

NEWSLETTER #33

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JAN 2025

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Q Special Interest Group Online Discussions - Same Day Emergency Care (SDEC)



CHA Q SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP ONLINE DISCUSSIONS

We are pleased to announce the return of our Special Interest Group discussions for 2025. Our first speaker of the year will be **Sue Greenwood** from Camborne Redruth Community Hospital, presenting on 5th February at 7:00 PM. Sue will discuss Cornwall's innovative **SAME DAY EMERGENCY CARE (SDEC)** initiative, which has successfully diverted 80 critically ill patients from A&E this winter, thereby significantly reducing the pressure on acute services within the Trust. The event will be chaired by SIG Co-Convenor Evelyn Prodger. Don't miss out on this opportunity to gain valuable insights, network and discuss the opportunities and challenges presented on this topic. There will be plenty of time for questions and discussion. Do join us.



SUE GREENWOOD QN MBE



Thanks to Q for
their support of
our SIG events.



This event is organised and
hosted by the Community
Hospitals Association.

REGISTER NOW!

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP - SPRING EVENT SCHEDULE

We are preparing our Special Interest Group schedule for the coming months. The sessions will be lead by CHA Innovation and Best Practice Award winners in 2024. On **5th March** we will hear physiotherapists **AMI COOK AND DEBBIE PAULSTON FROM PAULTON COMMUNITY HOSPITAL** discuss their wonderful Cubii seated project which "improves mobility by reducing sedentary behaviour & deconditioning". **ACP JOANNA BARNES FROM TEWKESBURY COMMUNITY HOSPITAL** will join the **2nd April** session and talk about her Delirium project, described as a "brilliant piece of work using quality improvement methodology to implement the use of the 4AT tool". Finally on **7th May**, **LUCY SOMERVILLE WILL DISCUSS SCFT'S HEALTHCARE SUPPORT WORKER PROJECT**; a 6 month programme designed to enhance clinical skills, critical thinking, and interpersonal skills for HCSWs. More details to follow! [READ MORE HERE](#)



New Committee Member - Welcome to Heather Penwarden BEM



HEATHER RECEIVING THE FREEDOM OF THE
WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF NURSES

We are delighted to welcome Heather Penwarden BEM as the newest member of the CHA committee. Heather is a Registered Mental Health Nurse and Cognitive Behaviour Therapist with over 30 years of NHS experience, working with adults, families and older adults. Her connection to community hospitals runs deep, spanning her roles as a staff member, patient, relative, volunteer, and Chair of the League of Friends. Her leadership has brought people together and put lived experiences at the heart of health and care planning. In retirement, Heather continues to make a difference as the founder of Dementia Friendly Honiton and a Trustee of Honiton 55+. We would like to congratulate Heather on becoming a Freeman of the Worshipful Company of Nurses, celebrated at a special ceremony at Painters' Hall in London earlier this month.

READ HEATHER'S BIO HERE [CHA - COMMITTEE](#)

National Conference 2025!

Planning is already underway for our 2025 conference. Please save the date; **9th and 10th October 2025!** This year's working theme is *Community Hospitals: Integrating Care and Building Capacity at the Heart of Our Communities*. It will explore the vital role of community hospitals in connecting services and enhancing local care.

As always, networking will be a key focus of the conference. We are planning a drinks reception and celebratory awards networking dinner on Thursday 9th October. This year's **Innovation and Best Practice Awards** will be particularly special as we celebrate their 25th anniversary. Winners will be presented with their awards during the dinner in what promises to be a memorable evening.



We are currently reviewing potential venues and will update as soon as one is confirmed. Do register your interest in attending; [please join the waiting list here.](#)

We hope you will join us for another inspiring and engaging event!

National Conference 2024 - Evaluation Report

Thank you to everyone who completed the Evaluation Questionnaire of our 2024 National Conference in October last year. The full evaluation report is now available [here](#). The CHA wishes to thank Helen Tucker and Evelyn Prodger, SIG Co-Convenors for their work on collating the report. We have also created a summary graphic of some wonderful suggestions on how we can improve future events. To view this graphic, [please visit here.](#)



Member Queries

An important part of the role of the CHA is supporting our members to collaborate and share best practice and quality improvement. We are pleased to share two recent queries received from CHA members and hope you can help:



*"Please could you share any information related to the type of **safety intervention/de-escalation training** available to teams within community hospital inpatient areas? Contact joanne.roberts24@nhs.net with your suggestions.*



*"I am hoping to develop a **supportive decision making tool** for our trainee **Advanced Practitioners** around assessing medically fit for discharge.*

I was wondering if there is any information already about this or if anyone else is considering this please".

Contact jane.macmillan@ghc.nhs.uk with your suggestions.

If you have experience or information to share, do get in touch with the members directly using the details provided. If you have a query for the CHA network, please do get in touch and we'd be happy to help. Thank you for your continued support of community hospitals' colleagues.

Lord Darzi's Support for Community Hospitals & CHA Response to the 10 Year Plan

Dr Kirsten Protherough, Chair of the CHA wrote to Lord Darzi on behalf of the CHA to congratulate him on his report, and to share the CHA contribution to the consultation on the NHS 10 Year Plan. Lord Darzi responded with a very clear message about the value of community hospitals.

Lord Darzi published his [Independent Investigation of the National Health Service](#) in England in September 2024 as a contribution to the 10 year Plan for the NHS. We support Lord Darzi's report findings and recommendations, and in particular:

“Community hospitals.... will clearly play an important role in the shifting of more healthcare into the community, which I've been advocating for 20 years. The effective use of community hospitals is crucial in supporting flow through acute hospitals and treating people more locally.”

- ◆ **LOCK IN THE SHIFT OF CARE CLOSER TO HOME BY HARDWIRING FINANCIAL FLOWS**
- ◆ **RE-ENGAGE STAFF AND RE-EMPOWER PATIENTS**
- ◆ **SIMPLIFY AND INNOVATE CARE DELIVERY FOR A LOCAL NHS**

The CHA queried the lack of reference specifically to Community Hospitals within the report, given their role in providing community capacity for health and care. Lord Darzi explained that there was a lack of data specifically for community hospitals. The CHA has been identifying this as an issue for many years.

“I am sorry that community hospitals weren't a focus of my recent review. Part of the challenge is that I was led by the data and data specifically from community hospitals can be lacking (either because it is not collected or it is not disaggregated).”

Lord Darzi concluded his communication by writing:

“Thank you for your championing of the important contributions community hospitals make.”

[READ THE CHA'S FULL RESPONSE TO THE 10-YEAR HEALTH PLAN FOR ENGLAND \(DEC 2024\)](#)



LORD DARZI OF DENHAM

CHA & International Links



A recent Integrated Care Matters webinar, hosted by the [International Foundation for Integrated Care \(IFIC\)](#) and [IFIC Scotland](#), showcased the vital role of community hospitals worldwide. Experts from Japan, Italy (Francesca Meda), and Sweden (Mante Hedman Mante), highlighted their impact on providing patient-centred, accessible care closer to home.

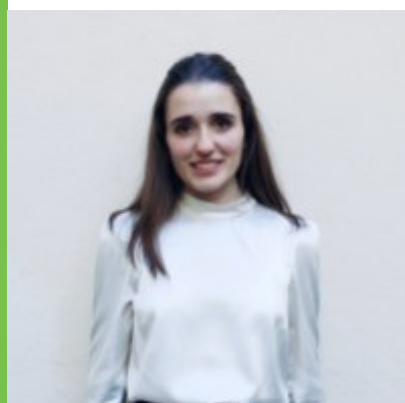
From Japan, Dr Shin Yoshida discussed how community hospitals bridge ambulatory care, rehabilitation and care at home, which allows more end-of-life care in the home. Francesca Meda shared insights from Italy's healthcare reform with 307 new community hospitals and facilities planned by 2026. Dr Mante Hedman Mante highlighted the benefits of rural community hospitals, including holistic care and continuity with local primary and social care teams. The event was co-facilitated by Prof Anne Hendy & Dr Helen Tucker.

Community hospitals were praised as a "bridge" between hospital and home, offering rehabilitation, personalised care, and training opportunities for healthcare professionals. [READ THE FLASH REPORT HERE](#)



[WATCH THE WEBINAR RECORDING HERE](#)

Recent Publications



FRANCESCA MEDA

Francesca Meda, who discussed Italy's community hospitals at the November IFIC Scotland webinar, recently published a paper *"Scaling up integrated care: Can community hospitals be an answer? A multiple-case study from the Emilia-Romagna region in Italy"*. The study from Emilia-Romagna, Italy, explored the role of integrated care in community hospitals for people with chronic conditions. It looked at seven hospitals within a single Local Health Authority. The research shows that community hospitals help connect primary and specialist care, and integrate local communities into the wider healthcare system. The study highlights the importance of adapting plans to fit local contexts. The research is part of Italy's effort to improve community care with European funding by 2026. [READ THE PAPER HERE](#)

Membership Survey - we'd love your views on the CHA!

The views of our members are very important to us. We have created a short member survey and would love to hear what think about the CHA. Thank you to everyone who has responded so far. We would like to know what more we can do to meet your community hospitals' needs and what is important to you. So far members have told us they would like more educational webinars and to expand our networking events. Respondents say they would like see the CHA grow as an organisation but appreciate resources are limited. Membership is highly valued as the CHA links members to help with particular queries thereby sharing best practice and expertise.



Thank you for being so accessible and available to a working CH AHP".



[COMPLETE THE SURVEY HERE!](#)

Join the CHA Committee as Northern Ireland Lead

The Community Hospitals Association is calling on our Northern Ireland colleagues to get involved by joining the CHA committee, with a particular need for a Northern Ireland Lead.



DALRAIDA COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

This role is vital for addressing unique regional challenges, raising local issues and sharing best practices from the region.

As the Northern Ireland Lead, you'll ensure the voices of Northern Irish community hospitals are heard, influencing policy and improvements. If you're passionate about making a difference, this is your chance!

Please get in touch with CHA Chair, Dr Kirsty Protherough kirsty.protherough@communityhospitals.net Thank you.



DR ALASTAIR NOBLE IS NATIONAL LEAD FOR SCOTLAND



DAVID FARNSWORTH IS NATIONAL LEAD FOR WALES

Angela wins 2024 BGS Special Medal for her creative work



ANGELA CONLAN

Special congratulations go to Angela Conlan, Project Lead at Oxford Health Arts Partnership, who received the British Geriatrics Society Special Medal for 2024. The award recognises her exceptional work in promoting the health and wellbeing of older people through creative arts.

Angela's 'Creating with Care' project brings arts activities like dance, music and painting to patients in community hospitals. These activities have helped improve patients' mood and bring about positive emotions.

They also help patients feel a sense of community and connection. We were delighted to have Angela and her colleague Paula Har at last year's National Conference where they presented a workshop on the project.

[READ MORE HERE.](#)



News

The [CHA collates news articles](#) on community hospitals from a range of sources such as notifications from our members and from media coverage. Please do send in any news items that you would like us to share with CHA members.

There is exciting news regarding the Old Cranleigh Hospital Cottage and a substantial National Lottery Grant "to save the hospital and bring it back to use for all the community as a wellbeing, education, and heritage hub." [Read more here.](#)



OLD CRANLEIGH HOSPITAL COTTAGE

Efforts by National Lead for Scotland Dr Alastair Noble & CHA member Dr Adrian Baker will see the welcome return of vaccinations to Highland GPs. [Read about it here.](#) A new resource to support dementia patients and caregivers in a range of engaging and stimulating activities has been developed by Zoe Francis of My Music Works. [More details about the workbook are available here.](#) Staff at Clitheroe Community Hospital's Ribblesdale Ward have been awarded the prestigious Gold Safe Personal and Effective Care (SPEC) Award for outstanding care. There is also news of energy efficiency measures at the Mid Ulster Community Hospital to cut energy costs & reduce carbon emissions. [Read more here.](#)



STAFF AT CLITHEROE COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

WE'D LOVE TO SHARE YOUR NEWS; DO GET IN TOUCH WITH US!

Tree planting on healthcare sites



Applications are still open for NHS sites in England to apply the free tree planning scheme. Since 2009, over 120,000 trees have been planted. A range of 'tree schemes' are available from thematic planning e.g. blossom trees, wood land creation and fruit trees.



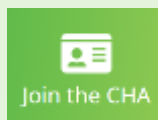
CENTRE for
SUSTAINABLE
HEALTHCARE
inspire • empower • transform

Contact harriet.white@sustainablehealthcare.org.uk for more info.

[Apply here before 28th February](#)

Join our Networks

If you are not already a member, you are very welcome to join us.



- ♦ CHA personal [individual lifetime member](#) (free).
- ♦ We also offer [membership to organisations](#) such as NHS Trusts and Leagues of Community Hospital Friends. There is a small fee for this.



- ♦ You are welcome to join our [Community Hospital Special Interest Group](#) within the Q Community with a focus on Quality Improvement and sharing good practice.

For any enquiries and further information, please contact eleonor@communityhospitals.net

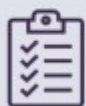
Thank you to SystmOne for their support of this newsletter. Brigid is the new app for clinicians using SystmOne.



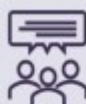
Care Plans, Reinvented for Brigid.



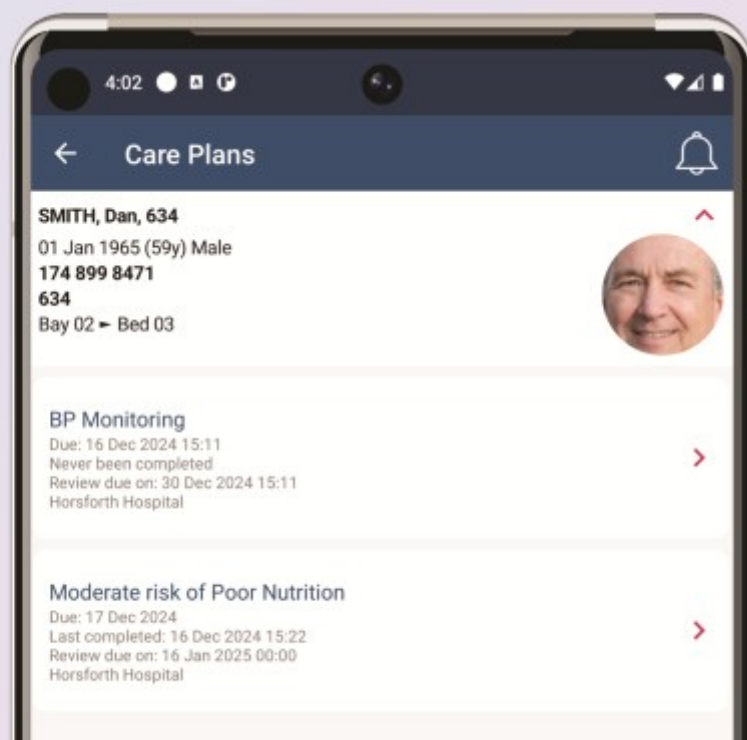
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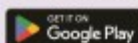
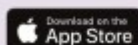


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