



**Community Hospitals Association (CHA)
Newsletter #12**

Seminars for Members

CHA members are invited to join us for seminars on specific topics. Our first seminar last month was very successful – it was great to see the connections being made. If you would like to join the seminar next Wednesday **2nd Sept at 7pm** and you are not yet a member, you are very welcome to join our Association for free. We have a special offer for a lifetime free membership for individuals. <http://www.communityhospitals.org.uk/joining-cha-membership.html>

***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

Celebrate the work of Community Hospitals with us - 50 Years of the CHA

We will be celebrating our 50 years by recognising good practice, launching papers and sharing resources throughout the month of October.

We have written to organisations with community hospitals inviting them to take part in our celebrations and have had very positive responses so far. Do encourage your organisation to be part of the celebrations and share good news on community hospitals. We have asked that they consider taking part in the celebrations by:

- * By promoting their work locally throughout October
- * Sharing celebration stories with us and we will share them widely through our networks.
- * Sharing good practice – we have been running Innovation and Best Practice Awards since 2000, giving over 141 awards to community hospital services.
- * Promoting to staff that the CHA has free personal LIFETIME membership currently reflecting our 50th Anniversary year.

We are linking with NHSFabstuff to share examples of innovations and good practice throughout October, and examples will be on the NHSFabstuff website. In particular we will be contributing to #FabChange20 which will be taking place on Wednesday 21st October 2020 which will be a day of celebrating, reflecting, sharing and learning from Covid-19.

If you would like to share your community hospitals celebrations and good practice please email Trish Jay at celebrating@communityhospitals.net.

Rectifying The Damage Of Covid-19 – The Potential Role of Community Hospitals

Article by Tom Brooks, CHA.

Earlier this year, Secretary of State for Health, Matt Hancock, told the Community Hospitals Association that *“he is a massive supporter of community hospitals”*. Now is the time for community hospitals to show that they can undertake a massive role for the NHS.

The SARS-CoV-2 virus has undermined the fundamentals of the NHS. During August, three of the home countries have revealed the extent of the damage that the virus has done. The SARS-CoV-2 virus has sadly contributed to the loss of more than 50,000 lives in the UK.

But perhaps its biggest impact has been to create a huge pool of unmet healthcare need. In Scotland, England and Wales the number of those needing elective care and having to wait for over-long periods to receive it has mushroomed.

Scotland was early to declare the extent of its problem. Public Health Scotland released a report examining some of the issues that emerged from *“understanding the full extent of unmet need”*. BBC Scotland summarised *“The number of patients waiting more than 12 weeks for hospital treatment increased to more than 71,000 at the end of June. That compared to fewer than 24,000 on the same date last year.”* This 71,000 amounts to one Scot in every 70 waiting more than 12 weeks.

England published its statistics to show that while 730,000 people were waiting more than 18 weeks in January 2020, by the end of June this number had risen to 1,850,000 people. 1 in 50 patients in England have now been waiting for treatment for longer than 18 weeks and one in a thousand have been waiting more than a year.

The statistics released for North Wales for the end of July, a month later than England and Scotland, show that in North Wales one in 23 North Walians have been waiting over 36 weeks for acute hospital treatment and one in 70 for more than a year! This is just the visible backlog of need, the invisible backlog, that of patients who have delayed consulting their GPs, is anecdotally just as large.

The National Health Executive in England has launched a tender process to offer £10bn to an organisation that can provide treatments to reduce waiting times. Analysts consider £10bn will only treat a third of the backlog created to date. It is unclear who will tender. The usual sources of ‘surge’ treatment capacity, European countries and the UK private sector, have no spare capacity themselves this year, indeed many countries mirror the UK with its COVID-19 related problems.

So can Community Hospitals transform their roles and make a massive contribution to the NHS? The Community Hospitals Association believes they can and we have launched a study to help explore the prospects.

We would ask all of our members to think about their community hospital and answer the question, ***‘What healthcare service currently provided by the overloaded acute or tertiary sector in your area could be delivered in your community hospital?’***

Please send your suggestions to celebrating@communityhospitals.net

CHA News Stories

News stories featuring community hospitals can be found on our website. These include Randolph Wemyss Memorial Hospital, Thurrock Community Hospital, Brentwood Community Hospital, Ross Hospital, Whitby Hospital, Western Community Hospital and Edward Hain Hospital. <http://www.communityhospitals.org.uk/news.html>

Guest Blogs

The CHA invites staff working in community hospitals to write about their experience. Our monthly guest blogs have attracted a lot of attention, and been the subject of twitter conversations and contacts with the CHA. Thank you to Sandra for this months blog on training.

Let's Not Panic About Training In A Pandemic!



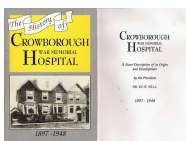
Sandra Speller Physiotherapist and Professional Head of Therapies, Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust

Sandra describes the rapid programme to offer training on a multidisciplinary basis, and the work done with clinical skills facilitators to create training videos. Interactive skype sessions were also offered. Sandra's blog can be read in full on our website:
<http://www.communityhospitals.org.uk/blog.html>.

Learning from our History

We know that we can learn much from our history, and there are many tales of how communities supported the development of their local hospital contained in local books and booklets. One example on our website is the one for Crowborough War Memorial Hospital which is available to download. Please do send us your local histories – we are building up a unique reference library of community hospitals which we will be sharing.

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



Hospital Discharge Service Guidance

The latest hospital discharge service policy and operating model sets out how health and care systems should support the safe and timely discharge of people who no longer need to stay in hospital. The policy sets out discharge arrangements that to apply to community hospitals and acute hospitals. The estimate is that 4% of discharges from acute hospitals will need to go into a community bed. <http://www.communityhospitals.org.uk/references.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 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>