

CHA News 2020 to Sept

Fife palliative care beds face the axe as staff struggle to maintain medical cover

"Randolph Wemyss Memorial Hospital is a huge part of the history of our area and is very well thought of by everyone here in our community. There have been ongoing challenges maintaining safe medical staffing in the Wellesley Unit and we have been engaging with staff, patients and their families on the future of the unit." "There are currently no other ward closures in our community hospitals." [Read more](#)

Borough's community hospital beds to be moved out of Thurrock

Community hospital beds could remain outside of Thurrock during the winter period, under plans for a reshuffle aimed at dealing with a surge in demand during the winter. The majority of Thurrock's beds were moved from the Mayfield ward at Thurrock Community Hospital in April and placed at the Brentwood Community Hospital in order to deal with the Covid-19 pandemic. Health authorities now need to assess how many of those beds, which are typically used for rehabilitation, will be returned to the borough in preparation for what council papers describe as a "surge over the winter period". [Read more](#)

Lockdown visitor ban is eased at Ross Hospital

Wye Valley NHS Trust, which runs Hereford County Hospital and the county's community hospitals, said patients benefited from receiving visitors the time is now right to allow them into its hospitals. Lucy Flanagan, Director of Nursing at the Trust, said: "We want to pay tribute to all those patients who have been in hospital during the last few months and who have not been allowed to see visitors. "We know this hasn't been easy but want to thank them for respecting the visiting restrictions, this has enabled us to ensure patients are being treated in the safest environment possible. We know patients benefit from seeing visitors and during the outbreak we've made use of technology to allow virtual visitors onto our wards, we also introduced the "*thinking of you*" and "*hearts connected*" initiatives. We appreciate this isn't the same as having a real person beside your bed so we're pleased to be able to lift visiting restrictions in a way which is safe for our patients, visitors and staff members." [Read more](#)

Whitby Hospital Renovation Continues

The £13 million renovation of Whitby Community Hospital which began in March is now well under way and progressing to schedule following some changes due to the coronavirus pandemic. Sonia Rafferty, Service Manager at Whitby Hospital, said: "We have been through some very challenging times due to COVID-19, but the team have been amazing. We would just like to thank all of the community for their support during the last few months, the acts of kindness and support have been fantastic and they've kept us all going." [Read more](#)

Plans for rehabilitation unit at Western Community Hospital

Plans are underway for a new £19.5million “state of the art” rehabilitation unit in Southampton. The 50-bed unit at the Western Community Hospital will provide purpose-built accommodation to help patients get back to health as quickly as possible.[Read more](#)

Edward Hain hospital

Edward Hain hospital in St Ives which closed 'temporarily' four years ago likely to never reopen. All beds were removed 'temporarily' in 2016 and there has been a huge campaign to get it reopened. In January this year our community partners considered a long list of options but only one was agreed by the stakeholder group for full evaluation which is to re-provide the 12 inpatient beds and to continue to provide community clinics in a fire safety compliant and refurbished Edward Hain hospital. However this option did not meet set criteria. Dr Walden said no formal decision on the future of Edward Hain Community Hospital had been made, adding that the October meeting of NHS Kernow's Governing Body will now consider the co-production work that has taken place to review the future use of the hospital and the outcome of the evaluation, and determine the next steps. [Read more](#)

"Make Movement your Mission" - Support During COVID-19 Lockdown

This initiative was created out of concern about people being isolated during lockdown and not having support for movement, rehabilitation and recovery. It offers "snacks" of movement 3 times a day on youtube and facebook, and is designed to support people with their functionality during pandemic lockdown by relating movement to everyday life. It is now followed in 22 countries. Feedback from those following the sessions shows people are incorporating movement into their every day life *"It breaks the loneliness and great for the mind as well as the body," and "I find you end up doing these little moves without consciously knowing it."* [Read more](#) Dawn Skelton at Glasgow Caledonian University was speaking on Movement literacy and learning - Later Life Training on the IFIC webinar [here](#)

String trio bring music to City Community Hospital with a garden performance

Oxford musicians from the orchestra 'The Instruments of Time and Truth' put on a special performance for the patients and staff in the garden at City Community Hospital as part of the Creating with Care programme. Christine Hayden, manager at City Community Hospital said: "It was a real treat and privilege for staff and patients to hear the wonderful uplifting music in the garden."[Read more](#)

Newmarket Hospital

Good news for Newmarket Hospital which has undergone refurbishment, and has now re-opened a ward that has been closed for 10 years. This brings their total number of community beds to 33. The inpatient service will continue to offer intermediate care and rehabilitation. The matron and her team are working with the community matron, GPs, and CNS frailty nurses to explore the creation of an assessment unit alongside the inpatient unit. Do get in touch if you know of frailty assessment units in community hospitals.

Lightbox Project Raises £3,000

A group has raised funds for two Dorset hospitals through producing and selling wooden lightboxes which people can keep as a reminder of the lockdown period - Dorset County Hospital and Bridport Community Hospital. [Read more](#)

RNI Community Hospital in Inverness to close to prepare for potential second wave of coronavirus

NHS Highland has confirmed the shock decision that the RNI community hospital in Inverness is set to close to ready the facility for a potential second wave of Covid-19 cases in the winter. The health board claims that over the next four weeks all patients will be discharged and staff reassigned to other facilities in Inverness before essential maintenance work takes place and the hospital is readied for more virus cases. But now staff and patients fear the hospital may never reopen its doors as a community hospital amid a reform of community services across the city while medical services are “remobilised.” [Read more](#)

Community hospitals to take on important disease prevention role

Community hospitals in China are encouraged to set up fever clinics as part of efforts to enhance grassroots medical institutions' capability to prevent infectious disease outbreaks, China's top health authority said on Monday. Regular training will be provided to medical staff at primary care hospitals to increase their ability to detect cases of infectious diseases during regular health check-ups and other medical services and promptly report new infections to higher authorities, according to a notice released by the National Health Commission on Monday. Family doctors will help monitor the health condition of COVID-19 patients that have been discharged from hospitals and provide psychological support, the notice said, adding protective facilities at community clinics will be also be improved. Last February, the commission launched a trial project aimed at upgrading infrastructure and equipment at community hospitals and boosting primary care services in 20 provincial-level regions across the country. [Read more](#)

Communities urged to rally to save Kirkcudbright Hospital from closure

Fresh doubts emerged over the hospital's future last week in a health board statement on post Covid-19 services. NHS Dumfries and Galloway said restructuring – including cottage hospitals – was “unavoidable”. Kirkcudbright and Newton Stewart community hospitals are designated as “step-down facilities” for treating Covid patients. But lower than expected demand has meant staff being temporarily redeployed elsewhere. The shake-up prompted speculation over the long-term future of cottage hospitals. Mr McConchie, a campaigner, described the hospital as “absolutely vital” for the community. “It would be catastrophic if it closed,” he said. [Read more](#)

Rothbury Community Hospital plan delayed until 2021 due to pandemic

The introduction of a new flexible bed model at Rothbury Community Hospital will be delayed until next spring at the earliest due to coronavirus. Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust has revealed that the new arrangements will have to be put on hold until after the winter period, with a review in spring 2021 – almost five years after the inpatient ward was first closed. Marion Dickson, executive director of nursing and

community services at Northumbria Healthcare, said: "We appreciate that having to delay implementing the flexible bed model at Rothbury Community Hospital will be disappointing for the local community. "The last few months have been extremely challenging for health and care services as a result of the global Covid-19 pandemic. [Read more](#)

Shropcom staff thanked for going the extra mile during coronavirus crisis

Staff at Shropshire Community Health Trust have been celebrated for regularly going above and beyond at work. Three Chair's Awards were announced at a virtual meeting of Shropcom's Trust board this week. Trust chair Nuala O'Kane announced awards for the domestic team at Whitchurch Community Hospital, members of the strategy team and for Shelley Lewis, a healthcare assistant at Bridgnorth Community Hospital. Nuala O'Kane said "All the winners have shown they really embody the values of the NHS and Shropcom and I am immensely proud of them all. I would like to thank each one of them for the flexibility, initiative and commitment they have shown during this challenging time." [Read more](#)

Backroom visionaries or frontline practitioners?

Backroom visionaries or frontline practitioners: who should shape Cornwall's integrated health and care system? The question is raised by Dr Peter Levin lecturer in social policy. He advocates for a practitioner-led solution given what has been learnt during the Coronavirus pandemic. One of the key issues he recommends to be addressed is whether there are sufficient beds available in community hospitals to accommodate patients who require rehabilitation close to home after acute treatment [Read more](#)

Coronavirus: Woman, 94, 'feels fine' after recovery in Community Hospital

A 94-year-old woman who spent weeks in hospital with Covid-19 says she feels "wonderful" and cannot wait to get home. Eluned Mathias was transferred to a community hospital set up to deal with the impact of the pandemic. Her gradual recovery meant she was able to be transferred from Bangor to Ysbyty Bryn Beryl in Pwllheli - one of three community hospitals transformed into "red sites" in north west Wales. They are designed to accommodate patients who no longer require care in the most acute settings, easing pressure on the main hospitals and placing patients closer to their own communities. Eilir Hughes, clinical lead at Ysbyty Bryn Beryl, said people on the coronavirus ward were mainly "step-down patients" transferred from district general hospitals for ongoing rehabilitation. *"Every single one of them has had a positive covid test and some of them are actually nearing the end of life as well, so there is palliation going on here as well. It's a quieter unit, so it's more conducive for palliation than some of the busier wards."* He said one of the advantages of caring for suitable patients in community hospitals, was that *"it's a calmer environment"*. *"The nurses often know the patients or their families so there's that link to them. Because patients can't see their own families, at least it feels a bit more familiar to them, and they know that they're closer to home, and that's really important to these patients."* [Read more](#)

Seacole Centre - Temporary community hospital established

A temporary community hospital has been established in Surrey by NHS England to provide rehabilitation to coronavirus survivors. The first-of-its-kind in England, the new NHS Seacole Centre will provide a service for those who have had COVID-19, as well as rehabilitating people who have been in hospital for routine treatment.

Named after pioneering, Jamaican-born, Crimean-war nurse Mary Seacole, the new facility will have up to 300 inpatient beds, if they are needed. Sir Simon Stevens, Chief Executive of the NHS, said: "As well as providing important care in its own right, this new service – by recalling the pioneering work of Mary Seacole – rightly pays tribute to our BAME nurses and other staff at the forefront of the extraordinary NHS response to this terrible covid19 pandemic." "It also serves as a timely reminder that it is their contribution over the past seven decades that has been a foundation for the very success and continuation of the NHS itself. I fully expect that this will be just the first of a number of Seacole services that will now begin to be established across the country as the NHS moves through the peak of inpatient coronavirus care and the need for community health and rehabilitative services grows." Read [more](#)

PPE and care packages delivered to hospital staff by Sufi community

To mark International Nurses Day today, volunteers from the Islamic Sufism community donated PPE to key workers in [Bicester](#). Volunteers delivered PPE including visors, face masks, scrubs and care packages with fresh fruit and other essentials to Bicester Community Hospital. Read [more](#)

Spalding area's Friends of Johnson Community Hospital donate scrubs and bags

Staff at Johnson Community Hospital have received 58 sets of scrubs and bags thanks to The Friends of Johnson Community Hospital. Read [more](#)

Ward at Perthshire hospital reopens to new admissions following temporary closure

The General Practice unit at a Perthshire hospital has reopened after the coronavirus outbreak forced it to close. The ward at the Pitlochry Community Hospital is now open to new admissions after its [closure last month](#), in what NHS Tayside described as "a precautionary measure to prevent the spread of the virus". Read [more](#)

Wantage Community Hospital unit remains shut in pandemic

Oxfordshire county councillors Jane Hanna and Jenny Hannaby sent a letter to Stuart Bell – CEO of [Oxford Health](#) NHS trust – which runs Wantage Community hospital, to request a public enquiry as to why its hospital beds cannot be reopened to 'play its part' in helping the ongoing health emergency. This comes after the Office of National Statistics revealed that the [Vale](#) of White Horse has the highest Covid-19 mortality across Oxfordshire. Read [more](#)

Community health heroes helping in Shropshire's war on coronavirus

From setting up testing facilities to caring for Covid-19 patients, staff at the trust running Shropshire's community hospitals have been right on the front line in the county's war on coronavirus. Read [more](#)

Drones to deliver medical supplies between hospitals

Medical supplies will be flown between Lorn and Islands District General Hospital in Oban and Mull and Iona Community Hospital in Craignure, Mull. The trial, operated by the local authority, will run between May 25 and June 5. Councillor Aileen Morton, leader of Argyll and Bute Council, said: "The Covid-19 pandemic has brought distinct challenges to rural communities and island communities. "Community spirit, determination and innovation is helping overcome them." Read [more](#)

Crowborough Midwives from Crowborough Hospital

The midwives at Crowborough community hospital sent this message: *"A huge shout out to Staplehurst Trefoil & WI for making these drawstring bags. They're perfect for putting our uniforms in on our way to & from work, they then throw straight into the washing machine so we don't even have to touch them again until they're clean. Thank you so much for all your on-going support. We have been totally spoilt with several lovely people donating us hand creams to help with our skin."*

* **Bridgwater Community Hospital** opens a Primary Care assessment for Covid-19, and will have additional staff from Burnham MIU, which will be closed temporarily. Read [more](#)

* **Dorset Community Hospitals** - Shaftesbury's Westminster Memorial Hospital, St Leonard's Community Hospital, Wareham Community Hospital and Weymouth's Community Hospital were amongst the beneficiaries of a generous donation of lunches. It comes after Dorset Council and local brewers Hall & Woodhouse teamed up to show their support for Dorset's NHS workers. Read [more](#)

* **Bridport Hospital** is receiving donations through a community initiative to help support the staff. Funds will pay for items such as drinks and snacks for break times; hand creams and lip balms and other self care products to boost health and wellbeing. Read [more](#)

* **Bridgnorth and Whitchurch Community Hospitals** to provide Urgent Treatment Centres relocated from acute hospitals. The relocation of urgent care centres has been welcomed by local communities and campaigners for community hospitals. Councillor Buckley said: "Despite the terrible circumstances, this decision is a welcome relief to families in the Bridgnorth area. *"Once again our community hospital will become a warm site with doctors and nurses to respond to urgent cases. As our campaigners have always made clear, these excellent local facilities have a vital role to play in serving our patients closer to home, thus reducing unnecessary travel, and at the same time reducing pressure on both Telford & Shrewsbury hospitals and A&E departments."* Read [more](#)

Tewkesbury Community Hospital becomes Covid-19 Unit

Tewkesbury Hospital is well placed to cater for patients with Covid-19, offering as it does single ensuite rooms. The space in the operating theatre has also been converted to create extra bed spaces. A total of thirty beds will be provided to support patients transferred from the county's two main hospital, Gloucestershire Royal and Cheltenham General, and the community. All other services at the site such as Minor Injuries and Illness Unit, day surgery and outpatients, have ceased to enable Tewkesbury Community Hospital to support covid-19 patients only. [Read more](#)

Jan Marriot, who is a Non-Executive Director of Gloucestershire Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust and also a CHA committee member has said: *"Community Hospitals have always proved to be adaptable and to be good system partners, supporting both our acute colleagues and our wider communities. Staff are always willing to go the extra mile to do whatever is required for the benefit of local people and their families. Once again they are rising to the extreme challenges we are facing at present".*

To watch the YouTube film of how the hospital has prepared for this, please click this [link](#)

Covid Symptom Tracker

The program has been shared thousands of times via WhatsApp and other social-media platforms. Created in just three days by researchers at Guy's and St Thomas' hospitals and King's College London university, in conjunction with the nutrition advice start-up Zoe, it has already reached 750,000 downloads and, according to its developers, is being installed at a rate of 50,000 times an hour. The app was the brainchild of Prof Tim Spector, a genetic epidemiologist at King's College, who has specialised in the genetics and medical histories of twins for the past 25 years. Its creators aim to deliver insights into why some people get the disease more severely than others. They also hope to create a map showing where outbreaks are happening and help distinguish cases from those of the common cold. [Read more](#)

Shotley Bridge - Question in House of Commons

Richard Holden MP for North West Durham asked the Prime Minister for his support for a new community hospital to replace Shotley Bridge. The transcript of the exchange that took place on 25th March 2020 is below. [Share](#)

Richard Holden - "Coronavirus is showing our NHS at its best, including the doctors, nurses and support staff in my North West Durham constituency, but it is also showing the strain in some parts of our NHS, including worn-out parts of the NHS estate. After the coronavirus pandemic outbreak has passed, will he and the Health Secretary work with me to look at delivering a new community hospital to replace the aged one at Shotley Bridge in my constituency?" [Share](#)

Boris Johnson "The short answer to that question is yes. The long answer is that this Government are in no way undimmed in our ambition to continue with record investments in our NHS and build 40 new hospitals."

Lymington hospital on standby for peak of coronavirus outbreak

Lymington Hospital is run by Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust. A Southern Health spokesperson said: "At Lymington New Forest Hospital we will be working to ensure we have as many beds as possible available to care for patients with severe respiratory problems when the number of infections peaks. We will also be working closely with our community hospital teams, primary care services and social care providers to ensure patients can return home as soon as possible." [Read more](#)

Shotley Bridge Community Hospital accommodates Chemotherapy Unit

The chemotherapy unit at University Hospitals of North Durham was moved at 24 hours notice to Shotley Bridge community hospital in Consett.

Simon Stevens Letter re Next Urgent Steps in Response to Covid-19

The letter dated 17th March 2020 sets out a number of measures, with a key focus on creating bed capacity in the acute and community sectors. "*Community health providers and social care providers are asked to free up community hospital and intermediate care beds that could be used flexibly within the next fortnight.*" Simon Stevens estimated that together with beds purchased from the independent sector, this may free up 10,000 beds. The measures include supporting the wider population measures announced by the Government such as social distancing and supporting older and vulnerable people who will be "shielded" in their homes over the coming months. Simon Stevens stresses that "*COVID-19 presents the NHS with arguably the greatest challenge it has faced since its creation*" and thanks staff and leaders. [Read more](#)

Worcester City Community Hospital becomes Coronavirus Isolation Hospital

HEALTH chiefs have confirmed a city community hospital is earmarked as a coronavirus isolation facility. Worcester City Inpatient Unit has been chosen as there are many individual rooms to segregate each patient, preventing further contamination. A spokesman for Worcestershire Health & Care NHS Trust said: "*We are looking across our estate to support the community. Patients who are not well enough to stay at home but do not need hospital treatment will be able to rehabilitate at the site.*" [Read more](#)

Calls to reopen Ludlow Community Hospital Wards

Calls have been made for Shropshire's vacant community hospital wards to be brought back into use to ease pressure on the NHS at the peak of the coronavirus outbreak. GP Dr Beanland asked with regard to Ludlow Community Hospital "*Is the community trust thinking of opening up the two wards in that building that have got oxygen piped in that were opened by the League of Friends, to offer some respite, to take care of the less ill people?*" There were concerns that the General Hospitals would be overwhelmed. [Read more](#)

Utilise our community hospitals to relieve pressure on acute hospitals

Dr David Seamark, our Vice President, has written in the BMJ, making a strong case for utilising community hospitals. This is highly pertinent, as NHS England has approached the CHA for advice and information on reopening community hospital beds in order to increase bed capacity to help manage the implications of the novel coronavirus. The CHA has reported that one third of all community hospitals in England have had their beds closed over the past 10 years. In addition, other community hospitals have had their bed numbers reduced. Dr Seamark says *"The shortage of acute hospital beds is about to get worse with the accelerating novel coronavirus outbreak. Discharging more patients safely to home could be hard. Surely it is time that the potential of community hospitals to provide safe, local, intermediate care is realised and that the closure of these cost effective beds is reversed?"* [Read more](#)

What Does Integrated Care mean for Rural Communities?

This is an interesting article by Jessica Sellick at The National Centre for Rural Health and Care ([NCRHC](#)). She points out that the integrated care organisations are planned for populations that are larger than many rural populations, and explores what this may mean for services to patients. She cites that NHS England and NHS Improvement have identified 3 levels of population:

1. Neighbourhoods (populations circa 30,000 to 50,000 people)
2. Places (populations circa 250,000 to 500,000 people)
3. Systems (populations circa 1 million to 3 million people)

Community hospitals are referred to at the level of "Place", which is a greater size of population that has traditionally been the case. She poses the question of how we can ensure that health systems think rurally. To read more please click [here](#)

Secretary of State for Health - "I am a fan of community hospitals"

The Secretary of State for Health has said community hospitals like Royston are how the NHS needs to be in future - more specific and more local. *"This is about making sure that we support the NHS where people live, and that we end the generation of putting more and more services into the really big hospitals and sucking them out of local community services. I will end that sucking out of local services, and in fact I will put more into local communities. I have talked about the technology agenda - one thing technology can do is empower the movement of the NHS to local communities. It is incredibly important that we do that." "That is the future of the NHS - more local and more specialist at the same time. It is one of the reasons why I am such a fan of community hospitals."* To read [more](#)

The Future of Royston Hospital as a Health Hub

The health secretary gave encouragement to campaigners for Royston hospital, whose hospital lost its beds 6 years ago. Matt Hancock stated that "Royston is an example of how the NHS needs to be formulated in the future", and that it is about "making sure we support the NHS where people live." Sarah Hillman - a director of community interest company Royston Community Health, which has been campaigning for the site to be turned into hub for health and social care - said: "Last month we sent an open letter to both our local MPs, as we have been urging the NHS for 6+ years to use Royston Hospital as a health and social care hub. RCH thanks Sir Oliver for his question in Parliament and welcomes the positive response that he received about such hubs. "It is evidence that

what we propose fits well with the long-term plan for the NHS, and that the secretary of state supports moving healthcare out of hospitals and into the community because of the health benefits, efficiencies and reduced costs. In a cash-strapped NHS area, that makes a lot of sense. Read [more](#)

New 14 bed Unit Opened on Isle of Wight

The new 14-bed Community Unit, which opened last week as part of the NHS Winter Plan for 2019/20, was funded by money awarded to the Isle of Wight NHS Trust by NHS England and NHS Improvement. Now, the new nurse-led unit, based on the site of the former Compton Ward at St Mary' Hospital, will help reduce some of the additional demand winter brings to help patients leave hospital as soon as they are able to. Patients will be cared for who need nursing support with nurses working alongside Age UK who will provide an activities coordinator and Living Well support. This unit is the result of a £1.2million investment. To read more click [here](#)

Lead nurse appointed as work progresses on way forward for Rothbury Community Hospital

Great news, as the plans to reopen and enhance the inpatient facility at Rothbury Hospital by April 2020 are on course. Katie Scott who has led the community group and is the CHA lead for community initiatives has said *"Good news! The Step-up and Step-down support will include six inpatient beds and end-of-life care. We are so very thrilled to be able to tell you that we will have overnight provision available for relatives and carers."* Katie has been asked to be a member of the Project Team taking this forward. To [read more](#)

Promised Investment in Community Hospitals

Matt Hancock MP has responded swiftly to a query that the CHA raised directly with him regarding promised investment in community hospitals. Matt Hancock replied, requesting a meeting with the CHA at a community hospital to talk about this further.

"As a massive supporter of community hospitals, I wish we had connected sooner! As Secretary of State my vision for the future of the NHS has care in the community setting at its heart. I'm delighted that the hospital building program – so-called hip – includes many community hospital projects. For example, in Dorset the proposal is to upgrade the 12 community hospitals. In Cornwall, the emerging proposal is to focus on a spine of community hospitals up the peninsula. These projects are being led by the local trusts, rather than the CCGs." Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP

The CHA will continue to make the case that community hospitals are an integral part of health systems and services, and will help to deliver the policy of "care closer to home" by providing an integrated service to their communities.

Castleberg Community Hospital - NHS Boss says that he is proud to reopen thriving community hospital

Castleberg Community Hospital has been saved from closure by a determined community and has celebrated its official re-opening after refurbishment with staff, patients and families gathering for a ribbon-cutting ceremony. Andrew Gold, chairman of the Airedale NHS Foundation Trust said: "There are opportunities like this, as chairman of the trust and a resident of Skipton, that make me feel very proud. "It's

being proud to see a facility like this here in the community thriving and making such a difference to the community's life." [Read more](#)