

## Community hospital closures contributing to NHS crisis, says Plaid Cymru MS

A Plaid Cymru MS (Member of the Senedd) has taken aim at the Welsh Government for axing community hospitals in North Wales. Llyr Gruffydd, who represents the region in the Senedd, told Health Minister Eluned Morgan that the controversial closure of a network of community hospitals is “contributing” to the acute crisis in the NHS. Read [more](#)

## Plans for new community diagnostics centre at Nottinghamshire hospital

Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust has submitted plans to Mansfield District Council for a purpose-built ‘Community Diagnostics Centre’ that will run alongside its existing Mansfield Community Hospital in Stockwell Gate, Mansfield. If approved, the Centre will house a ‘one-stop shop’ for patients to access the tests and investigations they need in a single visit, helping them to give them an answer to their concerns – including with an ‘all clear’ or diagnosis – sooner. Read [more](#)

## Sheppey Community Hospital to Open Mothballed Ward

A mothballed 24-bed ward at Sheppey Community Hospital is poised to get a new lease of life in a long-overdue health shake-up for the Island. Medway NHS Foundation Trust is to take over the space to create a "frailty ward" Last month the Department for Health and Social Care gave the green light to create a CDC hub at the Sheppey hospital. Work is to begin in the spring with new services including CT scans, MRIs and ECGs. Read [more](#)

## "Nourishing Norfolk" network supermarket at Wells Community Hospital

The Coastal Health and Wellbeing Community Supermarket van is offering food up to 30pc cheaper than regular stores, in a bid to help those finding it hard to make ends meet. It can found every

Wednesday afternoon at The Hive Café at Wells Community Hospital, and also offers a mobile service. Read [more](#)

## **Health Board Reinroduce Mandatory Facemasks After Respiratory Infections Rise**

From Monday, 14 November, it is mandatory for all visitors, patients and staff, unless exempt, to wear facemasks provided in all healthcare settings including all community hospitals across north Wales, including outpatients appointments Read [more](#)

## **Launceston, Helston and Stratton Community Hospitals recognised for their End of Life Care**

A national organisation has recognised the end-of-life care provided at three community hospitals in Launceston, Helston and Stratton. The Gold Standard Framework helps frontline staff put national end-of-life policies into practice. They help staff deliver national standards to help people to die well. The community hospitals in Launceston, Helston and Stratton all provide gold-standard care. Run by Cornwall Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, each has achieved the highest standards and having maintained these for three years has enabled them to be awarded platinum status. Read [more](#)

## **Paulton Hospital celebrates 150th anniversary with generous gift**

Patients and staff at Paulton Hospital Minor Injuries Unit (MIU) have a double cause for celebration after the Paulton Hospital League of Friends group donated £115,000 to fund a new X-ray facility at the same time as the hospital celebrates its 150th anniversary. The donation made by the League of Friends includes a substantial legacy. Read [more](#)

## **March for Ellen Badger Hospital Redevelopment**

Around 450 people joined the demonstration organised by the League of Friends of Shipston Hospital. The league handed over £635,000 towards the cost of rebuilding the town's community hospital in 2018, but the redevelopment has been held up because of a bed review. A wellbeing hub is proposed (without beds).

Dr Manuela Perteghella, LibDem spokesperson and district councillor said: "We are a mainly rural district with an older demographic, therefore the provision of a comprehensive healthcare facility including rehabilitative and palliative care close to home is not only essential but should be a model for a national health strategy. It's shocking that the beds review is still ongoing, adding to the concerns about the provision of beds for the Badger.

## **World class care home set to be built in Flint**

Flint Town Councillors have welcomed the initial proposals for the redevelopment of the Cottage Hospital site. Cllr Michelle Perfect, Mayor of Flint, said: "We all miss the old Cottage Hospital. The memories that it holds remain strong for all of us and it's only right that we harness that passion to build a new start for our town. Croes Atti 2 will see Flint leading the way in our county with world-class social care and a step-up, step-down home for those entering and leaving hospital. Read [more](#)

## **Wonderful five-star reviews for the Oxfordshire Stroke Rehabilitation Unit at Abingdon Community Hospital**

The Oxfordshire Stroke Rehabilitation Unit is a 20-bed inpatient unit that provides a short period of inpatient rehabilitation for people who have had a stroke. All patients and service users who receive care and support from Oxford Health are encouraged to provide reviews on the independent "I want great care" website. *"The nursing staff are particularly fabulous and the physiotherapists give 110% effort, very impressed."* Read [more](#)

## **Concerns have been raised over the future of community hospitals in Shropshire**

Fears have been raised over rural community hospitals and the impact that closure would have on access to healthcare services county-wide. The issue was addressed at a meeting of Shropshire Council's scrutiny committee with regard to Ludlow community hospital. Read [more](#)

## **Kelso hospital re-opens to admissions**

NHS Borders has announced that Kelso Community Hospital has re-opened to admissions following a Covid-19 outbreak. Read [more](#)

## **Final Go Ahead Given on Newmarket Diagnostic Centre**

The health secretary has revealed that Newmarket is among 10 places in England to receive government backing for new community diagnostic centres. As part of a £15million project, residents will have access to new MRI and CT scanners, upgraded X-ray and ultrasound suites and additional cardiology, lung function and phlebotomy services. The Community Diagnostic Centre will be based next to Newmarket hospital. NHS Suffolk and North East Essex chief executive Ed Garratt said: "It's

fantastic that the funding for a community diagnostic centre at Newmarket has today been approved. Read [more](#)

## **MP Opens Penrith hospital's renovated £1.2 million ward**

PENRITH Hospital's newly renovated £1.2 million inpatient ward has been opened by Penrith and the Border MP, Dr Neil Hudson. The now fully operational ward has 23 beds with much more privacy and space than before. Ashley Macaulay, Ward Manager on the Eden Unit at Penrith Hospital, said ‘‘We are all very excited to be back working together. It means patients can be cared for closer to home and that’s what the people of Penrith and the Eden Valley really need.’’ Dr Hudson also passed on his ‘special thanks’ to the Penrith Community Hospital League of Friends, who have raised extra money for the ward. Read [more](#)

## **Community hospital ward shuts amid staffing issues**

A hospital ward has been forced to close temporarily due to staffing issues. The Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership (AHSCP) confirmed it reached the "very difficult decision" to close the ward at Aboyne Community Hospital. The ward closure will allow staff to be sent to other hospitals as three in-patient wards in Deeside experience staffing issues. Read [more](#)

## **Leominster Community Hospital and Ross-on-Wye Community Hospital wards closed due to COVID-19 outbreaks**

Visiting arrangements at hospitals across Herefordshire have changed a lot over recent years due to the COVID-19 pandemic, with restrictions returning to a small number of wards in Herefordshire this week following new outbreaks of COVID-19. The updated visiting arrangements at the Trust’s hospitals are set out and include the closure of wards in Leominster and Ross-on-Wye. Read [more](#)

## **New Stroke Unit to be based at Llandudno Hospital**

Llandudno Hospital will benefit from a new multi-million-pound stroke unit. Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board says the unit will be one of three in the north of Wales. It will help with the rehabilitation of people who have suffered a stroke but no longer need acute care. Aberconwy MS Janet Finch-Saunders visited Llandudno Hospital last week and says she has campaigned for more investment in the hospital. “Llandudno Hospital belongs to the community. There is a lot of affection locally for Llandudno Hospital. Whenever I speak to people from all over North Wales, they absolutely love coming to Llandudno Hospital.” Read [more](#)

## **St Ives community group set to buy back the town’s Edward Hain Hospital for £1million.**

A community group says it has secured a deal with the NHS to buy back St Ives' old hospital. The Edward Hain hospital shut in 2016 after NHS Kernow said it was no longer fit for purpose. Now the Friends of Edward Hain have agreed to pay £1million to turn the building into a health and wellbeing centre. Now the building's future, group says there are a range of possible services being considered including physiotherapy, drug and alcohol rehabilitation, a dental practice and mental health support. Read [more](#)

## **Hugh Bonneville ‘opens’ Petersfield Urgent Treatment Centre on its first anniversary**

Hugh Bonneville, known for his roles in Downton Abbey and the Paddington films, said: “Since opening last year it has provided a vital service. “Congratulations to everyone involved on their continued commitment and dedication to the UTC which, in turn, helps alleviate the pressure on the emergency services in the area.” In its first year, the Urgent Treatment Centre (UTC) has grown from 30 patients a day to an average 80 patients a day presenting a variety of illness and injuries. Read [more](#)

## **Get Fast, convenient health tests at Clactons Community Diagnostic Centre**

People living in north Essex can now get fast access to health tests such as CT scans, x-rays and ultrasounds at a time convenient to them at Clacton’s brand new Community Diagnostic Centre (CDC). The centre has been created in space at Clacton Community Hospital, which has been given a £9.6 million facelift. The next phase of the project is due to begin in November and will see a further £14.2m invested. A permanent MRI suite will be created to replace the mobile unit which is currently in the car park, along with additional ultrasound capacity, two more x-ray suites and space for future urology and endoscopy services. The whole project has been made possible by a partnership of ESNEFT, GP Primary Choice Ltd, Community Voluntary Service Tendring, Tendring District Council and Essex County Council and will be complete by 2024. Read [more](#)

## Doubts raised over plan to bring maternity services back to Lichfield hospital

Maternity services may not return to a Lichfield hospital before the end of the year as planned, councillors had been told. The midwife-led facility at the Samuel Johnson Community Hospital was taken out of action during the Covid pandemic. Read [more](#)

## Welsh Government Urged to Take action to Progress the Rhyl Hospital Development

THE Vale of Clwyd MP, James Davies, has made an impassioned plea for Welsh Government to prioritise the proposed redevelopment of the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Rhyl. “The development of the Royal Alexandra site would provide a much-needed minor injuries unit, alleviating some of the pressure on the Emergency Department at the district general hospital, as well as on other departments. Furthermore, it would provide community beds which would help facilitate more timely discharges from Glan Clwyd.” Read [more](#)

## Insching towards another 100 years

**The community reveals £900,000 plans to save Insch hospital, which has been mothballed since the start of the pandemic. The community has drawn up plans for a modular extension to the hospital which would accommodate 12 beds. There have been celebrations for the Insch Hospital centenary, with strong community support. Read [more](#)**

## Work underway on Forest hospital

THE start of work on the new Forest hospital was marked with a traditional ‘ground breaking’ ceremony. The two-storey hospital will house a 24-bed in-patient unit alongside provision for dental, X-ray, physiotherapy and endoscopy services, among others. It will replace the Dilke and Lydney Hospitals. Read [more](#)

## **Community Hospitals Surgical Units Contributing to COVID-19 backlog**

**There is an investment in surgical hubs to help manage the backlog from the pandemic. Hospitals already part of this scheme include Ilkeston Community Hospital, Alnwick Infirmary, Edgware Community Hospital, West Berkshire Community Hospital, Andover War Memorial Hospital and Braintree Community Hospital. Read [more](#)**

## **Friends' generosity helps Crowborough Hospital Birthing Centre celebrate 25 years**

**Midwives and staff from Crowborough Birthing Centre were joined by the Friends of Crowborough Hospital, local MP Nusrat Ghani and new parents and their babies at a celebration this week.**

The event marked 25 years of midwifery-led care in Crowborough, the out-of-hospital birthing services which were paused during the pandemic and began again in the spring, and the official opening of the new parent and staff kitchen and rest room generously funded by the Friends. Richard Hallett MBE, Vice President and Trustee of Crowborough Hospital League of Friends said: "Our task as the Friends is to represent the community and it's the community that give donations to help our funding. We look for practical ways in which we can support the Birthing Centre and staff and Crowborough Hospital and we were delighted to be able to help with the communal kitchen and staff rest room." Read [more](#)

## **Finchley Memorial Hospital Community Diagnostic Centre celebrates 50,000 patient milestone**

The Community Diagnostic Centre (CDC) at Finchley Memorial Hospital celebrated its first birthday this month, having helped over 50,000 NHS patients across Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Haringey and Islington get quicker access to diagnostic scans and tests since opening in 2021. Read [more](#)

## Critical incident declared at Shropshire health and care system due to rising Covid pressures

The health and care system in Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin has declared a critical incident because of 'continued and unprecedented pressure on its services.' The Trust is urging people to help by going to Minor Injury Units if your injury is not serious, rather than going to an A&E department - there are 4 MIUs in the county, located at Bridgnorth Community Hospital, Ludlow Community Hospital, Oswestry Health Centre and Whitchurch Community Hospital. Read [more](#)

## Malvern Community Hospital plans for 148 solar panels

A spokesperson for Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust, which runs the hospital, said: "We are committed to creating and embedding sustainable models of care and ensuring our operations and our estate are as efficient, sustainable and resilient as they can be. Read [more](#)

## £1.2m renovation at Penrith Hospital opens

The newly renovated inpatient ward at Penrith Hospital opens to patients Monday 8 August after a £1.2 million upgrade. The ward has 23 beds all in a bright and welcoming environment with more space and privacy than before. On Friday 5 August, an open day event was held for stakeholders and colleagues to get a preview of the completed works and to officially open the unit. Read [more](#)

## Hawkhurst Community Hospital first to grow fruit and vegetables for patient meals

A chef says she's delighted the hospital she works at is one of the first in the county to grow their own produce for patient meals. Sarah Pambour, head chef at Hawkhurst Community Hospital, has been waiting 30 years for a food garden to be launched. "The idea was put to me in April 2021 to trial a community garden. I jumped at the chance and it snowballed from there." Read [more](#)

## Falkirk health: Community hospital plan gets NHS board approval

A masterplan to improve health services at Falkirk Community Hospital over the next five years came another step closer this week when it was approved by NHS Forth Valley's board. Read [more](#)



## **Berwick MP visits pioneering new Rothbury Community Hospital care ward**

A pioneering new model of community care on its way to Rothbury has been praised by the local MP. Anne-Marie Trevelyan, MP for Berwick recently went to see how works at Rothbury Community Hospital's new facility are progressing. Ms Trevelyan said: "I am so proud that Northumbria NHS Trust is pioneering this innovative model and creating this ward which can be used for palliative support, respite care as well as social care with the excellent district nurse team here at Rothbury on hand to ensure patients can be treated locally if that is their preference. Read [more](#)

## **Hydrotherapy pool opens at Dene Barton Community Hospital**

A hydrotherapy pool officially opened at Dene Barton Community Hospital, in Cotford St Luke, will help NHS patients self-manage certain conditions and offer more independence. It opened to patients last August, but the unveiling ceremony was delayed due to Covid restrictions. Physiotherapy outpatients team leader Helen Williams said the hydro pool is an important part of Somerset NHS Foundation Trust's physiotherapy department and allows patients to receive specialised treatment locally rather than travelling to Bristol or Exeter. Read [more](#)

## **New ward opened at Alton Community Hospital**

A new ward with 22 beds has been opened on the first floor of Alton Community Hospital. Known as Inwood Ward, it increases the number of beds at Alton to 40. There were already 18 on Anstey Ward. Inwood Ward will provide more rehabilitation and recovery care for inpatients and improve care for patients nearing the end of their lives. Read [more](#)

## **Community hospital in Scottish Borders closed to admissions due to Covid-19 outbreak 9th June 2022**

A community hospital in the Scottish Borders is closed to admissions due to a Covid-19 outbreak. All but essential visiting is currently suspended at the Knoll Community Hospital in Duns. NHS Borders say the situation is being kept under regular review and restrictions will be eased as soon as it is safe to do so. Read [more](#)

## **Falkirk Community Hospital replacement plans to boost local health services**

The outline proposals suggest that a Livingwell hub will be central to the new services. Potentially, this could have a community cafe run as a social enterprise to address social isolation and provide a gateway to other support. Other proposed services will be phlebotomy and volunteer and carer support, to help connect people with support in their own community. The new facilities will also be an opportunity to introduce innovative digital technologies to monitor things such as blood pressure and weight. Read [more](#)

## **New community care and treatment service launched to aid patients in local venues across Perth and Kinross**

CCATS provides a range of care and minor injury services, is now based at seven hubs in the region. The hubs are located at Dalweem Care Home in Aberfeldy, St Margaret's Community Hospital in Auchterarder, Blairgowrie Community Hospital, Bridge of Earn Hub, Crieff Community Hospital, Beechgrove House in Perth, and Pitlochry Community Hospital. Read [more](#)

## **Artists in Residence (AiR)**

Oxfordshire film-maker Emma Spellman has helped us to create a beautiful film, which highlights some of the amazing work of our artists and brings to the screen the impact art has on personal health and wellbeing. Oxford Health Charity has been delighted to support the development of the AiR project over the past year, a new strand of work that has been delivered by Oxford Health Arts Partnership to place professional artists on community hospital wards alongside clinical staff. This project was funded through Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust and NHS Charities Together with local council and League of Friends support for specific elements. Read [more](#)

## **Broadford Hospital officially opened by Cabinet Secretary**

Broadford Hospital/Ospadal an Àth Leathainn on Skye was officially opened today by the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care, Humza Yousaf. The hospital, which is one of two new NHS Highland community hospitals in a £40 million project, opened to patients earlier this year. Pam Dudek, NHS Highland's Chief Executive, said: "The new hospital has been open to patients since March and is already playing its part in delivering high-quality person centred health and social care to people in Skye, Lochalsh and South West Ross. Read [more](#)

## Welsh Government urged to prioritise North Denbighshire community hospital development

THE MP for Vale of Clwyd, James Davies has written to the Welsh health minister criticising the eight-year lack of progress on the development of the North Denbighshire Community Hospital. Dr Davies has called for the Welsh Government to “reach a positive decision on the Full Business Case as a matter of urgency”. He has supported the plans for the new hospital on the site of the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Rhyl since they were first mooted and, in recent years, has applied pressure to move the development forward. Read [more](#)

## Friends of Inch Hospital devastated by Aberdeenshire Integration Joint Board decision

Friends of Inch Hospital are reeling from the decision from the Aberdeenshire Integration Joint Board (IJB) which completely ignored their strategic vision for the 100 year old hospital. The group's strategic vision included local beds at the hospital as part of a comprehensive set of local services. But instead the IJB agreed to develop a wellbeing hub with community meeting and clinical space while a business case for capital investment is developed. Chris Humphries, a member of the Community Hospitals Association who has supported Friends said: "We drew up a plan that would support the development of services for people both at home, and in local settings including beds, together with an approach that focuses on health and well-being and prevention." Read [more](#)

## Refurbishment of the Kitwood Unit at Herts and Essex Community Hospital

Money generated by conditions attached to planning permission for new homes in Bishop's Stortford is being ploughed into improving patients' care in the town. The £90,000 secured by East Herts Council (EHC) will help pay for refurbishment of the Kitwood Unit at Herts and Essex Community Hospital in Haymeads Lane. Read [more](#)

## Health bosses promise not to close Somerset MIUs

Somerset's minor injuries units (MIUs) will not be replaced by the new GP community pharmacy service, health bosses have promised. Somerset has seven MIUs, operated by the Somerset NHS Foundation Trust, which provide a range of urgent treatments for patients who cannot secure a GP's appointment and in doing so relieve pressure on the county's A&E departments. The Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) recently launched the Somerset GP community pharmacy consultation service (also known as Think Pharmacy), which is designed to quickly treat more than 40 minor conditions and injuries. Health bosses have now sought to assure the public that this new service will not lead to any of Somerset's MIUs being closed down or replaced. Somerset's seven MIUs are located in Bridgwater, Burnham-on-Sea, Chard, Frome, Glastonbury, Minehead and Shepton Mallet, with each facility being open between 8am and 9pm. Read [more](#)

# Evesham Community Hospital

Dr Kirsty Prothorough, one of our CHA committee members, has tweeted about one of the GP Trainees presenting the "Deprescribing audit" at Evesham Community Hospital. The concluding outcome was that deprescribing as well as prescribing requires shared decision making with patients and families as well as greater communication with the GP.

## Teignmouth Community Hospital, Devon

Teignmouth hospital looks set to close after an independent review found the NHS consulted "adequately" with councillors about its plan. In March last year, Devon County Council's health and scrutiny committee referred the proposals to Health Secretary Sajid Javid who agreed the plans to close Teignmouth hospital should be reviewed by a panel of independent experts – the Independent Reconfiguration Panel. The panel ruled the CCG's consultation with the committee was "adequate", paving the way for the closure to go ahead. The CHA has been providing evidence to the local community group, and helping them to have a say in the future of their local healthcare. [Read more](#)

## The Vale Community Hospital Dursley

Community campaigners welcome the return of community beds to the hospital. All beds had been previously allocated as stroke beds, but there is now a return to a proportion of community beds. [Read more](#)

## Ellen Badger Hospital Site – New Development

The first phase of a project to redevelop the Ellen Badger Hospital in Shipston has been given planning permission for a new Medical and Wellbeing Centre. [Read more](#)

## Parking to remain free for NHS staff at Mansfield Community hospital

Staff at hospitals across Nottinghamshire will not have to pay for parking - despite the charge being reintroduced across the country. Health Secretary Sajid Javid announced the end of the benefit from Friday, April 1. Sherwood Forest Hospitals (SFH), the trust responsible for King's Mill Hospital, Mansfield Community Hospital and Newark Hospital, has said parking would remain free, and also added that this was being reviewed. [Read more](#)

## The Patient Voice - Recent Publication

**We value the patient voice, and we would welcome any contributions from patients or carers about their experiences of NHS health care in community hospitals. We would welcome a blog, a letter, or a news item. Do please contact us.**

**Our President, Helen Tucker, has just written about her positive experience of integrated health care when she received treatment for cancer. Helen has said that the article was by way of recognising good care and thanking all involved. [Read more](#)**

## **Community Hospitals Promoted in House of Commons**

Dr Andrew Murrison MP presented a bill on Healthcare (Delayed Discharges). Dr Murrison has suggested eight measures that may help to reduce delayed discharges, with requirements such as certifying patients as fit for discharge, setting timescales for action, requiring resource exchanges between health and social care, and increasing regulatory systems.

Dr Murrison describes the experience of a family member who was in an acute hospital, and speaks of the care: "I have seen much better, notably in community hospitals and intermediate care—settings that have, foolishly in my view, been deprioritised under successive Governments." Dr Murrison makes the point that the cost of an acute bed is much higher than community hospital beds and other community-based options.

The CHA provided a briefing paper to Dr Murrison on his request - read the paper **Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.**

[Read more](#) Hansard Volume 710: debated on Wednesday 16 March 2022, to be read a second time on May 6<sup>th</sup>.

## **Proposals to Re-Open Inch Community Hospital**

Friends of Inch Hospital have committed to work with the Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership to secure the reopening of the hospital after it closed in March 2020. Chris Humphris, Chair of the CHA, has been working with the community, and has helped them to create their Strategic Vision document. Allyson Grant, Chair of the Friends, has said that they are committed to working with AHSCP. We are doing everything we can to develop a vision for sustainable services, driven by the community.

## **Crowborough MIU to Re-Open**

Great news to hear about the re-opening of the MIU. The minor injuries unit (MIU) at [Crowborough War Memorial Hospital](#) will reopen on Monday 14th February. The unit, run by Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust, has been temporarily closed since August 2021. Richard Hallett, from the Friends of Crowborough Hospital has said: "The Friends of Crowborough Hospital have been talking to, and working with, Sussex Community Trust, behind the scenes about reopening the Crowborough MIU, and we are absolutely delighted that this much valued and locally important 'urgent treatment service' will soon be restored for the local community." [Read more](#)

## **Rye Hospital set to be Carbon Neutral in 2022**

By the summer 2022 Rye Hospital will be the first carbon neutral community hospital in the UK. Rye, Winchelsea and District Memorial Hospital aims to reduce its carbon footprint by as much as 98% which is expected to save a significant 87.2 carbon tonnes per year through the removal of gas. This will be through changes such as the installation of solar panels, LED lighting throughout and air source heating. This is an amazing achievement and a shining example of what can be achieved with careful planning, commitment, purpose and team work. [Read more](#)

## **Good News on the Rothbury Community Hospital**

After a long campaign, there is now good news for people living in and around the Rothbury area with regard to their community hospital. Northumbria Healthcare Trust is developing a new flexible care service for patients in Rothbury that will see community treatment, NHS beds and much needed residential care for people in the area. The Trust has created a new strategic partnership with a third-party care provider People First Care which will allow the NHS to deliver a flexible number of beds to meet the needs of patients in Rothbury, while continuing to provide extra support for people's health and care needs in their own home. Under the plans People First Care will operate a 12-15 bed unit for people needing respite care, rehabilitation services, longer term recuperation or end of life care. This facility will be supported by a wider team of district nurses, GPs and nurse practitioners.

## **Buckinghamshire patients to be sent to former hotel from hospital**

Hospital patients who are ready to be discharged but still need support are to be sent to a former hotel to free up space. [Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust](#) said the temporary care facility would open to patients on Monday where "further support" would be given, it said. The trust runs two NHS acute hospitals, Stoke Mandeville and Wycombe, and five community hospitals in Amersham, Buckingham, Chalfont St Peter, Marlow and Thame. Community intermediate care beds have been closed in 3 of the community hospitals. [Read more](#)

## **Wantage Hospital refurbishment brings services and clinics closer to the community**

Staff at Wantage Community Hospital are celebrating after receiving a string of five-star independent reviews from patients. The hospital, which launched a range of new services and clinics three months ago in newly refurbished rooms at the site, is at the centre of the community and is convenient for people who may otherwise have to travel further afield. One patient said: "It is fantastic for local people." Services currently provided at Wantage Community Hospital include children's physiotherapy clinics and assessments, Ophthalmology clinics, a Midwife Led Unit, Perinatal, Adult Eating Disorders, Talking Space, Psychological Therapies, Neuro Development Clinic, Podiatry Clinic, Health Share Physiotherapy Clinic, Speech and Language Therapies. [Read more](#)

## **Guisborough Community hospital could re-open its doors in February**

Work recommenced in December 2020 with the Tees Valley Clinical Commissioning Group, which is overseeing the plans, describing how "excellent progress" has been made since. Craig Blair, its director of commissioning, said: "The redevelopment of Guisborough Hospital has been undertaken to expand the range of services available to those in the local area. Working with a number of providers, a broad range of services including planned diagnostics, community mental health and dental services will be available, all from one location. [Read more](#)

## Moving frail elderly patients could leave them isolated

Moving frail elderly patients and stroke victims away from south Essex Hospitals and to specialised units across the county could leave them isolated and vulnerable, councillors fear. The Mid and South Essex Hospital Trust gave Southend Council's people scrutiny committee an update on a proposed reconfiguration of community beds on Tuesday, ahead of the launch of a public consultation. Across Essex 115 community beds cater for people who have been discharged from hospital but are still not well enough to go home. Over the last 18 months, units in Billericay, Brentwood, Halstead, Maldon, Rochford and Thurrock have cared for an average of 200 people per month. The consultation will look at whether specialist units should be created to cater for specific needs such as stroke rehabilitation. [Read more](#)

## Consultation on the Future of Lakeland Unit

Since 2008, the 28 community beds on the Langdale Unit at Westmorland General Hospital have been mainly used for older people who needed this kind of nurse-led treatment, perhaps after a fall, when recovering after surgery, or at the end of their lives. However, feedback from healthcare professionals, patients and evidence from organisations like the British Geriatric Society is that hospital isn't always the right place for people to recover and regain their independence. The CCG is therefore proposing to reinvest the £3 million per year cost of running the Langdale Unit into recruiting 36 additional nurses, physios and occupational therapists in the community. The proposals would include commissioning care homes and some community accommodation for people if home isn't the right place for them [Read more](#)

## Health Secretary Humza Yousaf meets campaigners over reopening Edington Cottage Hospital

Campaigners fighting for the reopening of the Edington Cottage Hospital have had a meeting with Scotland's Health Secretary. Staff at the North Berwick hospital were moved to East Lothian Community Hospital in Haddington in September, resulting in the Edington's temporary closure. Health chiefs said the move was to consolidate staffing as it predicted a difficult winter due to Covid-19; they said the decision would be reviewed every three months. Since then, campaigners have called for confirmation on when the Edington could reopen and, in recent days, have had meetings with Humza Yousaf MSP and representatives from NHS Lothian and East Lothian Health and Social Care Partnership (ELHSCP). [Read more](#)

## Kate Middleton and Prince William Visit Clitheroe Community Hospital

[Kate Middleton](#) and [Prince William](#) are championing the mental health of healthcare workers.

The royal couple travelled to rural Lancashire in the northwest of England on Thursday to check in on health staff members who have faced unique challenges during the coronavirus pandemic. William and Kate met with doctors, nurses and other health workers at Clitheroe Community Hospital. The couple was particularly interested to hear how NHS Charities Together, which [the couple has promoted through the last two years](#), has supported hospitals and their staff over the past two years. They were also introduced to the latest aid for overworked healthcare workers — a cockapoo puppy named Alfie who will be trained as a therapy dog to support patients and workers at the hospital. [See YouTube link](#)

## Newmarket Community Hospital

Plans have been approved for a new orthopaedic unit at Newmarket Hospital which would be a new building incorporating two laminar flow theatres and a 32 bedded ward. A statement from the West Suffolk Hospitals Trust said: "The requirement for Newmarket to have its own laminar flow theatres and recovery suites will greatly benefit the local community by giving a more local site to the immediate catchment and also benefit other Suffolk patients by relieving some of the pressure on the Bury St Edmunds site." The report said the new centre would also benefit those involved in Newmarket's horseracing industry in the event of an accident that needed immediate treatment. This orthopaedic Unit will be in addition to the current services which include 19 inpatient beds, an X-ray department, outpatient clinics, mental health services, podiatry, physiotherapy facilities and dentistry. [Read More](#)

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