

Dear all,

The second part of this week's bulletin includes items on:-

- **Community Ambassadors - are you passionate about improving health and social care provision in your community?**
- **Healthwatch Somerset urges patients and families to share their views on hospital beds closure**
- **Cheddar Drop In Centre For Young People (see attached article)**
- **Useful website links:**
 - www.carersvoicesomerset.co.uk
 - <https://www.england.nhs.uk/participation/get-involved/how/nhs-citizen>
 - <http://www.cqc.org.uk/content/get-our-newsletter>
 - www.cqc.org.uk
 - www.somersetparentcarerforum.org.uk
 - <http://healthwatchsomerset.co.uk/>

Please share this with colleagues who may be interested in being added to the circulation list to receive the bulletin regularly.

Please contact me on susan.lilley@nhs.net if you have any information you would like added to future PPG bulletins.

Kind regards

Sue Lilley

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Subject : Are you passionate about improving health and social care provision in your community?

We're looking for community minded people and representatives of local community groups and services to help us connect with a wide range of people and groups and ensure their voices are heard. **Community**

Ambassadors offer their knowledge, ideas and experiences and help those designing and evaluating our health and social care services to reach more people - ensuring a wide range of voices are listened to.

For more information about this exciting project and the variety of voluntary roles available for Community Ambassadors in South Somerset contact:

Vicky Sullivan Community Ambassador Coordinator:
vicky.sullivan@sparksomerset.org m: 07951944420

NB Vicky will be attending the Somerset Engagement Advisory Group (SEAG) on Monday 15 January 2017 to give an update on this project . If you wish to attend SEAG, please email susan.lilley@nhs.net



JOIN OUR COMMUNITY AMBASSADOR NETWORK

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Working in partnership with local health and social care providers

Subject: Healthwatch Somerset urges patients and families to share their views on hospital beds closure

The county's independent health and care champion Healthwatch Somerset is calling on local people to give their views on the recent announcement to close beds at two community hospitals in the county. Plans were announced in October by the Somerset Partnership NHS Foundation Trust that 24 beds in community hospitals across Somerset would be moved temporarily to other locations. These included 10 beds in Shepton Mallet Community Hospital and 14 in Chard Community Hospital.

Dr Sara Nelson for Healthwatch Somerset said: "We are aware that it has become necessary to close inpatient beds at both Chard and Shepton Mallet Community Hospitals. We have been informed that Somerset Partnership have been unable to recruit enough qualified nurses to staff the wards and that therefore, the temporary closure of these inpatient beds is due to concerns over patient safety. "Whilst we understand the safety reasons behind the temporary closure and we recognise the challenges the whole health system faces in the county, we are concerned about any effects that this may have on patients, their families and unpaid carers. We know that patients value the experience of being treated as close to home as possible as this allows them to stay in contact with their families and other close support networks.

"We would also like to see a written plan outlining when these beds will be reopening and a real commitment to this date. If a decision was made to close these beds permanently a full public consultation would have to take place. Healthwatch Somerset are here to listen to the voices of local people on health and social care, therefore, we would welcome feedback from local people about being treated in alternative hospitals.

"We'd like to hear from people about how this affects their experiences of traveling to hospital either as a patient or a visitor. We will share this anonymised information with commissioners and Somerset Partnership NHS Foundation Trust." People can leave their feedback with Healthwatch Somerset by calling 01278 264405 or emailing info@healthwatchsomerset.co.uk.

Subject : Cheddar Drop In Centre For Young People (see article)

Drop-in centre for young people to open

A new support group for young people is opening in Cheddar.

The first weekly Wellbeing Drop-In Café will take place on Monday 30 October at the Cheddar Methodist Hall from 3.30-5.30pm.

The Café is for those between the ages of 13-18, and will offer support and counselling as well as monthly themes chosen by young

people.

The Centre has been made possible by an NHS South West Award. A partnership of Mind, the Cheddar Community Partnership and Cheddar Patient Group, together with Somerset CCG, the project was one of the top three out of 18 bids in the south-west.

Funding has been awarded for a

six-month 'test and learn' young people's drop-in centre as part of a Cheddar 4U Young People's Wellbeing Project.

The application was only made possible because the results of household surveys and youth research showed that wellbeing of young people needed to be a priority focus.

The Drop-In Centre and the Cheddar 4U Young People's Wellbeing Project are the first major success for the new Community Interest Company, an entity that enables the Cheddar community to apply for funding from sources that would previously have been closed.