

## Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire – Wednesday 16 July 2025

**Maternity Services National Investigation:** On June 23 Health Minister Wes Streeting announced a rapid national investigation into NHS Maternity and Neo-natal services to improve mother and baby safety. This comes as a result of conversations with bereaved families. The investigation will report back by December and will be in two parts. The first will focus on some of the most concerning units (this isn't Lincolnshire) so there can be answers for the families as soon as possible. The second will be a system wide review of maternity and neo-natal care and will compile lessons from past enquiries to create a set of actions to improve care across the NHS. To coincide with these investigations NHS trust leaders will meet to drive forward urgent improvements and to ensure a digital system is provided to all maternity services by November which will flag up potential safety concerns in trusts and rapid national action. This service in Lincolnshire has been added to the work programme.

**Parking Charges at United Lincolnshire Trust:** These were increased at Boston, Grantham and Lincoln at the beginning of July and were deemed by the committee as being highly controversial despite being the first change in five years, when they were actually reduced as part of the response to the pandemic. ULHT say the increases have been kept to a minimum and are part of a series of changes made to improve parking for patients and visitors. Blue badge parking continues free of charge as is the parking of motorcycles.

Free parking is also available for the following:

- \*Oncology patients receiving regular treatment
- \*Parents of sick children staying in hospital overnight
- \*Parents supporting a child's needs in the special baby care unit
- \*Adults accompanying children for emergency treatment
- \*People collecting prescriptions or hearing aid batteries
- \*Clergy visiting parishioners following bereavement
- \*Care partner badge holders

Also, there are concessions for outpatients who receive certain benefits but will need to mention this to the clinic or Ward reception they are attending.

Up to 30 minutes is free; up to 1 hour is £2; up to 2 hours is £3; up to 3 hours is £4; up to 4 hours is £5; longer than four hours is £6.

These charges are cheaper than Grimsby which is £3 for an hour and £5 for two hours. At Peterborough City Hospital it is £3.50 for an hour and £4.60 for two hours.

**Relocation of Orthopaedic Follow-up Clinics at Lincoln County:** Follow up care for elective and trauma patients who have experienced a fracture or other muscular skeletal conditions are presently situated at Clinic 11. The clinical team provides ongoing care and reviews, they arrange x-rays and other diagnostic tests as well as plaster casts and splints. Views are now sought from patients, staff and the public about a proposal to relocate this service to a purpose built modular extension at the Lincoln Diagnostic Centre, (subject to planning.) The centre is on Beavor Street, two miles from the hospital. This move would free up space to

enable the development and expansion of Same Day Emergency Care. The consultation runs to August 13.

**Consultations still running:** Palliative Care and End of Life Care runs to September 30. Community Dermatology engagement continues with no closing date. Presently patients from this area can be seen at Skegness Hospital or the Parkside Medical Centre in Boston with patients from the west, south and southwest triaged through the Elective Activity Coordination Hub. This split system causes problems. So, the Integrated Care Board proposes to move to a lead provider model with ULHT taking on responsibility with all patients going through the Coordination Hub with patients able to choose which ULHT site they prefer to visit. Echo cardiology Services in East Lincolnshire has an open consultation running. The Integrated Care Board proposes to move to a lead model run by ULHT. This means patients who current get services at the Marisco Practice for ECHO will attend the Skegness Diagnostic Centre or another preferred location whist anyone using the Johnson site in Spalding could choose to receive the service at Pilgrim Hospital or go to providers in Cambridgeshire or Norfolk.

**Quality Accounts 24-25:** The following Trusts have now published these which are now available on their websites - East Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust, Lincolnshire Community Health Services NHS Trust, Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, North Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Foundation Trust; North West Anglia NHS Foundation Trust, United Lincolnshire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust. In addition, Marie Curie and St Barnabas Hospice have also published quality accounts.

**Lincolnshire Community and Hospitals NHS Group:** In April last year the Lincolnshire Community Health Services and United Lincolnshire came together in a group arrangement and are now known collectively as Lincolnshire Community and Hospitals NHS Group. They provide a range of hospital-based services from four sites at Lincoln, Boston, Grantham and Louth, with support from community hospitals closer to patients' homes at Spalding, Skegness and Gainsborough as well as at the county's diagnostic centres. They have a new strategy with the intention to do things once, where possible, doing it well for patients under the umbrella of one Trust. They are focused on health and outcomes working towards the Neighbourhood Health models as proposed in the 10 Year Plan. The idea is to look after residents before they become patients. It means being an outstanding place to work with values and behaviour visible to all, always caring for patients at the right time in the right place. Digital medicine will be at the ambitious forefront, with a single patient record being able to be shared anywhere. Emergency re admissions are presently too high at 976 and this will be addressed - around 100 patients are discharged every day and all should be followed up with a phone call within 24 hours, which is not happening and will become a priority. Capacity outstrips demand right now so better methods to keep people out of hospital need to be done more efficiently and effectively to avoid hospitalisation. Multidisciplinary teams will work with practices and there are moves for consultants to work more closely with GP practices. The Neighbourhood approach should help advice to be given sooner. However it will take three to five years to get these schemes working well. Among the positive developments noted were the first phase of the multi-million Emergency Department upgrade at Boston and the energy efficiency upgrade there too. The three Community Diagnostic Centres, including one at Skegness, will see a fourth built at Boston. Other

positives include the adoption of Martha's Rule at both Lincoln and Boston so families can raise concerns about deteriorating family members, integrated sexual health, a new £20m Endoscopy Unit opening at Lincoln later this year and the implementation of a community based setting at Lancaster Ward, Lincoln - and the only bit of good news for East Lindsey Gloucester Ward at Skegness Hospital has been enhanced with wall art and a cosy snug room for use when family and friends visit!! Basically, by cooperating together this organisation enables the professionals to work even better for residents, going further faster. Added to this finances are improving with savings of £40m already made at ULHT and efficiency savings continue. Councillors will be pleased to know the Louth Hospital site is still rated safe, caring, responsive, well-led and effective. However, Boston and Lincoln do have four sections receiving requires improvement status.

**Review of Local Mental Health, Dementia, Learning Difficulties and Autism services:** These are provided by the Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust and cover a wide spectrum of specialist services including eating disorders and those in the criminal care system. Managers explained the Trust was there for the whole population not just those who are ill. However those in the highest need will get help soonest. In future GPs will get more help and support from this Trust. Happily no-one is now treated out of county, which is an important step forward. Sadly they report a deficit of £3.7m so they have a programme of living within their means. Schools are to get mental health support but so far only 50% are receiving this. I asked for a list of East Lindsey Schools receiving this service should be forwarded to us. There is also more work being carried out on the links between housing and mental health strategies - this comes as a result of a conference held at Skegness. A full list of recent developments and achievements is available on the Health Scrutiny website. In the future the Trust says it will not only provide high quality mental health services in the county but also for more to help the wider Lincolnshire population to maintain good mental health through a "Healthy Population" focus.

There will be no meeting in August.