



Press Release

27 July 2020

New model of bedded care for Belper

Health and care services in Belper are set to launch a new and improved model of care for local people.

Derbyshire Community Health Services NHS Foundation Trust (DCHS), NHS Derby and Derbyshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and Derbyshire County Council have announced they are collectively working towards early September to open new community support beds at the Council's state-of-the-art Ada Belfield facility on Derwent Street.

Community support beds are for patients who are medically well enough to leave hospital but are not quite ready to return home. Support services are wrapped around the patient, including rehabilitation and reablement, helping the individuals to return home after a period of around two weeks.

It means people are treated in the right place at the right time, for the best possible outcomes, while supporting the NHS to increase its community-based support. They have set an ambitious target of early September for the new service, at which point DCHS anticipates being in a position to close Babington Hospital's Baron Ward.

William Jones, chief operating officer for DCHS, said: "These plans honour our collective (DCHS & CCG) commitment to the people of Belper, developing services fit for the 21st century and in line with the ambition to replace out-dated facilities at Babington Hospital.



“Having also purchased the Belper clinic site and surrounding land/car park from NHS Property Services, we are now actively finalising the design of the new £10 million pound development on the site, with a view to submitting a full planning application in the next few months.

“Our teams have made positive progress in the face of numerous challenges, most notably our collective response to Covid-19. We reviewed our service provision before the Covid-19 peak, all in line with a nationally-determined framework, to release extra capacity and add resilience where it was needed most. This included the transfer of Babington Hospital’s 10 beds to Ilkeston Community Hospital, to a larger and vacant 21-bed ward there. The move meant we could concentrate our staffing resource at a time of national crisis, and make best use of our available estate. Sadly the infrastructure at Babington Hospital would not be safe or suitable to support additional beds. I am so proud of my colleagues in Belper, all of whom have been supportive and innovative throughout this incredibly challenging time.”

The town’s local GPs are currently using Belper Clinic as a Covid-19 assessment surgery with all former Belper Clinic services having relocated to alternative accommodation within the hospital.

Councillor Jean Wharmby, the county council’s Cabinet Member for Adult Care, said: “It has always been our intention to open Ada Belfield to residents, who have been extremely patient throughout all of the upheaval caused by the coronavirus outbreak, and I’d like to thank them and their relatives for supporting us through this incredibly difficult time.

“We’ve been working with our partners to find a solution that helps all the residents of Belper as we head in to winter and ideally would like to have this resolved as soon as possible but at the moment that depends on whether or not we can stop using the building as a Covid isolation unit, which in turn relies on there not being any sudden increase in infection spread or a second wave.”

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Zara Jones, Executive Director of Commissioning Operations for NHS Derby and Derbyshire CCG, said: “These community support beds will help patients receive the care they need to live healthy, independent lives.

“We’re pleased to be working closely with health and local authority partners to provide high quality services now and in future, to continually improve the way care is provided for local people.”

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

- Derbyshire Community Health Services NHS Foundation Trust cares for patients across a wide range of services, delivered from multiple sites including 11 community hospitals and more than 30 health centres across Derbyshire, with nearly 1.5 million patient contacts each year.
- The Trust employs approximately 4,300 staff, making it one of the largest providers of specialist community health services in the country, serving a patient population of 1.1 million.
- Derbyshire Community Health Services NHS Foundation Trust’s head office is at:
Ashgreen Learning Disability Centre, Ashgate Road, Ashgate, Chesterfield, S42 7JE
Vision: To be the best provider of local healthcare and to be a great place to work.
Values: To get the basics right, to act with compassion and respect, to make a difference, to value and develop teamwork, to value everyone's contribution to our service delivery and development.

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