



# **Community Hospitals Association Annual report 2021 - 2022**

**Evelyn Prodger  
Interim Chair  
June 2022**

*'The national voice for Community Hospitals'*

## **Introduction**

The year from April 2021 to March 2022 has been a year of change, innovation and creativity for the CHA.

We have welcomed new members, seen committee roles change and progressed areas of work collaborating as we do so.

This report seeks to give a summary of some of the work covered within those 12 months.

## **Impact of the Pandemic**

The pandemic has continued to have an impact on the Association and the Community Hospitals it works with.

Committee Meetings have continued monthly but have all been virtual. Meeting virtually has allowed us to maintain meeting with such regularity enabling us to respond to questions and queries from members.

It has also ensured the burden of running costs in terms of travel has been minimalised and allowed us to increase our sustainability. A hybrid model of working will continue for the next year.

The Committee has continued to ensure discussions include all four nations with separate meetings happening where appropriate.

## **QExchange Project: Community Hospitals: Embedding Covid-19 positive impact changes through shared learning**

This project has progressed and has been a real highlight of the year.

Interviews with Community Hospitals continued based on an appreciative inquiry methodology.

Thirty interviews were completed with eighty-five staff from twenty organisations. Staff were drawn from a wide range of professions with the majority being Nurses. Interviews took place with organisations across all four nations.

A series of Case Studies and Short Case Studies have been developed and are in the process of being shared. These range from simple innovations around ice lollies for patients to wholesale movement of non-surgical cancer services, changes to communication, development of Advanced Clinical Practice roles, staff wellbeing initiatives, community support and whole organisational response to the pandemic.

A final QExchange Report was submitted to Q and the remaining project funding for 2022/23 released. Feedback from QExchange has been positive regarding the running of the project, engagement from the project team and the outputs.

A report outlining project findings will be shared in the Summer of 2022.

The monthly project updates are being collated into a “Diary of a Project” which will be shared on our website.

Initial findings were shared in a presentation by Dr Helen Tucker and Dr Dave Seamark at the International Foundation for Integrated Care Conference in Denmark in May which was well received.

Links have been maintained with NHS FabStuff who are sharing Case Studies and Short Case Studies via their website.

The Project Advisory Group have been invaluable in their support and in terms of discussion, insight and sharing their wisdom.

The Committee has maintained it's role as the Project Board throughout the year.

## **Special Interest Group**

The Special Interest Group hosted by the Q Community has held one virtual meeting where 2 QExchange Project Case studies were shared by the teams involved. This was positively evaluated.

The membership has increased to twenty-four over the 12 month period.

## **Growth of membership**

There has been an increase of forty personal memberships over the 12 month period.

Organisational membership has remained largely static over this period.

## **People**

Sue Greenwood, Dr Andrew Wheeler and Julian Kerr have all joined the Committee with Suzanne Jones, Liz Fenton, Jan Marriott and Dr Roy Sharma moving to Associate Membership. Jennie Prodger joined as an Associate Member.

## **Developing our Community Hospitals Special Interest Group, increasing membership and promoting quality improvements**

Led by Helen Tucker CHA successfully bid for funding from the Health Foundation via the Q Community for this project.

## **Social Media**

The CHA has been active on social media with the greatest engagement happening on Twitter.

Twitter followers grew by forty with new followers every month.

Facebook followers increased by seventeen.

LinkedIn followers increased by fifty-nine.

### **Support for Community Hospitals**

During 2021/22 we connected Community Hospital members looking to collaborate on pieces of work.

The CHA supported campaigns relating to Community Hospitals including Insch.

Several requests for information and help were shared on social media attracting a good response.

We produced 4 Newsletters which were shared with hundreds of Community Hospital supporters.

### **Collaboration**

Evelyn Prodger's QI journey was shared via the Q Community in April 2021.

We contributed to the IPIC Scotland Newsletter in June 2021.

Helen Tucker's QI journey was shared via the Q Community in June 2021.

Q Cymru shared our QExchange Project in July 2021.

Dr Helen Tucker was given the overall award for her paper on patient experience by the IFIC in October 2021.

In November 2021 Evelyn Prodger recorded a podcast with The Leadership Log.

Julian Kerr spoke at the CNAI Italian Nurses Association in February 2022.

We reconnected with the Gold Standards Framework and will be supporting their accreditation work in Summer 2022.

The CHA has supported work being conducted by NHSE.

### **Administrative Support**

The CHA Committee is populated by volunteers with experience of working in Community Hospitals and those who are keen supporters of the valuable work undertaken within them.

As the work of the CHA continues to grow it becomes increasingly challenging to ensure the needs of members are met in a timely way. A decision was made at the end of the financial year to agree to trial use of an administrator for a few hours each week to maximise the effectiveness of our resources.

### **Awards**

The summer of 2021 saw the team presenting the Innovation and Best Practice Awards in a timely gap between Covid restrictions. The standard was high and it was so positive to be able to do this in person. The winners were:

Improving Patient Care

**Creating with Care**

Paula Har Safeguarding Lead Community Hospitals/Dementia Nurse Specialist and Angela Conlon Arts Co-ordinator, Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust.

This also received our 50 year award, a painting of the hospital painted by our patron Roy Lilley.

Improving Staff Experience and Well Being

**Creation of a Team Canvas**

Sue Greenwood, Modern Matron, Cornwall Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

Covid-19 Joint Winners

**Staff Support through the Repurposing of Tewkesbury Hospitals' Abbey View Ward/ Communication Team**

James Willetts, Operating Theatre Manager, Gloucestershire Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust

and

**Training multi-professional staff at pace during a pandemic, to deliver a competent and confident redeployed workforce for our community hospitals**

Sandra Speller, Professional Head of Therapies, Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust





**Website development**

Collaborating with the graphic designer to design the template for Case Studies made us think about our image and so undertook the work required to refresh our branding and increase the accessibility and ease of use of our website.

We feel our fresh look is more reflective of Community Hospitals and the work they do.

## **Next 12 months**

We will:

-  Continue to network, collaborate, grow our membership and promote Community Hospitals
-  Develop the project: Developing our Community Hospitals Special Interest Group, increasing membership and promoting quality improvements
-  Evaluate the effectiveness of using an Administrator
-  Finish the QExchange Project: Community Hospitals: Embedding Covid-19 positive impact changes through shared learning including publishing the outputs and sharing all the Case Studies and Short Case Studies
-  Further develop our website content
-  Present our 2021 Innovation and Best Practice Awards

## **Conclusion**

2021/22 was a busy and productive year for the Community Hospitals Association.

Our commitment is to ensure we continue to be the National Voice for Community Hospitals.