

## A happy Xmas and New Year to you all

Hi everyone. We're heading into our first festive season as a stand-alone CCG and I'd like to take this opportunity to wish all of you as enjoyable and healthy time as possible.

Christmas and the New Year are always busy times for the NHS and we all owe our thanks to the army of doctors, nurses and other clinicians across our city who will be on duty caring for their patients.

I would like to offer a special thought for all those many carers who provide such crucial and unqualified support to relatives and loved ones and sometimes do so with very little praise or even thanks – or even giving their actions a second thought. For me, they are the true heroes of Christmas.

On behalf of our Board, my best wishes to all.

Dr Jim Hogan, Chief Clinical Officer



## Urgent Care Centre

Hospital GPs are working alongside consultants and nurses in the Emergency Department (ED) at Queen Alexandra Hospital to stem the flow of patients who could be more appropriately treated elsewhere.

The Urgent Care Centre aims to ensure that the ED deals with the people it is most intended to help – those patients who have had an accident or have an emergency condition.

We have jointly commissioned this service with colleagues at our two neighbouring CCGs – South Eastern Hampshire and Fareham and Gosport – in close liaison with Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust, which runs the QA.

Four in every ten patients who go to ED don't actually need any treatment, and a high percentage of other people could be very appropriately treated by the NHS elsewhere.

To read the full story, click [here](#)



## Please plan ahead this Xmas

We're advising everyone to fill up their medicine cupboard as well as their stockings this Christmas – or at least to take some time to consider their health needs over the holidays.

Along with the turkey and tinsel, it's important to consider repeat prescriptions or anything you may need when you might not be able to visit a pharmacist or GP.

To see our full advice, and the Christmas pharmacy opening times, click [here](#)



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## Awards bonanza for our CCG

We've been fortunate enough to enjoy some terrific success in a number of national and regional NHS awards.

We've won a national award for efficiency and innovation in the Healthcare Financial Management Association (HFMA) Awards 2013.

Our CCG scooped two regional awards - winning both the Thames Valley and Wessex Leadership Academy awards for Community Leader of the year and, jointly with another CCG, the NHS Board/Governing Body of the Year.

We were just pipped in two other categories in the HFMA awards – governance (in partnership with Portsmouth City Council) and for new organisation, for a joint working arrangement with our two neighbouring CCGs.

For details, click [Efficiency](#) [Leadership](#) [Compact](#)



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## Electronic Prescriptions Service

People across Portsmouth can now order their medicines electronically in a new NHS scheme to make life easier for patients and GPs.

Five of the city's 25 GP practices have so far adopted the Electronic Prescription Service (EPS), which gives people the chance to change how their GP sends their prescription to the pharmacy of their choice.

The system is being rolled out across the city and is good news for patients who have a stable condition and who don't want to go to their GP practice every time to collect a repeat prescription. It will also benefit patients who collect medicines from the same place most of the time or already use a prescription collection service.

To read our full story, click [here](#)



## Our next public Board meeting

Our next governing Board meeting in public will be on Wednesday 22 January, after which you can again ask us about anything relating to our aims, objectives, priorities and work planning health services.

The meeting will be from 1-3pm, and followed, at 3.15pm, by a 45-minute question and answer session. It's being held at St James' Hospital.

You can come and ask questions on the day or email in advance [enquiries@portsmouthccg.nhs.uk](mailto:enquiries@portsmouthccg.nhs.uk)



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## Healthy discussions

Fancy helping us to improve local health services?

We are looking for people we can contact occasionally to tell us their views on the NHS in Portsmouth – either on health issues in general or certain issues, such as maternity or mental health in particular. Perhaps you might want to be involved in discussions we'll be having about different health services in the city?

For details about how to get involved, please click [here](#)



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## Helping elderly people live at home

Up to £100,000 is to be made available in grants to help more older people live independent lives at home – and prevent them having to be admitted to hospital.

A new fund, the re-ablement grants programme, is being set up by the Integrated Commissioning Unit (ICU) – a team run jointly by Portsmouth City Council and our CCG.

The funding will facilitate a number of pilot schemes, which will be funded for one year, starting in April 2014.

For more information, click [here](#)



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## Memory Cafés go live

Portsmouth has stepped up the fight against dementia. Two Memory Cafés have been set up as part of a major initiative to help people with living with or diagnosed with dementia in a joint venture by the CCG and city council.

Sessions in the south of the city are running from 1pm to 3pm on Tuesdays at Southsea Community Centre in King Street. Cafés in the north are 1-3pm on Thursdays at The Link, 48 Havant Road, Cosham.

For more information, click [here](#)



## Know it. Check it. Treat it.

A campaign to raise awareness of a serious lung disease revealed shock figures about the number of undiagnosed people who may have various breathing disorders.

The Know It, Check It, Treat It 'screening' roadshow, which aimed to raise awareness of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), stopped off in four Portsmouth area shopping centres.

Of the 238 tested, one in three returned a result suggesting either COPD or another undiagnosed respiratory condition such as asthma. In Portsmouth, 29 (44.6%) of 65 people tested had potential problems, eight of them with COPD.

For details, click [here](#)

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## Working with the not-for-profit sector

We are currently inviting project plans from the not-for-profit sector to support our commissioning priorities.

Through the network of Community Action Portsmouth, the CCG is inviting submission of completed application forms from organisations who can demonstrate that their services can support local health issues and target specific commissioning plans.

For more information, and the application form, click on our website home page [here](#) and then click on Latest.

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## Patient transport survey – our thanks

Many thanks to those of you who took part in our survey about non-emergency transport services to and from NHS appointments.

It asked for feedback about the current service provided by the NHS through several different contracts across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

As the contracts expire soon, we have teamed up with six other CCGs to procure one new contract to cover the whole area. Your feedback will help tailor parts of the service.

For more information, please click [here](#)

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## NHS 111

Need medical treatment or advice?

If you don't need emergency treatment, there are many choices available to you across Portsmouth.

NHS 111 is working well in our area. Please call it if you have an urgent care need but it's not serious enough for an ambulance or to go to the Emergency Department at QA.

To find out more, click [here](#)



To contact us, please [enquiries@portsmouthccg.nhs.uk](mailto:enquiries@portsmouthccg.nhs.uk)