

Our CCG is now authorised

Our CCG – days after being named the NHS Alliance CCG of The Year – became one of the first in the country to be authorised as a statutory organisation in our own right.

We were one of only 35 of the 212 CCGs to seek authorisation in the first of four waves and were delighted to learn before Christmas that we had been successful.

Dr Jim Hogan, chief clinical officer (pictured), said: “We have a lot of you to thank for our success, but our journey as a CCG only really starts from here.”

For the full story, click [here](#)



Question Time event for GPs

We're holding a Question Time style event as part of our second governing body meeting to be held in public.

The deadline has passed now for sending in questions, but we hope to see many of you at St James' Hospital for the meeting, which is this Wednesday 20 February, 2pm-4.30pm.

To see our news release, click [here](#)



Stakeholder event on 8 May

The CCG is planning a major stakeholder event at St James' Hospital on Wednesday 8 May.

It will focus on health inequalities and the prevention of illness and disease - and present a picture of the impact these have locally.

Attendees will be asked to discuss what the various voluntary and third sector providers can contribute to improve the well-being of the people of Portsmouth.

Invitations will be sent to voluntary sector organisations shortly, when more details will also be released.

But if you are interested in attending, or would like your organisation represented, please email enquiries@portsmouthccg.nhs.uk



Free NHS 111 service goes live

Residents can now call NHS 111 if they need health advice or information, or if they have a non life-threatening health issue and are unsure where to go for treatment.

This free service makes it easier for people to access local urgent healthcare while taking pressure off the 999 service and the A&E department at Queen Alexandra Hospital, Cosham.

The three digit number replaces NHS Direct. NHS 111 is not just an out-of-hours service – it is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

For the full story, click [here](#)



Big fall in foot and leg amputations

New statistics reveal a big decrease in the number of diabetic patients in Portsmouth needing major amputations in the last three years.

The 25% fall has been welcomed as a major improvement in the way diabetic patients with foot disease are being treated by the NHS across the Portsmouth area.

It's also a success story for local health partners working together – the three local CCGs, Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust, Solent NHS Trust and the Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust, which manage the award-winning local community diabetes teams.

For the full story, click [here](#)



New era – new look

Although we are already full-on in our new role as the main commissioner of health services in Portsmouth, we formally go live as a CCG from 1 April.

By then, you'll notice major changes to our website – as it will be just that, OUR website. We'll no longer be sharing the site with the primary care trust, which will no longer exist after 31 March.

You may hopefully have already noticed our new colours in this newsletter. We're replaced our former blue and maroon red with what we would like to think is a much more vibrant yellow, green and blue. We hope you like it.



City praised by carers' organisation

The NHS in Portsmouth has been praised for its commitment to carers by a leading charity.

In a report, the Carers Trust, the UK's largest charity for carers, highlighted Portsmouth, for "demonstrating aspects of good practice and providing transparency" and as one of only 12 places that fully met the NHS Operating Framework requirements.

We are delighted that the NHS in the city and our local authority partners have received this national recognition.

For the full story, click [here](#)



NHS continuing healthcare funding

People who believe they should have an assessment of eligibility for NHS Continuing Healthcare funding must apply before the end of next month (31 March 2013).

NHS Continuing Healthcare is for individuals whose assessed primary need is for healthcare which is usually provided in a nursing home or similar setting, although this can be in their own homes. When eligibility is agreed, NHS funding provides all of the individual's assessed needs – including accommodation, if that is part of the overall need.

The deadline has been introduced because the responsibility for NHS continuing healthcare is moving from primary care trusts to CCGs.

For the full story, click [here](#)



Choose Well

Please remember - there are many choices available to you if you need NHS medical treatment in Portsmouth.

You don't have to go to the Emergency Department at Queen Alexandra Hospital, Cosham.

Please click [here](#) for details.



To contact Portsmouth CCG, please email enquiries@portsmouthccg.nhs.uk