



NEWSLETTER #35

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1. Our response to the NHS 10 Year Plan for England

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The Community Hospitals Association will continue to work with members to demonstrate how community hospitals and hubs operate as centres for local health and wellbeing, and with investment have the potential to contribute significantly to the Government's ambition to improve the health of the nation.



In response to the recent 10 Year Health Plan for England, The CHA issued the following statement: As the voice of community hospitals and community hubs, our members welcome the plan and the opportunity it presents. Community hospitals & community hubs provide local, valued community-based services and facilities, and play a vital role in local NHS systems. They are well-placed to further develop as Neighbourhood Services and serve a key role in the Government's 10 Year Plan.

The CHA supports 500 community & hubs in remote, rural and coastal areas across the UK, including 346 in England. Our members can provide case study examples of where these existing services already help in moving hospital to community, moving sickness to prevention & moving analogue to digital.

The CHA will continue to work with members to demonstrate how community hospitals & hubs operate as centres for local health & wellbeing, & with investment have the potential to contribute significantly to the Government's ambition to improve the health of the nation. [Read the full policy here](#)

The national voice for community hospitals & community hubs



TELL US WHAT YOU THINK ABOUT THE NHS LONG-TERM PLAN

We would like to hear from staff working in community hospitals about how the plan's priorities land in real wards and clinics. Your answers to three short questions will help us to -



SPOT GAPS BETWEEN NATIONAL AMBITION AND DAY-TO-DAY REALITY



HIGHLIGHT LOCAL COMMUNITY HOSPITAL INNOVATION WE CAN SHARE NATIONALLY



HELP ESTABLISH THE PLACE COMMUNITY HOSPITALS WILL HOLD IN THE FUTURE OF OUR HEALTHCARE LANDSCAPE.

CHA Chair Dr Kirsten Protherough has created an anonymous survey which takes less than three minutes to complete. We will share the results in our next newsletter and use them to promote community hospitals. We'd be grateful to receive your views. **To complete the survey, [please follow this link](#).**

Thank you.



2a. CHA Events - Special Interest Groups

CHA Q SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Our Special Interest Groups bring people together to share ideas, explore good practice and learn from others working in and alongside community hospitals & hubs. In recent weeks, we've been pleased to host two inspiring sessions. We wish to thank The Q Community for their ongoing support.



LUCY WON A CHA INNOVATION AND BEST PRACTICE AWARD IN 2024.

On the 4th of June, we were pleased to welcome Lucy Somerville, Professional Development Nurse from Sussex Community Foundation Trust, who shared the story of a new development programme for healthcare support workers.

Lucy spoke about how the programme was shaped by staff and created in response to a clear gap in ongoing training and development. It runs over six months and includes study days, reflective learning, wellbeing support, and a final presentation of a quality improvement project. Staff who complete the programme report feeling more confident, more skilled and more valued in their roles. Many go on to further training, while others choose to stay in their role, now with stronger skills and a better sense of their own professional identity. The session showed the difference this kind of investment can make, not just to individuals but also to patient care and staff retention.

Thank you to Lucy and her colleagues for such an inspiring session. A recording of Lucy's presentation is [available here](#) and a Lucy's [presentation is here](#)



At our most recent SIG earlier in the month, we were joined by Marc Jobson from Seachange Devon, who shared the journey of transforming the former community hospital in Budleigh Salterton into a thriving health and wellbeing hub.

Marc spoke about the challenges and opportunities of rethinking community healthcare. Seachange now welcomes over 8,000 visits each month and delivers a wide range of services including social groups, dementia support, and exercise programmes - all shaped around preventing isolation and supporting long-term wellbeing. The hub runs on a mixed model of staff and volunteers, with 115 volunteers playing an essential role.

The session explored the realities of funding, partnership working and the need for flexible, sustainable models that respond to what communities actually need. It also raised important questions about how other former hospital buildings could be used to meet future health needs and how Leagues of Friends might adapt and thrive in this new landscape.

Thank you to Marc and to the Seachange team for such an insightful and inspiring session. A recording of the session will be available soon. [Learn more about Seachange Devon here.](#)

OUR NEXT CHA Q SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP DISCUSSION



Strengthening the rural workforce - international nurses in Powys Community Hospitals

Join us on **Wednesday 6th August at 7pm** on Zoom for our next Special Interest Group discussion.

We look forward to hearing from David Farnsworth, Assistant Director for the Community Services Group at Powys Teaching Health Board. David will discuss the recruitment and successful integration of 41 international nurses at Powys since 2022. [Read more here](#)

This success reflects a well-supported approach to international recruitment, with strong involvement from staff, the local community and a wider partnership with Powys County Council through the Powys Regional Partnership Board. The model is helping to strengthen the workforce in rural areas, reduce reliance on agency staff and improve continuity of care. **Book your place now!** [Register here](#)



Thanks to the ongoing support of The Q community our Special Interest Group events are free.



CHA Q SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP
ONLINE DISCUSSIONS

*Strengthening the rural workforce -
international nurses in
Powys Community Hospitals*

6TH AUGUST AT 7PM - ZOOM

DAVID FARNSWORTH

Assistant Director,
Community Services Group
POWYS TEACHING HEALTH BOARD



REGISTER NOW!



2b - CHA Events - Networking & Leadership Webinars

POINT OF CARE TESTING IN COMMUNITY SETTINGS - 1ST OCTOBER 12NOON

Speakers to be announced

The session will be chaired by CHA Chair Dr Kirsten Protherough.

Join us on Wednesday 1st October at 12 noon for the second of our Networking and Leadership Webinars. The release of the long term plan is an enabler for care closer to home, supporting the shift into community settings. This session which aims to discuss how we could achieve this, incorporating appropriate POCT alongside clinical decision making. We'll have NHS peers presenting who will share their experience around how they've achieved this and aims for best practice.

This event will be of interest to Clinicians, nurses, HCAs, Commissioners, PCN leads, UTC leads, Community Hospital workforce and SDECs. More details to follow.

DO JOIN US FOR THIS FREE SESSION - REGISTER NOW!



[REGISTER HERE](#)

SUPPORTING PATIENT NUTRITION - THE ROLE OF SNACKING, WEDNESDAY 21ST MAY

In May we had the first of our Networking & Leadership webinar sessions which focused on the role of snacking in community hospitals. We were delighted to have 44 colleagues from a wide range of settings on the call including dietitians, nurses, catering leads and operational managers, highlighting our shared commitment to improving nutrition in hospital and beyond.

Chaired by Dr Kirsten Protherough, the event featured contributions from Brett Fowler, Queensland Bakery Co., Noor Al-Refae Senior NHS Dietitian and Phil Shelley, NHS England and Chair of the NHS Food Review. Together, they explored the challenges of malnutrition, the importance of protein-rich snacks and how hospitals can better support patients through a food-first approach.

Feedback from the session has been very positive. We are now exploring a follow-up session focusing on savoury snacks, following helpful suggestions raised during the discussion. [Watch the recording here](#) Thanks to everyone who joined us.



CAN WE AFFORD NOT TO MAKE INTEGRATION WORK IN SCOTLAND?

In his recent blog, Dr Alastair Noble, sets out a bold and practical vision for truly integrated health and social care in Scotland.



Drawing on his experience in Nairn and long-standing involvement in community-led healthcare, Alastair argues that improving outcomes for older people depends on strong local teams, better use of data and meaningful community involvement. He makes the case for investing in care close to home, reducing unnecessary hospital stays and tackling the long-standing variations in care across Scotland. Alastair reminds us that we already have the data, insight and local knowledge to make change happen. What we need now is the will to act - and a renewed commitment to the principle of care based on need, not postcode. [READ THE FULL BLOG HERE.](#)

Dr Alastair Noble is the CHA National Lead for Scotland and a co-opted Committee member. He has an extensive career combining clinical work as a GP in a community hospital with local health initiatives and national strategic roles.

4. CHA National Conference - Save the new dates!

You will be aware that the CHA National Conference has been rescheduled to the 7th & 8th of May 2026 at the Delta Marriott, Swindon.

This decision was made in response to the continued pressures across the NHS and feedback from members about the challenges of releasing staff in autumn. By moving the event to spring, we hope to support wider participation and ensure the programme remains relevant, timely and well-attended.

Plans are now well under way, and we look forward to announcing keynote speakers, workshops and further details in the coming months. More details to come!



5. Report on ICIC25 International Conference on Integrated Care. 14-16 May 2025



ICIC25
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON INTEGRATED CARE
14-16 May 2025
Lisbon, Portugal



Over the 14th to 16th May, CHA President Dr David Seamark attended the **International Conference on Integrated Care (ICIC25)** in Lisbon.

This is the annual conference of the International Foundation for Integrated Care (IFIC). The conference was attended by over 1000 delegates from clinical and non-clinical backgrounds from over 50 countries. Plenary sessions examined the carbon footprint of health care and what can be done to reduce it, integrated care strategies for universal health coverage and collaborative approaches in integrated care. Community hospitals were featured in a workshop that saw the launch of a new international network.

David spoke about the history of the CHA and its role in education, facilitating networking, research and the current situation in the UK. There was an encouraging response with representatives from Singapore, New Zealand, Portugal, Spain and the UK joining the discussion and wanting to join the CHA.

IFIC Scotland has kindly agreed to host the International Community Hospital Network and will be organising webinars and learning events in the future. Further details will be posted on the CHA website.



More details about this year's ICIC25 conference can be found [here](#).



INTERNATIONAL WEBINAR ON COMMUNITY HOSPITALS

"SAVE THE DATE" 8TH OCTOBER 2025 3PM-4.30PM GMT

Speakers will include Dr Tan Boon Yeow, the CEO of St Luke's Hospital, Singapore, and Dr David Seamark & Sue Greenwood, Modern Matron Cornwall Partnership NHS Foundation Trust UK. The event will be chaired by Dr Anne Hendry, Senior Associate, International Foundation for Integrated Care (IFIC) & Director, IFIC Scotland, and is being jointly hosted by IFIC Scotland and the CHA.

Our most recent webinar featured Italy, Japan and Sweden and can be [viewed here](#). More details to follow.



International Foundation
for Integrated Care
IFIC Scotland



DR SEAMARK WITH IFIC DELEGATES INCLUDING DR ANNE HENDRY (FAR RIGHT), DIRECTOR IFICS HUB, SCOTLAND

6. Innovation and Best Practice Awards - Update

We were delighted to receive a record breaking **27** entries for this year's CHA Innovation and Best Practice Awards! Thank you to everyone who took the time to share your inspirational work. The judging panel, chaired by Julia Fairhall, is currently reviewing all submissions. We've been truly impressed by the breath of creativity, commitment and local innovation shown across the board. It has been especially encouraging to receive entries from individuals and teams new to the CHA, including several community hospitals who had not submitted before.

[Read an update from CHA Awards Lead, Julia Fairhall here.](#)



7. NHS Benchmarking Network's 2025 Managing Frailty in a Bed-Based Setting Project

The NHS Benchmarking Network invites member organisations to take part in the 2025 **Managing Frailty in a Bed-Based Setting** project - a valuable opportunity to benchmark their care for frail older patients and collaborate across NHS providers to drive improvement through data and shared learning.

If your organisation supports frail older people in a bed-based setting, you may be eligible to take part.

WHY TAKE PART?

Participants receive a bespoke organisational report, a metrics toolkit, a shared learning compendium, a visual infographic, and an invitation to a lunch & learn style event. These resources are designed to support service planning, quality improvement, and the development of business cases.



KEY INFORMATION

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: 1 August 2025 (extensions available)

ELIGIBILITY: Open to NHS Benchmarking Network member organisations - [click here to view our current members](#)

DATA SPECIFICATION: Available via contacting nhsbn.members@nhs.net

CLINICAL CASE REVIEW

Alongside the main data submission, organisations can also take part in a Clinical Case Review. This element involves submitting anonymised patient-level data for 50 consecutive discharges of frail older people during the data collection time period. Smaller wards may submit fewer cases based on capacity.

If you would like to take part, please register via the [members area](#) or [contact the project team](#) directly.

8. CHA Member Queries

We regularly receive queries from our network and are grateful to everyone who supports colleagues' questions. Here are a few recent queries -

BENCHMARKING SAFER STAFFING LEVELS WITH PEERS

A Safer Staffing Lead & NHS England CNO Safer Staffing Fellow is seeking to connect with community hospitals' colleagues to benchmark staffing establishments as part of their annual review. They are happy to share their own data and are looking for the best way to reach peers for reciprocal comparison.

EXPLORING AI IN COMMUNITY HOSPITALS

A colleague working in community health is keen to hear from others who are exploring or using AI in community hospital settings. Have you trialled any AI tools or technologies to support patient care, administrative processes or diagnostics?

TREATMENT ESCALATION PLANS IN COMMUNITY HOSPITALS

A Nurse Consultant PEOLC (Palliative & End of Life Care) in a community trust has asked if colleagues in community hospitals would be willing to share Treatment Escalation Plans?

If you'd like to offer any insight and can contribute a response to these queries, we would be delighted to hear from you. Your feedback and insights are gratefully received. Please also tell us if you think an online discussion would be helpful to further explore certain topics with colleagues.

To respond to any of the above queries, [please complete this form](#). Thank you.

DO YOU HAVE A QUERY FOR THE CHA NETWORK?

We are always happy to share your questions. You can now submit these via the CHA ['Contact us' page on our website here](#). Do send us your queries and we'll do the rest!





9. Partner Spotlight - Elderly Matters

In this new section, we highlight organisations who work with community hospitals & hubs across the UK. Elderly Matters attended last year's CHA National Conference as an exhibitor and very kindly sponsored two community representatives to join us. They're planning to return for the 2026 conference, and we look forward to welcoming them back. We are pleased to include content regarding some free resources available to support the move from hospital to home.



At Elderly Matters, we have been supporting Hospitals for some years now through our free of charge printing service to the NHS. We were delighted to attend last years conference in Gloucester, enjoying conversations with people of old and new who came to our stand, and hope you did too!

Since then we have been delighted to have started working with a growing number of new Hospitals to our team; and to learn of the difference that our service has been making in easing the journey of patients as they transfer from an IPU to either a care provider or their home, reducing the likelihood of confusion and potential complaints.



As the folders are tailor made to reflect each Hospital, the content can be adapted to best fit what happens in each local area. Following additional funding we have received, we are also offering the option of a "falls prevention" guide to sit within the pack, for any Hospitals who enquire of the service before the anticipated winter pressure months in October.

To receive samples and learn more of the service, please call Ted Davenport on 01253 832400 or email td@elderlymatters.co.uk.

10. Your News

The CHA collates a range of news articles on community hospitals from a variety of sources such as notifications from our members and from media coverage. Do send us any news items you would like us to share with the CHA network.

We are pleased to share news about [Braintree Community Hospital's](#) new £1.3 million procedure room, which will allow nearly 3,000 more treatments a year and ease pressure on theatres. The bright, purpose-built space is helping improve local access to timely, high-quality care. Local people are being asked to shape the future of the inpatient ward at [Tywyn Community Hospital](#) which remains temporarily closed due to staffing challenges. New services and a formal review are underway to help shape future care in the area. A new rheumatology clinic at [Wellington Community Hospital](#) is helping patients get faster diagnosis and treatment for joint conditions. Using ultrasound scans, the service offers same-day care and is improving access for people across Somerset.



THE CORBY COMMUNITY DIAGNOSTIC CENTRE (CDC) AT THE WILLOWBROOK HEALTH CENTRE

We also have news of a new [Community Diagnostic Centre at Willowbrook Health Centre in Corby](#), now open daily and offering around 93,000 tests a year. This purpose-built service is helping people get quicker diagnoses closer to home, easing pressure on hospital site. [Whitworth Hospital in Darley Dale](#) celebrate the completion of a new clinical area and upgrade staff facility thanks to a generous donation by the Matlock Hospitals League of Friends. [Victoria Community Hospital in Wimborne](#), was in the news recently about a local pilot that has helped reduce long hospital stays from 13 patients to none. With a strong focus on rehabilitation and reablement, more people are returning home sooner and regaining independence. There are developments at the Princess of Wales Community Hospital in Bromsgrove, where a £1.6 million expansion of the Minor Injuries Unit is nearly complete. The upgraded space will double capacity and ease pressure on A&E, with new treatment rooms and specialist facilities opening soon.

[Haslemere Community Hospital](#), part of Royal Surrey NHS Foundation Trust has been rated Outstanding for leadership by the Care Quality Commission. The recognition highlights the dedication of staff across Haslemere, Milford and Cranleigh in delivering safe, caring and well-led services. [Bridgnorth Community Hospital](#) is set to receive £500,000 for ventilation upgrades as part of the NHS Estates Safety Fund. Local MP Stuart Anderson is calling for further investment in rural health services, including improvements at Ludlow Community Hospital.



[READ ALL THE NEWS HERE!](#)

[SEND US YOUR NEWS! WE'D LOVE TO SHARE IT!](#)

11. Support the CHA

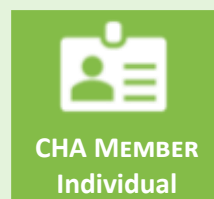
The CHA is a volunteer-led organisation that connects, advocates for and champions community hospitals & hubs across the UK. We provide **free** online events, share practical resources, highlight innovation through our annual Innovation & Best Practice awards programme & deliver our National Conference to strengthen professional networks. We also represent frontline voices to policymakers, ensuring the value of community hospitals is seen & heard.

This work relies entirely on fundraising through donations, membership and sponsorship. We receive no central funding, yet the need for what we do is growing. With your help, we can continue to offer free events and resources, share innovation across the network, and advocate nationally for community hospitals. Your donation or organisation's membership keeps this vital work going - please [donate](#) and/or encourage your organisation to [join the CHA!](#)

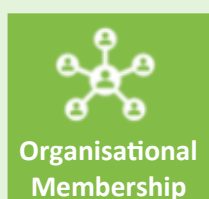


Thank you for helping us to build a stronger, more connected future for community hospitals.

12. Join our Networks



CHA [individual lifetime member](#) is free.



We offer [membership to organisations](#) such as NHS Trusts and Leagues of Community Hospital Friends. There is a small fee for this.



Join our [Community Hospital Special Interest Group](#) within the Q Community here.

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

Thank you to SystmOne for their support of this newsletter.

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