



OHAC News

January 2017

Welcome

Welcome to the latest of Orkney Health and Care's newsletters. Through our newsletters we're aiming to provide a regular update of what is going on within the services, charting the developments that matter to you whether you are a member of staff, work for a partner organisation or are a recipient of health and social care services provided by Orkney Health and Care.

The formation of Orkney Health and Care has brought together Orkney Islands Council and NHS Orkney to plan and oversee a range of shared services. I continue to enjoy the close relationship that has been formed through this and also, alongside my staff team, continue to face head-on the challenges that have been presented as a result.

This issue of the newsletter includes some updates on St Peters House in Stromness, some information on how we are trying to ensure that the services that we provide fit with Orkney, and some news stories about what we're up to.

Update on St Peters House

The existing St Peter's House, at the top of Hellihole Road in Stromness, will be replaced with a £9 million, 40 bed care facility at Garson in Stromness. A public consultation was held where plans and architects drawings were displayed in the Warehouse Buildings for a fortnight and public comments invited.

Orkney Islands Council has now lodged a planning application and the plans which are available to view via the Council website.

Involving people in local communities in planning health and care services through 'localities planning'

Under the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2015 Orkney Health and Care needs to develop a 'localities' approach to health and social care planning and delivery. This means that we have to look at the different communities in Orkney and how their service needs might differ – in other words tailoring how we provide a service to the specific needs of that community. The legislation required us to have

at least two localities so we've agreed to have one covering the Mainland and connected isles (sub-divided into East and West) and one for the isles.

We're putting this approach in place and have visited all the isles and held drop in sessions on the mainland, talking to communities, patients, service users and staff about how we provide services in these areas. We've did this along with colleagues from the Orkney Community Planning Partnership (now known as the Orkney Partnership) who have also been tasked with tailoring their services to local needs.

The information we've gathered will help us to put together our next Strategic Commissioning Plan and our localities plans and we're working on this just now.

Baby boxes

Families in Orkney are benefitting from a Scottish Government scheme which provides a boxful of baby essentials to every new parent.

The "Baby Box" was first introduced in Finland 80 years ago to tackle cot death at a time when 10 per cent of children died before reaching their first birthday. Today the rate is 0.2 per cent, one of the lowest in the world. The UK rate is 0.4 per cent.

The pilot began in Orkney on New Year's Day 2017, with Clackmannanshire being the only other pilot area.

Fiddle mitts

Orkney Health and Care received a generous gift from a local craft group to help local people living with dementia.

The bundle of Fiddle Mitts, knitted by the Hoy Craft Club, has been distributed to local dementia service users.

Fiddle Mitts provide something people can hold and 'twiddle', helping to reduce anxiety and promote calm. They are simple knitted cuffs, to which a range of items, including ribbons, buttons or beads, can be sown and which provide activity. The mitts provide visual, tactile and sensory stimulation as well as having the added benefit of keeping hands warm.

We were delighted with this generous gift from the Hoy Craft Club. The mitts are absolutely beautiful and there's a tremendous amount of work gone into them. They will make a huge difference to our service users and their families.

We shared the story with followers on the Council's Facebook page and received more likes than any other story we have run so far.

A pattern for knitting a Fiddle Mitt is available here:

[Pattern for producing a fiddle mitt.](#)