Fowey Community Hospital

INFORMATION DOCUMENT

December 2024



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INTRODUCTION

This document is to tell you about the work we have completed to determine the future of Fowey Community Hospital. The hospital closed several years ago but this work was paused because of the Covid Pandemic.

The work has told us that the hospital is no longer suitable to provide healthcare. This document will tell you how we have got to this point.

No decision has been made yet. We now wish to check we have recorded and responded to what this means for local people.

This document will tell you how you can have your say. It will also tell you how and when a decision will be made.

The work to improve the care and support we offer residents of Fowey and the surrounding area is ongoing.

WHAT IS THIS DOCUMENT?

This booklet sets out our work to consider the future of Fowey Community Hospital considering all the other services available in the area.

Over the years, lots of people have been involved in this project. They have given their time, views and ideas. These have helped us to understand local needs and how services are developing and responding to these. We called this group of people our 'community stakeholder group'. They are people who live and work in the local area.

The group includes local GPs, Cornwall and town councillors, people from the Fowey Hospital and Welfare Committee, patient participation groups, health and care and voluntary sector staff including staff who have worked in the hospital.

Together, we explored potential options for use of the hospital. We discussed how each option could meet people's health and care needs.

WHY IS FOWEY COMMUNITY HOSPITAL NO LONGER ABLE TO PROVIDE HEALTHCARE?

We identified that there are lots of reasons why the hospital is no longer suitable for inpatient care:

- Modern inpatient care needs a greater standard of environment than the site can provide. Staff who worked there do not think the environment was appropriate to deliver good quality care.
- The site has been empty since 2016 and requires significant investment to bring it close to being in a fit state for the delivery of modern healthcare.
- The hospital footprint can only provide 6 beds. An independent clinical group called the South West Clinical Senate recommends that 6 beds is too small. The expert senate clinicians say that a minimum bed number for safe, efficient and reliable staffing is 16.
- The building is old, and it costs a lot to maintain. This is not good value for money.
- The limitations of the age and structure of the site mean that it is not possible to address all the concerns with the current building.
- There is very little parking on site, with no segregation between vehicles and pedestrians and vehicle access to the site is difficult.
- The hospital is in a residential area. We cannot do any building works to make it bigger.
- The wards are too small. They are below the national guidelines for good inpatient care. Having small rooms means that the space to move equipment and walk around the bed is reduced. This means people may be at risk of falling or tripping. Staff may also not be able to use equipment safely. There is a greater risk of people catching an infection.

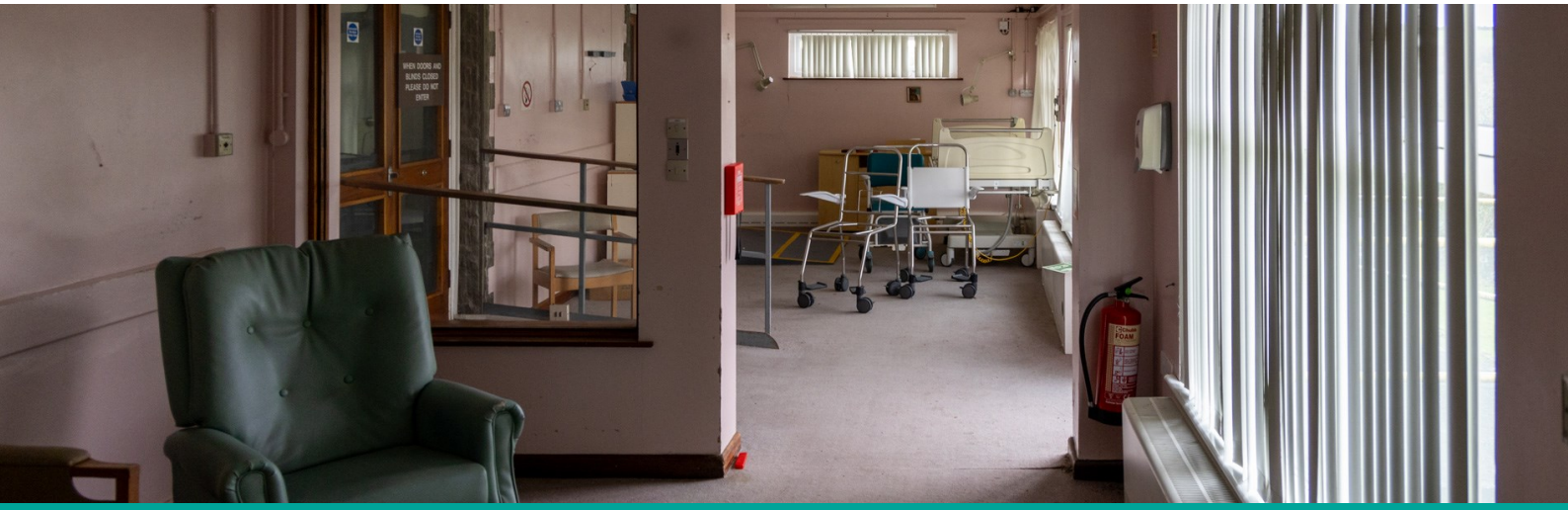


- The people most likely to need to use such a facility would be elderly and frail with a range of physical disabilities. The site would therefore not provide safe care
- The layout of the building means it is unsuitable to care for people with dementia.
- There is no medical imaging such as an X-ray or CT scan. This means it cannot diagnose problems and people would need to go elsewhere.
- The site is too small. It cannot offer different types of services.
- A full review of the larger 12-bed Edward Hain Hospital in St. Ives found that it was not suitable for providing inpatient health and care services. It was decided that re-opening it would not be safe or affordable. Since Fowey Hospital is even smaller, it would be even less practical to re-open.

WE ALSO EXPLORED WHETHER THE SITE COULD BE REDEVELOPED AS A CARE HOME

We concluded the site is unsuitable. This is because

- The site is too small. The minimum recommended size for an operationally and financially viable care home is 50 beds. The site could only have 30 beds.
- The site is in a residential area. Parking would be limited. It would be difficult for staff, visitors and emergency services.
- There is poor access to public transport.
- The site would cost too much to develop.
- It is difficult to find staff who can afford to live and work in the area.



HOW WE HAVE WORKED TOGETHER SO FAR - INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

In 2019, we started talking to the Fowey community about the future of the community hospital. We invited people who live and work in the area to meet with local health and care staff. This helped us understand what local people need and how the hospital could meet these needs. This has helped us understand where services work well and where we can improve. We paused the project at the start of the Covid pandemic in March 2020. We restarted in October 2024 and have spent time with key stakeholders checking and agreeing that no new uses for the hospital site have been found.

Since the hospital closed, health and care services have improved and been extended. The pandemic helped us move to providing more care virtually for example with more telephone and video consultations. Improved technology allows for more people to be remotely monitored from the comfort of their own home. Our Falls and X-ray cars mean people who have had a fall can be supported without needing to go to hospital, even having an x-ray in their living room. This is part of our commitment to provide as much care as we can in people's homes or local community. The more we work in this way, the more we can help people to remain independent and healthy. There is more detail on some of those services later in this document.



HAVE YOUR SAY

We want to make sure everyone has had a chance to get involved and share their ideas. We want to do this before NHS Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Integrated Care Board (ICB) makes a formal decision.

To help the CIOSICB decide, please answer the following questions:

1. How has the temporary closure of Fowey Community hospital affected you, your friends, family and community, and what might help with any concerns you have?
2. If the hospital was permanently closed, how would this affect you, your friends, family and community and what might help with any concerns you have?
3. Do you have any ideas about how we can continue to improve health and care services or access to these in Fowey and the surrounding area?

Meet with us

You can find out more about health and care services in Fowey and our work to look at the options for Fowey hospital at a public drop-in event on Saturday 7th December from 11am until 2pm at Pavilion House, Langurtho Road, Fowey, PL23 1EQ

Online

You can fill in a feedback form and sign up for updates at cios.icb.nhs.uk/fowey

Email

You can email us your views or request this document in an alternative format ciosicb.engagement@nhs.net

In person

You can return your answers to the questions above to Fowey Town Hall.

Write to Us

You can write to us at

NHS Cornwall and Isles of Scilly
Part 2S, Chy Trevail, Beacon Technology Park, Dunmere Road, Bodmin, PL31 2FR

We are asking for people's views from 2nd December 2024 to 5th January 2025.

We need to receive your comments by midnight on 5th January 2025.

Please tell your friends and family that live in the area so they can have their say too.

We will share information on how to be involved on our social media and through our Fowey Community Hospital engagement web page: cios.icb.nhs.uk/fowey

WHO WILL MAKE THE FINAL DECISION?

NHS Cornwall & Isles of Scilly's Integrated Care Board will make the final decision at a meeting held in public. The Board will receive a report which summarises the work with people in Fowey. It will reflect the feedback we receive by 5th January 2024.

The Board will use this information to make a final decision about the future of Fowey Community Hospital. We will communicate the date of the Board meeting where the decision will be made on our website at cios.icb.nhs.uk/fowey and on our social media, along with details of how to attend or join online. If you have signed up to be kept informed, we will email you the details.



Water damage



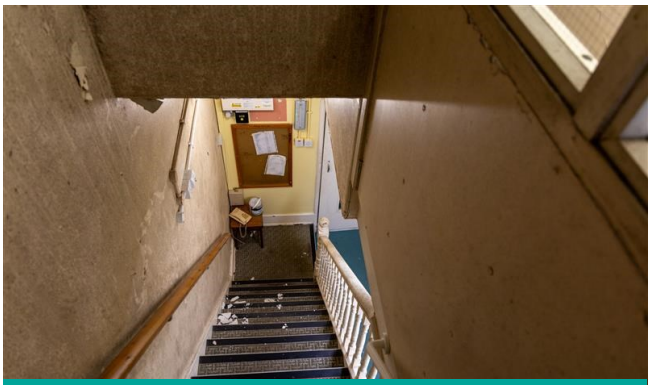
Day room



Central corridor



Central corridor



Main stairwell



Damage to an emergency exit

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Minor Injury services

Fowey Community Hospital originally provided a basic minor injury service which closed in 2015. It was rarely used before it closed – about 1 person a week attended. Most people from the area chose to travel to the minor injury unit in St. Austell which has X-ray facilities. People with basic minor injuries can now access treatment from the local GP practice in Fowey, and those with more serious injuries that are appropriate for a minor injury unit can go to St. Austell.

Inpatient beds

The hospital originally had 10 beds, which reduced to 6 in March 2016 due to fire safety concerns. This meant if there was a fire, people in a bed may not be able to get out of the building quickly enough. The remaining 6 beds were closed in August 2016 due to infection control concerns; specifically that the layout of the building was not compliant with guidelines to stop the spread of infection. Only basic level care and support could be provided. People with more complex needs requiring doctor or therapist support were always supported in other hospitals with a wider range of facilities.

The hospital has remained closed since 2016.

How have health and care services improved in Fowey and the surrounding area since 2016?

There have been a lot of improvements in the way health services are provided since 2016.

We have made a lot of changes to meet people's needs. People now receive care which is more co-ordinated and closer to home. Changes include:

- A new internal Integrated Transfer of Care Hub helps staff organise care for people in both the community and hospitals, making sure they get the right support in the right place. On average, the hub supports 63 people from Fowey each month.

Bedded care

- 2 extra end of life beds at Mount Edgcumbe Hospice (10 in total). Local GPs and community teams also provide more end-of-life care in people's homes (if they wish) rather than a hospital, hospice bed or care home. In the recent 12 months 7 people from Fowey

received continuing health care funded end of life care in a care home. 11 people received care at home

- 5 specialist dementia assessment beds at Hendra Court, Par
- 24 beds at a new Bodmin Community Assessment and Treatment Unit. 27 people from Fowey have been admitted in the last 12 months.
- People from Fowey can still use community hospital beds at other locations that offer a higher level of care than Fowey Community Hospital could provide, with the most local being at Bodmin (13 miles away) and St Austell (8 miles away).

Urgent care

- A new Falls response car provided by Cornwall Ambulance Service to support people in their own home after a fall.
- A new X-ray car providing X-rays for frail, older people in their own homes who would otherwise need to go to hospital to rule out a bone fracture.
- Acute care at home service expansion – more people are now seen than before Fowey Hospital closed. The Acute Care at Home Service provides advanced nursing care and support to patients in their own homes. The aim is to prevent an avoidable admission or support an early discharge from hospital.
- Same Day Emergency Care (SDEC) service at Bodmin – 19 people from Fowey in the last 12 months received care here instead of Treliske hospital. The SDEC allows specialists, where appropriate, to assess, diagnose and treat patients on the same day of arrival who would otherwise have been admitted to hospital.
- Virtual Wards remotely monitor people from the comfort of their own home.
- More short-term, intensive reablement support to people at home and in the community closer to their home. Reablement services help people to regain their independence after an illness or injury. This will mean fewer people need to go into hospital. We have more staff available who work in the community.

Services available from the GP practice

- More on the day appointments are available
- 2 social prescribers
- A physiotherapist
- A mental health practitioner
- 2 pharmacists and a pharmacy technician

- A frailty nurse and care co-ordinator
- A specialist diabetes nurse
- A sexual health specialist nurse technician

Planned care services

- St Austell Elective Surgical hub opened in October with two theatres, providing an anticipated 5000 planned day-case procedures each year
- Bodmin Community Diagnostic Centre opened with CT and MRI scanning

Prevention and voluntary sector investment

- Community Gateway hosted by Age UK and providing telephone and email access to a range of voluntary service support
- Cornubia Hub in Par opened in 2022 and helps people stay well and connected with others

We will continue to work with the local community and improve health and care services in Fowey and the surrounding area

What you have told us is important to you

The people on the stakeholder group and in community conversations engagement told us

1. treat people close to, or at home
2. support people to stay at home, in their community rather than attend hospital
3. focus on prevention and healthy lifestyles - obesity, smoking and high blood pressure (hypertension) are the top 3 prevalent risk factors in the population
4. work across every health and care organisation in a more joined up way as a single team
5. local services should be based on local need
6. ensure our health and care services are fit for now and the future – more people living with multiple long-term conditions. 4.1% of the Fowey population have more than 7 long term conditions.
7. make the most of what we already have - connect people and services including the voluntary sector.

This has helped us shape the new services that have been put in place since the hospital closed.



How can local staff and people be involved in improving services

Local stakeholders will continue to be involved in conversations about local healthcare needs and services. You can find out more about getting involved here: https://cios.icb.nhs.uk/get-involved.

What options were considered for the future use of Fowey Community Hospital?

We looked at 4 options

1. **Reopen the minor injury service**
   This was felt unnecessary now the local GP practice provides the same service.
2. **Reopen the inpatient beds**
   The site is too small and it is not possible to re-develop or extend it.
3. **Convert the site to a care home**
   The site is too small to be used as a care home
4. **Use the site for clinics, day services a community hub or office space.**
   We couldn't find any clinics that would need to use the site. It would cost too much to develop the building for office space or a community hub.

No other options were identified.

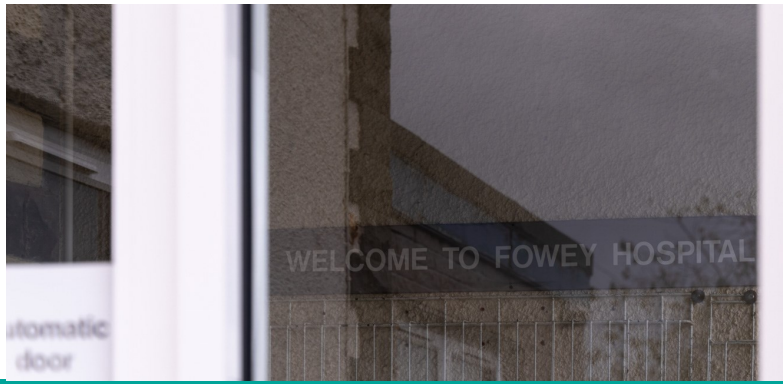
How do we think this could affect residents in Fowey and the surrounding area?

Through this work we've spoken to a lot of people who live and work in Fowey and the surrounding area to ensure we are meeting local needs and understanding and responding to concerns.

We have also recognised the different needs of people in local communities. We know it's important to be able to respond to these needs.

We have described positive changes that have taken place to provide more care in or close to people's homes that provide real alternatives to Fowey Community Hospital. We have also identified some concerns that people may have. We understand that there may also be other impacts that people will be worried about.

The purpose of involving you now is to make sure we have understood what these impacts are, and thought about what we can do to address these. We want you to have your say so we can feedback your views and shape the decisions to be taken by the Integrated Care Board.



THE IMPACT OF CHANGES FOR RESIDENTS

Frontline staff and those planning care can focus on improving community services to keep people at home where possible. We know people would rather be treated at home wherever possible. Being in a hospital bed is not always the right place for people. For example, for patients over the age of 80, a week in bed can lead to 10 years of muscle ageing.

Inpatient healthcare will be delivered from an environment that is safe and better able to meet people's individual needs and improve their chances of returning to independence.

Resources in the local area can focus on supporting people in the community.

We can make the best use of the support available to care for people at or closer to their home.

Concerns that residents may have

People who live in Fowey and close by, and their family, may have to travel further if they need to be admitted for care to a community hospital. They may not be able to access a community hospital bed.

We understand the connection people have with their local health care facilities and the history they have in local communities.

What have we done to address these concerns?

We have looked at data to understand whether Fowey residents can still access community hospital beds and where people went. Recent data shows that in the recent 12 months, there were 65 community hospital admissions by people from Fowey. This is 24 more admissions than before Fowey closed, showing that people can still access a community hospital bed. 51% went to Bodmin Hospital (13 miles away), 17% to St Austell (8 miles away), 15% to Liskeard (20 miles away), 8% to Camborne/Redruth (39 miles away) and 9% to other sites. All sites provide a higher level of care than was provided at Fowey hospital.

We feel passionately that people deserve to have their care delivered in buildings that can deliver 21st century care that best meets their needs.

We have provided more care in the community.

There is a local NHS funded transport scheme to help people attend care settings if transport is difficult.

Thank you for taking the time to read this booklet. We value hearing your views. Please give us your views by midnight 5th January 2025.

APPENDIX

This appendix tells you in more detail how we worked together with people who live and work in Fowey and the surrounding area.

Working in partnership with you

This project has focused on the needs of local people and has been delivered in partnership with the community.

We had a group of 95 people who wanted to be kept informed of our discussions. These are people who use services, carers and staff as well as people from local organisations. They represented 29 different organisations. We call these people stakeholders.

We held workshops and invited stakeholders. Each time we held a workshop, between 8 to 21 people came along. At each workshop they shared their views. Everyone worked together. We considered all the options for the future use of Fowey Community Hospital.

ORGANISATIONS AND GROUPS WE HAVE WORKED WITH

- Age UK Cornwall and Isles of Scilly
- Citizens Advisory Panel
- Cornwall Care
- Cornwall Council – elected councillors
- Cornwall Council – officers
- Cornwall Council's Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- Cornwall Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
- Fowey Forum
- Fowey Hospital and Welfare Committee
- Fowey Patient Participation Group
- Fowey River GP Practice
- Fowey Town Council
- Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Health & Wellbeing Board
- Healthwatch Cornwall
- Mencap
- Middleway Patient Participation Group
- MPs
- NHS England
- NHS Property Services
- Three Harbours GP Practice
- The Consultation Institute
- The South West Clinical Senate
- Volunteer Cornwall

We had lots of nurses, doctors and therapists work with us including people who used to work in the hospital. People were happy that nurses, doctors and therapists worked with us. They felt this meant the process was based on people's needs and the staff who look after them.

Whilst the project was paused, between May 2023 and January 2024, the Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Integrated Care Board spoke to over 10,000 people from NHS Cornwall and Isles of Scilly to better understand what people need from future services.

HOW HAVE WE COMMUNICATED AND SHARED INFORMATION SO FAR?

Clear and easy to read documents

All meeting minutes, papers and presentations were shared and published on a website.

Website

A video tour of the hospital was made available.

Ask Cornwall web platform

We told people when Healthwatch Cornwall developed a new digital community platform, Ask Cornwall and invited them to talk about Fowey Hospital and services in the area

Community Conversations

We have met with over 10,000 people from Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly to better understand what they need from services.

Social media

We have shared information about how people can share their views on our social media channels and to local groups.

Existing meetings, events and public information sessions

We went to community networks, panels and groups such as town councils.

Planned workshops

We held workshops so people could tell us what they thought and help us develop our ideas.

Media

We told reporters about our work and kept them updated

Cornwall and Isles of Scilly
Integrated Care System



If you would like this document another format or language please contact:

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