

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Community		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	26th October 2023	LOCATION	Town Hall
REPORT FROM	Jackie MacArthur, Communities and Marketing Manager and DCO on behalf of the Health and Wellbeing Working Group		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	Item 11. Congleton War Memorial Hospital		
Background	<p>For many years Congleton Town Council has been keen to see as many health services as possible delivered as locally as possible. Congleton War Memorial Hospital has been a key location for the delivery of health care in Congleton for 99 years.</p> <p>The hospital was opened in 1924 following fundraising by local people as a memorial to those who died in the First World War. It is now managed by East Cheshire NHS Trust, which provides a range of services from Congleton War Memorial Hospital, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aston Ward 28 bed intermediate care ward • Consultant-led outpatient services • Paediatric Speech and Language Therapy • District nursing and Midwives • Outpatient therapy services including a physiotherapy gym • Audiology, Podiatry and Epilepsy • Blood test clinics and Leg Ulcer Clinic <p>Since COVID-19 the Minor Injuries Unit has not been open at the hospital and we are advised that national changes in the standards required for emergency medicine drop-in centres mean it is not currently viable to have a centre at the CWMH.</p> <p>In September 2023 it was announced that the CWMH was one of four sites across England that will host a new ‘one stop shop’ offering NHS diagnostic tests, scans and checks. East Cheshire NHS Trust was awarded £5 million from the NHS England community diagnostics programme fund to create the centre. See the press release here via this link.</p> <p>The new centre will provide multiple additional diagnostic screening rooms in addition to associated patient waiting facilities, toilets and other amenities. Diagnostics services will focus on Imaging; X-ray and Non-Obstetric Ultrasound (NOUS); and Cardio-Respiratory physiological testing such as Electrocardiography (ECG), Echocardiograms and other physiological tests.</p>		

	<p>Services will also include some tests and studies that can be performed from patients' homes. Further diagnostic testing potential will be developed over time.</p> <p>Diagnostics are tests or procedures used to identify a patient's disease or condition. Finding out what is wrong is vital for treatment. According to NHS England, more than 85 per cent of patients seeking NHS care require diagnostics. Prompt diagnosis can save lives and drastically improve patient outcomes.</p> <p>Pre-COVID the Town Council had started to hold regular meetings with the East Cheshire Health Trust about issues relating to the War Memorial Hospital. This stopped during COVID-19, and the Health and Wellbeing Group recommends that the Town Council re-establishes formal links with the trust.</p> <p>The Health and Wellbeing also recognises that the War Memorial Hospital will be celebrating its centenary next year and the working group would like to work with the team at the hospital to mark the occasion. It is not yet clear what form these celebrations will take.</p>
Recommendation	<p>The Health and Wellbeing Working Group is not a decision-making group. Following its recent meeting it recommends that the Town Council</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Write and congratulate the East Cheshire Health Trust on being awarded £5 million to create a diagnostic centre at the Congleton War Memorial Hospital. 2. Write to the new Chief Executive seeking regular updates on the War Memorial Hospital and seek ways that the Town Council can show support for this important facility within Congleton. 3. Be mindful of the hospital's centenary in August 2024 and look to work with the team at the hospital to help mark this occasion for the town.
Financial Implications	<p>There are no financial implications for recommendations 1 and 2. There may be a need for some budget to help with any centenary celebrations and could this be considered within the events budget for 2024/25.</p>
Environmental Implications	<p>Having local services delivered as close to home as possible is good for the environment and saves carbon.</p>
Equality and Diversity Impact	<p>Good health care is essential for all. Congleton has an ageing population and it is well known that as we get older most people suffer from more ailments and health issues. Being able to be diagnosed closer to home means more people are likely to get diagnosed and given appropriate treatment.</p>
PROPOSALS	<p>That the Town Council</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Formally congratulates the East Cheshire Health Trust on gaining the funding to create a diagnostic centre at the Congleton War Memorial Hospital. 2. Seeks to engage with the Trust on regular updates and ways to support the Congleton War Memorial Hospital. 3. Engages with the Trust and hospital to get involved in the 100 year celebrations of the hospital in Congleton.

