

North Lincolnshire CCG/ NHSEI further response to 'Barriers to accessing Cervical Screening' An Investigation report

Following the response to the cervical screening report that was received by the CCG and NHSEI in October 2020, the Delivery Manager of Healthwatch North Lincolnshire deemed it necessary to seek further assurance that steps would be taken to improve access to cervical screening appointments for those with physical and learning disabilities.

Email dated 17.11.2020 (Responses in red)

Thank you for sending over the response. I would be grateful if you could provide answers to the following please.

With regards to the responses to the recommendations requesting the installation of hoists in GP practices, I understand that these recommendations are for PCNs to consider and Healthwatch will ensure this is followed up directly with PCNs. I note the comment;

'With regard to this recommendation, please be assured that NLCCG will reinforce to all Primary Care practices the requirement to make reasonable adjustments as per the response to recommendation'

However Healthwatch North Lincolnshire would like to see further assurance from the CCG that they are encouraging and supporting GP practices to ensure that hoists are available for any person who requires any intimate examination and cannot transfer independently on to an examination table. In practice, how will NLCCG be reinforcing this message? What support will be offered to PCNs to ensure this is achieved? *North Lincolnshire CCG will be sharing communications with practices regarding the requirement to make reasonable adjustments for patients and will support by sharing guidance and toolkits to practices/PCNs which will help them achieve this.*

In response to recommendation 7 - 'There has been a project in relation to supporting individuals who have a Learning Disability in terms of how to access services and understand Covid -19 restrictions. This project now has a focus on ensuring the correct information is available to individuals'

Please can you confirm which project this is referring to? *The project was called Keeping People Connected which was an 8 week project*

Healthwatch North Lincolnshire have recently been a part of a project funded by the transforming care fund, alongside Inclusion North, aiming to help people with a LD and / or autism understand how to stay safe during the pandemic. This project has now finished, and did not have a focus on ensuring people with LD access health checks or screening appointments.

Further assurance was also offered by the CCG in January 2021:

Further to your email below and our previous discussions, please see below some further clarity regarding the questions Healthwatch have raised.

‘As per our discussion I can also confirm that the Healthwatch report and recommendations were presented at NHS North Lincolnshire CCG Primary Care Quality Assurance meeting in December and progress against the agreed actions will be reviewed again in April 2021. Additionally this forum is also looking at different ways of supporting practices to increase their uptake of annual health checks for those on the Learning Disability register. Opportunities and progress will be reviewed at the bi-monthly Quality Assurance meetings.’