

Health and Social Care News Update



Scottish Borders
Health and Social Care
PARTNERSHIP

Issue 7 – Winter 2017/18

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New assess to discharge service now open in Galashiels

As part of the winter plan and to help reduce demand on hospital provision, the Partnership has commissioned SB Cares to operate an assess-to-discharge unit within Craw Wood in Tweedbank. The new service opened on 4 December with eight beds and scope to increase this to 15 in the future. Thanks go to all the staff involved in getting the new service operational within the timescales that were given.

Referral to the service will be managed by Jane Prior (General Manager Patient Pathways) and the START team based at the

Welcome to the health and social care news update

Colleagues,

I am delighted to introduce the Winter edition of the Health and Social Care News Update.

You will see from this edition we are in a time of great change and I look forward to working with you all to meet the challenges that lie ahead

During the ten weeks or so that I have been in post, I have tried to get out and about as much as I can and have been really encouraged by what I have seen so far. I have been throughout the BGH and Kelso Community Hospital, visited teams in Mental Health and Learning Disability and seen first-hand some of the work they undertake. I've talked with homecare providers, district nurses, our GP fraternity, occupational therapists, speech therapists, physios, social workers and health care assistants. I have also been able to meet with some of our voluntary agencies and a host of local communities.

One of the things that has struck me the most has been the commitment, energy and compassion from everyone I've met towards doing their very best for the communities of the Borders. I've also had lots of suggestions as to how we can make our work more efficient, better and effective. To be fair, some of these suggestions have been at odds with each other, but that's why we are here as a partnership, to thrash it all out! So don't stop talking; the more we are all engaged in improving our services, the more likely we are to succeed.

Borders General Hospital. Adults who transfer to Craw Wood will be assessed by the team to establish critical needs and, where a service is required, they will ensure that assessments and support plans are completed.



I've also met with unions and staff representatives in what I felt was a very forward looking and exciting exchange of views and ideas. They are already well on their way with arrangements to support the partnership of Council and NHS staff and we have agreed to meet regularly in the new year.

This coming year will be an especially important one for the partnership as we review our plans and aspirations for the future of Health and Social Care. It's been a busy couple of months, but I will endeavour to get out as much as I can and if I haven't met with you already, really hope to be able to do so soon. In the meantime, for those of you who had a break over the festive period, I hope it's was a fantastic one, and for those who worked through, thank you.

With every best wish for you and yours for 2018.

Robert McCulloch-Graham
Chief Officer Health and Social Care

If you would like more information or have any queries, contact Jane at: jane.prior@scotborders.gov.uk or on **01896 826271**.

For information, the number for Craw Wood is **01896 829154**.

IT Integration Project

IT is consistently identified by staff one of the biggest areas of opportunity to help improve joint working practices. Recognising this, the joint Executive Management Team is continuing to developing a joint IT Programme that will improve access to, and sharing of, information across integrated services. In particular, the project will address four priority areas:

- Collaboration: to enable staff to share mail boxes and view/share calendars, and introduce file sharing capability.
- Person Centric Data: to enable staff to share appropriate information about clients/ patients (care record) in a secure and confidential way – ultimately, creating a single view of the patient and enabling a single update of records.
- Assistive Technology (including Technology Enabled Care): to identify aids and monitoring capabilities (e.g. video conferencing, movement sensors, alarms etc.) which

will help to sustain and enhance people's ability to live independently.

- Workflow and Resource Management: to automate and improve processes and assist the smooth movement of patients along pathways – including enabling an accurate view of resource availability and facilitates matching needs/ requirements to those available resources.

Project Manager, Graeme Dobson, said: "We are already making practical progress on a number of important elements of the programme. Two early successes include the provision of WiFi connectivity at Coldstream Health Centre to give the Assistant Homecare Manager access to the Council network and the provision of data points for the Transitional Care Facility in Waverley Care Home in Galashiels.

"Attend Anywhere, a video conferencing application that

enables video calls between clients and practitioners – a virtual clinic facility – has been successfully trialled by the Orthopaedics Department at the BGH with Diabetes staff looking to use it for hard-to-reach younger patients from January. Other services interested include Tweeddale GPs for engagement with local nursing/care homes, the Mental Health Service for their Distress Brief Intervention pilot and the Out of Hours Service working with health professionals. Once enhanced WiFi is available in their care homes, SB Cares will be exploring the potential for the technology to help reduce hospital admissions.

"Over the next few months we will continue to roll-out the Attend Anywhere facility and continue to develop and implement the wider IT Programme, including developing a clear 'road map'. Once agreed, a further briefing note will be produced."

For more information, contact: graeme.dobson@scotborders.gov.uk

Major investment in Waverley Care Home and Community Equipment Service unveiled

The official opening of the new Community Equipment Service premises in Tweedbank took place in October. The recently completed refurbishments to Waverley Care Home in Galashiels were also unveiled. Both facilities are operated by SB Cares and received funding from the Partnership to deliver the transformations.

Waverley now provides a fit for the future care home provision of 10 long stay beds as well as a new 16 bed transitional care facility. This new service delivers short term rehabilitation for up to six weeks for people who no longer need to be in hospital but require some additional support to regain their independence before returning home.

The Community Equipment Service (formerly Borders Ability Equipment Service) now operates from a state of the art facility that has been designed to ensure community equipment is cleaned and recycled to the highest possible standard in as short a time as possible. This means that equipment can be returned for use in the



community without delay. The building also contains an industrial washer/ disinfectant, improved welfare facilities for staff, a larger warehouse for increased stock holding and a public space for demonstrating equipment.

For more information, visit: www.sbcares.co.uk

[Read more](#)

Integration Joint Board (IJB) update

The IJB has welcomed Tris Taylor as a voting member. Tris is also a Non Executive member of the NHS Borders Board. [Read more](#)

The latest meeting of the IJB took place on 18 December – papers are published to the [SBC Calendar of Meetings](#).

2018 MEETING DATES ARE:

2018	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Council HQ, 2-4pm		12		23		11		20		22		17

Joint Inspection of Older Peoples' Services

As you should be aware, the Care Inspectorate and Healthcare Improvement Scotland undertook an inspection of our older people's services between October 2016 and February 2017. This involved submission of extensive advance information in the form of a report and documentary evidence, three weeks of on-site investigation, a file reading week and two weeks of meetings with stakeholders. The inspection report was published on 28 September.

Across the nine key indicators of performance, Inspectors found one to be good, five to be adequate and three to be weak. There were also 13 recommendations for improvement which are currently being addressed through a draft action plan. Many of the actions have been completed while the remaining reflect work that is already in progress. The Joint Inspection Executive Group is monitoring progress of the plan and reporting this into the Executive Management Team.

The Care Inspectorate and Healthcare Improvement Scotland will be meeting with us in January to agree the final format of the action plan.

[Read more](#)

For more information, contact Susan Henderson: sahenderson@scotborders.gov.uk

Carers (Scotland) Act Implementation

The new Carers Act (Scotland) comes into force on 1 April 2018. Designed to support carers' health and wellbeing and help make caring more sustainable, it also gives carers more rights including no longer needing to be providing 'regular and substantial care' before requesting a Carer's Support Plan. The Act also brings a number of new duties for local authorities and health boards which SBC and NHS Borders are currently working to develop.

Project Lead, Susan Henderson, said: "This Act is good news as it recognises the important role of carers as well as extending and enhancing their rights. The Partnership, including Borders Carers Centre and Borders Care Voice, is working with carers to ensure we are ready for 1 April. This includes having a carers' support plan and an eligibility criteria in place specifically for carers as the Act means that carers who meet the eligibility criteria will be eligible for support in their own right. This includes young carers. A short breaks statement

is due to be produced by the end of 2018, providing local and national information.

"We are keen to have input from carers throughout this process and welcome their involvement. The Borders Carers Centre provides an information and advice service to carers on behalf of the Partnership and they are also encouraging carers to be involved."

For more information, contact Susan Henderson: sahenderson@scotborders.gov.uk

Locality Plan consultation

Feedback received from the consultation held on the Berwickshire, Cheviot, Eildon, Teviot & Liddesdale and Tweeddale locality plans was presented to the IJB on 23 October. They are now being updated, including the addition of a priority focusing on support for informal carers in line with the legislative requirements of the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016. The updated plans will be resubmitted to the IJB in early 2018.

To find out more, contact Trish Wintrup: trish.wintrup@scotborders.gov.uk

General Manager Patient Pathways Dr Jane Prior

Jane took up the role of General Manager Patient Pathways at the end of September, taking on responsibility for overseeing and managing the discharge process, producing an overarching strategy and reviewing and revising policies and protocols as required. She is also continuing in her post of Team Leader START, working to address patient discharge requirements/ delayed discharges from a social work perspective.

Rob McCulloch-Graham said: "Jane's appointment represents a significant step in our commitment to the integration of health and social care services, particularly in relation to supporting patients to move through their pathway in the most appropriate and timely way. She has also been given authority to make decisions as well as question and challenge existing processes if she thinks there is a more effective way for these to be undertaken. I would ask you all to work with her to support this new role which we believe is in the best interests of patients and the service as a whole."

Commissioning and Implementation Plan

The Plan was approved by the IJB in October. Work will begin in early 2018 on reviewing the Partnership's overall Strategic Plan and as part of that, the Commissioning and Implementation Plan will also be updated. The Strategy is available as part of the IJB papers.

[Read more](#)

For more information, contact Jane Robertson: jane.robertson@scotborders.gov.uk

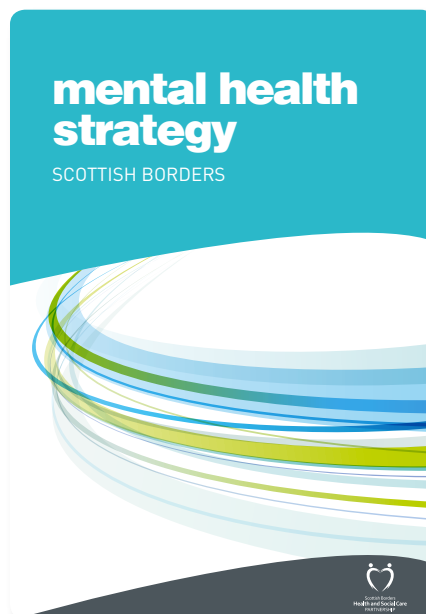
Scottish Borders Mental Health Strategy

The draft Strategy was approved by the IJB in August. It has now been finalised and plans are being made for it to be launched early in the new year. The Strategy provides a framework for the delivery of mental health activities in the Borders for all age groups; it's aims are to promote good mental health and wellbeing for all; respect, protect and support people with mental health issues and mental illness to live well; recognise, support and value families and carers; promote partnership between services and the population they

service. It is currently available to read as part of the IJB papers.

[Read more](#)

For more information, contact Haylis Smith: haylis.smith@scotborders.gcsx.gov.uk



Alcohol related brain damage conference held

A successful multi-agency conference on Alcohol Related Brain Damage (ARBD) was held on 8 November where representatives from SBC, NHS Borders, the third sector and family members met as part of the Partnership's commitment to developing an integrated care pathway, commissioning strategy and action plan for people with ARBD and their families.

[Read more](#)



To find out more, contact Dee Chamberlain: dionne.chamberlain@scotborders.gov.uk

Scottish Borders Seniors Networking Forum (SBSNF)



Older people from across the Borders are being invited to the next meeting of the SBSNF on 20 February in the Community Centre, Walkershaugh, Peebles starting at 9:45am. Supported by the Community Capacity Building Team, the Forum gives older people and the organisations that represent them the opportunity to meet on a regular basis. Membership is open

to all voluntary, community and non-profit organisations based or active in the Borders that provide or have an interest in the provision of services and activities for older people.

To find out more, contact **Diana Findley** (SBSNF Chairperson) on **01835 823374** or at: diana.findley@btinternet.com

Other news in brief

• Flu vaccinations

As part of the annual flu vaccination campaign, Joint Director of Public Health, Dr Tim Patterson has been encouraging anyone who is eligible for a free vaccine to make sure they take up the offer. This includes pregnant women, people aged over 65 and anyone with a health condition such as asthma, diabetes, chronic heart disease or liver problems. Staff from NHS Borders, SBC and SB Cares who have direct contact with patients or clients have also been offered a free vaccine.

[Read more](#)

• Carers Act (Scotland) training

The Borders Carers Centre is offering awareness training on the new Carers Act (Scotland), which comes into force on 1 April next year. The sessions take no more than an hour and are open to all professionals working in social care and health across the Borders.

To find out more visit: www.borderscarerscentre.co.uk/professionals-training or contact **Debbie Rutherford** on **01896 752431**.

• Singing social care and health staff sought

Two new choirs for people working in social care and health are looking to attract members.

• **Health in Harmony** has been set up by Coldstream GP, Dr Emma Platt and Music Therapist, Clare Gillespie under the guidance of Jennifer Sterling, a highly experienced and hugely enthusiastic musical director. They meet every Thursday 7.15-9.15pm at The Tryst, Chaplaincy Centre, Borders General Hospital. Sessions are £3 each.

If you would like to join or are interested in booking a recital, contact: clare.gillespie@borders.scot.nhs.uk

• **Singing for Breathing** is open to people in the Tweeddale area who have COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder), emphysema, bronchiectasis and severe asthma. Due to be launched in January, the group will be a chance for people to experience the range of benefits that singing can offer anyone with a respiratory illness, along with a chance to meet others with similar conditions. Carers are also welcome.

To find out more, contact **Julie Harvey** on **07597577527** or **Anne Ritchie** on **07769322583**.

• Third sector news

Keep up to date with the latest news across the third sector at: www.linknews.org.uk

Community equipment amnesty



Working with SB Cares, a month-long community equipment amnesty was held in September-October to encourage people to return any unused items that could be recycled. Even though the campaign has now ended, items can still be returned – visit www.sbcares.co.uk for more information.

Men's Sheds make progress



The Men's Shed initiative is proving hugely popular right across the Borders with sheds either open or in the process of being formed in Coldstream, Duns, Eyemouth, Galashiels, Hawick, Jedburgh, Kelso, Lauder and Peebles. Many have been set up with the support of the Community Capacity Building Team with Duns & District being the latest to reach another milestone with their recent move into Gavinton Church Hall.

[Read more](#)

Get in touch ...

For more information, or if you have suggestions for future issues, email: integration@scotborders.gov.uk