



**Community Hospitals Association (CHA)
Newsletter #11**

Seminars for Members

We are delighted to offer members a chance to participate in a series of seminars on community hospitals. This will provide a chance to share knowledge and experiences across the network.

*** Community Hospitals & CHA**

5th August 7pm led by Chris Humphris, Chair of CHA and previous manager and commissioner of community hospitals

*** Quality and Community Hospitals**

2nd Sept 7pm led by Evelyn Prodger, CHA lead on Quality and Innovation, a Queens Nurse with experience as a general manager of community hospitals and community services

Members are already suggesting topics for future discussions including safe staffing and the role of community hospitals post COVID-19. If you would like to take part, all you need to do is join the CHA. As part of our celebrations for our 50-year Anniversary, we have made personal lifetime membership free. Please download the form from our website and be a part of our vibrant network. <http://www.communityhospitals.org.uk/index.html>

Innovation and Best Practice Awards

We will be launching our Innovation and Best Practice Awards at the September Members Forum. We always want to be able to celebrate Community Hospital Innovation and Best Practice but it feels even more important in 2020 so we are hoping to have lots of applications to judge.

There will be 3 categories relating to Innovation and Best Practice: "improving patient care", "improving staff experience" and "changes introduced due to COVID-19".

Applications will be open to members. Individual membership is free, so if you have work you might want to submit do sign up now. It only takes a minute. Full details of the application process, judging criteria etc. will be shared at the launch.

<http://www.communityhospitals.org.uk/innovations-best-practice-programme.html>

CHA News Stories

News stories featuring community hospitals can be found on our website. These include Newmarket community hospital, Bridport hospital, Oxford City Community Hospital and Rothbury hospital. <http://www.communityhospitals.org.uk/news.html>

There is good news for Newmarket Community Hospital that has undergone refurbishment and has now re-opened a ward that has been closed for 10 years. This brings their total number of community beds to 33. The matron and her team are working with the community matron, GPs, and Clinical Nurse Specialist in Frailty to explore the creation of a frailty assessment unit. Do get in touch if you know of frailty assessment units in community hospitals.

Guest Blogs

The CHA invites staff working in community hospitals to write about their experience. Thank you to Sheila Doughty and Julia Fairhall for contributing their views a summary of which is shown below. We are delighted to put the guest blogs in full on our website.

“Learning in the time of coronavirus”

Sheila Doughty, Area Therapy Lead, Horsham Hospital
Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust



Sheila Doughty works at The Horizon Unit, a 38 bedded Intermediate Care Unit in Horsham Community Hospital. Sheila writes of the challenges in arranging safe and appropriate discharge for patients with complex needs recovering from COVID-19. She describes using technology to carry out a remote virtual OT assessment of a residential care home during lockdown when visits were not possible. With the cooperation of care staff, the OT had a virtual tour of the facility and could assess suitability and any changes to be made. This has been one of the many applications of technology, which has enabled a safe assessment to be made and saved clinical time.

Sheila writes, *“I have been extremely lucky to have been working as a physiotherapist alongside a dynamic and innovative multi-disciplinary team on the Horizon Unit.”* *“Embracing new technology has been key to the team working successfully over the last few weeks.”* Sheila’s blog can be read in full on our website: <http://www.communityhospitals.org.uk/blog.html>.

Guest blog

Staying Connected

Julia Fairhall Area Head of Nursing and Governance
Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust



Julie writes of the challenge of caring for patients on the wards, including patients with COVID-19 during the period when visits from family and friends were not permitted. She describes the project to purchase ipads, and the support given to staff, patients and family to connect. Julie writes of the importance of designated appointment times and the value of technology support. Events such as VE day were also marked using the technology. Julie has shared some examples of the very positive feedback: *“It’s given everyone involved a massive boost and if only we could have captured the smiles of joy on both patients and families. It lifted everyone’s spirits.”*

Julie concludes that *“the project has had a huge impact on patient’s mood and health and wellbeing”* and that the ward team are committed to continuing to help keep patients connected. To read the blog in full please go to the CHA website: <http://www.communityhospitals.org.uk/blog.html>.

The role of Community Hospitals during Covid-19 and beyond

The CHA is considering carrying out a study examining the role of community hospitals during the pandemic. We would be very interested to hear of how your community hospital, or the community hospitals in your organisation, have contributed, what changes have been made, and what the plans for the future may be. Do get in touch. We are hoping to compile case studies so that we can share the learning. infocommunityhospitals@gmail.com

NHS Seacole – A Community Hospital

The CHA is in communication with managers in Surrey to learn more about the creation of the Seacole Centre, which has been described as a community hospital and the first of its kind. We are mindful of the role of community hospitals during the COVID-19 pandemic, and also of the needs of patients requiring on-going rehabilitation. The facility opened just 35 days after the need was identified, utilising Headley Court (previously a military rehabilitation hospital) with the purpose of providing care, rehabilitation and support for patients recovering from COVID-19 and who no longer need to be in acute hospital, or those with COVID-19 who can no longer cope with their symptoms at home. We will report more news on our website.

International Connections

One of the latest members of the CHA is Jostas Mwebembezi. Jostas is the Executive Director of the Rwenzori Center for Research and Advocacy (RCRA) in Uganda. Jostas has already achieved much with the provision of clinics and he is now preparing a business plan for a community hospital with beds. This is with the help of a UN volunteer with considerable international expertise. Committee members of the CHA have talked to Jostas on a zoom call, and shared ideas, links and resources. Some of the themes and challenges have similarities with the UK in terms of rurality and access, although clearly the context is very different. We will continue to follow progress with interest, and continue to share in a mutually beneficial way.

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

Research Paper: Intermediate Care and Transitional Care

The CHA took part in an international Delphi study on intermediate care which defined intermediate care: *"Intermediate care represents time-limited services which ensure continuity and quality of care, promote recovery, restore independence and confidence at the interface between home and acute services."* This collaborative study has led to an improved understanding of intermediate care and the development of a network of over 40 clinicians and academics interested in further exploring aspects of intermediate care on an international basis. We are delighted to continue working with the growing network, and supporting further collaborations and studies. For more detail please go to our website:

<http://www.communityhospitals.org.uk/references.html>

IFIC Scotland Webinar – Re-imagining Rehabilitation and Recovery

The International Foundation of Integrated Care (IFIC) has been running a series of webinars. On the latest webinar Dawn Skelton at Glasgow Caledonian University was speaking about an initiative designed to support isolated people during COVID-19 called "Make Movement your Mission." This was designed to address concerns about maintaining and improving function for people whether at home or in hospital. Further details and links are on the CHA website

<http://www.communityhospitals.org.uk/news.html>

Coronavirus Resources

The CHA has collated important resources that are relevant for all health services. Please let us know if there is anything that you have found useful to you in your work, and wish to share it. Latest additions concern staff health and wellbeing.

<http://www.communityhospitals.org.uk/coronavirus.html>

CHA Forum

We have an online forum that you may find helpful. There have been over 260 views of the questions raised on diverse topics. Please add your thoughts and your questions.

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

CHA Social Media

The CHA shares news on community hospitals across the UK on social media and on our website.

Twitter: @CommHospUK

Linkedin: Community Hospitals Association

Facebook: Community Hospitals Association

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

Twitter Debate: “Permission to Pause”

Evelyn Prodger and Sue Greenwood, both of the CHA, are working with @wehcmanagers to run a Tweetchat entitled “Permission to Pause” on Tuesday 25th August 2020 8pm – 9pm.

Healthcare managers and anyone interested can join in. If you have not participated in a Tweetchat before there is some help here: <http://www.wecomunities.org/> . Do join in the conversation on twitter and remember that you can use a Tweetchat as part of your CPD.