

Briefing Note regarding the Council's relationship with Lincolnshire West CCG



To assist Members in formulating their prospective questions for representatives of Lincs CCG at their meeting on the 19th November.

Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) are clinically led statutory NHS bodies with responsibility for planning and commissioning health care services in their local area.

CCGs hold 60% of the NHS budget and their remit includes commissioning mental health services, urgent and emergency care, elective hospital services and community care. They work with other parts of the NHS such as hospitals and community services, along with partner organisations (including the county and district authorities) to deliver healthcare and improve health for local people.

The Lincolnshire West CCG area is made up of the north-western part of the County including West Lindsey, City of Lincoln, and the northern part of North Kesteven as far south as Metheringham. For 2014/15 their budget was £270m and they are responsible for buying healthcare for a population of over 223,000 people. The area covers approximately 420 square miles and contains 37 GP practices. The eastern area of West Lindsey is covered by Lincolnshire East CCG.

Lincs West CCG have detailed how they will address health inequalities and improve the health of our population in their Operational Plan from runs from 2014 to 2016. There are three themes that run through the plan: the need to improve the quality of NHS services, to deliver more integrated health and social care closer to people's homes, and to reduce the differences in the care that people receive. The plan highlights the following priority areas:

- Proactive care - helping residents take control of their own health
- Urgent care – urgent emergency assistance
- Planned care - pre-booked appointments or operations
- Women's and children's care
- Primary care - including services received at GP practices

Local authorities and CCGs work together through the Health and Wellbeing Boards to achieve outcomes for the local community by developing a joint needs assessment and a strategy for improving public health. The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) for Lincolnshire is currently under review. Lincolnshire Districts are represented on the Board by Cllr Marion Brighton. A pre-meeting takes place for District nominated Councillors and Officers to consider the papers and formulate any questions or issues they wish Cllr Brighton to raise on their behalf.

A recent development is the introduction of Neighbourhood Teams which will bring together local health and social care professionals such as Community Nurses, GPs, Social Care and Therapists into a single patient focused team. The aim is to provide more personalised care, ensuring patients get the right services at the right time, reducing the need for hospital stays and enabling patients to manage their own conditions more effectively. It is hoped that with the expertise pulled together on a local level both physical and mental issues can be addressed and also that links will be established with partner organisations such as the voluntary sector, wellbeing service and housing providers so that solutions to social care and day to day living needs can be addressed.

Questions Members may wish to consider:

How can the work of the CCG and West Lindsey District Council be more joined up to ensure that we are working together on our respective priorities at local issues? For example during our Corporate Plan refresh West Lindsey have identified priorities relating to dementia care and prevention as occurrences of this disease are set to rise by 60% in 2030 and one in five of our residents have a disability.

There appears to be an issue both recruiting and retaining qualified health professionals in Lincolnshire. What is the current level of vacancies and how do the CCG plan to address this? Also taking into account the planned growth for Gainsborough additional GP surgeries will be required. How do the CCG plan to address this?

Across just our District there appears to be a vast difference in waiting time for GP appointments which could lead to health issues escalating or people self-medicating. Are there any plans in place to standardise waiting times and if not how will this be improved?

Our residents have to travel outside the District to attend hospital consultations and receive treatment. Are there any plans to develop the services and health care offered from the John Coupland Hospital in Gainsborough?

With the recently announced public health funding cuts, preventative health services are likely to be significantly reduced or in some circumstances disappear. It is widely accepted that these services have an important role to play in preventing people from developing long term conditions, for example those associated with smoking, alcohol use and obesity. Do the CCG have any plans to fund preventative health services and initiatives if these services are withdrawn?

The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment is currently being refreshed. How will the priorities of the respective Districts be reflected and addressed within this? For example the Health Profile in West Lindsey demonstrates that we are significantly worse than the England average for long term unemployment, adult obesity, diabetes and people being seriously injured or killed on the road.

One of the main challenges for public organisations and agencies will be the issues around aging populations. How will the Neighbourhood Teams support people to remain independent and enjoy a fulfilled life? As West Lindsey is a sparsely populated rural District, one of the key challenges for the elderly is social isolation, what plans are in place to address this?