



Halesworth Health - who we are

Halesworth Health was set up in February 2011 to safeguard and develop health and care services for Halesworth and the surrounding villages.

The founding members are:

Cutlers Hill Surgery

Cutlers Hill practice in Halesworth has a catchment area of 300 square miles. Patients come from Laxfield in the west to Walberswick in the east; from Peasenhall in the south to Ilketshall St Andrew in the north. More than half of the 10,250 people registered at Cutlers Hill Surgery live outside Halesworth. Cutlers Hill Surgery is a highly respected practice, recognised by its status as a training practice for GP registrars and as a teaching practice for medical students.



League of Friends of the Patrick Stead Hospital

A volunteer-led registered charity which for more than fifty years has worked to promote the Hospital, raise its profile, supplement its services, provide equipment and facilities, and raise funds. The League of Friends has provided much-appreciated financial support to Halesworth Health to enable it to develop its plans.



Halesworth Community Nursing Care Fund

This local charity provides extra equipment and care for patients and their families. We offer practical help and support for those who are 'palliative' – those with a life limiting condition, when treatment is not focused on a cure but on the quality of life. Help can be offered in controlling any difficult symptoms and giving support and care as needed.



Community First Responders

We are a local team of volunteers who are trained by the NHS and work in partnership with the East of England Ambulance Service. We are despatched by the Ambulance service in response to urgent 999 calls received from anywhere within about 5 mile radius of Halesworth. Currently we have 11 operational members.



Members of the local community including town councillor David Fosdike, lawyer Deborah Holmes and accountant Mat Waters also play a voluntary part in Halesworth Health, aiming to find solutions to health and care issues **working with the NHS, but not relying wholly on the NHS.**



The health and care services we have now



Halesworth has an enviable range of key services all on one site—

The teams at Cutlers Hill Surgery, Patrick Stead Hospital and Rayner Green Day Care and Resource Centre have worked successfully together for years. At present we have:

- Cutlers Hill Surgery, with primary care and community healthcare teams
- Patrick Stead Community Hospital
- Rayner Green Day Care and Resource Centre
- Community paramedic
- Minor injuries unit
- Out-patient and outreach clinics
- Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy
- Community First Responder
- Pharmacy
- Voluntary support services
- Charities such as the League of Friends of Patrick Stead Hospital and Halesworth Community Nursing Care Fund (which plans to build an Information and Support Centre for people with serious illness).



This means that fewer people are admitted to a District general Hospital as outpatients or emergencies than elsewhere in the country.

Most people spend their last weeks of life where they want to be – most often at home or in Patrick Stead Hospital.



Why do we need a new health and care centre?

It takes about an hour by car from the Halesworth area to reach any of the three District General Hospitals.

Poor transport links means that a return journey by public transport takes the best part of a day.

This can be stressful, expensive and difficult whether you are a patient or trying to visit someone in hospital. Most people prefer to be cared for in or close to their own home.



Patrick Stead Hospital is excellent but it provides a wide range of services from a Victorian Building – it will be increasingly difficult in the 21st century for older buildings like this to meet NHS standards.

The 14 inpatient beds are on the first floor. They are not under immediate threat, but the cost of meeting NHS standards in these conditions is high compared to more modern facilities.

There is a 'now or never' opportunity to develop a new health and care centre on land adjacent to the Patrick Stead/Cutlers Hill site. The range of services which could be provided includes: outpatient services, minor injuries treatment, community in-patient beds, day care, respite care, dementia services, end of life care, long term nursing and social care, possibly with a Very Sheltered Housing scheme nearby.

Our population is increasingly elderly: at present nearly 3,000 of our patients - over 33% - are more than 65 years of age, which is much higher than the national average. It is predicted that there will be a huge increase in the proportion of people over 75 in the coming years, and there will be a rising number of people who have dementia.

We need to act now to support all of our community, whatever their age or circumstances.