee to the Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire
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