

MEDIA RELEASE

August 5 2011

North Somerset Community Partnership

Community Involvement in our new Social Enterprise

NHS North Somerset Community Services, the arm of NHS North Somerset which provides everything from urgent nursing care in the community to district nurses, children's community care and health visiting, is looking for up to twenty representatives to help them plan and deliver healthcare through the new Community Forum. They can be members of a patient or other voluntary association and they will represent the views and interests of patients and carers living in North Somerset (or any other area we will serve). They will also play a vital role in helping the Social Enterprise to understand the needs of service users, carers and volunteers.

NHS North Somerset Community Services will officially launch on October 1 as a staff-led Social Enterprise, a move made possible by the NHS re-organisation currently underway. For patients it will mean a healthcare service in which they can receive their treatment closer to home AND in which they will have a stake and a say, through a new Community Forum and the new Social Enterprise's Governing Body.

It is set to become one of the biggest employers in North Somerset and will be owned by its staff, who will have a substantial say in how services are designed and delivered, North Somerset Community Services will provide 26 different services across the region, including District Nursing and Children's Community Nursing, Therapy services and Specialist services supporting people in their own homes.

North Somerset Community Services

Explained the Chief Executive Designate Penny Brown: "The new Social Enterprise will still be delivering NHS services and any surpluses will be reinvested directly into patient care. Local community and patient organisations will have a say in how the company is run both through joining our Community Forum and through representation on our Governing Body. "

One of the most exciting initiatives currently bedding down in North Somerset is the Community Ward scheme, whereby patients can receive treatment in their own homes which they would traditionally have received during a hospital stay. The first ward opened in November 2010 and by September, seven such 'virtual' wards will be open, covering the whole of North Somerset.

Added Penny Brown: "Staff, community, voluntary and patient organisations will work together to ensure that the services which we provide reflect their views and their needs. They will have a key role to play in the new Community Partnership."

Anyone interested in finding out more about becoming a representative on the community forum should contact:

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