



# Northumberland Clinical Commissioning Group

County Hall  
Morpeth  
Northumberland  
NE61 2EF

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31 January 2017

Dear colleague,

## **Re: Public Consultation about Rothbury Community Hospital**

NHS Northumberland Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) has today (31 January 2017) started a public consultation on some proposed changes at Rothbury Community Hospital. The consultation will run until 25 April 2017.

The proposal is:

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

While this would result in the closure of inpatient beds, a Health and Wellbeing Centre could include the relocation of the GP practice to the hospital and there is an opportunity to explore the provision of more physiotherapy and outpatient clinics which could include patients having an appointment at the hospital but talking to a specialist through a video link.

The proposal is being made due to decreasing use of beds at the hospital over the past few years. During 2015/16 on average only half of the beds were used.

This is due to a number of reasons including medical advances which mean people now spend much less time in hospital after operations or treatments and that more health and care services are provided in people's own homes to help them stay well and independent. It is also very important that the NHS makes the best possible use of all available resources, staff, facilities and finances.

The inpatient ward has been suspended since September 2016 and the staff have been working in Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust's busier hospitals.

Further information, including the consultation document, is available at [www.northumberlandccg.nhs.uk/get-involved/RCHconsultation](http://www.northumberlandccg.nhs.uk/get-involved/RCHconsultation)

Copies of the consultation document and a summary leaflet will be widely shared and over the next three months there will be opportunities for people living in Rothbury and the surrounding area to comment, including two public meetings, four drop-in sessions and discussion groups with older people. Details of the meetings are available on the CCG's website at the above address. There is also an online survey at: [www.surveygizmo.eu/s3/90024914/RCHconsultation](http://www.surveygizmo.eu/s3/90024914/RCHconsultation) (hard copies are also available within the printed consultation document) which has been prepared by an independent research company who will host and evaluate it.

People can also:

- Email comments to: [norccg.enquiries@nhs.net](mailto:norccg.enquiries@nhs.net)
- Write to: Rothbury Community Hospital Consultation, NHS Northumberland Clinical Commissioning Group, County Hall, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE61 2EF
- Telephone: 01670 335178
- Attend one of our public events. Details are at [www.northumberlandccg.nhs.uk/get-involved/RCHconsultation](http://www.northumberlandccg.nhs.uk/get-involved/RCHconsultation) or call us to find out times

Representatives from NHS Northumberland Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), which is leading the consultation, will also consider any requests to attend meetings of local groups to explain the proposal. Please email or ring the CCG using the above contact details if you would like to make such a request.

The CCG is particularly keen to hear any concerns or views people may have and how they think existing health and care services could be shaped around a Health and Wellbeing Centre on the hospital site in Rothbury.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Young', with a horizontal line underneath.

**Stephen Young**  
**Strategic Head of Corporate Affairs**

Enclosures:

Summary of the proposed changes  
Consultation Document  
Consultation Survey