



2019

NHS 70

2018

2017

News

Floods 2015

Social media

 Communications and
 Engagement Team

Picture library

Video library

Useful links

 Download as PDF

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Out of Hospital Care helping twice as many patients

[Homepage](#) » [News](#) » [Out of Hospital Care helping twice as many patients](#)

Out of Hospital Care helping twice as many patients

Posted on Tuesday 3rd February 2015

The Out of Hospital Care Scheme in north Cumbria is now helping patients recover up to twice as fast as they would if they were admitted to hospital.

The scheme also means that patients are being treated where they want to be - in their own home. The success of the scheme also shows that twice as many patients have been treated than would have been, had services not changed the way they worked.

Angela Reynolds is the Clinical Nurse lead for the scheme. She said: "We knew from feedback that patients wanted to stay at home rather than be admitted to a hospital and this scheme really does put the individual patient at the centre of things. Their care is delivered by a multidisciplinary team which is coordinated properly according to that patient's needs.

"There is no duplicate conversations to each different service because each service talks to each other on a regular basis to make sure that each patient is being cared for appropriately and effectively. Plus it's better for families and friends who don't have to travel to hospital to visit.

"The focus is not only on providing the same care as patients would receive in a hospital ward in their own home, but also includes developing self-care, prevention and support when needed, linking to the Carlisle Healthy city work. We are working together to provide a full package of support and care with a wide range of organisations including voluntary and charitable groups.

Up to the end of 2014, 422 people were assessed by the Out of Hospital Care team and 239 received their treatment at home rather than in hospital.

This has saved stressful visits to the Cumberland Infirmary and helped reduce bed blocking.

Statistics also show that nearly 5000 bed days have been saved in North Cumbria's hospitals in the last 14 months.

The scheme has also shown that patients get better much quicker at home; the average length of stay for patients in Reiver House was 29 days where as the average 'length of stay' for a patient being looked after at home varies from between 15 to 22 days depending on individual circumstances.

The Out of Hospital Care scheme has effectively replaced but also expanded the provision of Reiver House which was a step up step down unit on the grounds of the Cumberland Infirmary. The former unit had 14 beds for patients however the same resources are now being used to treat up to 30 patients.

The multi-disciplinary team including nurses, physiotherapists, and GPs are working with Cumbria County Council adult social care and Carlisle City Council's Community Neighbours to care for people aged 18 plus living within Carlisle, Longtown and Brampton, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

NHS Cumbria CCG Lead GP for Carlisle, Dr Colin Patterson said: "The out of Hospital Care Scheme is an excellent example of what we can achieve when we work together in such a productive way. To see so many hospital days saved is excellent news. Because we were able to transfer funding used to run the 14 bed Reiver House unit to the community setting, we have seen an increase in the number of staff caring for patients as well as the saving in hospital bed days."

[The Out of Hospital Care services and the Mrs Carlisle project involved joint working between NHS Cumbria CCG, Cumbria County Council \(CCC\), Carlisle City Council, Cumbria Partnership NHS Foundation Trust \(CPFT\), North Cumbria University Hospitals NHS Trust \(NCUHT\), Cumbria Health on Call \(CHoC\), GPs and the third sector. The Out of Hospital Care services and the Mrs Carlisle project involved joint working between NHS Cumbria CCG, Cumbria County Council \(CCC\), Carlisle City Council, Cumbria Partnership NHS Foundation Trust](#)

(CPFT), North Cumbria University Hospitals NHS Trust (NCUHT), Cumbria Health on Call (CHoC), GPs and the third sector.

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Up to December 2014 and including the Mrs Carlisle project to date the service has seen 239 patients.

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