

There will be six public events – two public meetings and four drop in sessions.

We will also be writing to local groups and organisations to ask if they would like us to attend their meetings to talk about the consultation.

We have asked Healthwatch Northumberland to facilitate some discussion groups to target older people.

People can comment in a number of ways:

📄 **Complete the survey** (online or hard copy)

✉ **Email:** norccg.enquiries@nhs.net

✉ **Write to:** Rothbury Community Hospital Consultation, NHS Northumberland Clinical Commissioning Group, County Hall, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE61 2EF

☎ **01670 335178**

👤 **Attend** one of the public events

We would like to understand more about:

- Any concerns or views you may have
- How you think we could shape existing health and care services around a Health and Wellbeing Centre on the hospital site in Rothbury

Any comments made in any community or other meetings we attend to discuss the proposal during the consultation period will also be noted and taken into consideration.

The consultation will extend over a 12 week period from 31 January to 25 April 2017.

Public events

■ **Public meetings:**

Thursday 16 February:
2.00pm – 4.00pm
Jubilee Hall, Bridge Street,
Rothbury NE65 7SD

Thursday 30 March:
6.30pm – 8.30pm
Jubilee Hall

■ **Drop-in sessions:**

Saturday 4 March:
10.00am – 12.00pm
Simonside Room, Jubilee Hall

Monday 13 March:
4.00pm – 6.00pm
The Group Room,
Rothbury Community Hospital,
Whitton Bank Road,
Rothbury, NE65 7RW

Tuesday 21 March:
6.00pm – 8.00pm
The Group Room,
Rothbury Community Hospital

Wednesday 5 April:
2.00pm – 4.00pm
Simonside Room, Jubilee Hall

Timescales

We are planning to be in a position to make a decision on the way forward by summer 2017. The decision will be made in public and any reports will be available on our website. We will make sure that the decision is communicated widely.

A summary of the proposed changes at

Rothbury Community Hospital

Public consultation

Your views are important

We are NHS Northumberland Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and it is our responsibility to commission (plan and buy) the majority of hospital and community health services for Northumberland. We also commission GP services. On 31 January 2017, we started a three month consultation on some proposed changes at Rothbury Community Hospital.

About Rothbury Community Hospital

Rothbury Community Hospital provides services for people living in the town and surrounding area. It is managed by Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (the Trust).

The hospital has an inpatient ward with 12 beds which have been suspended since September 2016. Since then the staff have been supporting colleagues in some of the Trust's busier hospitals.

The beds are mainly for frail older patients who are living at home and need some care to prevent further deterioration and therefore avoid an emergency admission for specialist care, or for people who have been in hospital receiving specialist care and are recovering but are not well enough or able to go home.

A small number of those using the ward have been patients with terminal illnesses who were nearing the end of their lives.

The ward is not intended for respite care, which is not funded by the NHS. This can be provided in a residential or nursing care home organised through Northumberland County Council.

Patients are admitted to Rothbury Community Hospital following assessment by a hospital consultant or a GP. The ward is nurse-led and a doctor, a GP, is only available on site for a daily review of patients and then called in as required.

This document is available in large print, other formats and languages on request.
Telephone: **01670 335178**



Other services at the hospital which have been unaffected by the temporary suspension of inpatient beds include:

- **Occupational therapy and physiotherapy** – provided in hospital and in people's own homes
- **Outpatient and child health clinics** – provided by specialist staff from the Trust
- **Community paramedics** – who work for North East Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust
- **Community services** – staff from health and social care who work together, with local GPs, to support people to stay well and independent at home

What we are proposing?

On 31 January we started a three month public consultation on the following:

Permanent closure of the 12 inpatient beds and shape existing health and care services around a Health and Wellbeing Centre on the hospital site.

This would result in the permanent closure of the inpatient ward at Rothbury Community Hospital but it includes continuing discussions with local people about how we can shape existing health and care services around a Health and Wellbeing Centre on the hospital site.

Developing such a centre is something that local people have talked to us about. There have been discussions for some time about the GP practice relocating there. We also feel there are opportunities to provide more physiotherapy and outpatient clinics which could include patients having an appointment at the hospital but talking to a specialist through a video link.

We know some people feel strongly that there should be some respite and end of life care in Rothbury. However, respite care is not funded by the NHS and only a small number of people have died at Rothbury Community Hospital in recent years. Since the proposal does not include inpatient beds, we would be very keen to hear more from people about how they think a community based service could be developed which would provide these types of care.

The proposal would ensure that we make best and most efficient use of the staff and facilities available to us and would be in line with national and local policy to provide more care outside of hospital. It would also result in savings to the CCG of £500,000.

Although we looked at other options, after much consideration we decided to consult on only one. This is because we want to be honest with local people and not consult on options that would not be viable.

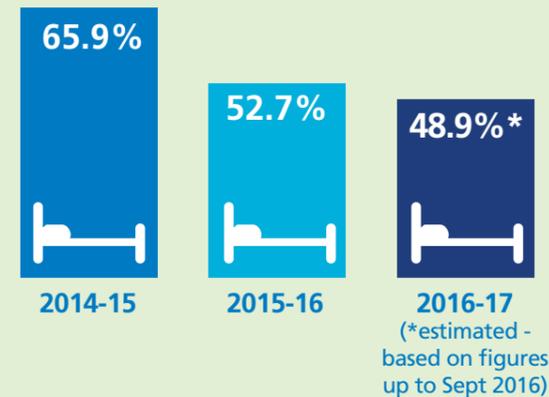
Why are these changes being proposed?

At NHS Northumberland CCG we must make sure that all of the resources available to us are used effectively, efficiently and economically.

A review of beds at Rothbury Community Hospital showed that from September 2015 to August 2016 there were 123 admissions from the town and surrounding area plus a further 45 involving people from outside the area. On average, this means that half of the beds were occupied at any one time during that year.

This decrease in use has happened following the many medical advances which mean that patients are spending much less time in hospital

Percentage bed occupancy 2014-17



The review of bed occupancy at Rothbury Community Hospital, during autumn 2016 showed this has reduced from around 66% in 2014-15 to just under 49%* in 2016-17.

This low bed occupancy rate means that the skills and expertise of nursing staff are not maximised.

after operations or serious illnesses. There have been improvements to the care provided since the opening of the new Northumbria Specialist Emergency Care Hospital, Cramlington. Very sick and seriously injured patients are seen quickly by the right specialist and have a much faster diagnosis with treatment beginning much earlier than before.

There is also very clear national and local policy around the development of much more care outside of hospital to help people stay well and independent.

Figures available to us show that more people living in Rothbury and the surrounding area are already receiving services at home.

Although Rothbury Community Hospital has provided care for people with terminal illness, the number who were receiving care in the hospital at the end of their lives has remained small over a number of years. This is due to more people being supported to die at home.

Also, there is now national evidence to show that older people fare better at home than they do in hospital. Prolonged hospital stays can increase their risk of infection and can also impact on their mobility and confidence to live independently at home.

How can you make your views known?

Copies of the main consultation document and this summary leaflet will be available in public venues around the town and surrounding area.

There is an online survey at: www.surveygizmo.eu/s3/90024914/RCHconsultation which has been prepared by an independent research company which will host and evaluate it. Hard copies will also be available.

There is a dedicated page on our website: www.northumberlandccg.nhs.uk/get-involved/RCHconsultation

This includes the consultation document, a link to the online survey and any other relevant information. There will be articles in local newspapers and information will be shared with local radio and regional television. We will send information for inclusion in any existing community newsletters such as Over the Bridges. Social media, such as Facebook and Twitter will be used to direct people to our website to find out more.