Community Hospitals Association (CHA)
Newsletter #7

Welcome to our Newsletter for Autumn 2019. This includes news on community hospitals nationally, the latest on research, our innovations and best practice awards, the launch of our discussion forum, and much more.

➢ Rothbury Community Hospital, Northumbria

The CHA congratulates the community group for Rothbury Community Hospital, who have been successful in making the case for the re-opening of the beds after a 3 year closure period. The determination of the local community and campaign group made sure that this loss of service was drawn to the attention to the Secretary of State, who formally required a review of the decision to close the beds. The ward is due to reopen on 1st April 2020 and will offer step up step down and palliative care. There will be an innovative flexible staffing model for the both hospital and "virtual" beds providing continuity of care across hospital and home. Katie Scott led the community group and is now a member of the Northumberland Rural Health Advisory Commission. Katie has since joined the CHA as a committee member, and she offers invaluable experience and expertise.

➢ North Staffordshire Community Hospitals

There has been good progress in the plans for community hospitals and services in North Staffordshire. The original plan to retain community beds in only 1 of the 5 community hospitals is now under review, as is the number of beds to be provided. CHA committee member, Chris Humphries, has been working with the local community and NHS, attending meetings and providing information and resources. The community hospitals and beds are valued by local people in the area, and it is hoped that the increase in consultation and communication will prove fruitful.

➢ Innovation and Best Practice Awards

CHA committee members have been visiting community hospitals in places such as Lincolnshire, Devon and Sussex, meeting staff and handing over well-deserved awards. The events have been a celebration of innovation and a recognition of the valuable work of staff. The CHA has been made very welcome in each of the hospitals, and we are delighted to help recognise and share good practice and continue to promote the value of community hospitals.
http://www.communityhospitals.org.uk/innovations-best-practice-programme.html

Photos - Community Hospitals: South Petherton, Somerset; Horsham, Sussex and John Coupland, Lincolnshire.

➢ Community Hospitals Local Events

The CHA is working with Newmarket Hospital to hold a "sharing and learning" event for staff working in Community hospitals across Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire. Our first event is in November and we hope that this will be the first of many networking events. The response from staff has been highly positive, welcoming a chance to meet staff from other community hospitals and share their thoughts on opportunities and challenges.

Gloucestershire local NHS is holding an event to "celebrate community assets, learn from each other, recognise achievements and build aspirations for the future." The CHA is pleased to be presenting an innovation and best practice award and also contributing during the day.

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

➢ Research on Palliative Care in Community Hospitals

A fascinating study is being carried out on palliative care for older people during uncertain recovery in community hospitals. The study is led by Catherine Evans, and is a collaboration between Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust and King's College London. One of the objectives is to provide staff with evidence-based tools to improve decision-making about care and treatments, communication with patients and families and reduce anxiety and distress known as the SPACEtoolkit (Symptom and Psychosocial Assessment and Communication Evaluation). The CHA is pleased to be invited onto the Steering Group for the study, and delighted to share information and resources from our committee and website. For further information: https://www.kcl.ac.uk/cicelysaunders/research/studies/spacetoolkit

➢ Intermediate Care Interventions for Older Adults Report

The CHA has been pleased to be involved in this report by contributing to the Delphi study on intermediate and transitional care. The study is a pan-European study, and is a major contribution to a consistent and shared understanding of the role of intermediate care.

The study concludes that home is best for intermediate and transitional care, although for there are good outcomes in bed-based care including community hospitals for those who need inpatient care. We are delighted to share the report of the recent Delphi survey and systematic review which forms part of the ADVANTAGE JA project, co-funded by the European Union's Health Programme, that aims to establish a common Frailty Prevention Approach to managing older people who are frail, or at risk for developing frailty. A publication is now being prepared.

➢ News and Social Media

The CHA shares news on community hospitals across the UK on social media and on our website. Out twitter account @CommHospUK had a reach of 267k recently. Thanks to Evelyn Prodger who leads our social media.

To read more up to date news on community hospitals across the UK please follow the link: http://www.communityhospitals.org.uk/news.html

➢ Investment in Community Hospitals

A capital investment programme for the NHS has been announced recently by the Prime Minister, with the possibility that the 12 community hospitals in Dorset could be given funding in the future. A CCG spokesperson said that any investment in the NHS was welcome, and when there was more detail on this they would be able to comment further.

➢ CHA New Discussion Forum

The CHA website now has a forum page, where questions and issues can be posted. Topics already on the forum include: 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 Member

We have now extended our committee, and we are delighted to welcome back Trish Jay. Trish was previously a Committee Member of the CHA for 7 years. Trish is a registered nurse who has worked extensively in community hospitals and held posts of Manager and Director. Trish was key in the development of a tool to assess the appropriate use of community hospital beds which was published and has been widely used. Donald, I.P., Jay, T., Linsell, J. and Foy, C. (2001) "*Defining the Appropriate Use of Community Hospital Beds.*" Br J Gen Pract. 51(463):95-100.

We now have a committee of 15: 4 GPs, 5 nurses and 6 managers/researchers.
http://www.communityhospitals.org.uk/directors-committee.html

➢ Join the CHA – Special Half Year Offer

Thank you to those who support community hospitals and the CHA, and who are currently members. The CHA network benefits from your membership. If you have not yet joined, then please do consider it. We offer resources, information, and networking opportunities. We are offering a special half-year rate. This is £10 for an individual membership and £50 for a community hospital. This provides a membership up to March 31st 2020 when you would be invited to renew. Please download a form for this special rate at
http://www.communityhospitals.org.uk/joining-cha-membership.html or email us
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 Thank you.