

December 2021

NEWSLETTER #18



Community Hospitals Association

Q Exchange CHA Study

We are delighted to report that we have interviewed 80 staff working in community hospitals from 20 provider organisations. Staff have talked about their experiences of working in their community hospital during Covid, and shared new practices, innovative ways of working, and significant contributions to patients and their local community. The Q Project Team (Evelyn, Trish, David, Emma and Helen) are busy trying to capture this in case studies and bite size learning examples. We will be sharing them widely, and promoting the quality improvements that they represent. We will be holding workshops for the staff interviewed, CHA members and our Q Special Interest Group – so watch this space. There is much to share and learn, and we will be adding to the body of knowledge about the importance of community hospitals in local health and care systems.

We post monthly updates on our Q Sig webpage and these are open to access to all.

<https://q.health.org.uk/community/groups/community-hospitals/>

Welcome to our Newsletter #18

In this issue:

1. Q Exchange CHA Study
2. Innovations and Best Practice Programme 2021
3. Dolgellau and Barmouth Community Hospital - Practice Learning
4. Welcome to Jules Kerr – our latest Committee Member
5. Reflection from a League of Friends Chair
6. Preferences and Priorities of Patients and Staff – Care for people with frailty and multi-morbidity
7. CHA helps Community have a Voice in Future of their Community Hospital in Insch
8. New Unit Approved for Newmarket Community Hospital
9. New Covid service to be offered at Tewkesbury Community Hospital
10. NHS England
11. The Leadership Log Podcast
12. CHA Committee – New Committee Members Welcome!
13. Join the CHA – Our Ever Expanding Network!
14. Seasons Greetings

Website: <http://www.communityhospitals.org.uk/>

Twitter: @CommHospUK

Linkedin: Community Hospitals Association

Facebook: Community Hospitals Association

Innovations and Best Practice Programme 2021

We have been giving awards for innovations and best practice for over 20 years, and in that time given out 145 awards. We usually invite submissions, but in recognition of the pressures of Covid we are making a change to our process. Our panel will be assessing good practice from some amazing case studies emerging from our Q study on the role of community hospitals during Covid. We want to recognise and celebrate the excellent work of community hospitals throughout the UK.

Dolgellau & Barmouth Community Hospital

Dolgellau & Barmouth Community Hospital was chosen as a pilot for community hospital practice learning. Nurse student placements provided experience on the community ward, outpatient clinics and in the community. In this hub and spoke model, the inpatient ward acted as a hub and the clinics and community services were spokes.

The first nursing students attended in January 2021. The initiative has produced a high quality student centred learning experience for student nurses with access to lectures and tutorials from Bangor and Cardiff Universities. The scheme is to be extended shortly with the community hospital welcoming other disciplines; medical students from Cardiff University training in local GP practices and students in physiotherapy and pharmacy.



You can read more about it on our website:

<http://www.communityhospitals.org.uk/featured-community-hospitals.html>

Welcome to Jules Kerr – Our Latest Committee Member

We are delighted that Jules Kerr, Nurse Consultant at Petersfield Community Hospital has agreed to join us. He is already proving to be an asset to the Association.



Jules is a Consultant in Older Peoples Care and End of Life in Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust. He leads an Advanced Practice Team. Jules has developed a Rapid Assessment Unit for people with frailty. Jules is supporting staff with education and continuous professional development, and wants his community hospital to be a centre of excellence

Jules previously won an international fellowship to study Community Hospitals in Vancouver, and worked with Professor Rockwood. He has done a masters degree and is now starting his PhD on Community Hospitals and Frailty, with the University of Portsmouth.

Jules Kerr is a strong advocate for community hospitals and is an ambassador for community hospitals.

Reflection from a League of Friends Chair

Jan Turnbull, Chair of the Friends of Swanage Hospital, has written about her experiences over the past year, and about the contribution the Friends have made to the staff and the hospital during this time.



Swanage Hospital

Below are photos of the patients garden, the new relatives room and the new staff room – funded by the League of Friends.



The CHA has been pleased to have a close association with the league of Friends over the years and continue to be impressed with the support they give to the patients staff and to the hospital.

Read more on our website: <http://www.communityhospitals.org.uk/leagues-of-friends.html>

Preferences and Priorities of Patients and Staff – Care for people with frailty and multi-morbidity

This publication is from the SPACE study on clinical uncertainty led by Professor Catherine Evans. The paper reports that patients prioritised family involvement that minimised demand, such as a community hospital closer to home. Staff valued standardised tools. This paper

Tunnard, I., Yi, D., Ellis-Smith, C. *et al.* Preferences and priorities to manage clinical uncertainty for older people with frailty and multimorbidity: a discrete choice experiment and stakeholder consultations. *BMC Geriatr* **21**, 553 (2021).

Read more on our website:

<http://www.communityhospitals.org.uk/kings-college-progress-report.html>

CHA helps Community have a Voice in Future of their Community Hospital in Insch

The League of Friends in Insch contacted the CHA for advice on the future of Insch community hospital, which had been closed since March 2020. Chris Humphris, Chair of the CHA, has been working with the community group and helped draft their strategic vision for the future. 80 people turned up for the AGM. The Friends are said to remain positive about the future of their hospital.

“Securing a Way Forward – the Inverurie Advertiser.

Read more on our news page: <http://www.communityhospitals.org.uk/news.html>

New Unit Approved for 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. The provision will save people having to travel to the acute hospital, and to help manage demand. The hospital continues to thrive, with the recent opening of a ward that had been closed for many years.

Read more on our news page: <http://www.communityhospitals.org.uk/news.html>

New Covid service to be offered at Tewkesbury Community Hospital

A new unit will be opened to treat patients with Covid-19 who need a specific type of treatment called Neutralising Monoclonal Antibodies (nMABs).

John Trevains, Director of Nursing, Therapies and Quality at Gloucestershire Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust, which runs the unit, said: “This is a new treatment, which has only been made available since December 16. It is delivered through a drip to people aged 12 and above, who have tested positive for Covid and are at highest risk of getting seriously ill.” The unit will be located in the minor injuries unit which will be closed.



Read more on our news page: <http://www.communityhospitals.org.uk/news.html>

NHS England

We are pleased to be working with NHS England and helping with data on community hospitals. We have been in discussion on the role of small hospitals in patient flow with regard to rehabilitation and discharge planning. We would be pleased to hear about any examples you may have about how your community hospital may be assisting with managing demand, providing capacity for patient care, and playing a role in the whole health system during Covid. Please contact us, we would love to hear from you at: infocommunityhospitals@gmail.com

The Leadership Log Podcast

One of our Committee Members, Evelyn Prodger, recently took part in a podcast for the Leadership Log (home of podcasts exploring the reality of navigating everyday leadership) developed by this years Florence Nightingale Scholars .

Evelyn spoke about Difficult Conversations.



You can listen to the Podcast here: <https://open.spotify.com/show/51tvXd0hsObLLFdqVrF4T7>

You can follow The Leadership Log on Twitter: @leadership_log

CHA Committee – New Committee Members Welcome!

Would you be interested in contributing to the work of the CHA in promoting community hospitals across the UK? Our work is varied and interesting, and we are pleased to make an on-going contribution to the body of knowledge of community hospitals and how much they are valued.

You can find out about us on our website: <http://www.communityhospitals.org.uk/directors-committee.html>

If you are interested in talking to us about joining us and about what is involved then please do email Helen Tucker, President CHA at: infocommunityhospitals@gmail.com

Join the CHA – Our Ever Expanding Network!

Our membership is increasing, which is welcome, and we want to extend our UK-wide network as far as possible, and promote the valued work of community hospitals. Do consider joining the CHA if you have not already done so.

We offer free personal lifetime membership at the moment, in celebration of 50 years of the CHA. So it is a good chance to take up this opportunity.

Organisations such as Trusts and Leagues of Friends are very welcome to join – their contributions are invaluable.

Details are on our website: <http://www.communityhospitals.org.uk/joining-cha-membership.html>

Seasons Greetings

2021 has been an extraordinary year and we know given the current Covid-19 situation it will be a busy Christmas and New Year in Community Hospitals.

To all the staff working in Community Hospitals over the festive period, whatever your role. We want to wish you a peaceful and joy filled time from all at the Community Hospitals Association.

We look forward to seeing you all in 2022!

