



<b>Report To:</b>	South Holland District Council
<b>Date:</b>	Wednesday, 26 November 2025
<b>Subject:</b>	Health Scrutiny for Lincolnshire Report
<b>Purpose:</b>	To provide South Holland District Council with an update following the latest meeting of the Health Scrutiny for Lincolnshire Committee
<b>Key Decision:</b>	N
<b>Portfolio Holder:</b>	Portfolio Holder for Health & Wellbeing, Conservation & Heritage
<b>Report Of:</b>	Councillor Glynis Scalese
<b>Report Author:</b>	Samantha Bradley, Democratic and Electoral Services Support Officer
<b>Ward(s) Affected:</b>	N/A
<b>Exempt Report:</b>	N

### **Summary**

This report is provided in accordance with Standing Order 5 of Part 4A (Procedural Standing Orders) of the Council's 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's 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.

## **1. Health and Scrutiny Report**

### **Overview of Maternity and Neonatal Services in Lincolnshire**

This report outlines key areas of focus and strategic themes guiding the development and delivery of maternity and neonatal services across Lincolnshire. The aim is to ensure safe, equitable, and compassionate care for women, babies, and families.

### **Key Areas of Focus in Maternity Care**

Continuity of Carer:

- Efforts are being made to ensure that women receive consistent care from the same midwife or team throughout their pregnancy, birth, and postnatal period.

Safer Maternity Care:

- Initiatives such as the *Saving Babies' Lives Care Bundle* are being implemented to reduce stillbirths and neonatal deaths through evidence-based practices.

Perinatal Mental Health:

- Services are being strengthened to support women experiencing mental health challenges during pregnancy and after birth.

Maternal Medicine Networks:

- Specialist networks are being developed to provide expert care for women with complex medical needs during pregnancy.

Digital Transformation and Workforce Development:

- Investment is being made in digital tools and training to enhance service delivery and support staff development.

### **Neonatal and Critical Care Services**

Neonatal services are being reviewed and improved to ensure that babies requiring critical care receive timely and appropriate treatment in well-equipped facilities.

### **Strategic Themes**

#### **Listening to and Working with Women and Families**

Compassionate Care and Co-Production:

- Services are being designed in partnership with women and families to ensure that care is empathetic and responsive to individual needs.

#### Personalised Care Pathways:

- Tailored care plans are being developed to reflect each woman's preferences, circumstances, and clinical needs.

#### Bereavement Services:

- Support for families experiencing loss is available seven days a week, ensuring compassionate care during difficult times.

### **Workforce Growth and Support**

#### Recruitment and Retention Strategies:

- Targeted efforts are underway to attract and retain skilled maternity staff across Lincolnshire.

#### Training and Wellbeing Support:

- Staff are being offered ongoing training and wellbeing resources to maintain high standards of care and job satisfaction.

#### Midwifery Continuity of Carer Implementation:

- Specific strategies are being rolled out to embed continuity of carer models in midwifery practice.

#### Culture of Safety, Learning and Support:

- A positive workplace culture is being promoted, where safety, learning from experience, and mutual support are prioritised.

### **Embedding Safety Standards**

#### Learning from Incidents and Reviews:

- Lessons from national investigations such as the Ockenden Review and the Kirkup reports (East Kent and Morecambe Bay) are being used to inform local improvements in safety and care quality.

### **Standards and Structures for Equitable Care**

#### Equity Action Plans:

- Plans are being developed to address disparities in maternity outcomes, particularly those related to ethnicity and socioeconomic status.

#### Data Disaggregation:

- Data is being analysed by ethnicity and deprivation to better understand and address inequalities.

#### Perinatal Pelvic Health and Mental Health Services:

- These services are being expanded to ensure comprehensive support for women's physical and mental wellbeing during and after pregnancy.

### **Breastfeeding Support**

#### Awareness Raising:

- Campaigns are underway to highlight the health and emotional benefits of breastfeeding for both mother and baby.

#### Accessible Information:

- Clear guidance is being provided to expectant and new parents on where to access breastfeeding support.

#### Workplace Support:

- Employers are being encouraged to create breastfeeding-friendly environments to support working parents.

### **Recruitment and Retention in Lincolnshire**

#### Midwifery Training Expansion:

- The introduction of midwifery courses at the University of Lincoln has significantly improved the county's ability to train and retain qualified midwives, strengthening the local workforce.

### **Outcome of Consultation on Local Dementia Intensive Support and Hospital Care, Including the Manthorpe Ward**

#### **Carers**

- There is a need for more education and training for carers, particularly regarding the financial implications of care.
- Carers benefit greatly from a supportive community where they can learn from one another.
- There are significant gaps in practical support for carers; additional leaflets are not sufficient.
- Crisis support and contingency planning for carers are essential.
- More day care facilities are needed to provide carers with regular respite.
- Carers expressed a strong preference not to travel long distances to visit loved ones.
- Support should be available within carers' own homes to reduce stress and improve outcomes.

## **Dementia Treatment Home Team**

- Seven-day-a-week support at home would be highly beneficial for families.
- Hospital admission can be frightening for dementia patients; home-based care is often preferred.
- Both carers and patients require robust support within their own homes.
- Clear guidance is needed on how to access home treatment and other dementia-related services.
- Many carers are doing their best but urgently need more support at home.
- If a loved one is admitted to Langworth Ward, assistance with travel costs should be considered.
- Travelling across Lincolnshire for appointments presents a significant challenge.
- Public transport across Lincolnshire is frequently difficult and unreliable.

## **Gaps Identified in Wider Dementia Support**

- There is a clear need for 24/7 crisis services to support dementia patients and their carers.
- Assessment centres should be available for individuals following a dementia diagnosis to ensure timely and appropriate care planning.
- Out-of-hours care must be improved to support both dementia patients and their families.
- Additional dementia training is required for adult social care staff, care home workers, and acute hospital teams.
- Crisis contingency plans should be developed to provide carers with access to respite support when needed.
- Ongoing support for both patients and carers following a diagnosis is essential to ensure continuity of care and emotional wellbeing.

## **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 - Communities and Housing Services
Approved for publication:	Andrea Tait – Democratic Services Officer