

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL

8 December 2020

PRESENT:- Councillor Mitchell in the Chair.

Councillors Armiger and Wilson.

Councillor Hannigan attended the meeting in accordance with Procedure Rule 37(b).

The panel met via MS Teams.

- 556 **DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND PERSONAL OR PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS AND DECLARATIONS OF WHIPPING ARRANGEMENTS (IF ANY)** – There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests or personal or personal and prejudicial interests.

No whip was declared.

- 557 **PUBLIC REQUESTS TO SPEAK** – There were no requests received.

- 558 **DISCUSSION WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM NHS ENGLAND AND NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUP** – The Chairman welcomed Dr Faisel Baig, Chairman, and Alex Seale, Chief Operating Officer, North Lincolnshire CCG, and Geoff Day, Head of Primary Care (North Yorkshire & Humber), NHS England, to the meeting.

The Chairman explained that the representatives from the CCG and NHS England had been invited to discuss the current and planned situation regarding primary care in North Lincolnshire, in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Geoff explained that primary care remained open to business, albeit with noticeable changes for many patients. There had been a number of changes to accessibility of services, and various arrangements had been put in place to deal with Covid cases and to minimise the risk to patients, clinicians and other staff.

Dr Baig highlighted that there had been a significant rise in remote appointments, but that face-to-face appointments were available where there was a clinical need or where remote access wasn't possible.

The panel described a number of incidents that local people had raised which had potentially led to poor levels of care. The witnesses explained that these could be investigated, and that primary care, like all health and care services, were under significant pressure. This required a change in accessibility, but there were inevitable issues with adapting at speed to new systems. Members asked a range of other questions, including how GP and others were being supported by NHS England, clinical prioritisation, extended access, and whether patients were delaying seeking help from their GP about other conditions.

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Resolved – (a) That Dr Faisal Baig, Alex Seale and Geoff Day be thanked for their attendance and for providing answers to members’ questions; (b) that the situation be noted, and (c) that the panel maintain an oversight of the impact of the pandemic on local health and care services.

559 **ADDED ITEM** – There was no added item for consideration at the meeting.