

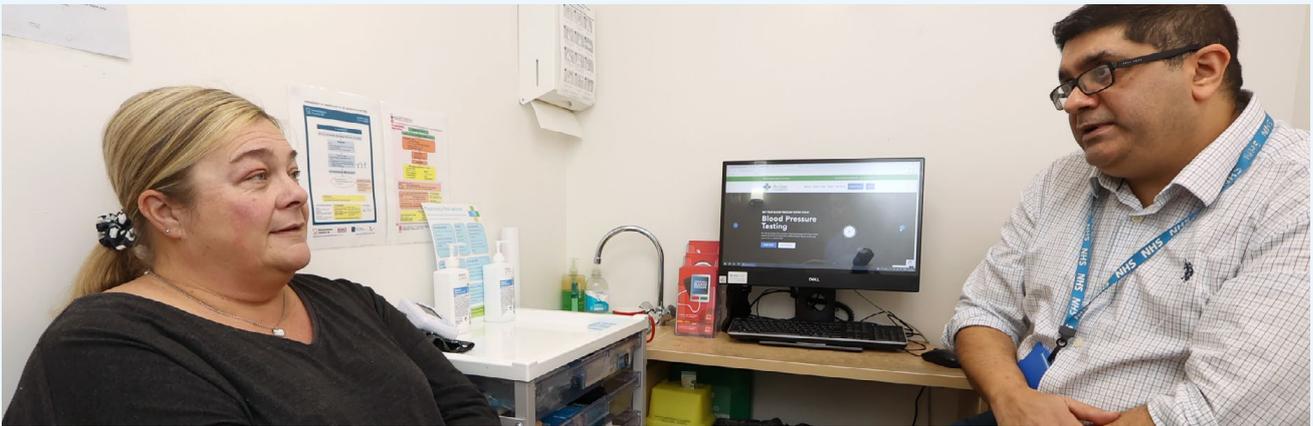


April 2024 newsletter

Joined Up Care Derbyshire is the name for Derby and Derbyshire's Integrated Care System (ICS). This newsletter is produced bi-monthly; past editions can be found [on the JUCD website](#).

SERVICES TO SUPPORT GOOD HEALTH

Patients urged to "Think Pharmacy First"



People who have minor conditions are being invited to visit their local pharmacy for quick and effective treatment.

Every pharmacy in Derby and Derbyshire is now part of the "Pharmacy First" scheme, which enables pharmacists to provide treatment for conditions that would previously have required a GP appointment.

They are:

- Sore throats
- Earache
- Sinusitis
- Infected insect bites
- Impetigo
- Shingles
- Urinary tract infections in women

These seven conditions are in addition to the normal "over the counter" medicines that a pharmacist can provide for ailments like coughs, colds and headache.

Sharon Chillingworth, from Belper, was pleased to use Pharmacy First at Amber Pharmacy in Horsley Woodhouse, Ilkeston, when she got a cold that developed into sinusitis.

She said: "I developed a pain in the right side of my face, through my sinuses and into my jaws and teeth, together with a discharge from my nose.

"I knew about Pharmacy First and I'd used Amber Pharmacy previously, so I came here to ask for something to help me.

"I was seen in the privacy of the consultation room and the pharmacist gave me a nasal spray to try to clear the sinuses. He said to come back if it didn't improve.

"It didn't get better, despite the treatment, so I came back. I went through my symptoms again and this time the pharmacist said it was appropriate for me to have an antibiotic to clear up the infection."

Pharmacist Bal Bange said: "It was appropriate at first to try a nasal spray, but because it didn't get better it's now appropriate to prescribe an antibiotic. Hopefully that will make things better."

Sharon added: "It's a first class service. Previously I would have had to go to my GP practice. It's much less stressful to come to the pharmacy and I'm glad someone else can use the GP appointment I would have taken previously."

[Watch pharmacist Bal Bange explain why to come to a pharmacy with minor conditions on our website.](#)

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Mental health services for mother and baby



Women who experience mental health problems during or after pregnancy are supported by specialists who work for Derbyshire Healthcare Perinatal Mental Health Service.

They have community teams based in the north and south of Derbyshire and The Beeches, a hospital inpatient unit in Derby.

The team includes consultant psychiatrists, registered mental health nurses, nursery nurses, psychologists, occupational therapists, peer support workers and social workers.

An assessment is available by referral from a health care professional or by self-referral for community support.

Support groups available includes an award-winning weekly walking group.

The service is designed to address the challenges some new mothers might be experiencing such as the lack of confidence to leave the house. It encourages mums to walk and talk and meet other people outdoors, rather than in a group setting.

Details for the teams are:

South Derbyshire Perinatal Community Mental Health Team
 Radbourne Unit, Uttoxeter Road, Derby, DE22 3WQ
 01332 623 911
dhcft.perinatalcmht@nhs.net

North Derbyshire Perinatal Community Mental Health Team
 Scarsdale, Nightingale Close, Chesterfield, S41 7PF
 01246 216 523
dhcft.perinatalcmht@nhs.net

Or use the [self referral page on the Derbyshire Healthcare website](#).



Mental health services for mother and baby (continued)

Mother and baby inpatient service

The Beeches Mother and Baby Unit at the Radbourne Unit, Royal Derby Hospital, provides care and treatment for those experiencing serious and complex mental health difficulties from 32 weeks in pregnancy up to 12 months after birth.

The unit can accommodate up to six patients with their babies and accept referrals locally and out of area. Patients can be admitted on an informal basis or under the Mental Health Act.

A video to showcase the unit, its staff and patient stories is on [Derbyshire Healthcare's YouTube channel](#).

Details for the unit are:

The Beeches Mother and Baby Unit,
Radbourne Unit, Uttoxeter Road, Derby, DE22 3WQ
01332 623 828

thebeeches@nhs.net

Maternal Mental Health Service

The Maternal Mental Health Service provides psychological support for women and birthing people who are experiencing moderate to several mental health difficulties because of loss or trauma during their maternity.

Specialist midwives based in Chesterfield and Derby work alongside psychologists to provide a range of services including person-centred trauma informed birth plans, group interventions and individual therapy.



The service covers Derbyshire and has two bases:

South Derbyshire Maternal Mental Health Service:
The Radbourne Unit, Royal Derby Hospital, Uttoxeter Road, Derby, DE22 3WQ.
01332 623 911

The North Maternal Mental Health Service:
Scarsdale, Newbold Road, Chesterfield, S41 7PF.
01246 216 523
dhcft.mmhs@nhs.net

Further information about the Perinatal Mental Health Team is available on the [Derbyshire Healthcare website](#).

Get ready for your spring covid vaccination

The spring Covid-19 vaccine programme is expected to open in April and to continue until the end of June.

People eligible will be adults aged 75 and over, residents in a care home for older adults and individuals aged 6 months and over who are immunosuppressed.

Those who are housebound or living in a care home for older adults will begin to receive vaccinations from 15 April. For all other groups, vaccinations should start on 22 April and end on 30 June.

GP practices, pharmacies and walk-in sites across Derby and Derbyshire will be delivering the spring vaccine. You can book your vaccine through the National Booking Service, or keep an eye out on the Joined Up Care Derbyshire website closer to the time for walk-in clinic availability.

Covid-19 is still circulating and can become serious in people with a weakened immune system and those over 75. If you are eligible, don't miss out on your chance to get protected.

Mark April 22 in your diary and get your spring booster booked if eligible!

Good neighbours are supporting their community



Dozens of "good neighbours" have been recruited to help look after people in their communities – and more are needed to join them.

The volunteers help people who may be lonely, socially isolated or who need a little extra help and if have limited or no support around them.

Volunteers help with everyday tasks such as shopping, collecting prescriptions, taking people they support to medical appointments, light gardening or household jobs, supporting people to use online services and by providing a friendly chat.

The work of Derby's "good neighbours" helps to reduce pressure on NHS and social care services, says Lynne Wright, Programme Coordinator.

She said: "People see it as a way of giving something back. They make new friends, they support people who may be isolated or lonely and they have the satisfaction of helping those people to live as healthy and independent a life as they can.

"We have volunteers of all ages, from 18 upwards, and from all backgrounds. They will generally have a few hours spare in their week, maybe because they are working part-time, or they are retired, or they want to use this as a stepping stone into work in health and social care.

"The sort of tasks people often want help with include picking up shopping or prescriptions and taking them to medical appointments. Also, people really appreciate having a weekly chat."

The "good neighbours" project grew out of the volunteering programme that took place during the covid lockdowns, when thousands of people volunteered in Derby and Derbyshire.

However, the numbers of volunteers fell to just five last year, but have now grown to 50 and are continuing to rise.

Lynne matches volunteers with people who live close to them and who fit their wishes to help. The volunteers complete a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check and Lynne meets with them regularly to review progress.

Volunteer Laleta Butkuar, of Chellaston, Derby, said: "One of the people I support has mobility issues and cannot walk. She has carers but they can't do shopping for her and she doesn't have family, so me taking her shopping means she can continue to live independently in her own home.

"People are very grateful and I get a buzz from giving something back.

"I would say to anyone to think about giving it a go. It can be ad hoc and something as simple as a regular phone call that supports someone in your community."

To express interest in volunteering please contact 01332 342 272 or email

goodneighbours@communityactionderby.org.uk

Derby Safe Haven

Feel like things are too much? Thinking about going to A&E for mental health support? Derby Safe Haven can help.

Safe Haven provides a responsive, tailored support service for people over the age of 18 in Derbyshire, who are experiencing a period of mental ill health or crisis.

We are open from 4.30pm through midnight to 12.30am every day of the year. You can access us you can self-refer by calling us on 033 000 83722 or by coming to 309 Burton Road, Derby and one of our staff will see you.

There is also the option for telephone support. If you are struggling to get to us, we will make sure this is possible as we believe you should be able to access mental health support no matter what.

People typically stay at the service for around 1-3 hours and will then be signposted onwards.

When you arrive you will be shown into a lounge where you have access to refreshments and a member of staff will have a sit down with you and you can talk about what your problems are. The staff member will help you make a safety plan and will run a session with you based on what's in this. You will receive resources and information on where you can seek help and advice outside of the Safe Haven.

Referral Criteria

- The service is available for residents of Derby City and County.
- Individuals who perceive themselves in mental health crisis, or at risk of moving into mental health crisis.
- Individuals in need of short-term social support which is leading towards mental health crisis which could include help with housing, benefits etc.
- People accessing the service may have several issues, or complexities, if they can keep themselves safe with support of staff, and their presentation allows them to work in a nonmedical therapeutic environment, the Safe Haven is a viable option for them.



About us

The service delivers a responsive programme of evidence-based intervention support to the people who access the service, including:

- Self-help information and guided self-help.
- Psychoeducation support.
- Signposting and navigating to relevant resources or services for further support.
- Peer support.

For more information about mental health support, visit [Community Action Derby's Mental Health and Wellbeing pages](#).



**DERBY
SAFE
HAVEN**

Organ donation matters - my wife's legacy proves it



By Mahmud Nawaz, chair NHS Chesterfield Royal Foundation Trust

Life changed 20 years ago on Monday, 15 March 2004 when Sharon, my 32-year-old wife, collapsed in the bathroom whilst having a shower.

Thinking it was a faint I called 999 and events moved quickly. The ambulance crew and I tried to resuscitate her but there was nothing they could do, and at hospital I was asked about organ donation.

I have never felt so alone, but Sharon was passionate about organ donation and even though the next hours and days were devastating, I knew her wishes and I knew that she had protected me by having those conversations.

I learned, much later, that Sharon had died as a result of the most severe type of brain haemorrhage, like someone just turning the lights out. As ways to die, it was painless, and she was with her family – it was just 50 years too early.

Sean – my transplant coordinator – was amazing. He looked after me through the whole process. It took me a few attempts to walk away from Sharon for the last time before she went in for her transplant operation. Sean stayed with Sharon throughout the operation, which was a big comfort to me.

Sharon's kidneys and her liver (split into two) saved four people, including a little boy of one-and-a-half who wouldn't have made it to two without Sharon's liver. That above all made me cry tears of joy – she loved children, she would have been proud of that.

The law changed in May 2020 – referred to often as the opt out system. This means adults are considered to have agreed to be an organ donor when they die unless they have recorded a decision not to donate.

This only applies when no one knows your organ donation decision – so make that decision yourself. To me, this makes telling your family even more important than before, as your family will be consulted. I would encourage everyone to make your decision, record it on the NHS Organ Donor Register, and tell your family. Protect them from having to make that decision alone.

Sharon's memory lives on, and I have been proud to become an Organ Donation Ambassador for NHS Organ Donation since 2018.

In February I was appointed chair of Chesterfield Royal Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, with my first act was to unveil the Trust's 'Tree of Life' – a sculpture, which has pride of place in the Main Entrance, supporting conversations and remembering those who have given such precious gifts.

You can find out more and register at the [Organ Donation website](#) – and become a part of the British Transplant Games, which come to Nottingham in August.



Hospital team wins research award



Winning team (left to right) Kaatje Lomme, Ali Fletcher, Lianne Hufton and Elisha Cousins

A team of clinicians has been recognised for their commitment to research and developing new treatments.

The Research in Emergency Medicine in Derby (REMEDY) team at University Hospitals of Derby and Burton (UHDB) won the Clinical Research Network East Midlands research award in the Outstanding Achievement by a Team Award at the National Institute for Health and Care Research's East Midlands Clinical Research Network Awards.

The REMEDY team provides opportunities to patients UHDB's emergency departments to take part in research trials, in a wide range of areas including sepsis, trauma, cardiology, respiratory and paediatrics.

The team has seen huge success both in terms of collaboration with colleagues, as well as with helping patients to access innovative treatments through research, recruiting the highest number of patients to two research projects.

One study aimed to help identify patients who are suffering with suspected sepsis faster by using a simple test which returns results within 20 minutes.

More than 1,700 patients have been able to take part in this national study at the Derby and Burton sites.

In addition, the team recruited 678 participants in another national study aimed at diagnosing acute aortic syndrome, helping to better inform treatment and diagnosis.

Dr Graham Johnson, Emergency Medicine Consultant in the team, said: "We know that research-active organisations have better outcomes than those who aren't involved in research, so the successes we've enjoyed as a team will help to keep providing new, innovative treatments that help our patients to receive the best care possible in our hospitals.

"On the whole, patients are very receptive to being asked to be involved in research trials as it opens up opportunities for them to receive different treatments, as well as giving them an option that perhaps hasn't always been made available to them."

How I use my lived experience to find my 'brave'

By Sarah Barley-McMullen

In early 2021, my life took an unexpected turn; I contracted covid-19.

By April, I had long covid – a condition which challenged me in ways I had never experienced.

It was frightening. I was left with symptoms including hearing loss, a damaged voice box and an inability to cry.

I became so unwell that after a year away from my role as a Senior Academic and Diversity and Inclusion Lead at the University of Derby, I had to take ill health retirement.

The loss of my professional identity was profound, but I knew I had a choice – I could be defined by long covid, or I could use my experience to make a difference. And so, my journey of advocacy began.

In 2022, I embraced the opportunity to become a lived experience partner and joined the National Long Covid Task Force and Advisory Board for NHS England.

Working with the national clinical lead for long covid and the head of the national long covid programme gave me the opportunity to contribute to the development of patient resources and patient voice.

I advised on new NHS commissioning guidance and most recently looked at enhancing patient care in post-covid clinics.

In 2023 I became a volunteer for the charity Long Covid SOS, where I've been part of campaigns which champion advocacy for increased research and recognition of long covid.

We work to dissipate the silence that often surrounds covid and long covid by being consistent in our messaging, contributing to academic journals, and taking on speaking engagements to share our advocacy and experiences.

I do all this online as I have very little energy to travel.

In 2023/24 I became concerned by the numbers of people getting covid again locally. So I brought together a variety of stakeholders in Derbyshire, to try to increase the messaging around covid-19 protection measures, because the only way to long covid is by getting covid.



What have I learnt from this?

1. Covid-19 is experienced differently by everyone
2. Vaccines still prevent severe illness and death
3. Anyone can develop long covid
4. Wearing a mask still protects people around me
5. Long covid has a new cultural narrative that is complex but essential to understand, so that people with long covid are believed
6. We must all learn to coexist with covid-19, not ignore it
7. The emergence of new covid-19 variants and other airborne viruses is a given but protecting each other is a choice

Living with long covid has reshaped my future in shattering ways, yet it has also illuminated a path filled with gratitude, advocacy, and hope.

Amanda Gorman wrote, *“There is always light. If only we're brave enough to see it. If only we're brave enough to be it.”*

My experience with Long Covid has helped me find my 'brave', because I've learned to trust that even on the hardest days, hope can remain and light the way through an unknown future.

Shouting about good DEEDs

Businesses and other organisations are being urged to take up support so they can employ people who have disabilities or long-term health conditions.

The Disability Employer Engagement Derbyshire team (DEED) at Derbyshire County Council aims to remove the barriers and reduce the stigma around businesses employing people with disabilities.

The team has been meeting with employers and has given talks at the East Midlands Chamber, Derby University Work Health hub and the Federation of Small Business.

Look out for the team at jobs fairs and business expositions.

A recent event at the Post Mill Centre in South Normanton saw the team share information with around 50 people (pictured).

Speakers included people from the Department for Work and Pensions, a neurodiverse employer who gave insight into recruiting neurodiverse people and from Derby University speaking about mental health in the workplace.

Information also included:

- supported employment and supported internships
- access to work funding
- free (fully funded) numeracy training
- the disability confident employer scheme
- hidden disabilities
- embracing neurodiversity
- upcoming changes in laws for carers

The team has a further event for employers planned on 12 June – email them at employable@derbyshire.gov.uk to be sent further details when a venue is decided.



Monster 18 tonne magnet heralds new era for diagnostics

A monster 18 tonne magnet has been lifted into place at Ilkeston Community Hospital – and with it the promise of more local diagnostic appointments.

The magnet will become part of a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scanner and part of a community diagnostic centre to serve local people.

Community diagnostic centres are "one-stop shops" designed to provide an better patient experience by having a host of diagnostic facilities and services in one place.

Where previously some diagnostic procedures needed to be completed in different locations and at different appointment times, there will now be greater flexibility and options for patients – including tests completed under 'one roof' and closer to patients' homes, reducing the need for travel and providing improved access.

Derby and Derbyshire's Integrated Care System has received £29.9m to fund the development of five community diagnostic centres to serve Derbyshire.

They are Whitworth Hospital, Matlock; Walton Hospital, Chesterfield; Ilkeston Community Hospital; Sir Robert Peel Community Hospital, Tamworth; and Florence Nightingale Community Hospital, Derby.

The area at Ilkeston Hospital where the scanner will be placed was previously used as a dining room, to store health records and as medical secretaries' accommodation.

Derbyshire Dialogue

Derbyshire Dialogue is a conversation with local people and those who are delivering and commissioning our services. Each session is an opportunity for our local residents to discuss what matters most to them about health and care services, what's working well, and what we can improve. We feed all this information back to our commissioners and providers to help build on strengths and work areas that require further development.

Recent sessions having included:

Derbyshire Community Diagnostic Centres – These centres are being developed at community hospital sites across Derbyshire to bring additional diagnostic test (X-Ray, CT, MRI, Ultrasound, Phlebotomy, Echocardiography and more) capacity to the local population. This extra capacity will mean that patients will be able to get their tests quicker and in a range of locations nearer to home.

Social prescribing – This is an approach that connects people to activities, groups, and services in their community and is being delivered across Derbyshire. The aim of the session was to tell you more about social prescribing, what it is, where it came from and how it operates in Derbyshire.

Every session of Derbyshire Dialogue is uploaded to our [YouTube channel](#) so you can catch up on everything we've been talking about. To keep up to date you can hit the subscribe button.

Upcoming Sessions:

10 April | Diabetes in Derbyshire – This event will give you the opportunity to meet the different organisations delivering care to people in Derbyshire living with and at risk of diabetes. If you are living with Diabetes there will be lots of options on offer to help you get your diabetes under control and reduce your risk of complications in the future.

15 May | Place – Learn about 'Place', which involves commissioners, community services providers, local authorities, primary care, the voluntary and community sector, and the public working together to meet the needs of local people.

To find out how to subscribe to Derbyshire Dialogue emails and to book a place on upcoming sessions go to the [Derbyshire Dialogue page](#).

Joined Up Care Derbyshire



**Derbyshire
Dialogue**

Could you help on our Readers Panel?

Did you know that NHS Derby and Derbyshire has a "readers panel"?

Members help us ensure that information for patients and the public is as accessible and easy to understand as possible.

We know that NHS language can be difficult, and that's why we need people to provide us with feedback on what's good and what's not.

Readers panel members are generally sent information to review by email and can respond in their own time. Examples of previous work they have supported include:

- Information leaflets
- Our website
- Surveys of patient experience

We recently asked readers panel members what other areas they would like to get involved in and for their ideas about recruiting more members.

If you are interested in joining the panel, please email our engagement team: ddicb.engagement@nhs.net

Public and Patient Insight Library latest reports

This is our local library for collating and storing patient and public insight gathered across Derbyshire health, care, statutory and voluntary organisations, and is open to a wide variety of professionals to help share reports and learning across the system and inform decision-making.

We have been updating the [Insight Library](#) with some really interesting reports. Below are just a few highlights of some recent reports:

Carers' Voice: High Peak Consultation Project 2023 – the focus of this report from Derby Carers Association is to document the current experiences of carers in High Peak, and to provide 'best practice' recommendations for the future based on insight gained from the carers they spoke to.

Digital Poverty in the UK – this report from the Digital Poverty Alliance develops a new 'measurement oriented' definition of digital poverty and outlines how it can affect health, for example, those who experience digital poverty are less likely to access online health services in order to help with their mental health.

Health Inequalities within a Local Area – the aim of this report from the Care Quality Commission is to provide an evidence base on what works within local areas to address health inequalities.

The [Insight Library](#) is held on the Futures NHS Platform, so if you are already a member or if you need to request an account you can [access the library here](#).

All reports entered in the library are tagged so that they can be sorted by theme, service type, district, and several other categories. It is also now easier than ever to submit reports to be added to the library via our [online form](#).

You can also send reports directly to us at ddicb.engagement@nhs.net. If you do this, please ensure you provide permission for us to share the report, as well as details such as the publish date and author name(s).



Communities join together to "beat the silent killer"



Becky Daykin (left) and Louise Peck (right)

Dozens more volunteers are being recruited across Derby and Derbyshire to help communities "beat the silent killer".

The NHS locally is encouraging people aged over 40 – particularly those at higher risk of cardiovascular disease – to get their blood pressure checked.

High blood pressure has been reported in almost 70% of stroke patients and it causes half of all heart attacks, but it has no noticeable symptoms – leading it to be called "the silent killer".

Volunteers from community groups have been trained to undertake blood pressure checks – and if the readings are high to signpost people on to a pharmacist. The recruitment of volunteers has been led by Community Action Derby.

People whose readings are high are offered advice and support to reduce their risk of the potentially devastating or fatal consequences of cardiovascular disease such as heart attack or stroke.

An advertising campaign has been running in Derby to give the message "don't be a ticking time bomb", "know your numbers" and "getting your blood pressure checked is easy, and it could save your life".

Deafinitely Women is among the groups where volunteers are now taking blood pressure checks.

They took part in a celebration day for Deaf and hard-of-hearing women in Derby on 9 March and carried out 89 blood pressure checks as part of the activities available on the day.

Louise Peck, who is a volunteer and British Sign Language (BSL) user, said: "Getting the right communication access such as BSL interpreters,

captions or Lipspeakers for health appointments and information is vital, but it is often not in place."

Becky Daykin, connections manager with Deafinitely Women, said: "We have good links with the NHS and Deaf communities and we are able to bridge access to health services at events like ours. Getting a blood pressure check done is an easy and accessible experience when it is done in your own community."

Another place where checks are taking place is the Pakistan Community Centre in Derby.

Nosheen Ali, who runs events at the centre and has been trained to take the blood pressure tests, said: "We can support people in reducing their blood pressure levels by providing advice on healthy eating and exercise.

"We will do that in a way that respects people's culture and heritage, for example by providing healthy recipes of Asian food and supporting women's only exercise groups."

To find out more about Deafinitely Women, visit their [website](#), text 07421 827 162, or email info@deafinitelywomen.org.uk.



Success of new children and young people's mental health crisis services

Fewer children and young people are being admitted to hospital as a result of mental health crisis, following improvements to services.

NHS and community organisations that support children and young people have worked together with service users over the past two years to make improvements and avoid hospital stays.

The number of admissions to specialist hospitals fell from 66 in 2020/21 to 53 in 2022/23, while the average length of stay fell from 162 to 101 days over the same period.

In addition, the percentage of children and young people who attended the A&E units at Derby or Chesterfield hospitals in crisis and who were admitted as an in-patient fell from around 17% to around 12% over the same period.

The improvements have come following investment to provide teams of specialist mental health workers who support young people in crisis to improve 24/7 mental health crisis support for children and young people. The teams work for Derbyshire Healthcare and for Chesterfield Royal foundation trusts.

The service improvements over the past three years have focused on support that is aimed at avoiding admission to hospital and supporting discharge from hospital.

For children and young people who need additional support an urgent response team is available 8am to 10pm, 365 days a year.

They are available to provide assessment, treatment and support at hospital, other health service locations, or at the young person's home.

Part of the offer since autumn 2022 for children and young people is a place where they can go during the day to receive support.

Evaluation of these services showed an improvement in health outcomes and positive experiences for



children, young people, their families and staff working in this area.

Helen O'Higgins, from NHS Derby and Derbyshire's mental health team, said: "We know that children and young people who are experiencing a mental health crisis want to be supported to stay in their community and to maintain their key relationships and support.

"They want to avoid a situation where they have to be admitted to hospital or placed in accommodation outside their local area."

"The enhanced offer we have been able to provide over the past two or three years has made a real difference in helping children and young people manage emotional distress and crisis, to de-escalate and to feel more able to cope."

For help and support, call the Derby and Derbyshire mental health helpline on 0800 028 0077, or visit the county's [emotional health and wellbeing website](#).



Derby & Derbyshire
Emotional Health & Wellbeing
 Transforming Health and Wellbeing for Everyone

Virtual wards programme in Derbyshire commended by NHS England and technology partner, Doccla

Stepping up

Following a review of virtual ward patients, Derbyshire was identified as one of the best performing health care systems in the Midlands for appropriate use, according to the national definition. In March, NHS England invited virtual wards programme manager, Victoria Byrne, to present at a sharing and learning event and talk through the step-up model and the partnership work that has taken place with East Midlands Ambulance Service to help reduce ambulance conveyances. "Step-up" virtual wards allow the patient to be cared for at home, instead of being sent to hospital.

Gold standard

Technology partner, Doccla, has applauded Derbyshire for standing out for its approach to enrolling patients. Mishalli Hindocha, senior strategic partnership manager at Doccla, said:

"The collaboration between Doccla and Joined Up Care Derbyshire has positioned Derbyshire as one of Doccla's most successful Integrated Care Boards, establishing a gold standard for patient onboarding and care delivery.

"Derbyshire stands out for its remarkable ability to enrol a high volume of new patients requiring acute care each week. This accomplishment not only reaffirms the virtual ward model's capacity to meet urgent health needs effectively but also shines a light on Derbyshire's adherence to NHS standards, setting it apart as a standout example in virtual ward practices."

What are virtual wards?

In its simplest sense, a virtual ward aims to provide hospital-level care at home. Virtual wards utilise new technologies, such as wearable devices, to provide real-time information to a dedicated remote team of health and care professionals. This enables suitable patients to get the care they need safely and conveniently at the place they call home (including care homes) rather than in a hospital.

Virtual wards in Derbyshire

Patients with a range of conditions can now access ward-level care in the comfort of their own home. These include: cardiology, respiratory, frailty, diagnostics and end of life / palliative medicine. Further virtual wards, covering other conditions, will be added later. Currently the programme provides acute level care for up to 160 patients at any one time.

If you would like to find out more about the virtual ward programme in Derbyshire, [see our website](#).



Image supplied by Doccla

Have your say on the future of dementia services

People across Derby and Derbyshire are being invited to give their views over the future of services to support people with dementia.

Joined Up Care Derbyshire wants to hear from people who are living with dementia, their carers and from people who work in dementia health and care services.

Please give your views on:

- **Preventing well** – helping people to reduce their risk of developing dementia or delay progression of the disease.
- **Diagnosing well** – so people are accurately diagnosed in a timely manner.
- **Supporting well** – so people living with dementia, and their carers, have access to high quality health & care services.
- **Living well** – so people living with dementia can live normally in safe & accepting communities.
- **Dying well** – so people living with dementia die with dignity in a place of their choosing.

Please give your views through the survey that is available on the [Derbyshire Involvement website](#) until 30 June.

The survey should take between ten to fifteen minutes to complete. If you need help to complete the survey or would prefer to receive a telephone call from a member of staff, please contact the Derbyshire Information and Advice Service on 01332 208 845.

There are also other opportunities to take part in discussion about dementia.

- An event on 24 July – keep an eye on our website for further details.
- Derbyshire Dialogue – online discussion group on 21 August. Sign up through the Derbyshire Involvement website.
- Read the 2020-25 strategy on our website and please give your views through the survey on what you think the priorities should be.

Dementia Engagement & Empowerment Project

The Dementia Engagement & Empowerment Project ([DEEP](#)) is the UK network of dementia voices. [DEEP](#) consists of around 80 groups of people with dementia.

The Derby City Dementia Support Service group is called “Lifting the Cloud”. The group is a peer-led group that work together to change/improve services and policies that affect the lives of people with dementia facilitated by Making Space.

The group have produced a new leaflet to **share hints and tips for those with cognitive impairment**, from those who have already started their journey. The words of the group were used to produce the [Dave Says](#) booklet (PDF download). Please feel free to share this booklet with your networks.



The group hope to keep updating the booklet with new hints and tips every three months; any new hints and tips are greatly welcomed to enable them to do this.

For further information on DEEP please go to the [DEEP website](#) or email Tracy Potter at Tracy.Potter@makingspace.co.uk



Making Room for Dignity work is near completion

Construction work on the new healthcare facilities at Derbyshire Healthcare's Kingsway site is nearing completion and recruitment of staff is continuing.

Two new example bedrooms have now been completed and can be viewed by visitors to the site's Carsington Unit.

The bedrooms in all the new facilities have been designed to ensure service users benefit from a therapeutic environment from the moment they arrive. The single bedrooms have en-suite showers, giving service users privacy and dignity to begin their recovery.

Interim director of nursing and patient experience Dave Mason said: "Seeing the bedrooms in the new Carsington Unit has really brought this project to life for me. It's now so much easier to see how service users will have more privacy in the new healthcare facilities – which will definitely benefit their recovery."

As well as privacy, service users will have much more control over their environments, with the ability to dim the lights, control the temperature and play their own music by connecting their phones to the television via Bluetooth.

The Derbyshire Healthcare team are recruiting staff to work in the new facilities and they held an open day in March in Bakewell for candidates.

April Saunders, workforce development lead for Making Room for Dignity, said: "We had a fantastic morning in Bakewell. It was wonderful to meet so many occupational therapists, and the next generation who will qualify later this year. They really valued the opportunity to meet some of the occupational therapy teams in an informal setting and find out about our fabulous new facilities."

[Find out more about potential job opportunities on the dedicated website.](#)



Contact Joined Up Care Derbyshire

Visit the website: joinedupcarederbyshire.co.uk
Email: ddicb.enquiries@nhs.net

If you would like to sign-up to receive the Joined Up Care Derbyshire newsletter, please email karen.lloyd24@nhs.net

If you would like to know how you can get involved please visit the [Joined Up Care Derbyshire website](#).

