



Community Hospitals Association (CHA) Newsletter #6

Community Hospitals Association – The National Voice for Community Hospitals

➤ **MPs Stress the Value of Community Hospitals**

An adjournment debate was held this week on the topic of community hospitals, with MPs across the country contributing their views and their support.

The CHA has been briefing Ministers prior to the debate, asking the question about whether additional resources could be prioritised to valued community hospitals. Caroline Dinenage, Minister for Health and Social Care, responded to the question posed and confirmed that funding in the NHS Long Term Plan was targeted for primary and community care. However she stated that local decisions on this was delegated to CCGs. She stressed the importance of local people being involved in the planning of their community hospitals and their local health and care services.

The CHA will continue to promote community hospitals, and build on the fact that MPs have raised this in the House of Commons. To read more please go to the blog on the CHA website <http://www.communityhospitals.org.uk/blog.html>

➤ **North Staffordshire Consultation**

Chris Humphris, CHA committee member, was asked to become involved in the North Staffs CCG consultation on five community hospitals. The CCG preferred option in the consultation paper is to reduce to one community hospital with beds (Haywood Hospital 77 beds). In addition the CCG would purchase beds in care homes (estimated 55). Chris has attended public meetings, raised questions on the rationale, supported community groups and briefed MPs. The CHA is pleased to be able to offer assistance.

The CHA will reflect on the process and identify transferable learning, so that other CHA members in similar situations may be helped in coming to the most appropriate configuration for their locality. To read more please follow the link: <http://www.communityhospitals.org.uk/news.html>

➤ **Join the CHA**

Do join the CHA. We are a membership organisation that has created a network of individuals and organisations with a shared interest and belief in the value of community hospitals. Our voluntary committee of 14 individuals work to promote an understanding of the role function and potential of community hospitals.

As a social movement, we are involved in briefing Ministers, policy discussions as well as local consultations. We know that our members appreciate being part of the network, and accessing the information and expertise of our committee. Please consider joining either individually (£25) or by community hospital/League of Friends (£100). We will continue to send out newsletters and hold events such as conferences and workshops, with discounts for members. To join, please follow the link <http://www.communityhospitals.org.uk/joining-cha-membership.html>

➤ **Community Hospitals Association Committee**

We have now extended our committee, and we are delighted to welcome committee members who are National Leads across the UK. We welcome Dr Alastair Noble (Scotland), Dr Shauna Fannin (Northern Ireland) and Tom Brooks (Wales). We also welcome Katie Scott who is now the Lead for Community Voice. We also welcome Chris Humphris, who has extensive experience in managing and commissioning community services across England. This expansion increases what we are able to offer to our members across the UK. To see who is on our committee please follow the link: <http://www.communityhospitals.org.uk/directors-committee.html>

➤ **Community Hospitals Conference**

There will be a conference in the autumn to share the findings of three important research studies on community hospitals, looking at themes such as value, patient experience, efficiency and international learning. The CHA has been working with the Universities on these studies. The conference will also provide an opportunity to share good practice, and network with others. A date will be announced shortly.

➤ **Contributions**

We would love to hear from you. We are always pleased to feature community hospitals and services. Please get in touch if you have a story or a practice that you would like to share. Please reply to this email. infocommunityhospitals@gmail.com
Thank you.