

Briefing note

Date: 16 July 2015

Doctors agree to improve resilience of Eastern Devon's community hospitals

The NHS Northern, Eastern and Western Devon Clinical Commissioning Group (NEW Devon CCG) Governing Body has today agreed to consolidate overnight inpatient beds at Eastern Devon's community hospitals to secure nursing care close to people's homes.

Community hospital beds in Eastern Devon will be consolidated as a platform for further review and reform of community services, aiming to treat more people in their own home where it is safe and appropriate to do so.

It will mean the number of community hospital inpatient units in Eastern Devon will reduce from 10 to seven. Community hospitals at Axminster, Crediton and Ottery St Mary will no longer have overnight inpatient beds, although Ottery St Mary Hospital will have 15 overnight stroke rehabilitation beds for now.

None of the community hospitals will close as a result of the decision. Health and social care hubs with a range of outpatient services, day surgery and other health and social care services will be developed at hospitals without inpatient beds.

Dr David Jenner, a GP from Cullompton and chair of the CCG's Eastern Locality, said:

"This will improve the resilience of care at our community hospitals in the face of financial and workforce challenges.

"We are looking to continually improve services to support people in their local communities whether they are cared for at home or in hospital and this is one step forward on that journey.

"We want to thank all the local people and organisations who have been involved throughout the development of the plans over the last couple of years. We held over 30 public meetings or drop-in sessions and have taken their comments into consideration when making our decision today.

"Of course we understand that some people will always want to have community beds in their own area and this decision may disappoint them but making sure everyone has the same level of access to services is very important.

"Over the last few years the hospital provider Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust has had to temporarily close some community hospital inpatient units due to staffing

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issues. Consolidating from 10 to seven units means we will have much more robust staffing at our hospitals in the future.”

The process in which we developed the changes agreed today will now be considered at the Devon Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee meeting on 14 September 2015.

The timeline for implementing the changes will depend on the outcomes and feedback from this Scrutiny meeting.

A summary of the changes agreed today is below:

Hospital	Beds pre-decision	Beds post-decision	Comments
Exeter Community Hospital	20 medical	20 medical	No change
Exmouth	22 medical + 8 stroke	16 medical	8 stroke beds to Ottery St Mary Hospital
Crediton	3 medical + 7 stroke	None	7 stroke beds to Ottery St Mary Hospital. Hub also under development
Okehampton	16 medical	16 medical	No change
Tiverton	32 medical	32 medical	No change
Axminster	10 medical	None	
Seaton	10 medical	24 medical	
Sidmouth	18 medical	24 medical	
Honiton	18 medical	16 medical	
Ottery St Mary	10 medical + 0 stroke	0 Medical + 15 stroke	
Moretonhampstead	0 medical	0 medical	Hub under development
Budleigh Salterton	0 medical	0 medical	Hub under development