



NEWSLETTER #29

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DECEMBER 2023

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CHA Response to the Proposed Closure of Teignmouth Community Hospital



Dr Kirsty Protherough Chair & Director of the CHA

“Community hospitals are of paramount importance, particularly for providing services to older adults living with frailty, minor injury units and remote outpatient services.

They are not just healthcare facilities but integral parts of local communities. These hospitals provide personalised care, foster community well-being, and address the unique and wide ranging healthcare needs of the population they serve.

The closure of community hospitals can have far-reaching consequences, affecting not only the immediate healthcare landscape but also the social fabric and interconnectedness of the community.

We advocate for the recognition and preservation of the crucial role that community hospitals play in maintaining the overall health and well-being of communities and the vulnerable populations within them.”



Read the full response of the CHA to the BBC, written by Dr Kirsty Protherough [here](#)



PROTESTERS CAMPAIGNING TO SAVE TEIGNMOUTH HOSPITAL (IMAGE: SAVE OUR HOSPITAL SERVICES)

CHA National Conference 2024



We are delighted to announce that we plan to have a national conference next year.

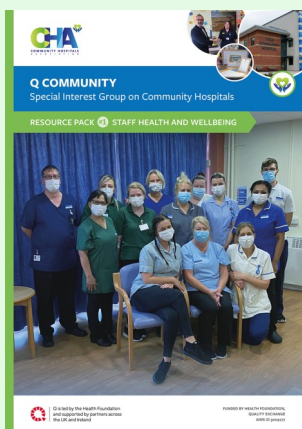
The CHA has a Community Hospital Special Interest Group within the Q Community, and we hope to attract members of the CHA & SIG to join us in an event where we can share innovations and best practice, discuss key topics and issues, and learn from each other.



Q is led by the Health Foundation and supported by partners across the UK and Ireland

Resource Packs

We have developed a suite of Resource Packs on topics that members chose. These are: **STAFF HEALTH AND WELLBEING; INTEGRATED CARE; LEADERSHIP** and **SAFER STAFFING**. Click the images below to access the packs.



Do please let us know what you think about these packs. We would also like to know if there are topics you would like us to cover in the future. We have already had requests for a Resource Pack on Frailty, and this is being developed. Do contact us at info@communityhospitals.net

People involved in the CHA

We are pleased to have so many talented and passionate people working on behalf of the CHA. We have created an [organisational chart](#), which shows the roles and responsibilities that people are undertaking.

If you would like to join us and make a contribution to the Association and the community hospital movement, do contact us.



Thoughts from Evelyn Prodger, Associate Committee Member



Community Hospitals have not always had the recognition they deserve or had their voice heard but our Health Foundation funded project

["Community Hospitals: Embedding Covid-19 positive impact changes through shared learning"](#)

demonstrated that the rest of the system has a lot to learn from Community Hospitals.

As the health and care system continue to face crises about Delayed Transfer of Care, elective waiting times and staffing, it is important to remember that to be effective the systems need all the component parts working at their optimum. Bold leadership, flexibility and creativity and fundamental characteristics of Community Hospitals making them well placed to be responsive in its fullest sense."



Community Hospital Special Interest Group within the Q Community

Discussion Groups



The Community Hospitals Special Interest Group Discussion Evenings are organised by the Community Hospitals Association and our Community Hospitals Special Interest Group - part of the Q Community.

A full programme of CHA Special Interest Group discussions can be found on our website [here](#).

RECORDINGS AND PRESENTATIONS OF PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS CAN BE VIEWED HERE



Future Online Discussion Groups

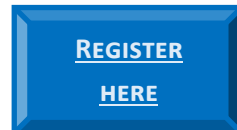
GOOD PRACTICE IN WOUND MANAGEMENT 6th December 7pm-8.30pm



Join us for an insightful discussion with [CHA Innovation and Best Practice Award 2023 winner](#) Sally Oxley Clinical Team Lead, Wound Management Clinic, Camborne Redruth Community Hospital, Cornwall Partnership NHS Foundation Trust.

Hear about Cornwall's early adoption of the National Lower Leg Wound Strategy and commitment to the [National Wound Care Strategy Programme](#)

Don't miss the chance to ask questions, share insights, and network with professionals passionate about community healthcare.



Recent Discussion Groups

PHARMACY AND MEDICINES MANAGEMENT NOVEMBER 2023

- ◆ Rafael Baptista, Clinical Pharmacist at POWYS TEACHING HEALTH BOARD spoke about his Pharmacy Intervention Tool which won him a [CHA Innovation and Best Practice Award](#) this year. Rafael's presentation is available [here](#)



- ◆ Rebecca Gosrani, Laura Pullan and Dan Clarke, SUSSEX COMMUNITY NHS FOUNDATION TRUST spoke of their Electronic Prescribing and Medicines Administration system. Their presentation is available [here](#).

Participants were impressed with the digital developments in the two initiatives that had increased patient safety, saved staff time, and also increased efficiency and sustainability.

UTILISING THE DIAGNOSIS OF "FRAILTY" FOR PERSONALISED CARE IN COMMUNITY HOSPITALS OCTOBER 2023

Dr Kirsty Protherough, Chair and Director of the Community Hospitals Association

Comments from participants:



It was a useful and interesting discussion."

"What I saw of the presentation was very informative and I look forward to the slides."

"I ... found it really helpful. Especially in terms of the benchmarking service that we run for our members regarding frailty and how we could potentially introduce some additional metric to support shared learning."

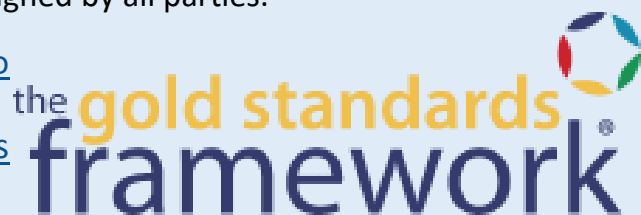


Download Kirsty's presentation [here](#)

Coalition Letter for People in their final years

The CHA has joined a coalition of Care organisations to call for improvements to the care of people in their final years. A joint letter to the Secretary of State was signed by all parties.

Organisations signing this open letter are: the CHA with [GOLD STANDARDS FRAMEWORK](#), [NATIONAL CARE FORUM](#), [BRITISH GERIATRIC SOCIETY](#), [ASSOCIATION OF RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES OPERATORS](#), [CARE ENGLAND](#), and [HOMECARE ASSOCIATION](#)



“ We, as a coalition of leading health and care frontline organisations, urge you to improve EOLC:

- ◇ AT WORKFORCE SERVICE LEVEL - to support all frontline generalist staff in health and social care to receive enhanced training to provide quality, proactive, compassionate care for people nearing the end of life;
- ◇ ICB SYSTEM LEVEL - scale this up in ICBs for whole-system approaches to integrated joined-up care; and
- ◇ NATIONALLY - policy and CQC regulation to support better care for older people nearing the end of life.”



Sue Greenwood, CHA committee member represented the CHA at the most recent meeting in November. We will report on progress.

News

Do read about [community hospitals in the news](#). We are continually researching articles in the news, and we monitor events and developments in community hospitals.

There are examples of efforts being made to maximise the use of community hospitals, such as the recruitment drive supported by the community at Bishops Castle and the opening of extra beds at Bishop Auckland, and the additional use of beds at Florence Nightingale Hospital.



BISHOP AUCLAND HOSPITAL



SEATON COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

Communities have been active in supporting their threatened community hospitals. The actions of the community in Teignmouth have led to a delay in the formal closure while this is being reviewed. The community in Seaton are acting to save their hospital wards.

The building of a new community hospital in Letterkenny has been heralded with a turning of the sod. In contrast, there have been long delays in the redevelopment of a community hospital in Rhyl.



House of Commons
Committee of Public Accounts

The Public Accounts committee has published their report on the Government's new hospital programme, and concluded that they have no confidence it will be delivered. Among the new hospitals promised were 4 in Dorset and Shotley Bridge in Durham.

The New Hospital Programme

First Report of Session 2023–24



RYE HOSPITAL



EAST LOTHIAN
COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

East Lothian Community Hospital has won an award for its arts programme. Rye Hospital is praised for its services.

Please do send us your news stories – we would be pleased to feature them.

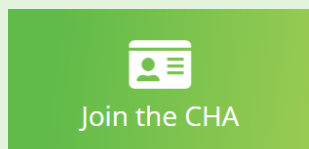
Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year from the CHA

Thank you to everyone who continues to champion Community Hospitals and support the work of the Community Hospitals Association. We would like to wish everyone a peaceful Christmas and look forward to another busy year for the CHA.



Join our Networks

If you are not already a member, you are very welcome to join us.

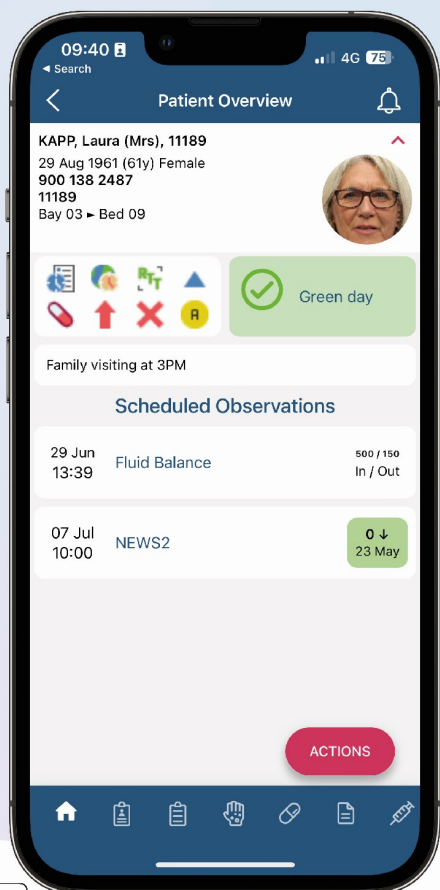


- ◆ CHA personal [individual lifetime member](#) (free).
- ◆ We also offer [membership to organisations](#) such as NHS Trusts and Leagues of Community Hospital Friends. There is a small fee for this.
- ◆ You are welcome to join our [Community Hospital Special Interest Group](#) within the Q Community with a focus on Quality Improvement and sharing good practice.

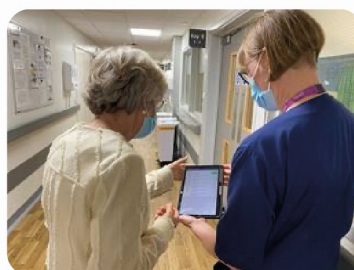
For any enquiries and further information, please contact Eleanor Murphy eleanor@communityhospitals.net



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Patricia Hewitt, Chair of the Norfolk and Waveney ICS with Lisa Ruthven, Unit Manager at Minismere Ward using Brigid at Beccles Hospital



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Contact us:

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