



Community Hospitals Association Review of 48 years as a Membership Organisation

1. Introduction to the Community Hospitals Association

The Community Hospitals Association (CHA) is a membership organisation for community hospitals in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The CHA was previously known as the Association of GP Community Hospitals (AGPCH) in 1980s and before that was the Association of General Practitioner hospitals (AGPH) when formed in 1969.

The CHA is now a Company limited by guarantee with 4 Directors and 5 committee members as well as honorary posts of Patron, President and Vice President (See Appendix A for details of current serving members).

2. Community Hospitals Database

The CHA maintains a list of community hospitals, and strives to keep this up to date and as complete as possible. This list has been put in the public domain through 2 published Directories, a Profiling Report for the Department of Health in 2008, and more recently through making available information on the CHARM website.

- Directory AGPH 1985
- Directory CHA 1999 funded by the Department of Health
- Profiling Community Hospitals in England 2008 by CHA initially funded by the Department of Health
- CHARM database updated regularly

3. CHA Membership Database

The CHA holds a list of members, current and past. These include individuals, community hospitals, Leagues of Friends, provider organisations, charities and private companies.

4. CHA Media – Promoting Community Hospitals

The CHA has 2 websites, and publishes newsletters. The CHA responds to requests from the media regarding community hospitals.

- Community Hospitals Association website:
<https://www.communityhospitals.org.uk/welcome/>
- CHARM – CHA Research and Media website:
<http://www.communityhospitalsresearch.org.uk/>
- Challenge – a quarterly published newsletter and also a regular online CHARM newsletter.
- Radio Interviews – such as local radio stations, Radio 4 and Farming Today
- TV interviews – such as Sky news and BBC
- TV Companies – responding to requests for information such as from RDF Television and Brinkworth Films
- National and Local Newspapers – including recently the Guardian and the Mirror

5. CHA Visits to Community Hospitals

CHA committee members regularly visit community hospitals throughout the UK.

- Attendance at SGM of League of Friends meetings such as Crowborough Hospital, Swanage Hospital etc.
- Visit Community Hospitals to interview staff and promote the service by making the hospital “featured community hospital” on the CHARM website
- Visits to community hospitals to discuss proposals for change
- Visits to community hospitals to meet staff as part of the Innovations and Best Practice Programme
- Past President of CHA, Dr Sandy Cavenagh visited many community hospitals in a tour of community hospitals throughout the UK as part of his research. Vice President, Dr Helen Tucker has visited 150 community hospitals over a 30 year period, as part of either research, consultancy, or with the CHA.

6. Conferences

The CHA has held conferences over its 50 year history, and these have ranged from one day regional conferences to three day national conferences.

- Weekend conferences over 3 days have been held every Spring for over 20 years, with a conference report published afterwards and presentations available for

downloading. Speakers have included Simon Stevens, CEO of NHS England: Dr Sarah Wollaston MP, Chair of the Health Select Committee and Nigel Edwards from Nuffield Trust.

- Day conferences have been held – such as for Innovations and Best Practice
- Conference held in Westminster for cross-party attendance that was organised by CHA as part of our role in CHANT
- Attendance at the Scottish Association of Community Hospitals by committee as part of sharing good practice

7. CHAMP –Community Hospitals Association Improving Practice Promoting Quality Care and Best Practice in Community Hospitals

The CHA maintains its value of promoting high quality health and care provided in community hospitals. The CA has instigated and supported initiatives that help to ensure that the services are subject to continual improvement.

- Hospital Accreditation Programme – instigated by Dr Charles Shaw (committee member) and now managed by CHKS
- Conference topics include preparing for an inspection by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and sharing lessons learnt.
- Innovations and Best Practice Programme 2000-2017 – instigated by CHA team of committee members with application by Dr Helen Tucker for funding from the department of Health. Now led by Suzanne Jones.
- Policies and Procedures – CHA providing sample policies and procedures to support good practice

8. Responding to Queries from Members – some recent examples

The CHA offers a service to members that includes responding to queries, directing members to appropriate resources, and offering visits. Below is a selection of recent enquiries that have all been responded to.

- Consultant Community Geriatrician Kent Community Trust requesting profiling information on community hospitals for her report on the national audit of patient falls, that now includes community hospitals
- Community Representative in Northumberland requesting information on staffing levels in community hospitals

- GP in Kent – requesting advice on cost of community hospital inpatient care, and also asking if the process for consulting on change can involve Matrons
- Community representative asking how to access all of the CCG consultation material regarding proposed closure of hospital facilities in Dorset
- Queries on the process of consultation from League of Friends in Devon

9. CHANT - Community Hospitals Acting Nationally Together Promoting Community Hospitals and Services

The CHA is called upon to provide detailed information and briefing papers such as for Parliamentary debates, for CCGs preparing proposals for service changes etc. The CHA has worked with national organisations and colleges, and provided material.

10. Briefings

- Briefing Papers to Ministers, MPs and others to inform debates on community hospitals
- Meeting Ministers such as Sarah Wollaston MP, Norman Lamb MP, Stephen Dorrell MP, Lord Warner, Andy Burnham MP, Boris Johnson MP, Andrew Murrison MP and many others.
- Health Select Committee – proving regular briefings to Health Select Committee, and have tabled a request for an inquiry into the strategic role and future of community hospitals. One of their current inquiries is into nurse staffing, and the CHA will be able to submit evidence on this in respect of community hospitals.

11. Policy Papers

CHA members have contributed to policy papers and national working groups.

- RCGP (1983) "General practitioner hospitals: Report of a Working Party appointed by the Council of the Royal College of General Practitioners - Occasional Paper 23." London: Royal College of General Practitioners.
- Royal College of General Practitioners 1990, Community hospitals: preparing for the future. RCGP, London and Association of GP Community Hospitals Occasional Paper 43
- RCGP (1995) "Rural General Practice in the UK - Occasional Paper 71." London: Royal College of General Practitioners.
- Design on Community Hospitals 2013 – Community Health Partnership

- Care Services Improvement Partnership
- NHS Benchmarking Network

12. Community Voice

The CHA is approached by staff, GPs, Leagues of Friends, provider organisations, patients, families and Leagues of Friends when there are proposals for change. One of the main concerns is that those concerned have not been properly involved in the planning and the consultation has not been adequate.

- Helping local communities to challenge proposals for withdrawing services or closing community hospitals. Successful challenges over time, and in particular around 2007/8.
- Helping to link community hospitals and Leagues of Friends, to share learning and strengthen the challenges.
- Working with the Independent Reconfiguration Panel officer, who provides informal advice and shares learning on service changes/reductions
- Working with MPs to provide information to assist in challenging proposals where appropriate

13. CHARM – Community Hospitals Association Research and Media Promoting Research and Evidence-based Care

The CHA is actively promoting research: *“Sharing evidence to promote excellent patient care in community hospitals.”*

- Community Hospitals Research Programme 2014-2017 – contributing to the Cross-Study Steering Group for the 3 research studies in the NIHR-funded programme (Suzanne Jones and Helen Tucker).
- University of Leeds - Contributing as a project board member of the Leeds study which is focused on the cost effectiveness of community hospital inpatient wards (Helen Tucker).
- University of Birmingham - Contributing as a project board member on the Birmingham study which is exploring community engagement and patient experience (Jan Marriott, Suzanne Jones and Dr David Seamark). Also a member of the research team (Dr Helen Tucker).

- RAND - Contributing to project team discussions throughout the project (Helen Tucker).
- CHA helped to formulate the brief for Community Hospitals Research Programme for NIHR
- CHA members are reviewers for NIHR reports
- Supporting research throughout the UK – such as dementia care in community hospitals, one day of care model in Scotland and other active studies.
- Working with researchers internationally – such as Verdiana Morando from the University of Bocconi in Milan, Simo Kokko from Kuopio University Hospital in Finland and Ludo Glimmerveen from the Netherlands.
- University of Warwick – working with Professor Geoff Meads established a Community Hospitals Research network that linked the CHA and Scottish Association of Community Hospitals to cover the UK
- Bibliography – the CHA holds a library of publications on community hospitals and maintains a database of publications

14. Innovations and Best Practice

The CHA has been running the Innovations and Awards Programme since 2000, and presented 132 awards to staff submitting entries for their services. Over 200 community hospitals have been visited as part of this programme, where shortlisted candidates are interviewed in their hospitals by CHA committee members. Submissions are assessed against pre-determined criteria, and a CHA panel finalise the award winners. Awards have been presented at the CHA annual conference, or presented at the community hospital concerned.

15. Gold Standards Framework

A CHA committee member has been part of the Gold Standards Framework Accreditation assessment panel for Community Hospitals for the last three years. This has involved being a member of the short-listing panel, attending the awards ceremony, and presenting awards to winners from community hospitals.

16. A Selection of Publications by CHA Committee Members

A Selection of CHA and committee members published research including:

Seamark, D., Tucker, H., Penwarden, H. (2016) "England must support its community hospitals" BMJ July 2016; 354:i3933
 Seamark, D., Moore, B., Tucker, H., Church, J., & Seamark, C. 2001, "Community hospitals for the new millennium", British Journal of General Practice., vol. 51, no. 463, pp. 125-127.

Seamark, D.A., Seamark, C.J. and Lawrence, C. (1997) "Contribution of Community Hospitals in East Devon to Cancer Workload." Health Trends 29:114-117.

Seamark, D. A., Williams, S., Hall, M., Lawrence, C. J., & Gilbert, J. 1998b, "Dying from cancer in community hospitals or a hospice: closest lay carers' perceptions", *British Journal of General Practice.*, vol. 48, no. 431, pp. 1317-1321.

Seamark, D. A., Williams, S., Hall, M., Lawrence, C. J., & Gilbert, J. 1998c, "Palliative terminal cancer care in community hospitals and a hospice: a comparative study", *British Journal of General Practice.*, vol. 48, no. 431, pp. 1312-1316.

Tucker H (2016) "We know community hospitals work. And at last so does the NHS." *The Guardian* May 30th 2014

Tucker, H. (2015) "Improving Local and Community Care for Older People" *Asian Hospital & Healthcare Management*

Shaw, C. D. 1984, "General practitioner hospitals: coming or going?", *British medical journal*, vol. 288, no. 6428, p. 1399.

Shaw, C. D. & Collins, C. D. 1995, "Health service accreditation: report of a pilot programme for community hospitals", *British medical journal*, vol. 310, no. 6982, pp. 781-784.

Tucker, H. (1987a). "The Role and Function of Community Hospitals - Kings Fund Project Paper Number 70" London : Kings Edward's Hospital Fund for London

Tucker H (2014) "The Essence of Community Hospitals" Viewpoint University of Birmingham July 2014

Tucker H (2016) "We know community hospitals work. And at last so does the NHS." *The Guardian* May 30th 2014

Tucker H. Discovering integrated care in community hospitals. *Journal of Integrated Care* 2013;21(6):336-46.

Tucker H. Integrating care in community hospitals. *Journal of Integrated Care.* 2006;14(6):3-10.

Cavenagh, A.J.M. (1978) "Contribution of General Practitioner Hospitals in England & Wales." *Br Med J* 2(6129):34-36.

Jones, R. and Tucker, H. (1988) "The role of community hospitals." *Health Trends* 20(2):45-48.

17. History of Community Hospitals

Dr Meryk Emrys Roberts devoted many years to writing a comprehensive history of Community Hospitals. He was the Founding President of the Community Hospitals Association.

- Emrys-Roberts, M. (1991) "Cottage Hospitals 1859-1990: Arrival, Survival and Revival." Dorset: Tern Publications.

In addition, CHA committee members have written a local history of their community hospital, such as:

- Dr Ian Wilson "From Cottage to Community - The First 100 years or so of Blandford Hospital"
- Dr Andrew Crowther and D. Willavoys (2013) "The Hospitals and Medical Practices of Tewkesbury"

18. Sponsors

The CHA has appreciated the support of sponsors, who make financial contributions to the Association, and also support the work of the Association through attending conferences and providing exhibitions.

Attracted sponsors and exhibitors such as:

Seddon Construction <http://www.seddon.co.uk/>
 Prime Plc <https://www.primeplc.com/>
 HUR Exercise Equipment <https://www.huruk.co.uk/>
 BOC <https://www.bochealthcare.co.uk/>
 EHOB <https://www.ehob.com/>

Typharm <https://www.typharm.co.uk>

Vanguard Healthcare <https://vanguardhs.com>

Phoenix Corporate <https://phoenixcorporate.co.uk>

Gold Standards Framework <https://goldstandarsframework.org.uk>

Appendix A Serving Members of the CHA in 2017

Name	Role 2017	Position
Honorary		
Roy Lilley	Patron	Health policy analyst, writer, broadcaster and commentator on the National Health Service and social issues. Founder of Academy of NHS Fabstuff. Former Chairman of an NHS Trust.
Dr Andrew Crowther	President	GP Tewkesbury (retired) Gloucestershire Was Clinical Practitioner and GP anaesthetist at Tewkesbury Hospital, Gloucestershire
Dr Helen Tucker	Vice President	Researcher at University of Birmingham. On Project Board, University of Leeds. Reviewer for NIHR. On Editorial Board for Journal of Integrated Care. Management consultant. Previous manager of community hospitals in Oxfordshire and Berkshire and Trustee of All Hallows Healthcare Trust. PhD University of Warwick.
Directors		
Dr Phil Moore	Chair	GP Surbiton, previously providing medical support to community beds in Surbiton Hospital and now helping to lead the development of the services. Deputy chair (clinical) for the Kingston Clinical Commissioning Group and Joint Associate Medical Director for the borough.
Jan Marriott	Vice Chair	A qualified nurse, Jan is a Non-Executive Director of Gloucestershire Care Services NHS Trust. She was previously Manager of Community Hospitals in Gloucestershire & Worcestershire and was Matron of Evesham Community Hospital, Worcestershire. Jan is now an independent consultant in health and social care. RGN, DipN, BSocSc (Hons), MBA
Suzanne Jones	Treasurer	RGN. Practice Nurse and Trustee of All Hallows Healthcare Trust. Previous Matron and Manager of Community Hospitals in Suffolk, and Nurse Manager to Prisons Service
Barbara Moore	Chief Executive	Previous Matron of Axminster Hospital, and subsequently Locality Manager in Devon
Committee Members		
Evelyn Prodger	Committee	General Manager at Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust
Liz Fenton	Committee	Professional Nurse Advisor at Health Education England, CHKS and Care Quality Commission.
Nikki Woodward	Committee	Matron and Manager in Bath, Bristol and North Somerset, Head of Integrated Hospital Services - Adult Services Virgin Care
Dr Roy Sharma	Committee	GP working in Community Hospitals in Gloucestershire (Sessional)
Linda Edwards		Community Hospital Matron for Gloucestershire care Services NHS Trust. An RGN with a district nurse qualification and also a teacher qualification.