

Final step towards authorisation

Firstly I'd like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very happy and healthy New Year and I hope you managed to find time to relax over the festive period.

2013 will be a very significant year for our Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) as we move towards the 1st April handover date from the Primary Care Trust and take full responsibility for commissioning health services for patients across Scarborough and Ryedale.

In November 2012 we passed through the final stage of our formal authorisation process which involved a full-day panel assessment led by the Department of Health (DH). This assessment was extremely positive and we received excellent feedback on the way our CCG has developed over the last 18 months.

I am confident that our CCG has the right people, the right structure and the right mentality to really make a difference to the health and wellbeing of local people.

Recently we held a number of events which gave my colleagues and me the chance to meet members of the public and hear some of their views about the NHS locally. Having the opportunity to speak face-to-face about some of the big issues was invaluable and I was pleasantly surprised by the level of interest shown by those who stopped to speak with us.

It's fair to say that a number of concerns arose during my conversations and it is clear that some

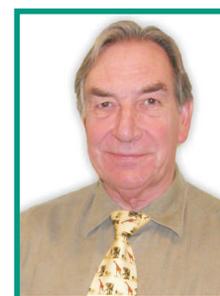
people are worried about the changes, particularly in light of the huge financial challenges being faced by the NHS across North Yorkshire and York at present.

Whilst I want people to be under no illusion about the extent of the challenges we face, I want to reassure them that our CCG will do all it can to keep any impact on patient care to an absolute minimum.

I am a firm believer that even when looking at ways to save money and create efficiencies, if done properly, it is possible to maintain or even improve the quality of services.

I would like to reassure people that with the wealth of experience from the GPs and other healthcare professionals on our Governing Body, and with involvement from local patients in the decisions we make, I feel we will be able to realise this belief.

I look forward to working with you over the course of 2013.



Dr Phil Garnett
Clinical Chair

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Your health, your say

During November and December we held an initiative called 'Your Health, Your Say' which was an opportunity for local people to give us feedback on our draft strategic plan. This plan outlines the main health priorities we wish to focus on over the next five years, based on health inequalities and parts of the NHS where we believe improvements can be made.

These include:

- Early detection of cancer
- Cardiovascular (heart and stroke) care
- Care of the elderly (including long term conditions and end of life care)
- Mental health

It is important to point out that we will still maintain services for other areas of health, but we believe these four areas in particular have the potential to yield the biggest improvements.

As part of the initiative we received 137 completed surveys which provided us with useful feedback about these priorities and a range of other things, such as what's important to people when accessing health services.

Whilst this was only a small first step in involving local people in the work of the CCG, I'd like to thank those who contributed for their useful input.

We are currently preparing a summary of these findings which will be presented to the CCG Governing Body at the end of January. A copy of the report will also be available on our website (www.scarboroughryedaleccg.nhs.uk).



Dr Phil Garnett and Dr Omnia Hefni meet with members of the public at Scarborough Library, picture courtesy of the Scarborough News

Malton MIU update



Many of you, particularly those living in the Ryedale area, will be aware that we have made the difficult decision to temporarily reduce the opening hours of the Minor Injuries Unit (MIU) at Malton Hospital.

This action was recommended by the Primary Care Trust amongst a number of other measures to help prevent the financial deficit from deteriorating any further.

Whilst we appreciate the decision and the pace at which it was implemented was unpalatable for many, it is essential that we do all we can to reduce the amount of deficit our CCG will inherit when we take over in April 2013.

Between now and April we plan to review the impact of the reduced hours both in terms of financial saving and impact on patient care to inform the best use of the MIU from April onwards.

An interim report will be presented to our Governing Body in February which will detail the impact on both finances and use of the MIU since the opening hours were reduced.

We fully appreciate the strength of feeling towards this local service and we are committed to ensuring patients are not disadvantaged in the long term.

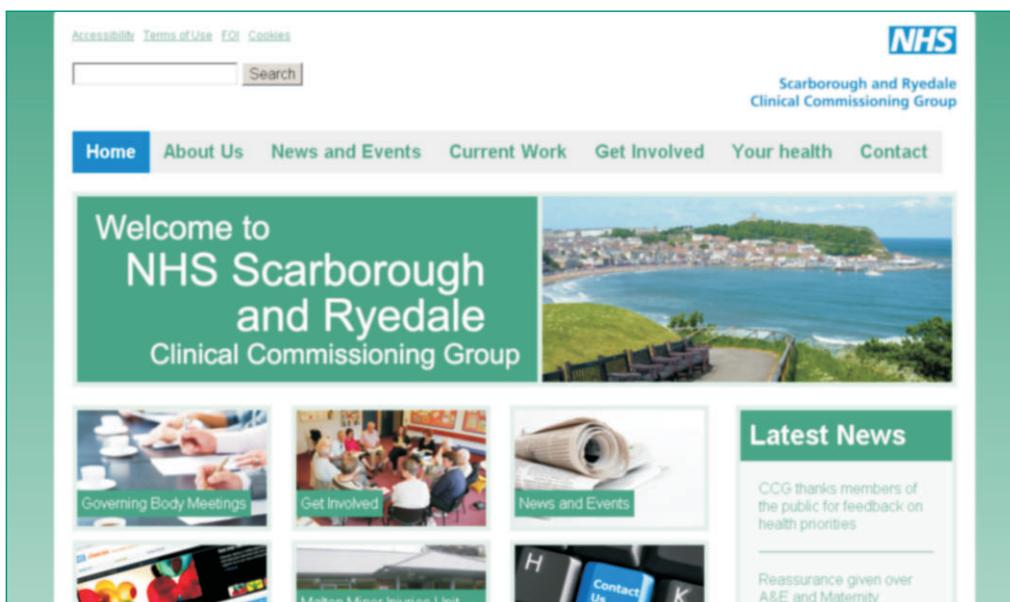
Check out our new website

www.scarboroughryedaleccg.nhs.uk

We're pleased to announce that our new website is now live and is a great way to keep a track of what our CCG is up to.

We plan to develop the site over the next few months to include information about current projects and the ways you can get involved.

If you have any comments about the site please use the 'contact us' facility.



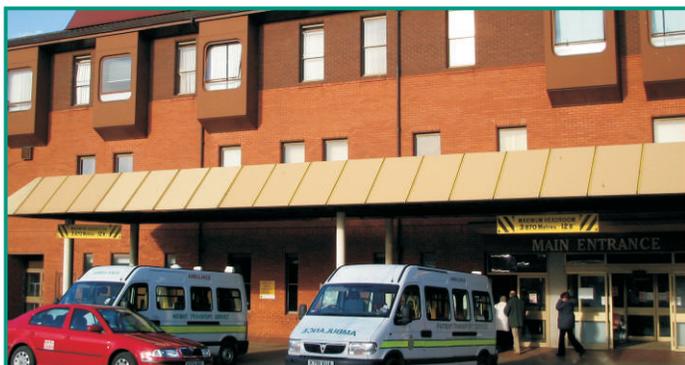
A recap on our role as a CCG

With all the change that's going on in the NHS at the moment it can be difficult to keep track of what organisations are responsible for what aspects of the health service.

Following some of the questions raised at the public events we have attended recently, we thought it would be useful to provide some important pieces of information about our CCG and what we are here to do.

- Our CCG is a 'commissioning' organisation. This means we are responsible for managing a health budget for patients registered with one of the 17 GP Practices in our CCG.
- We identify and buy health services based on the needs of local people, such as services you may access from Scarborough Hospital or Malton Community Hospital for example.
- We do not provide any services – that is the job of 'provider' organisations such as Scarborough Hospital.
- The types of services we are responsible for commissioning fall within the following groups:
 - *Planned hospital care*
 - *Urgent and emergency care*
 - *Rehabilitation care*
 - *Community health services*
 - *Mental health and learning disability services*
- We are not responsible for commissioning primary care services, such as those provided by GP Practices, Dentists and Pharmacies. The NHS Commissioning Board is responsible for this. They are also responsible for commissioning some specialist services and treatments such as specialist cancer drugs.
- Whilst our CCG represents 17 GP Practices, the 100 GPs working in these Practices are not burdened with meetings and paper work from the CCG. They have elected six GPs who are members of our Governing Body and who represent the views of their GP colleagues. This means that GPs, although now more involved in the decision making process, are not distracted from caring for patients.
- As well as the GPs on our Governing Body, our CCG also employs professional commissioning staff who manage the commissioning process on behalf of the GPs.

Commitment given over services at Scarborough Hospital



There have been many reports in the local media about a possible threat to A&E and maternity services at Scarborough Hospital. This was caused by a 'leaked' document which contained a number of options that could help to save money and ultimately help to resolve the financial issues faced by the NHS in the area.

This list was never an approved set of actions and we would like to make it absolutely clear that whatever actions are taken to achieve financial sustainability in the future, we have no plans to close the A&E or maternity services at Scarborough Hospital.

A review of possible actions is ongoing and scheduled to conclude towards the end of January. This process is being led by the Primary Care Trust.

Once their recommendations are available, we will review the implications for services in the Scarborough and Ryedale area.

Whatever actions our CCG decides to pursue, we will ensure local patients are appropriately engaged and consulted prior to any changes being made.

Help yourself and the NHS this winter – choose well!

With the county still firmly in the grip of wintery conditions, it's that time of year when NHS services begin to experience much higher demand as people become more exposed to illnesses such as colds and flu and are more prone to having an accident in icy conditions.

If you then add to this the difficulty of ambulance and fast response teams getting around our rural area in wintery conditions, you can start to appreciate the extent of the pressure faced by NHS services during the winter months.

However, by taking some very simple steps you can really help to make a difference.

All that we ask is that you think twice before picking up the phone and dialling 999 or going to your nearest A&E department to make sure it's absolutely necessary.

Unfortunately, there are some people who call the emergency services for things that really could have



been dealt with elsewhere, at places such as your local pharmacy or by calling NHS Direct.

Choosing the most appropriate service not only ensures you receive the most appropriate treatment as quickly as possible, but also means the emergency services are free to treat those with a genuine need.

For more information about 'choosing well' and the services available in the Scarborough and Ryedale area, [visit www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)