




Community Hospitals Association (CHA) Newsletter #5

Community Hospitals Association – The National Voice for Community Hospitals

➤ Launch of Report on Community Hospitals and Community Value

The CHA welcomes this study which brings new knowledge on the value of Community Hospitals to patients and communities. The CHA is pleased to be a partner with the University of Birmingham on this study, which provides new evidence on the role of Community Hospitals as contributing to integrated care systems by offering a community-based service that is trusted and supported by their local communities.



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Our study shows how community hospitals are contributing to 'community value' through important functions within the communities in which they serve. Their provision of local, accessible, integrated health and social care services has an important practical and symbolic significance, particularly in more isolated rural communities. When difficult decisions are made about funding and future service provision for community hospitals therefore, policy makers need to take into account a broader notion of value, focusing equally the 'value' to patients and communities as on the money.

Jon Glasby
Professor of Health and Social Care



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"The study concluded community hospitals represented a significant community asset, with a strong sense of community ownership. Their provision of local, accessible health and social care services has significance, particularly in more isolated rural communities"

Deborah Davidson, Angela Ellis Paine,
Jon Glasby & John Mohan

The CHA views the study and the report as an important contribution to the planning and management of health care services, offering new knowledge and evidence on the role that community hospitals have to play across the whole health and care system, and also within their communities. It is hoped that the evidence will be of value to all concerned with community hospitals, and in particular commissioners, providers, patients and their communities.

The full report and the CHA response is on the CHA website:

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

Further Detail from the University of Birmingham:

<https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/news/latest/2019/01/first-major-study-on-community-hospitals-argues-policy-makers-need-to-focus-on-social-value-to-patients-and-communities.aspx>

➤ **NIHR Community Hospital Research Programme**

The Community Hospital Research Programme, funded by NIHR, consists of three inter-linking research studies with a Steering Group chaired by Sir Professor Lewis Ritchie. The three studies have researched different aspects of community hospital services.

The University of Birmingham (referred to above) researched community value. The research team at RAND carried out an international study of community hospitals in order to identify transferable learning. The research team based at the University of Leeds focused on identifying ways of optimising community hospital inpatient care. The CHA has been pleased to be a partner in the programme, and delighted to work with dedicated and experienced research teams. For more information please go to our website:

<http://www.communityhospitals.org.uk/community-hospital-programme-NIHR.html>

➤ **NHS Long Term Plan and Community Hospitals**

The Long Term Plan (LTP) sets out a vision for the health services, with attention to features such as:

- Providing integrated care
- GPs working together in primary care networks
- Breaking down barriers between primary and community care
- Increasing capacity in “out of hospital” care
- Supporting volunteering initiatives

The CHA has identified the many ways in which community hospitals already provide services that align with the features of the plan. We hope that it is recognised that community hospitals are an integral part of local health and care systems, valued and trusted by their communities with the potential to make a significant contribution to the realisation of the NHS Long Term Plan. The CHA website provides links to papers and reports concerning community hospitals, including the NHS LTP <http://www.communityhospitals.org.uk/references.html>

➤ **Innovation and Best Practice Programme**

The CHA Innovation and Best Practice Programme (I&BP) has been running for 18 years, during which time the CHA has given awards to 141 community hospital services. More detail on the programme can be found on the website.

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

➤ **Community Hospital News**

The CHA is regularly asked for information, support and advice on all aspects of community hospital services. We are pleased to work with all concerned with community hospitals, and through our committee and our network of members we try our best to bring together the information needed and to provide a helpful response to all queries. We are contacted on topics such as staffing and workforce issues, new models of care, community hubs, examples of good practice, and changes to services. For example, we have provided regular support to the community in Rothbury regarding the future plans for their hospital services. Local news items feature on our website:

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

➤ **Contributions**

We would love to hear from you. We are always pleased to feature community hospitals and services. Please get in touch if you have a story or a practice that you would like to share. Thank you.