



Community Hospitals Association Annual Report 2022 - 2023

May 2023



'The national voice for Community Hospitals'



Message from the Chair

The past year has seen a sea change for the Community Hospitals Association.

While not losing sight of our core work of being the “National Voice of Community Hospitals” and supporting Community Hospital Teams to network learn and share we have had a time of reflection as a team to ensure our focus moving forward is rooted in the needs of Community Hospitals and their teams.

Pieces of work have concluded with great outputs while others are still being delivered.

We have worked hard to share the learning from projects alongside growing our networks and building connections.

We have continued to build our website resources and grow our Q hosted Special Interest Group.

We have had conversations about Community Hospitals at Place, national and international levels.

We have done this as a group of volunteers enthusiastic about Community Hospitals and the work done within them.

The health and care landscape remains challenging and despite this Community Hospitals continue to innovate, flex, adapt and meet the needs of patients while supporting the wider system.

It has been a privilege to Chair the Community Hospitals Association over the past year and I look forward to even greater things to come in 2023/2024.

Evelyn Prodger RN QN MSc BSc (Hons)
Chair
CHA

Introduction

The year from April 2022 to March 2023 has been a year of growth and development for the CHA.

We have welcomed new members, concluded pieces of work, progressed others building relationships and networks along the way.

This report seeks to give a summary of the work covered within those 12 months.

Impact of the Pandemic

The pandemic has continued to have an impact on the Association and the Community Hospitals it works with, although this impact has lessened over the 12 month period.

Committee Meetings have continued monthly. These continue virtually, as this enables them to happen monthly rather than quarterly which we have found beneficial in terms of progressing workstreams and being responsive to members requests.

Virtual meetings help us reduce our cost base increasing our sustainability both financially and in terms of our carbon footprint. The hybrid model of working will continue for the next year.

There was one face to face meeting which took place at Cirencester Community Hospital. It was great for the Committee to meet face to face and to hear about all the magnificent work being undertaken in Community Hospitals in Gloucestershire.



The Committee has continued to ensure discussions include all four nations.

QExchange Project: Community Hospitals: Embedding Covid-19 positive impact changes through shared learning

This project formally concluded but work to share the learning continues via the Special Interest Group. A face to face team reflection ensured learning was maximised and allowed us to celebrate the publication of the project report.



Dr Dave Seamark said:

“Now the Q Exchange study is drawing to a close I would like to thank all those participants who gave so willingly of their time and also the staff at Q who have been so supportive throughout.

The study has raised awareness of the contribution of UK community hospitals during the pandemic and our case studies demonstrate the tremendous creativity and flexibility demonstrated by many teams.

We have been publishing the results in peer reviewed journals, presented findings at international conferences and set in motion a series of learning events through a Q Exchange Special Interest Group.”

The project generated a suite of outputs which include:

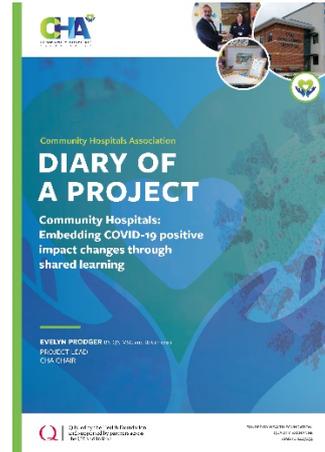
Case Studies: <http://communityhospitals.org.uk/quality-improvement/case-studies.html>

Project Reports: <http://communityhospitals.org.uk/quality-improvement/reports.html>

BMJ Open Quality Article: <https://bmjopenquality.bmj.com/content/11/4/e001958>

Presentation at International Federation of Integrated Care conference:
<http://communityhospitals.org.uk/quality-improvement/sharing-learning.html>

Diary of a Project: <http://communityhospitals.org.uk/Diary-of-a-project>



We feel incredibly lucky to have found the wonderful graphic designer Bron Somerset whose creativity, skill and patience helped make the project outputs moder, eye catching and interactive.

Special Interest Group (SIG)

The Community Hospitals Special Interest Group hosted by the Q Community has held 5 virtual forums this year. Some have been presentations from the Award Winners of the 2022 Innovation and Best Practice Awards which were generated from the QExchange Project. Recordings of the SIG discussions are available via the website:

-  July 2022 Supporting Hospital Discharge during Reset Anna McNulty-Howard Teddington Memorial Hospital
-  November 2022 The Art of the possible - Learning from new 7 day management in Community Hospitals in Oxfordshire
-  November 2022 Creating a Communication Open Door Dr Shauna Fannin
-  October 2022 Corona Voice – understanding and meeting the needs of staff
-  March 2023 Joy in Work Julia Wood

Membership of the Special Interest Group has grown over the 12 months, and at the end of March was 53 members.

Two resource packs have been developed and shared based on learning from the QExchange Project. They are:

 Staff Health and Wellbeing

 Integrated Care

The SIG changed its name to make it more explicit that the focus was on sharing good practice and is now called “Community Hospitals SIG: sharing good practice.”

The SIG project has enhanced the CHA relationship with Q who are supporting us to share further learning from the QExchange project in 2023/2024.

The final report will be submitted to Q in April 2023 by the project lead.

Growth of membership

There has been an increase of twenty one personal memberships over the 12 month period.

Organisational membership has remained static over this period.

People

Dr Andrew Wheeler and Trish Jay have stood down from the committee and there have been no new members.

Social Media

The CHA has been active on social media with the greatest engagement happening on Twitter. Social media has proven a crucial tool in connecting with Community Hospital colleagues and developing connections for the organisation.

 Twitter followers grew by 200, a significant increase on 40 the previous year

 Facebook followers increased by 10

 LinkedIn followers increased by 59

Support for Community Hospitals

During 2022/23 we connected Community Hospital members looking to collaborate on pieces of work and share best practice.

The CHA supported campaigns relating to Community Hospitals including Insch and Ellen Badger.

Support was provided to an academic team at the University of Bocconi advising the Italian Government on their community hospital strategy. The CHA president Helen Tucker spoke at two of their national conferences.

We produced 6 CHA newsletters which were shared with hundreds of Community Hospital supporters.

A monthly newsletter was commenced on LinkedIn. 3 editions have been published and it already has 76 subscribers.

Providing a Voice for Community Hospitals

Several Blogs were posted written by Community Hospital staff and CHA committee members past and present – sharing their experiences, innovations and learning.

Questions raised by Community Hospital colleagues were shared on social media which allowed connections to be developed between individuals, teams and organisations.

The Community Healthcare Services Department at the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) contacted the CHA about the scope of community hospitals, and a meeting was held between Helen Tucker and three of the team. A follow up has been requested by the DHSC Community Health Services Policy, Recovery and COVID lead, to open the discussion to the wider team, and this is being arranged.

The Community Hospitals Special Interest Group within the Q Community has been exploring an opportunity to become a member within Hexitime, a timebank for health professionals. This would be funded through Q. Members of the SIG project team have had initial meetings with John Lodge from Hexitime and have joined as individuals.

Evelyn Prodger, CHA Chair, was part of the panel for the Gold Standard Framework for wards (including Community Hospitals).

Website development

Work has continued to develop our refreshed website. We continue to listen to feedback and make it more user friendly.

Additional pages have been developed for the Special Interest Group.

Innovation and Best Practice Awards

In 2022 our Awards were drawn from the Case Studies developed as part of our “Community Hospitals: Embedding Covid-19 positive impact changes through shared learning” project. Congratulations to all our winners!

Leadership journey to support a 7 day service



Oxford Health NHSF Trust

Creating a Communication Open Door



Robinson Memorial Hospital Northern Health and Social Care Trust, Northern

A Pioneering Scheme – Meaningful Activities Coordinator



Anna Mitchell - Launceston Community Hospital, Cornwall Partnership NHSFT
The President's Award Winner

Hearing Staff Voices



Alnwick and Berwick Community Hospitals, Northumbria Healthcare NHSFT

Next 12 months

In 2023/2024 we plan to:

-  Continue to network, collaborate, grow our membership and promote Community Hospitals
-  Grow the Special Interest Group further and run additional virtual discussions including one on Safer Staffing
-  Produce 2 more resource packs on Leadership and Safer Staffing
-  Work tirelessly to raise the profile of Community Hospitals within all 4 nations
-  Build relationships with organisations with aligned values and goals
-  Ensure the CHA has a solid financial base
-  Explore the possibility of a Community Hospitals virtual network

 Recruit additional committee members

 Explore how we can be more inclusive of Urgent Treatment Centres (UTC) and Minor Injury Units (MIU)

Conclusion

2022/23 was a reflective year for the Community Hospitals Association but one in which new relationships were forged, new areas of work commenced with a determination to look to the future and support Community Hospitals through increasingly challenging times.

Our commitment is to ensure we continue to be the National Voice for Community Hospitals.