



**COMMUNITY HOSPITALS
ASSOCIATION**



WORKSHOP

COMMUNITY HOSPITALS UNDER THREAT

Helen Tucker 16th January 2006



320 Community Hospitals in England

**1 in 4 Community Hospitals
under threat of closure or
loss of services**

Threats and Closures

80 communities threatened with reductions in their community hospital services – and increasing...

30 high profile action committees campaigning for their community hospital services present today

Implications of Closures

- **80 + rural communities**
- **Over 1 million people**
- **Loss of over 2,000 beds**
- **Loss of jobs for nurses, therapists and support staff**

A National Crisis in 6 months

2005

May

- Annual Conference CHA – no threats reported

June

- PCT financial balance requirement

July

- Consultation documents issued for community hospital bed closures

Aug

- Public action – marches etc

Sept

- Political action – Debates

Nov

- Launch of CHANT – “Community Hospitals Acting Nationally Together” 15th Nov

Examples of Threatened Community Hospitals

**Cranleigh
Farnham
Weybridge
Thames Ditton
Dorking**

Surrey

**Hythe
Fordingbridge
Romsey
Fenwick
Milford**

Hampshire

**Alston
Brampton
Keswick
Penrith
Maryport
Cockermouth
Millom**

Cumbria

**Aldeburgh
Felixstowe
Hartismere
Sudbury
Newmarket**

Suffolk

**Bradford Upon Avon
Westbury
Malmesbury
Melksham
Devizes**

Wiltshire

**Hornsea
Withernsea**

Yorkshire

Skegness

Lincs

Wells

Norfolk

**Townlands
Bicester**

Oxford

**Tetbury
Fairford
Cossham**

Gloucester

**Ludlow
Brignorth
Whitchurch**

Shropshire

Why Do We Support Community Hospitals?

“As diverse as the communities they serve”

- ✓ **Small local hospital valued for access, familiarity, continuity and quality**
- ✓ **GP medical support + community health professionals**
- ✓ **Strong tradition of care - built by public subscription, many as War Memorials**
- ✓ **Enables acute hospitals to focus on specialist care**
- ✓ **Community support - fundraising and volunteering**
- ✓ **Care includes rehabilitation, intermediate care, palliative care and support for long term conditions**
- ✓ **Provides diagnostic and treatment facilities**
- ✓ **Focus for integrated health and social care**

What are PCTs Proposing?

- × **Close community beds.**

Alternative is an acute bed, independent care home or home care

- × **Close services such as clinics and minor injuries units**

Why Close Community Hospital Services?

Finance

£ **Save money**

Focus Home Care

🏠 **Increase the level of hospital at home care**

Flexibility

❖ **Freedom to commission from the independent sector**

Addressing Consultation Failings



The public assemblies were a nonsense. The closure of local hospitals was never an option put to us.

John Cottle Chairman League of Friends Bradford-on-Avon Hospital (now closed)

“People have a right and a duty to participate individually and collectively in the planning and implementation of their health care.”

World Health Organisation Alma Ata 1978

Cabinet Code of Practice <http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/>

“Strengthening Accountability” <http://www.irpanel.org.uk/>

Overview and Scrutiny Committee <http://www.odpm.gov.uk/>

Addressing Financial Reasons

- £ **Financial brokerage to allow for more time**
- £ **Recognition of PCTs under average national capitation.**
- £ **Clarification on the system of Payment by Results and the National Tariff**
- £ **Practice Based Commissioning**
- £ **National research evidence**
- £ **Demonstrate cost shifts to social services and patients**
- £ **Testing the financial assumptions**

Addressing Service Reasons

- **PCTs to wait for White Paper before making significant service changes**
- **PCTs to have alternative models of care in place before dismantling services**
- **PCTs to provide an evidence base for their proposed model of care, noting the need for “choice” and “access.”**

Possible Solutions

- ✓ **Local people taking over**
- ✓ **Other organisations managing the hospitals**
- ✓ **Agreeing a review of the proposals with all those who have a stake in the service**

Local People Taking Over

Forming a Local Community Charity to own and run the hospital

- **Memorial Care Centre, Rye, East Sussex**
- **Odiham Hospital, Hampshire**
- **Hoylake Cottage Hospital, Merseyside**
- **Tetbury, Gloucestershire**

More to follow.....

Cranleigh Village Trust

Wells Hospital

Who else can manage Community Hospitals?

Alternative Providers to develop and manage the hospital service:

- **St Hugh's Hospital - Hospital Management Trust**
- **Ledbury Hospital – Shaw Trust**
- **Epsom Day Surgery – Epsom GPs**
- **Emberbrook Centre – Four Seasons Health Care**
- **Kington Court– Blanchworth Care**
- **GP organisations through SPMS**
- **Etc**

Review the plans?

All those with a stake in the service to work together :

- **Doddington Hospital Cambridgeshire**
- **New Forest Hospitals Hampshire**
- **Cumbria Hospitals**

Doddington Hospital

“10,000 people have been involved in the largest outbreak of public action over a single issue in Fenland for a generation. The PCT had a moral and legal duty to take these views into account - and they clearly have.” Campaign Group

We are currently developing its Business Case.

The East Cambs and Fenland
Primary Care PCT

“While we worked hard to save the hospital from closure we have also worked hard to promote the elements of the PCT’s plans that we supported.”

ffinlo Costain
Campaigner

5 New Forest Community Hospitals

Proposal for Closure of 106 Beds in 5 Hospitals

“Local people care about their hospital buildings. We care about patient care.” Oct 2005

**John Richards
Chief Executive
New Forest PCT**

“People can now be confident that the hospitals will be saved, services will be improved and the PCT will take this forward with the active engagement of local clinicians and communities.” Nov 2005

7 Cumbrian Community Hospitals

**Consultation Deferred
whilst waiting for White Paper**

Health Minister Liam Byrne

**PPI Forum North Cumbria
“Call for these proposals to be
substantially modified
or discarded completely”**

**David Maclean MP has said that “the
threat of closure
to the community hospitals
is greater than ever.”**

Polarisation

Developments

Malvern

Pershore

West Berkshire Hospital

Newton-Le-Willows etc

Closures

Bradford Upon Avon

Fairford

Fenwick

Well next the sea etc

National Policy

***“We will
over the next 5 years
develop a new
generation
of modern NHS
community hospitals ”***

Labour Party Manifesto 2005

***“Through an initial
£100m investment,
we will build,
rebuild or refurbish
50 new
community hospitals”***

Secretary of State for Health April 2005

**Who is responsible?
Who will see these changes
through?**



How can we delay these decisions being taken?



OUR MESSAGE



Stop dismantling rural health services!



Start building on the strong tradition of local care!



Save our community hospitals!