

## HEADLINE REPORT

### Engagement with seldom heard groups regarding the proposals for the New Berwick Hospital

#### Healthwatch Northumberland Engagement

As part of the consultation process, Healthwatch Northumberland was asked by the NHS Northumberland CCG to engage with people from seldom heard groups around the proposed integrated development and possible sites around Berwick to find out what proposed site people preferred and if people like the idea of a joint hospital and leisure centre.

A total of **90 individuals** were reached through activity with a number of local voluntary groups and through week long information stands in both Wooler and Berwick. Groups were shown maps of the proposed site locations and asked to choose a preferred site location for the new hospital and asked if they like the proposals for a combined leisure centre and hospital.

A short feedback form was used to gather comments and collect information on preferred site location and preference on joint leisure and hospital.

Healthwatch Northumberland met with In-It-Together, a group of parents with children with SEND, Warm Hub Berwick, North Northumberland Voluntary Forum, RVS Wooler Over 50s Group, Berwick Youth Project, Carers Northumberland, Alzheimer's Café and local residents, to raise awareness and discuss the proposals for the new Berwick Hospital.

Members of these groups held the equality protected characteristics of disability and caring, age (young and old), sex. Attendees also experienced the issues of accessing services in rural locations.

It was not possible within the timescale to make contact with members of the Berwick Migrant Support Group, however feedback from recent engagement with a migrant group in another area of Northumberland can give useful insight into the challenges faced by newly arrived and settling communities in accessing acute healthcare.

#### Site location for the new hospital

- 52% preferred site D: Berwick Infirmary
- 20% preferred site C: Land south of Cemetery Lane
- 11% preferred site A: Current Swan Centre Site
- 10% preferred site B: Newfield's Playing Area
- 7% No preference

#### Preference for Hospital and Leisure Centre

- 40 people out of 90 responded positively
- 16 out of 90 responded negatively
- 1 out of 90 no preference
- 33 out of 90 no comment



### Sample of indicative quotes

*“I think that this could be positive, as it would be more cost effective. Security would be shared, heating, etc”. (regarding combined facility)*

*“Like idea of health and social care being together. (Currently disjointed and frustrating to communicate between hospital, health and social services). Depends what facilities”.*

*“Therapy pool - Yes. Noisy sports - No”.*

*“There could be issues around parking and access to public transport - not everyone has access to their own vehicle”*

*“What is the rationale for including leisure with health and social services? Has this been successfully trialled elsewhere? If so, where?”*

*“A and E department and other services. We should not have to travel for simple procedures”*

*“Need staff to go with services, improve services and staffing not building”*

*“We need more services not less and not to feel we are constantly being fobbed off as at present”*

### Summary

The key things to emerge are:

- Call for hospital services, particularly simple procedures to be delivered in Berwick
- People are concerned about parking and bus services for any proposed location
- Opinion is mixed on a joint hospital and leisure centre but more positive regarding links with social care
- 52% of the combined feedback from the seldom heard groups suggested a preference for the existing location, Site D

