

## Progress, partnerships and potential

Hello everyone. We are now well into our second year as a CCG and, as you'll see in the two stories below, we are planning carefully for the future with our five-year strategic plan, but we have reflected on our first year successes.

Progress, partnerships and potential are three words that come to mind. The learning curve for all GPs has been steep. But I believe that we are now really beginning to see the benefits of having doctors and other clinicians at the heart of the commissioning process.

Despite the many challenges we face, there is scope to do so much which can transform and improve the way that local services are delivered, and I find that very exciting.

[Dr Jim Hogan](#), Chief Clinical Officer



## Our AGM and first annual report

Our second AGM – but first since we became authorised – will be at St James' Hospital on Wednesday September 17. Details will be announced later.

We have published our first annual report, for the year 2013/14, which is available on our website. At 90 pages, the document is a substantial one. We will be producing a summary 'headline' version soon.

To see the report, click [here](#) and see the **latest** section.



## Our five-year strategy

We have submitted our five-year strategy document to NHS England for approval and also hope to publish that soon.

It sets out our four key priorities which have been shaped following input from various partners, patient participation groups, GP member practices and Healthwatch.

You can read about our priorities [here](#)

## CCG funds new arthritis service

A new free phone service could offer a lifeline for people suffering from arthritis in Portsmouth.

Arthritis Care will launch Chat4Change (C4C) in the city next month, financed by a CCG grant.

Siobhain McCurrach, area development manager for Arthritis Care, said: "C4C is a tele-befriending service which aims to improve the wellbeing of people with arthritis, reduce social isolation, increase access to information and to enable people with arthritis to become better self-managers."

For more details, including how to enrol, click [here](#)



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## Drop-in session over future of SJH

A drop-in session for residents interested in the future of the St James' Hospital (SJH) site is being held in the Entertainments Hall tomorrow (Tuesday 1 July, from 3pm-7pm).

We are working with our partners NHS Property Services and Solent NHS Trust to make the best possible use of our estate and resources, as we have both surplus buildings and much unused space on both the SJH and St Mary's Community Health Campus sites.

To find out more, click [here](#) for a copy of the letter recently sent to people in 2,300 homes around SJH.



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## Urgent care guide – and new survey

We are currently reviewing urgent care services in Portsmouth, and as part of that we want to understand what people do when they are ill or injured, and why.

Please take just a few minutes to complete our very short survey, which you can access via the front page of our website [www.portsmouthccg.nhs.uk](http://www.portsmouthccg.nhs.uk). The deadline for your responses 21 July.

Following our Under Pressure campaign with The News, we have produced a 12-page *What to know...and when to go* booklet – a guide to everyday health services you may need in a hurry. To download that, click [here](#)



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## NHS 111

There are many choices available to you across Portsmouth if you don't need emergency treatment.

NHS 111 is working well locally. 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 Queen Alexandra Hospital. To find out more, click [here](#)



## Healthy discussions

Thank you to the 60 or so of you who have so far signed up to our Healthy Discussions programme – which is your chance to comment on a wide range of local health services.

We've already involved you in a couple of surveys and content for our Urgent Care booklet referred to above.

For more information, and to find out how to join, please click [here](#)

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## What's different at your surgery?

GP practices across Portsmouth have enhanced their services for highly-vulnerable patients.

Paul Cox, the CCG's senior practice manager representative, spoke about the changes during a meeting of the city-wide Patients' Participation Forum.

Subjects covered included named GPs for patients aged over 75, personalised care plans and improved telephone access. He also spoke about NHS contract changes such as an extension to the vaccination programme and the fact that surgeries can offer shorter or longer appointments.

To see headlines from the presentation, click [here](#) and go to pages 29-36.

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## Lowry Unit closes

A Portsmouth day unit for older people with mental health issues has opened its doors for the last time.

The Lowry Treatment Centre – known as the Lowry Unit – which was based in the grounds of St James' Hospital at Milton, closed last Friday (June 27).

The decision to close it was taken after a consultation with service users and mainly because of the falling numbers using the service and the availability of other existing community facilities across the city.

For more information, click [here](#)

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## Our next board meetings in public

We are holding our next governing board meeting in public from 1pm to 3pm at St James' Hospital on Wednesday 16 July.

At 3.15pm, we will stage our usual 45-minute GP-led question and answer session. The next meeting is 24 September – a week after the AGM; and the final one of the year is 19 November. Board papers will go on our website a week before the meetings.

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



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## Health awareness during Ramadan

Muslims who are fasting during Ramadan are being urged to find out more information about the potential health implications.

During their holy month, which started last Sunday (29 June), many of the city's 7,000-strong Muslims refrain from eating food or drinking liquids from dawn until sunset but there are some concerns that those with underlying health issues may be at risk.

A frequently asked questions and answers sheet is available on our website by clicking [here](#)

