



**Community Hospitals Association (CHA)  
Newsletter #8**

*Welcome to our Newsletter for February 2020. This includes news on community hospitals nationally, the latest on research and details of our upcoming conference.*

**“I am a Fan of Community Hospitals”**

**A Vote of Confidence in Community Hospitals by Matt Hancock, Secretary of State for Health and Care**

The CHA has been in correspondence with the Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP, Secretary of State for Health and Care. He has responded warmly to a request for a meeting, and has been very clear in his support for community hospitals. He said in Parliament: *“I will put more into local communities. 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.”*

<http://www.communityhospitals.org.uk/news.html>

➤ **New Evidence on Community Hospitals! Conference 13<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

The CHA and the University of Birmingham are holding a conference to share the new evidence on community hospitals from 3 research studies. This is important new evidence on aspects such as “value,” “efficiency” and “international learning.” Speakers from the research teams from the Universities of Birmingham, Leeds and Bournemouth/RAND will present their findings, and we will be discussing the impact and implications of these.

The conference will be held on 13<sup>th</sup> May at the University of Birmingham. Booking will open shortly through Eventbrite and will be on our website under “Events.” In the meantime, if you would like to find out more, please email the CHA [infocommunityhospitals@gmail.com](mailto:infocommunityhospitals@gmail.com)

➤ **CHA UK-Wide**

The CHA promotes community hospitals across the UK, and is strengthening its links across the four nations. A very productive discussion was held between the CHA leads: Dr Alastair Noble, Scotland; Dr Shauna Fennin, Northern Ireland; Tom Brooks, Wales and Chris Humphris, England. The discussion was facilitated by Dr Helen Tucker. Achievements were discussed, with an open sharing of ideas, policy papers and practice. Key learning points from the discussion, with links to relevant policy papers etc. are on the CHA website. If anyone would like to contact any of the national leads to talk about issues, please contact them through the CHA email [infocommunityhospitals@gmail.com](mailto:infocommunityhospitals@gmail.com)

➤ **Community Assets - Conference in Gloucestershire**

The CHA was delighted to be invited to the conference for community-based staff and voluntary organisations to discuss their community resources that support the health and wellbeing of the population. Helen Tucker gave a presentation about the work of the CHA and the role and contribution of community hospitals. She used the opportunity to praise Gloucestershire for its innovative and inspiring community hospital services, and made the point that Gloucestershire Community hospitals had won more CHA Innovations and Best Practice awards than any other area. The conference focused on the experience of those who use the services, with many opportunities for local voices to be heard.



Jan Marriott, who is CHA committee member and also a Non-Executive of Gloucestershire Health and Care NHS Trust, presented Innovation and Best Practice Awards to staff in Gloucestershire community hospitals. The photo above shows two matrons of community hospitals with literature from the CHA stand. Thanks to Linda Edwards (past committee member of CHA) who is Matron of Cirencester Hospital and Julie Ellery who is Matron of Tewkesbury Hospital. A video of the day is available to download: [https://youtu.be/\\_PWYmrdm69o](https://youtu.be/_PWYmrdm69o)

#### ➤ **Community Hospitals Regional Event – Newmarket Suffolk**

The CHA worked with Newmarket Hospital to hold a “sharing and learning” event for staff working in Community hospitals across Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire. There were 20 community hospital staff who participated in this day. The discussions on the day were fascinating and staff took every opportunity to talk to colleagues from other hospitals and Trusts, and to share experiences.



Thank you to Helen Ballam, Matron Newmarket Hospital and to Steve Dunn, CEO West Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust, for having the idea and for hosting the event (in photo above). The CHA team with Chris Humphris, Suzanne Jones and Helen Tucker (in the photo above) facilitated the day, and recorded the outcome. We hope that there will be more local events across the UK – please contact if you would like to hold one in your area. CHA at [infocommunityhospitals@gmail.com](mailto:infocommunityhospitals@gmail.com)

#### ➤ **Research on Palliative Care in Community Hospitals**

Dr David Seamark, Vice President of the CHA is now on the Steering Group for this study on palliative care for older people during uncertain recovery in community hospitals.

For further information:

<https://www.kcl.ac.uk/cicelysaunders/research/studies/spacetoolkit>

### ➤ The Future of Royston Hospital

The health secretary Matt Hancock 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."*

<https://www.royston-crow.co.uk/news/royston-hospital-campaigners-on-health-secretary-comments-1-6482305>

### ➤ News and Social Media

The CHA shares news on community hospitals across the UK on social media and on our website. Evelyn Prodger leads communications, and has provided this update.

Wehcmangers: The CHA has been involved in setting up this group which is part of the 'We' Twitter family with the aim of connecting healthcare managers through sharing information, ideas, knowledge & support to improve people's health, care & wellbeing through monthly Tweetchat. Follow them on Twitter @wehcmangers. The first Tweetchat was on Thursday 28th January on resilience. To find out more about that conversation, the next topic for February which is Escalation, view "scheduled Tweetchats" and join WeCommunities, and then follow this link: [www.wecomunities.org/tweet-chats/chat-calendar](http://www.wecomunities.org/tweet-chats/chat-calendar)

Do follow CHA on social media – we are active as an association on social media and love to hear from our members and those interested in Community Hospitals. We are keen to share examples of good practice and information as well as keep you up to date with news and events. Find us and follow us on:

Twitter - @CommHospUK



Linkedin - Community Hospitals Association



Facebook - Community Hospitals Association



➤ **Launch of Report on Efficiency of Community Hospital Wards**

The long-awaited report on the efficiency of community hospital wards has now been published. This report on the Mocha (Models of community hospitals) was carried out by the University of Leeds, and was led by Professor John Young. It was funded by the NIHR. It sheds light on the efficiency and cost of community hospital inpatient services, and also offers a tool for providers to assess their optimum efficiency. The study found that the efficiency of community hospital wards is comparable with acute hospitals and that modifiable performance factors might lead to potential efficiency savings. This is an important piece of work, and adds to the evidence base on the performance and contribution of community hospitals.

Measuring and optimising the efficiency of community hospital inpatient care for older people: the MoCHA mixed-methods study. John Young, Claire Hulme, Andrew Smith, John Buckell, Mary Godfrey, Claire Holditch, Jessica Grantham, Helen Tucker, Pam Enderby, John Gladman, Elizabeth Teale and Jean-Christophe Thiebaud Health Services and Delivery Research Volume 8 • Issue 1 • January 2020 ISSN 2050-4349 <http://www.communityhospitals.org.uk/leeds-progress-report.html>

➤ **NHS Benchmarking Conference**



Trish Jay and Helen Tucker represented the CHA at this years NHSBN conference when they announced the results of the 2019 data survey. Thanks to all of those hospitals and organisations that took part in the survey. There was interest in the CHA and our display boards and it was helpful to connect with more people and organisations that are involved with community hospitals and community services. Thank you to Claire Holditch and team at NHSBN for an excellent conference.

➤ **CHA Discussion Forum**

The CHA website forum page has been used for topics such as: nurse admission documentation, CGA, medical cover, use of CNS, therapists as ward managers, community hospital hubs; mental health services in community hospitals; urgent care services including minor injuries units and urgent treatment centres. Do feel free to respond to the issues on the site, or raise a new topic. <http://www.communityhospitals.org.uk/forum.html>

➤ **CHA New Committee Members**

We have now extended our committee, and we are delighted to welcome Helen Rowe. Helen is Matron of South Petherton Community Hospital, an award winner of the CHA Innovations and Best Practice Award. Helen brings a wealth of experience in managing and developing community hospital services.

We are also delighted to welcome Kirsty Protherough, a GP from Worcestershire. Kirsty has done a great deal to promote medical education in community hospitals and has already contributed significantly to our discussions on strategy.

We now have a committee of 16: 5 GPs, 6 nurses, 2 League of Friends/Voluntary organisation and 3 managers/researchers.

<http://www.communityhospitals.org.uk/directors-committee.html>

➤ **50 Years of the CHA! Now shaping our future.**

The CHA has been promoting community hospitals and supporting those concerned with community hospitals for 50 years!

We are reviewing how best it might support community hospitals and staff throughout the UK for the next 50 years! Led by our Chair, Chris Humphris, we have formulated an action plan, and all of our 16 committee members are contributing to tasks to help shape our future. It would be helpful to know what is important to you. Please contact us with any views or thoughts, by phone or email. We will share the outcome in due course. [infocommunityhospitals@gmail.com](mailto:infocommunityhospitals@gmail.com)

➤ **Please Share**

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](mailto:infocommunityhospitals@gmail.com) Thank you.