

York Older People's Assembly

Unit 24, SPARK: YORK

17-21 Piccadilly, York YO1 9PB

Registered Charity 1101018

Email: yorkolderpeoplesassembly@outlook.com

Spring 2022



Tel: 07856 908586

Website: www.yorkassembly.org.uk



IS THIS THE FUTURE OF THE NHS? - NOT AS WE HAVE KNOWN IT!!

In the past two years 600,000 vaccinations have been given at the “Health Village” at Askham Bar. Nimbus Care, led by Professor Mike Holmes, bringing together all 11 GP practices in York, has been voted a tremendous success. This has resulted in the temporary facilities being upgraded and replaced by new modular buildings.

Not content with meeting the demands of Covid 19, the centre has been expanded to cover

- City Wide cervical screening clinics.
- High risk patients monitoring oxygen levels at the centre or at home.
- For those on Hospital waiting lists, carrying out blood pressure and other blood tests to ensure they are well enough when their operation is due.
- Warfarin monitoring.
- Special clinics for babies and young children with breathing problems.



These initiatives have been arrived at by working with the hospital and the council to address the backlog of 31,000 patients who are waiting for non-urgent procedures or treatments. This number has grown by over a third in the past year and many of the patients have been waiting for over 52 weeks.

Such is the success of the “health care village” that plans are proposed to establish 3 more centres in York, with the first being based in Acomb. This follows current Government policy of shifting care from hospitals to more community based settings.



New modular building

DENTAL UPDATE

There has been much publicity in the local press following a survey by Healthwatch of dental services available in York.

A member of the Assembly has drawn attention to a letter received from York Dental Practice at Clifton Moor which states "it has been apparent that the significant change in the NHS is making it increasingly difficult to treat patients with the level of care they deserve and therefore we will be converting to a fully independent practice".

In short, they are going private! Recent information about their charges by comparison with the current NHS charges are set out below:



	Procedure	NHS Charge	York Dental Practice Charge
Band 1	Examination, diagnosis and advice	£23.80	£42.00
Band 2	Additional to Band 1 including fillings and simple extractions	£65.20	£80.00

More complex procedures such as crowns and bridges can cost up to £500 in comparison to the NHS charge of £282.80.

The Practice offers two choices – either paying for each item as indicated above or pay a monthly membership fee of £14.95.

PRESCRIPTION CHARGES - A BITTER PILL TO SWALLOW

Current Government proposals are to raise the qualifying age for free prescriptions from 60 to 66. For the past 25 years prescriptions have been free to all those over 60. If implemented, as expected, from the 1st April, 2022, over 13,000 older people in York will be affected.

With current prescription charges at £9.35 per item and many having up to 4 items on the prescription the extra monthly cost, to people aged between 60 and 66, would be £37.00

Exemptions for charges are currently limited from those suffering:

- Diabetes
- Epilepsy
- Cancer Treatment
- Hypothyroidism

While some long term illnesses like diabetes are included, others like Parkinson's or Multiple Sclerosis are not. A thorough review is needed!



NORTH YORKSHIRE COMMUNITY MESSAGING

This is a free email messaging service from North Yorkshire Police, providing updates on policing matters that are relevant to you or your local community. Such information can cover:

- Crime alerts in your local area
- Crime prevention and safety advice
- Warnings about scams and fraud

Recent messages have covered burglary prevention, cars entered and searched and youth anti-social behaviour.

If you sign up, you can choose what information and updates you would like to receive.

Visit: www.northyorkshirecommunitymessaging.co.uk

OAKHAVEN - REPLACEMENT SCANDAL TO END!!

A 64 bedroom care home in Acomb is proposed by Burlington Care, to replace the older persons residential home previously run by the Council. It has been empty for the last 6 years!

The scheme, if approved, will offer en-suite rooms throughout, with associated facilities, including a dining room, lounges, activity rooms, a hairdressing salon and a resident and community cafe.

Burlington Care is based in Bridlington and owns/manages 31 care homes throughout Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire.



An artist's impression of the new building



Existing disused building

YORK CARES - TEA AND TECHNOLOGY

York Cares is a partnership of City employers who run an employee volunteering programme.

One of these is the “York Cares Social Connections” programme which “contributes to the well-being of Older People in York. Tea and Technology aims to support older residents by connecting them with our employees/volunteers to help boost their confidence in using their device. This can be a lap-top, phone or tablet. During lock down, we provided, over the phone technology support, and we are now looking to help groups and individuals in person with digital inclusion.

York Cares is currently planning to deliver in person sessions in the spring/summer months. We currently have a number of loan devices which individuals can use along with 6 months of data to help increase digital inclusion.” Contact: info@yorkcares.co.uk. or phone 07385 341617.

OFCOM PLANS CRACK DOWN ON FAKE NUMBER FRAUD

Almost 45 million people were targeted by scam calls and texts last summer. Criminals are becoming increasingly sophisticated and nearly a million of those contacted, followed the scammers instructions, risking financial loss and emotional distress.

Until new plans are in place if you receive a suspicious phone call:

- **Stop** - do not give any personal or bank details
- **Hang up** - call the company they claim to be from (preferably from a different phone if you have one, or wait at least 10 minutes) to check if it is scammers
- **Report** - notify scam by visiting: www.actionfraud.police.uk or phone 0300 123 2040



COME AND JOIN US

If you are reading this newsletter and are not a member of York Older People’s Assembly – why not join us? We offer bi-monthly open meetings to debate issues of direct relevance to older people, put out a quarterly newsletter to over 3000 people, organise Information Fairs and co-ordinate the York 50+ Festival.

We are involved in consultation events with City of York Council, the Hospital Trust and North Yorkshire Police, making your voice heard on the issues most important to you. Contact us on 07856 908586 or email: yorkolderpeoplesassembly@outlook.com.