

UNION BOARD
MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 2ND DECEMBER 2021 AT 3.00 PM

PRESENT:

Mark Webb (NEL CCG) (in the Chair)
Philip Bond (Community Representative, CCG)
Dr Peter Melton (Chief Clinical Officer, CCG)
Dr Sudhakar Allamsetty (Chair of Council of Members, CCG)
Councillor Cracknell (Portfolio Holder for Health, Wellbeing and Adult Social Care, NELC)
Councillor Jackson (Leader of the Council, NELC)
Councillor Fenty (Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Skills and Housing, NELC)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Rob Walsh (Chief Executive NELC/CCG)
Joanne Hewson (Chief Operating Officer, NELC)
Stephen Pintus (Director of Health and Wellbeing, NELC)
Sharon Wroot (Director of Resources and Governance, NELC)
Helen Kenyon (Chief Operating Officer, CCG)
Bev Compton (Director of Adult Services, NELC/CCG)
Simon Jones (Chief Legal and Monitoring Officer, NELC)
Michelle Thompson (Assistant Director, Families, Mental Health and Disabilities Team)
Sally Jack (Assistant Director, Education)
Paul Windley (Democratic and Scrutiny Team Manager)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from this meeting were received from Councillor Lindley. In addition, Dr Allamsetty was in attendance from item onwards.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Jackson declared a personal interest in item 10 as a non-executive director of the Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of the Union Board held on 12th November, 2019 were agreed as a correct record.

4. COVID-19 RESPONSE AND RECOVERY UPDATE

The Union Board received the Union's updated position in the current response to the second wave of COVID-19.

Mr Walsh reported that the focus over the last few weeks had been the move into a further response phase and it was noted that North East Lincolnshire had today entered the very high tier. Infection rates were heading in the right direction but were still high and work continued to keep the virus under control, to reduce transmission rates and follow the guidance. He noted the benefits that the single leadership and governance arrangements had provided. Priority areas of activity were:

- public health and health protection
- local economy and business support
- adult social care and the vulnerable (including tremendous work with care homes)
- children, families and schools
- community engagement and resilience
- financial resilience
- environment and regulatory
- CCG's specific response
- workforce.

Mr Walsh noted that there had been continued work with key partners and sectors to play to our strengths. He commended partners for the manner and spirit of their commitment to work together to deal with the challenges presented by COVID-19. He reported on how financial support had been allocated and lobbying continued for further support from the government.

In terms of recovery, local mobilisation of the government's kickstart programme had provided a good example of work being done to support the creation of local jobs, particularly for young people. The balance between supporting economic recovery and management of the public health risk continued to be a fine one but the latest news on the development of vaccines were to be welcomed. This would form an important part of the jigsaw, alongside testing, to maximise impact locally. Engagement continued with government officials on infection rates, NHS pressures and the question of tiers. He thanked council and CCG colleagues for all their continued work, and also leading statutory officers across the NHS and local government for the work they continue to do to fulfil their responsibilities to support the response to the pandemic.

The Chair added his appreciation to members of staff in both organisations for how well they had risen to this challenge and he hoped that the good news regarding the vaccines continued. He also thanked all partner organisations for their support and felt that it was a testimony to how we operate as a place.

RESOLVED – That the update be noted.

5. SEND UPDATE

The Board received a presentation providing an update on progress with the delivery of Special Education Needs and Disability Services.

Ms Hewson introduced the item and reported that while they had managed to continue to make a lot of progress there had been an issue with the pace of being able to complete co-production due to COVID restrictions. She added that Ofsted were due to conduct an assurance visit in February, 2021.

Ms Jack reported on the sufficiency strategy that had been created to ensure that there was the capacity in specialist provision to reflect the increase in the number of children and young people in receipt of Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs), provide a 5-10 year plan for increasing sufficiency of places within the Borough

to prevent out of area placements, and to improve the experience of children and young people with additional needs in North East Lincolnshire. She set out current numbers, noting the high number of EHCPs, and explained the national and local picture. The overall spread of health needs had been established and enabled planning of demand and provision. The current picture with out of area placements was detailed. There was a need to reduce the use of external providers and Ms Jack explained the impact of doing this. She then set out a range of recommendations arising from the strategy which would be implemented with partners.

Ms Thompson provided an update with progress against the Written Statement of Action; which identified three areas of action following the inspection in July 2018. There were 42 high level actions, all of which were in progress and 10 had been completed. A peer review took place in March, 2020 and key headlines from this were summarised, including areas for further development.

Councillor Jackson enquired whether the rise in the number of children with EHCPs had been mirrored nationally.

Ms Jack responded that we were closer to the national picture but we do have distinct pockets of deprivation. She noted that there was a link from deprivation to SEND issues.

Ms Compton made reference to the cross-cutting issues with Adults Services.

The Chair was heartened by the developments in this area and the actions that had been taken, despite the challenges. He felt that the gathering of evidence would make a difference and he encouraged further co-production and engagement with schools, parents and the health sector. He suggested that a further update be provided to the Board in the spring of 2021.

RESOLVED - That the update be noted and that a further update be submitted to this board in the spring of 2021.

6. HUMBER COAST AND VALE SUSTAINABILITY AND TRANSFORMATION PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

The Board considered a report providing an update on progress with the Humber Coast and Vale Sustainability and Transformation Partnership.

Ms Kenyon set out the latest position, following on from the release last week of a consultation document on Integrated Care proposals. She summarised the proposals contained within the document and how much of these linked in with the work already being done in North East Lincolnshire.

Within the Humber Coast and Vale Integrated Care System, two geographic partnerships had been established to cover the Humber and North Yorkshire regions, within which individual Integrated Care Partnerships were being established. Ms Kenton outlined work that had been undertaken and noted that good progress was being made.

Dr Melton noted the direction of travel with regard to changes in how the NHS operates and the implications locally that would need to be worked through. He further noted the consistent theme within North East Lincolnshire over a number of years about joint working to bring together health care arrangements. He felt that it was important to consider how, as a place-based leadership team, we continue to stick to the things we think are important to our residents.

Please note: These minutes remain in draft form until the next meeting of the Union Board

The Board discussed the local response to the consultation. The Chair noted that a number of organisations locally were looking to respond and he hoped that the Union would also be looking to do so. The importance of involving Elected Members was emphasised and Councillor Cracknell noted that she was attending a number of meetings on this issue.

RESOLVED –

- 1. That the work taking place to develop the place, Humber and ICS system architecture be noted.**
- 2. That a workshop be arranged as soon as practicable to consider North East Lincolnshire's response to the Integrated Care consultation document.**

7. QUARTER TWO UNION FINANCE REPORT

The Board considered a report providing key information and analysis of the Union's financial performance as at the second quarter of the 2020/21 financial year.

The Chair enquired what would happen once government funding relating to the pandemic was exhausted.

Ms Wroot responded that next steps would be potentially some very difficult decisions around lowering our spending requirements. She added that it was a very challenging financial planning period and the main focus would be getting through the next 12 months in as safe a way as possible.

RESOLVED – That the reported position at Quarter 2 and the actions being taken to bring spending back in line with budget, be noted.

8. UNION BOARD TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Board received a report seeking ratification of an amendment to the Union Board's terms of reference.

RESOLVED –

- 1. That the terms of reference annexed to the report now submitted, be adopted.**
- 2. That respective Deputy Chief Executives be authorised to instruct officers to bring about any necessary constitutional change to support such adoption.**

9. UNION STRATEGIC PLAN

The Board formally received the Union Strategic Plan, now published on both the North East Lincolnshire Council and North East Lincolnshire CCG websites.

Mr Walsh noted that the plan was developed prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and it would need to be reviewed in due course to reflect lessons learnt from the pandemic as well as the implications of the Integrated Care proposals.

RESOLVED – That the Union's Strategic Plan be noted.

10. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Mr Reekie had submitted a question in advance of this meeting but was unable to attend, so the Chair read the question on his behalf, as follows:

What non-financial benefits, if any, should North East Lincolnshire residents expect to experience from the creation of a single public health service covering the whole of northern Lincolnshire?

Mr Walsh responded that the non-financial benefit that stood out was around building capacity across the south bank of the Humber in the public health space, where recruitment can be difficult and where expertise, skills and knowledge need to be developed to provide a cohort of people to build a proper, sustainable public health response. He felt that one thing that had been learnt over the last 12 months was the important role of public health, which had perhaps been taken for granted, but now had a profile and, as with any major service where technical skills were required, there was not a big pool available to recruit from.

Note – Councillor Jackson left the meeting at this point.

11. MENTAL HEALTH AND EMOTIONAL WELLBEING SERVICE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

The Board considered a report on the extension of the contract for the Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Service.

RESOLVED –

- 1. That the intention to extend the current service by up to a further 24-months (from 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2023) with the current service provider of the children and young people's emotional health and wellbeing service, Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, subject to successful contract negotiations, be noted.**
- 2. That the Clinical Commissioning Group's Chief Operating Officer together with the Acting Director of Children's Services (both in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Children, Education and Young People) be authorised to undertake a procurement exercise, if this is deemed appropriate, to appoint a suitably experienced provider(s) to deliver new mental health and emotional wellbeing service(s) for children and young people.**
- 3. That the Clinical Commissioning Group's Chief Operating Officer together with the Acting Director of Children's Services (both in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Children, Education and Young People) be authorised, if this is deemed appropriate to make an award and to deal with any ancillary matters arising including implementation and mobilisation.**
- 4. That respective Authorised Signatories be authorised to complete and execute legal documentation in connection with an award.**

There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 4.40 p.m.