

Wishing you a happy Christmas

Hi everyone. Another 12 months has flown by – and we find ourselves in the heart of the build-up to the festive season as Christmas and the New Year approaches fast.

On behalf of my GP colleagues and everyone on our governing board, I extend this season's greetings to you and yours - and we wish you everything you wish yourselves.

It is very much a time of year when I think the NHS excels, offering a range of services if you feel unwell.

So this is very much an opportunity for me to once again say thank you to the army of NHS workers who will be on duty taking care of patients while many of us are enjoying the break – be they ambulance personnel, hospital porters, cleaners or nurses, or the GPs and support staff dealing with your calls on the NHS 111 service. I am sure you agree that they do a great job on all our behalves.

And a very special thank you to all those of you who are carers for loved ones, friends or family, often in extraordinarily challenging circumstances.

Dr Jim Hogan, Chief Clinical Officer



Urgent care Facebook page

We have set up a Facebook page which focuses on urgent care.

We hope this will be another way of engaging with you to promote our key messages about the options available if you feel under the weather, such as your local pharmacy.

The Facebook page, 'Urgent Care Pompey,' can be seen via www.facebook.com/urgentcarepompey



£340,000 for the voluntary sector

The CCG has substantially increased the amount of cash earmarked for new health-related schemes.

The original £200,000 set aside for charities and not-for-profit organisations for grants to improve the health of the city has now been increased to around £340,000.

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



High satisfaction for GP services

More than 90% of patients expressed high satisfaction about the quality of locally-commissioned services provided by their GP practice in Portsmouth.

The vast majority praised their surgeries for the convenience of their appointment, the dignity and communication they received and the overall service.

Click [here](#) to read the full news release.



Founder member GPs re-elected

Two founder members have been re-elected to the CCG's governing board for a three-year term.

Dapo Alalade and Elizabeth Fellows were the first two GPs to face re-election, but received an overwhelming mandate from colleagues citywide to continue their work.

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



The high cost of wasted medicines

Around £1.5m of wasted medicine is thrown away in the Portsmouth area every year.

That accounts for about £1 in every £50 spent in the NHS in the area.

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

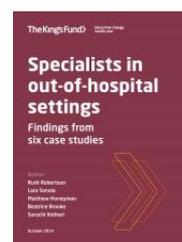


National acclaim for diabetes care

A report by the influential King's Fund highlighted our local diabetes service as one of six examples of excellence which has allowed specialist, complex care to be moved outside hospital and nearer to people's homes.

It is helping patients to enjoy better care and to stay healthier as well as offering them greater convenience.

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



...and praise for dementia care too

Dementia care in Portsmouth has been praised for its excellence in a national study.

Health workers in the city are among the very best at ensuring that people with dementia get a formal, early diagnosis of their condition.

Click [here](#) for the full story.



Portsmouth's 'better care' approval

Portsmouth's Better Care plan for social care and health services to work in a more joined up way has been officially approved.

The Better Care Fund will bring together £16.8million of existing local budgets in April 2015 to be shared across out-of-hospital health and social care services supporting people.

Click [here](#) for more information.



The St James' Hospital site

NHS Property Services, a partner NHS organisation which owns the St James' Hospital site, is continuing to prepare an outline planning application for the first phase of development of land and buildings at St James' Hospital which are becoming surplus to NHS requirements.

This will enable much-needed investment in St Mary's Community Health Campus, will help generate significant savings for the NHS in Portsmouth that can be redirected to patient care, and will provide land for potential housing.



Innovation award for Southsea GP

Southsea GP Jon Price was the first winner of a new category in annual health awards for the Portsmouth area.

Dr Price, who works at the Osborne Road Practice, and the CCG's end-of-life care lead, won the Innovation of the Year category in the Best of Health awards run by The News.

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



NHS 111

Please don't forget. There are many choices available to you for urgent care across Portsmouth if you don't need emergency treatment, such as the NHS 111 service.

To download a copy of our 12-page urgent care guide, click [here](#) – or you can access other information on our website [here](#).



Pharmacy opening times

A number of pharmacies in Portsmouth are opening over part of Christmas and the New Year.

The details [here](#) are correct at the time published but we advise you to contact the pharmacy before attending to ensure they are open and have the medication you need.

Updated information will be posted on the [NHS Choices](#) website.



Healthy Discussions and contact info

Apart from this newsletter, there are a number of ways in which we try to stay in touch with you, share our news and seek your views. Visit www.portsmouthccg.nhs.uk and go to the **Join In** section, to find out more.

And don't forget our Healthy Discussions initiative – a way in which you can directly input into the health issues that most interest you. To find out more, visit [here](#).

