

Attachment 5

Report to:	NEL CCG Partnership Board		
Presented by:	Dr Peter Melton		
Date of Meeting:	14 November 2013		
Subject:	Public Petition – Hyper-acute stroke services		
Status:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OPEN	<input type="checkbox"/> CLOSED	
Agenda Section:	<input type="checkbox"/> STRATEGY	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMISSIONING	<input type="checkbox"/> OPERATIONAL ISSUES

OBJECT OF REPORT

A petition regarding hyper-acute stroke services in North East Lincolnshire was received on 17 October 2013, addressed to the Chairman of Northern Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Trust, and the Chief Executive Officer of North East Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group.

The letter which accompanied the signatures is attached at Appendix A and provides full details of the petition content. A letter has been sent to confirm receipt (Appendix B), in response to which Ray Sutton has clarified that he is leading the campaign on the location of hyper-acute stroke services as Chair of the Grimsby Labour Party and not as a Councillor, and that he is not speaking on behalf of NE Lincolnshire Council or the Labour Group on Council.

In accordance with Department of Health guidance, the object of this report is to:

- Provide public information about the petition including receipt, details of the petition and the response by the organisation
- Consider the petition in full at the board meeting, which the petition leader (or his representative) has been invited to attend in person to observe due process

It should be noted that NL&G FT shall be responding independently to the petition.

STRATEGY

The decision to temporarily relocate hyper-acute services was taken by Northern Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Trust board on the basis of patient safety, following the Keogh team visit.

The permanent location of hyper-acute stroke services is being considered as part of the Healthy Lives, Healthy Futures (HLHF) Programme. That Programme is jointly led by North East Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group and North Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group.

IMPLICATIONS

Service relocation may have significant implications for the public and patients and therefore requires careful consideration.

The permanent location of hyper-acute stroke services is being considered as part of the Healthy Lives, Healthy Futures Programme (HLHF) and will be subject to public engagement, followed (if the proposals require it) by public consultation during 2014.

The HLHF Programme will also undertake an Equality Impact Assessment on service change proposals.

RECOMMENDATIONS (R) AND ACTIONS (A) FOR AGREEMENT

The Board is asked to consider the petition and the organisation response from NEL Clinical Commissioning Group.

Agreed?

		Yes/No	Comments
	Does the document take account of and meet the requirements of the following:		
i)	Mental Capacity Act		
ii)	CCG Equality Impact Assessment		
iii)	Human Rights Act 1998		
iv)	Health and Safety at Work Act 1974		
v)	Freedom of Information Act 2000 / Data Protection Act 1998		
iv)	Does the report have regard of the principles and values of the NHS Constitution? www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_113613		



Grimsby Constituency Labour Party
112 Cleethorpe Road,
GRIMSBY, DN31 3HW

The Chair and Chief Executive of the North Lincolnshire and Goole NHS FoundationTrust

The Chair and Chief Executive of the NE Lincolnshire NHS Clinical Commissioning Group

cc Sir Bruce Keogh, Austin Mitchell MP, Martin Vickers MP, media contacts

October 17th 2013

Dear Dr Whittingham, Dr Melton and colleagues

Hyperacute stroke service provision at Grimsby Hospital and related matters

It is now two months since we wrote an open letter questioning the decision to close hyperacute stroke services in Grimsby, temporarily or not.

We have tried to listen and learn in the intervening period, attending consultative groups such as the Trust governor-member meeting and Healthwatch as well as more formal scrutiny meetings. We still have no confidence in the planned move of hyperacute stroke services to Scunthorpe. We have mounted a campaign to raise public awareness of the issues. Today we are delighted to hand over a petition signed by over 2100 local people to the effect that :

“We the undersigned want our NHS to provide high standards of care, including full cardiac services and a 24/7 hyperacute stroke unit based at the Diana Princess of Wales Hospital . We are against any closure of the hyperacute stroke unit and look for NHS leaders who can support staff and make effective improvements to care and service.”

We believe that this wording reflects the underpinning principles and findings of the Keogh review in relation to leadership and management, governance, staffing levels, and the prevailing culture, including an over reliance on patient transfer and remote clinical expertise. There is still a lack of openness and transparency on the stroke service issue and other aspects of the Keogh Action Plan. We are becoming increasingly aware that the lack of funds in the Hospitals Trust can be linked to commissioning decisions and seepage of money out of the public sector.

We are afraid that far reaching reviews are already under way behind closed doors at CCG and Trust level and that Grimsby will soon have little more than a cottage hospital, hence the rather demanding reference to cardiac services in our petition. We fail to see how the headline Keogh

concern that 'out of hours stroke services are currently inadequate and improvements have not been implemented consistently across the Trust' could lead to a diminution of service at one of the Trust's major hospitals which is located strategically and central to an urban and rural population cluster which is at higher than average risk of stroke.

In short, the current plan for the temporary or permanent closure of hyperacute stroke services in Grimsby, brought forward at the end of July soon after the Risk Summit, appears to be an advanced part of what Keogh describes as 'a sustainable services review' that 'will require discussion as a community'. Yet our campaign hinges on these points:

- ...there has been no consultation
- ...a decision was taken in closed session
- ...risk management data is lacking
- ...patient transfer capacity is in question

We call now for the full details of the stroke services action plan, including all relevant risk assessments and timelines, to be released by the Trust Board and its committees and for stroke service matters to be discussed in open session.

Finally, we would like to thank the members of the public who readily signed the petition. Hardly anyone approached refused to sign, regardless of political background and intention.. Most were aware of the clinical implications of stroke, many from experience with friends or family. The total number of signatories represents about 100 names collected per volunteer gathered by direct contact over an eight week period. Wendy Stubbs has readily accompanied us as a stroke victim who benefited from local provision during an 'out of hours' period'.

Thank you for meeting us today,

Yours sincerely



Ray Sutton (chair)

Marian Jervis

(on behalf of the petitioners)

**North East Lincolnshire
Clinical Commissioning Group**

25 October 2013

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Dear Councillor Sutton

On behalf of North East Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group I would like to confirm receipt of your petition regarding stroke services in North East Lincolnshire. As set out in the national guidance the petition will now be considered by the CCG at its Partnership Board on 14th November 2013. We would like to invite you to this meeting in order to join in the discussion.

Within both the petition and accompanying letter you highlight some very important points and also some I feel may benefit from further discussion. Therefore we would like to also invite you to a meeting with key people from the CCG in order to discuss the topics raised in your petition and how everyone involved can work together to develop a high quality stroke service.

As you are aware the decision to temporally move acute and hyper-acute stroke services to the Scunthorpe General Hospital site was a decision made in the interest of patient safety. This decision by the hospital trust followed urgent concerns by both the Northern Lincolnshire Mortality Action Group and Sir Bruce Keogh's review regarding the stroke services at the Diana Princess of Wales Hospital. However we would like to reassure you that no decision has been made on the future shape of stroke services in North East Lincolnshire and both Mark and myself are passionate about ensuring both yourself and the wider community play a large part in the planning of future health and social care services in our area.

My office will be in touch shortly to discuss possible meeting dates but of course if you have any queries in the meantime please don't hesitate to contact either Mark or myself.

Best regards,



Dr Peter Melton
Clinical Chief Officer

*Delivering joined up solutions*