



Report To: South Holland District Council

Date: Wednesday, 23 July 2025

Subject: Health Scrutiny for Lincolnshire Report

Purpose: To provide South Holland District Council with an update following the latest meeting of the Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire

Key Decision: N

Portfolio Holder: Portfolio Holder for Health & Wellbeing, Conservation & Heritage

Report Of: Councillor Glynis Scalese

Report Author: Samantha Bradley, Democratic and Electoral Services Support Officer

Ward(s) Affected: N/A

Exempt Report: N

Summary

This report is provided in accordance with Standing Order 5 of Part 4A (Procedural Standing Orders) of the Councils Constitution which states that written reports will be received from Councillors who represent the Council on Outside bodies. Reports will normally be for information only, however, members may recommend that a matter be considered or investigated by officers and that the investigating officers be asked to submit a further detailed report.

Councillor Scalese is SHDC representative to the Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire.

This report is provided for information purposes only, and members are requested to note it.

Recommendations

That the report be noted.

Reasons for Recommendations

To provide members with an update following the latest meeting of the Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire, in line with the requirements of the council's Constitution.

Other Options Considered

- Not to note the report; or
- To note the report and request that a matter be considered or investigated by officers, and that the investigating officer submit a further detailed report.

Health and Scrutiny Report

General Practitioner Practices Provision in Lincolnshire

There are currently 81 General Practices across Lincolnshire. These practices collaborate through Primary Care Networks to offer an extended range of services to their local populations. In total, there are 14 Primary Care Networks in the region.

Improving Access and Services

The Lincolnshire Integrated Care Board is actively working with General Practices to improve access to services. This includes:

- Supporting practices to meet national planning guidance milestones.
- Ensuring consistent availability of online consultation tools from Monday to Friday, 8.00am to 6.30pm, starting in October 2025.
- Promoting the use of:
 - Advice and Guidance to obtain specialist input from secondary care.
 - Pharmacy First services.
 - Self-referral pathways to streamline patient access.

Strategic Support and Best Practice Sharing

As part of the evolving General Practitioner (GP) Practices strategy, the Lincolnshire Integrated Care Board will:

- Support General Practices and Primary Care Networks in sharing best practices to enhance service delivery and patient care.

Commissioned Services and Workforce

The National Health Service Lincolnshire Integrated Care Board commissions general practice services from:

- 81 General Practices, operating from 114 locations.
- Services are delivered by multidisciplinary teams, typically including:
 - General Practitioners
 - Nursing staff

- Administrative staff

Patient Registration Statistics

- The average number of patients per General Practitioner practice in Lincolnshire is 10,194.
- Practice list sizes vary significantly, ranging from approximately 2,300 to 29,000 patients.

Primary care Access and Recovery Plan

The key aims of the plan are to improve patient access to GP practices by:

- Addressing the 8am rush for appointments.
- Ensuring people understand what happens next when they contact their practice.

The national plan focuses on four key areas:

- Empowering patients to manage their own health.
- Implementing Modern General Practice Access.
- Building capacity.
- Cutting bureaucracy.

Performance Highlights for 2024/25

- General Practitioner practices across the country exceeded annual targets.
- A total of 5.68 million GP appointments were delivered – 2% higher than the target of 5.5 million.
- 87% of appointments not usually booked in advance were delivered within two weeks of being requested, surpassing the national target of 85%.
- 100% of practices offer online appointment booking.
- 100% of practices provide the option to request repeat prescriptions online.
- 100% of General Medical Service practices offer the option to register online.

Empowering Patients

People in Lincolnshire can self-refer into a range of community services without needing a GP referral.

These services include:

- Podiatry
- Weight loss services
- Community equipment services
- Community audiology services

Care Quality Commission

Lincolnshire's Primary Care Quality Team works closely with GP practices to support and drive continuous improvement in local healthcare provision.

The team relies on assessments from the Care Quality Commission to provide independent assurance of the quality of service delivered.

Current Care Quality Commission Ratings for Lincolnshire Practices

The latest Care Quality Commission ratings reflect a strong position across the country:

- 3 practices rated as Outstanding.
- 71 practices rated as Good.
- 6 practices rated as Requires Improvement.
- 1 practice rated as inadequate.

Appendices

None

Background Papers

No background papers as defined in Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the production of this report.

Chronological History of this Report

A report on this item has not been previously considered by a Council body.

Report Approval

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Signed off by: Assistant Director – Wellbeing and Community Leadership

Approved for publication: Christine Morgan – Democratic Services Team Leader