Launch of the Patrick Stead Hospital and Rayner Green Support Group

To many it looks as though the medical facilities and services in Halesworth are collapsing as decisions are being taken elsewhere to close facilities and to move them to other towns - towns which are difficult to get to from Halesworth.

There was grave concern when it was announced that Rayner Green would be reviewed by the Great Yarmouth andWaveney Clinical Commissioning Group, CCG. At the same time the situation at Patrick Stead Hospital was becoming critical. Since several organisations are involved with both these much valued facilities, they decided to come together and coordinate their activities to support the future of both. The Support Group was formed. It comprises representatives of the League of Friends of Patrick Stead Hospital, the Halesworth Community Nursing Care Fund, Halesworth Health, the Patients Participation Group, Halesworth Dementia Carers Fund and the Halesworth Day and Volunteer Centres. The Town Council is providing administrative and secretarial support.

The Group had to hit the ground running due to the urgency of the possible threat to Rayner Green. The massive letter campaign and the efforts of our two local MPs, District Councillor Tony Goldson, and the Support Group has resulted in the CCG confirming that there is no immediate threat to Rayner Green.

Unfortunately, the situation with Patrick Stead is extremely concerning. The CCG provides the funding but it is East Coast Community Healthcare, ECCH, which provides the staffing. Due to uncertainty about the hospital’s future, staff have been leaving for more secure positions. ECCH’s failure to retain and recruit staff has resulted in them “temporarily” closing the inpatient beds. As a consequence, the whole hospital building has been closed and facilities moved to the Physiotherapy Department, making for very cramped and unsatisfactory conditions.

The situation does not look good and so it is vital that current and future users of Patrick Stead Hospital write and express their concerns, anger or disbelief about what is happening.

All correspondence about the closure of Patrick Stead and the conditions now being experienced in the Physiotherapy Department should be addressed to:

**ECCH**

Geraldine Adams, Patient Liaison Manager, ECCH, Beccles House, 1 Common Lane North, Beccles, Suffolk NR34 9BN or ECCH.patientliaison@nhs.net

**CCG**,

Health East, Chief Executive Officer, Beccles House, 1 Common Lane North, Beccles, NR34 9BN or gywccg.your-views-matter@nhs.net

More information will be available on [www.halesworthtowncouncil.org.uk](http://www.halesworthtowncouncil.org.uk)