NHS
Lincolnshire
Integrated Care Board

Integrated Care Board

Board Meeting Bulletin | 26 September 2023

We are pleased to share the key agreements and updates from September's NHS Lincolnshire ICB Board meeting below, in accordance with our four core purposes.

The Chair was joined by all the non-Executive Directors in commending the team at large for their efforts resulting in the recent, positive Annual Assessment letter received by and about the ICB. It was noted that there were numerous services and projects which NHS England were assured and complimentary about.

The outcome of the Letby trial, which had been decided since the last time the board met, was also noted. Board members were briefed about processes in place in the Lincolnshire system to mitigate against such activity, as well as the additional reviews and checks that had been occurring since the case rose to prominence.

The Deputy Chief Executive gave mention to the unrelenting pressure that exists in the NHS, locally and nationally, and commended the team for their ongoing management and delivery of services in this context.

The most significant financial investment in the county's services for some time, the development of Skegness' Community Diagnostic Centre (CDC), was also celebrated. The £38million investment demonstrates the Lincolnshire NHS' commitment to caring for the county's population, and was also celebrated during the recent visit to another of the county's CDC in Grantham by the Secretary of State, which was a great success.

Updates on performance were delivered. It was confirmed that the system remains on track to exit the National Operating Framework (NOF) Level 4 early, with caution that there is still much to do.

1. To improve outcomes in population health and healthcare

The Director for System Performance outlined the approach currently being taken to Winter Planning. The collaborative approach within Lincolnshire incorporates not only all NHS partner organisations from neighbouring systems, but also has strong engagement from across Adult Social Care and the Voluntary sector.

As a result there are some key schemes of supporting activity that the collaborative team is progressing. One example is the single point of access for clinical staff in Lincolnshire, which will create a simplified and reliable route for referring colleagues to access support and information. Importantly, this will mean quicker advice, guidance and access, which will create an improvement for patients as they benefit from a much better journey through the system to services that are appropriate. It was noted that funding has been secured by the team leading on the planning process to ensure barriers to success are removed.

Greater detail was shared upon the likely longer-term impacts of the continuing Industrial Action, particularly the increases in waiting lists. Similarly, the changing profile of people requiring emergency care was briefed to the board. Higher acuity and therefore higher admissions is consistently being observed, and therefore services are responding to this through the currently winter planning process.

2. To tackle inequalities in outcomes, experience and access

A presentation was received from Sarah Button, Primary Care Programme Lead and Alex Newton, Locality Delivery Manager, briefing the board on the Primary Care Networks' (PCN) approaches to tackling Health Inequalities. They explained that each of the PCNs' have an assigned lead and gave some examples of the good work already happening.

East Lindsay's PCN recently held a successful 'pop up' clinic in a factory for the staff to perform health checks, aware that this group of people were not often in contact with health services. The clinic identified thirteen people with high blood pressure. They are now repeating this approach with care home staff across the area.

Apex PCN held a Saturday clinic, targeting people suffering from obesity. They had 128 people attend, from which 62 expressed an interest in taking part in weight loss support schemes. To date, 30 of these people have already started a programme.

There were many other examples provided and the board were supportive of the approaches being adopted and the successes they are creating, keen to see them produced at scale across all areas of the county.

3. To enhance productivity and value for money

The Deputy Chief Executive updated on the current financial position. He described the unplanned costs due to the ongoing Industrial Action, inflationary pressures and prescribing costs, and that these had driven off-plan financial performance. Work is underway to identify mitigations.

4. To help the NHS support broader social and economic development

No item was received in relation to this core purpose. The next report is expected at the next board meeting.

To read the Board papers and minutes (as they are published) in full, please click here:

ICB Board Meeting | 26 September 2023 - Lincolnshire ICB