



# Integrated Care Board

## Board Meeting Bulletin | 31 January 2023

The Chair opened with an overview of the additional demand the system has managed over the previous two months as a result of the festive break, industrial action, ongoing winter pressures, and increased levels of contagious illnesses such as flu. The continued pressures on the NHS and its partners were acknowledged and together with all board members, the Chair expressed thanks once again to colleagues across the county for all that they are doing to support and provide care for the people of Lincolnshire.

We are pleased to also share below the key agreements and updates from January's NHS Lincolnshire ICB Board meeting that followed, in accordance with our four core purposes:

### 1. To improve outcomes in population health and healthcare

The Board heard from ICB operational leaders regarding progress that had been made against some of the national NHS targets, and the impact that this had for staff and people receiving treatment in the county. Notable updates included:

- The improvement and additional capacity to discharge and flow focused services in Urgent and Emergency Care services, achieved through fast and effective implementation of additional national funding. Working in partnership with our colleagues across Adult Social Care and the third sector, we have increased the number of Active Recovery Beds in six locations across the county, which are focused on helping people improve and maintain their recovery as they leave hospital and get one step closer to home.
- A general improvement in the system OPEL level (Operation Pressure Escalation Levels) being reported since the beginning of the new year. This remains closely watched by colleagues across the system, as our national colleagues are all also doing, but the improved trajectory was noted.
- The significant collegiate working across Lincolnshire's health and care system in coordinating our response to industrial action that continues to occur across the county was praised, particularly the prioritisation of patient safety and access to key services.
- Recent progress in the already successful Lincolnshire COVID-19 vaccination programme was also highlighted, with 3,500 people having come forward for their first vaccination in the last month.

### 2. To tackle inequalities in outcomes, experience and access

Healthwatch Lincolnshire reported key areas of public concern the organisation continues to be contacted about. These include:

- 82% of people Healthwatch Lincolnshire have heard from are anxious about the potential impacts of the cost of living crisis. 57% shared that this is affecting their physical health and 71% their mental health.
- Complaints about the lack of availability of NHS dentistry and the affordability issues associated with private dentists remains a common theme.
- Communications received by patients from the services that they are registered with continues to be an issue, primarily the lack of timeliness and accuracy, as well as the need for people to repeat information throughout a pathway.
- A recent A&E mystery shopping exercise had yielded some positive comments about the service and staff within it, which will be reported in the near future.



With regard to the issues with dentistry, Healthwatch Lincolnshire also reported their involvement and support with the dental strategy engagement work the ICB are undertaking in order to hear and understand more fully the public's views, as we near the delegation of specialised commissioning (including dental) into ICB from regional NHSE.

### 3. To enhance productivity and value for money

An update was provided on the 2022/23 year's system financial position. This remains challenged, with some savings plans still outstanding. However, it was acknowledged there was significant improvement against previous updates. Key notes were:

- The need to move focus towards recurrent savings (plans which will create savings year on year, rather than just once).
- The 2023/24 focus on reducing locum and agency spend in the county and the huge, positive impact this will have upon the system's financial plans and balance.

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

An update was received about the planning and progress upon some key strategies for the system: The interim Integrated Care Partnership Strategy was presented. The draft Strategy can be found in the ICB Board Papers, which can be accessed via the link below. However, we are expecting to circulate the final version of the Strategy to all staff next week.

It was explained that this document, created as a partnership between the ICB and Lincolnshire County Council, outlined 'how' the health and care system will focus integration efforts on key enablers to support delivery of the Health and Wellbeing strategy and its priorities, and the system's overarching ambition and aims, with the Health and Wellbeing Board's strategy outlining 'what' the priority areas the health and care system will focus on in light of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.

The preliminary work upon the NHS Joint Forward Plan (or Lincolnshire NHS Strategy as it will be known locally) was relayed. This is to be led by NHS partners across the county, with a strong partnership approach with the public and key stakeholders at its core, to set out our five year intentions and how we will work together to achieve them. Progress has already been made with a multi-partner steering group leading its development.

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

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