

## **News in CHARM - September 2016**

### **Cumbrian Health Centres welcome visit from lead Politician**

Parliamentary under secretary of state for community health and care, David Mowat, visited Morecambe Bay on Tuesday to learn more about the Better Care Together strategy. He was travelling to Millom for a tour of the community hospital and GP surgery. He had a first-hand experience of a teleconsultation appointment using a high-definition camera and monitor which is linked to the facility in the emergency department. Mr Mowat was impressed by the facilities available and paid tribute to the determination of Millom residents. He said: "It's all about creating new models of care in the NHS. We have established around 40 or 50 vanguard sites that are trying things which are a bit different. They are exemplars of practice and Millom is one of them." Mr Mowat got to meet representatives of the Millom Alliance community group known as the Millom Health Action Group who told him about their community-led initiatives over a working lunch. [Read more](#)

### **Campaign group vow never to stop the fight to save hospital**

CAMPAIGNERS fighting to save Ringwood's community hospital vow that they "will never give up." And the Friends of St Leonards Hospital are amassing an army of volunteers to do battle and help save the hospital from closing. It was revealed that St Leonards, Alderney and Westhaven hospitals have been recommended for closure by NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). Chairman of the Friends of St Leonards, Jacqueline Moss expressed her fury that members only learned about the closure plans via Facebook. [Read more](#)

### **Concerns over expected cuts to bed numbers at North Devon's district and community hospitals**

PLANS to cut bed numbers at North Devon District Hospital and additional community bed losses could be announced later this month, the Journal understands. In a document seen by the Journal, Laura Nicholas, director of strategy at the Northern, Eastern and Western Devon CCG, said the initial focus would be on services which are "most at risk in terms of sustainability, and that

bed-based activity will decrease and fewer beds will be needed in acute hospitals or community hospitals." [Read more](#)

### **Alston inpatient unit to reopen**

Following the successful nursing recruitment at Alston Community Hospital, Cumbria Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, CPFT, has confirmed that the inpatient unit will now reopen. A shortage of registered nurses to cover shifts meant that in early August the Trust took the decision to temporarily consolidate the patients and staff from Alston inpatient unit into Brampton hospital to ensure safe, high quality care and to maintain safe staffing levels. [Read more](#)

### **Workington MP Sue Hayman meets hospitals minister**

Workington MP Sue Hayman has met with the new hospitals minister to talk about the Success Regime. Mrs Hayman, with Cumbria's other MPs, met with Philip Dunne and senior NHS officials. She said: "We had a robust discussion about the secure future of our community hospitals and their in-patient beds as part of integrated care community hubs." The Success Regime, chaired by Sir Neil McKay, has been brought in by the Government to transform struggling health services across north and West Cumbria. It prompted the "Save Our Beds" campaign in Maryport, set up by residents to stop beds being removed from the town's community hospital. Hundreds of people have attended public meetings across the county about the Success Regime's proposals. [Read more](#)

### **Hospital campaigners ramp up the pressure over health chiefs' plans**

In its Better Care Closer to Home consultation document NHS North Derbyshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) states that its plans will reduce the demand for community hospital beds. This would then lead to the closure, over time, of Newholme hospital. But campaigners from action groups Matlock Hospitals League of Friends - for the Oker Ward at Whitworth Hospital - and Save Newholme Hospital have criticised 21C#JoinedUpCare. [Read more](#)

## **Rothbury Community Hospital ward closure sparks community anger**

Opposition is mounting to a controversial decision to close a village hospital's inpatient ward for three months, due to a fall in patient numbers. NHS Northumberland Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust announced on Friday that the 12-bed facility at Rothbury Community Hospital has shut temporarily and will be reviewed in November. A "Save Rothbury Cottage Hospital" campaign page has been set up on Facebook and a petition has already been signed by hundreds of people. The consultation finishes on October 5. [Read more](#)

## **Message of Support from Dr Sarah Wollaston MP, Chair of the Health Select Committee**

**Dr Sarah Wollaston MP has spoken on a number of times at the CHA conference. She is actively involved in local and national community healthcare issues.**

*"There was great relief when Simon Stevens came into his role and talked of community hospitals providing more services. The reality has been that more of them are under the threat of closure or the loss of inpatient beds. We need to examine the evidence for the community hubs and other models which are increasingly being used to replace them and compare these with existing inpatient services."*

*"I am delighted to see the CHA commitment to making that research easy to access through CHARM."*

## **Midhurst Community Hospital - Hopes for Re-Opening of Beds**

There is cautious optimism that Midhurst's popular community hospital inpatient ward will be open in the autumn after a successful recruitment campaign led by the Observer, the Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust (SCT) and the Friends of the hospital.

Read more [here](#).

### **Worried Paignton Hospital supporters ask Health Secretary for help**

PAIGNTON residents have written to the health minister complaining at the way the consultation over closing the town's community hospital has been handled. They have complained they are being treated as 'an unnecessary inconvenience to be tolerated and not listened to' over plans to close Paignton Hospital, due to go out to public consultation this autumn.

Read more [here](#)

### **New Community Hospital in Market Harborough to open in Spring 2017**

There is a debate about whether it should be called St Luke's Hospital (as it was known before) or have a new name.

Read more [here](#)

### **Community Hospitals in Cumbria**

Options are being considered by the NHS Success Regime for making changes to community hospitals in Cumbria.

- Maryport, Wigton and Alston may lose all beds

- Brampton, Cockermouth, Keswick, Workington and Whitehaven's Copeland Unit may all have 16-bed wards
- Penrith may lose 4 of its beds
- Millom may also be under threat of losing beds

Read more [here](#)

## Dorset Community Hospitals

It is proposed that the number of community hospitals with beds would reduce from 13 community hospitals to 7 in proposals that will be out for consultation.

- Bridport, Blandford, Sherborne, Weymouth, Swanage and Wimborne Community Hospitals would offer community beds and facilities including outpatients and diagnostics.
- Portland, Wareham, Christchurch and Shaftesbury would become community hubs without beds, but providing a range of services.
- St Leonards, Westhaven and Alderney community hospitals may close.

Read more [here](#)

## Edenbridge Community Hospital

### **"Residents asked to shape the future of health services Edenbridge"**

In a leaflet issued jointly by the clinical commissioning group, the medical practice and the NHS trust, the move has been described as an "exciting opportunity to create a community hub". Suggestions put forward include moving the GP surgery to a better, bigger building in Edenbridge and bringing the GPs and community care together under one roof.

Read more [here](#)

## Princess Wales Community Hospital

### **"Outpatient services at Ely's Princess of Wales Hospital safe until March 31, 2017"**

Outpatient services at Ely's Princess of Wales Hospital have secured a temporary reprieve.

Read more [here](#)

## Community Hospitals in North Kent

### **"High Court rules Virgin Care can start take over of £126million health service contract in north Kent."**

Virgin Care's takeover of health services in north Kent has resumed after a High Court ruling announced Richard Branson's health company can take over health services in Sittingbourne, Sheppey, Dartford and Gravesend.

Read more [here](#)

## Falkirk Community Hospital

### **"Helping bring a smile to patient"**

As volunteers we play an important role in providing company but also in keeping minds active by reading, talking and playing games with patients.

Read more [here](#)

## Wantage Community Hospital to stay open

**Plans to close an Oxfordshire hospital because of an increased risk of Legionnaires' disease have been shelved after pressure from campaigners.**

An online petition to save the hospital was signed by more than 3,900 people. Oxford Health NHS trust has now said its midwifery and physiotherapy services will remain open. Campaigners have said the trust should also reverse plans to close the hospital's 12 bed in-patient service.

Read more [here](#)

## Ottery St Mary Community Hospital

**"Strong turnout in Ottery St Mary as people rally to fight for future of hospital."**

Read more [here](#)