

New Hospital for Lochaber - Community Update July 2021



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NHS Highland are beginning to create plans to build a new hospital in Fort William, as part of the wider redesign of health and social care services within Lochaber.

Topics covered in this edition include

- Recruitment success for local healthcare teams
- New project structure for the new hospital
- How patient and staff experience will help shape future plans
- Our plans to listen to people from seldom heard groups
- The ways we will keep you informed and share information on how you can take part
- How you can keep connected as plans take shape

Recruitment success for local teams



After a period of recruitment campaigning, we are delighted to tell you that;

- Both recently appointed Surgeons - Kausik Ray and Essam Aboutaleb, have now joined us, meaning we have a complete team of surgeons for the area.
- Sam Spinney will join and complete our Anaesthetist's team soon.
- We are in the process of recruiting a successful candidate to the Emergency Practitioner position and hope to announce the new member of this team very soon.
- We are currently advertising 2 Physician posts and hope to successfully recruit to these positions in the near future.

New project team and structure



NHS Highland have recently changed the project structure for the new hospital, introducing a new Programme Board and Project Team, to help focus and drive the project on to completion.

Chief Officer Louise Bussell is responsible for the overall redesign and will oversee plans and activities to make sure they remain on track.

With the new structures in place the Steering Group, made up of representatives from community councils, local groups, organisations and health and social care staff, will become the Stakeholder Group for the Lochaber Health and Social Care Redesign. Meetings will continue to be held monthly as they have been during 2021, to ensure local feedback and discussions remain at the heart of key issues in the project.

Two community members have been elected by the Stakeholder Group to join the Project Team, where the professional work for the contract is done and that also meets monthly.

With the new structures in place and project meetings taking place more frequently, the redesign has really started to gain momentum. NHS Highland plan to submit the initial agreement for the new hospital, to the Scottish Government by the end of November 2021.

The Stakeholder Group is just one of the ways that NHS Highland will be talking and listening to local people to help inform the plans for the new hospital. You can find out more about the ways to have your say later in this newsletter.

Using patient and staff experience to build our new hospital



During early July we plan to talk to patients attending hospital and community health service appointments, to hear their experience of their visit and find out what matters most to them about health and care services. Patients attending appointments between 8th and 27th July will be asked to complete a short survey, that will help us to understand areas that are currently working well and where things could be better.

The survey can be completed on the internet, by smart phone, tablet or computer or by paper copy, posting completed surveys in comments boxes that will be available within the Belford Hospital or via a free post address, for other locations.

The feedback and experiences gathered, will help people working on developing plans, to understand the challenges, as well as what will be needed for the new building and will be used alongside other information collected, to inform plans for the new hospital.

Keep a look out for our survey and ask a member of staff during your visit to find out more.

Listening to people from seldom heard groups



We know that not everyone is affected by changes in the same way and that the covid-19 pandemic has affected some groups of people more than others. During late July and August we plan to speak

to a number groups within Lochaber, to find out their experience of using health and social care services during the pandemic and what is important to them about the new hospital.

The Groups we plan to talk to include, young people, people affected by mental health, disabled people and people who live in supported accommodation, people who have migrated here from another country, and homeless people.

The feedback and experiences shared, will inform plans for the new hospital. Information about the main things that people told us, and how this information will help shape future plans, will be shared in a future edition.

We plan to provide a wide range of ways for everyone within the Lochaber community to get involved over the coming months.

More information about this will be shared in future editions of this newsletter and will be available on our website at

<https://www.nhshighland.scot.nhs.uk/News/PublicConsultation/FortWilliamNewHospitalPlus/Pages/Background.aspx>

Keeping you informed



Here are some of the ways we will keep you informed of plans and tell about ways you can get involved.

- Regular newsletters available by email and other formats
- Regular short update videos, from the project team
- Documents and meeting notes available on the NHS Highland website
- Articles in the local news paper, at important stages in the design process

Stay connected



Email marie.mcilwraith@nhs.scot to be added to our digital mailing list and we will email you future editions of this newsletter and will keep you informed about future opportunities to give your views and take part.