

# Holsworthy Community Involvement Group position statement

## Update 3 – 12 June 2018

*The following represents an update from your representatives on the committee.*

*A public update will follow every meeting. This will be made available on line, together with other information so as to keep the community informed.*

## Meeting of community to discuss future need

The first of a series of meetings of the Holsworthy Community Involvement Group (HCIG) took place on Tuesday, 12 June.

The group has been set up to better understand the area's health and social care needs for the future.

It is predominantly made up of local people, community leaders and representatives with support from the NHS and represents a new collaborative approach to healthcare planning in Devon

If successful, this pioneering approach could be rolled out across the county.

North Devon GP, Dr John Womersely was elected to chair the meeting alongside Holsworthy resident, Geoff Cusick who was voted Vice Chairman.

The CCG has previously said that it recognises that the town is in a remote location and that a bespoke solution to health and social care needs in the community is necessary to address the challenges it faces.

The CCG wants to work with people in Holsworthy and the surrounding areas to get it right.

## Public Health expert

To begin to understand needs in the area, the group received a presentation from a public health expert from Devon County Council, which showed the NHS accounts for only 10 per cent of what keeps us well. The rest is a mix of behavioural, environmental and economic factors.



Public health data shows that that compared to other areas of Devon, in Holsworthy there are:

- Fewer people of working age, and a greater number in the 64-85 age range
- Lower birth rates
- Lower numbers of emergency and admissions to hospital
- Higher rates of income deprivation
- Higher levels of working age people on benefits.
- Higher levels of carers providing more than 50 hours care a week.
- Overall, people's health is worse than elsewhere, though this is often hidden.

## Local services

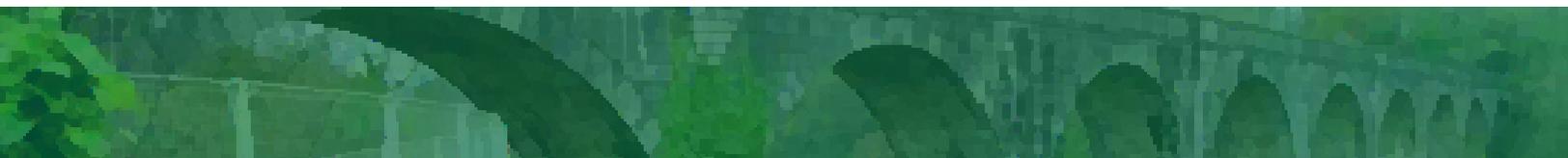
The group also received information about the range of health and care services available in the town - and received an implementation plan about reopening beds at Holsworthy community hospital from Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust. The plan will be kept under constant review by the group.

Beds at the town's hospital were temporarily closed in March 2017

At this time, the beds remain temporarily closed. Other services at the hospital remain operational.

The information on other health and care services currently available in the area showed that there are almost 40 professionals, including community nurses, social workers, community matrons and therapists working in the community to keep people well.

There are also more than 40 outpatient or other healthcare services running in the hospital, 12 of which were new since March 2017. This is supplemented by a dozen groups and clubs for people with health problems such as dementia, stroke and sight loss.



## **Understanding community support**

The next stage of the project will be to speak to people living in the area about what health and social care needs local people have – and how these differ from the public health information already held.

In advance of this, members agreed to collate information about the many voluntary, charity and community groups in the area, so as to get a fuller picture of the support available for people. This will be presented at the next meeting, on Tuesday June 26<sup>th</sup>.

There was discussion about the need for a particular focus on children and young people.

## **Next steps**

After 12-weeks, the group will make recommendations about future health and care needs in the area. These recommendations, along with clinical, financial and logistical considerations, will then inform decisions about future services for wider community consideration, which may be subject to consultation.

