

Getting services right for Holsworthy Holsworthy Community Involvement Group (HCIG)

Community, NHS, Voluntary Sector and Local Authorities Working together

Update 16 - January 2019

The following represents an update from your representatives on the committee. A public update will follow every meeting. This will be made available online, together with other information so as to keep the community informed.

Latest position

The NHS has been working with local people to look at how the Holsworthy area has the right services in future.

Part one of this work involves undertaking research with the local population to gauge health and social care needs. Recommendations will then be made to the NHS about future services.

Local people set up the Holsworthy Community Involvement Group to manage this process. The two Devon CCGs, Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust, town and district councillors also attend. Details can be found [here](#).

So far the group has:

- Been recognised nationally for its pioneering work in the community
- Established a list of priorities to be addressed using Devon County Council's Joint Strategic Needs Assessments for the area
- Mapped more than 100 community groups, such as local voluntary, charity and statutory services
- Undertaken quantitative research into the needs of people living in the area through a community survey
- Planned a series of focus groups with local people to explore the issues identified (above) in more detail
- Delivered information leaflets about the project to 16,000 people in the area
- Held bi-weekly meetings in the community and posted regular updates on the CCG's website about progress.

Part two is examining ways of opening beds within the local community hospital (closed in 2017 due to operational challenges).

Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust (NDHT) has been working closely with the community group, CCG, Holsworthy Community Involvement Group, NHS Northern, Eastern and Western Devon Clinical Commissioning Group and GPs at the Ruby

Country Medical Group and Black Torrington Surgery, to safely reopen inpatient beds.

One of the main requirements for reopening the beds was for safe medical cover to be in place – and this proved difficult to achieve quickly owing to the ongoing pressure on GP services. Although an important first step, there remains more work to follow with the recruitment of nurses and other staff.

NDHT has explored a wide range of alternatives to ensure safe, effective and sustainable medical cover and has reached the conclusion with its partners that with the current recruitment pressures facing primary care, autumn 2019 would realistically be the earliest that inpatient beds could reopen - even in the most favourable circumstances.

Given this, and early indications from the community survey which show end of life care is a priority, the Holsworthy Community Involvement Group has officially requested the NHS to consider interim bed provision for the town and local area. To this end, the CCG and NDHT are now in discussions with a view to supporting end of life and rehabilitation inpatient beds by working with other local providers.

If approved, such local services will complement the more than 50 services, clinics and groups at Holsworthy Community Hospital. This includes new services such as those for chronic kidney disease, depression and anxiety, multiple sclerosis and kidney care.

In addition there are more than 35 health and care staff providing care in the local community to rehabilitate patients, avoid admissions and promote independence.

Next steps

The results of the quantitative survey are currently being analysed by Healthwatch Devon and will be published shortly. A report is due to be received by the Holsworthy Community Involvement Group this month.

The next stage of research will begin in February with focus groups taking place in venues around Holsworthy and the surrounding area.

Once this has been undertaken and analysed, the Holsworthy Community Involvement Group will make a list of recommendations. This will then be presented to the CCG, which has responsibility for commissioning local healthcare services.

In the meantime, NEW Devon CCG and Northern Devon Healthcare Trust will work with local providers on interim bed provision to support end of life and rehabilitation.

For further information or queries, please speak to:

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Cllr Jon Hutchings, Holsworthy mayor and member of Holsworthy Community Involvement Group 07825 837 553

NHS Northern, Eastern and Western Devon Clinical Commissioning Group's communications team on 01392 674 801.