



Find out more about Social Enterprise in the NHS

There has been enormous interest in the role Social Enterprise can play in the NHS over the last few months. This has been partly sparked by the Darzi Review which has clarified matters like pension rights for NHS staff moving into social enterprises.

What is the definition of a social enterprise?

“formally constituted and socially owned enterprises which trade in goods and services for a social purpose”
– Plunkett Foundation

What makes social enterprises different?

Social enterprises have **social** objectives which they combine with their **financial** objectives. Most conventional businesses focus solely on generating profits, but social enterprises also focus on their benefit to the community. They can also be more democratic than traditional businesses, e.g. Cybermoor Ltd in Alston has [Directors](#) drawn from the local community.

Give me some examples of health related social enterprises.....

Central Surrey Health (CSH) is co-owned and run by the nursing and therapy teams it employs. They combine the values and principles of the NHS with the 'can do' culture of a successfully run business.

www.centralsurreyhealth.nhs.uk

Salford Health Matters is a Community Interest Company founded by doctors and nurses.

www.salfordhealthmatters.co.uk

What are the benefits of social enterprises?

- Lower rates of absenteeism.
- Greater flexibility and an ability to operate more creatively.
- Access to more sources of finance

What is Alston Healthcare?

Alston Healthcare (a social enterprise) has been awarded grant funding from the Department of Health Social Enterprise Pathfinder fund to look at ways of improving health and social care using e-health solutions. e-health can be defined briefly as the deployment of technology to support the delivery of health services.

Our project aims to use e-health to:

- Enable delivery of treatment and care closer to home
- Keep service users at home and closer to their families
- Reduce the cost of providing services so enabling resources to be used more effectively in our communities.

It also aims to:

- Have a fit for purpose professional and business approach to developing services
- Share the innovative approaches we develop across Cumbria

A steering group meets regularly and includes staff from the GP Surgery, Hospital, Age Concern, League of Friends and community. Cybermoor Services is the accountable body for the Department of Health.

Contact us

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Telehealth update

The Genesis DM monitor was recently delivered and has been demonstrated to staff at Alston and Sedbergh GP practices. It can be used by patients to weigh themselves, take their blood pressure and monitor their SATS levels. Data is fed back to a control centre and nurses are informed if the readings look as though a patient needs attention.

It aims to:

- Free up nurses to spend more time with patients who have more demanding conditions.
- Save patients and nursing staff from having to make unnecessary journeys.

The Telehealth working group met in October to discuss the pilot sites and some of the operational issues. Jan is now working with Alston and Sedbergh Medical Practices on how these challenges can be overcome. Discussions have also taken place with Tunstall (equipment manufacturers), Cumbria Informatics Team and The University of Cumbria. DigiTV are working on a project with us which will eventually allow patients to view telehealth information on their TV.

Video Assessment update

The video project to link Alston and Penrith hospitals is slowly moving forward. The Cumbria Wide Informatics group agreed to upgrade the link subject to receiving some additional information. They asked Chris and Collette some challenging questions but were eventually persuaded by the benefits of the project.

The video equipment is installed in Alston hospital but cannot link to any other sites until the broadband link is upgraded. When the link is ordered, BT will then have to upgrade the line, which could be a lengthy process.

The campaign to save Cumbria's community hospitals was successful because of the solidarity shown between the League of Friends at each hospital. Alston Healthcare's vision is to work with the other community hospitals around the County so they can benefit from video assessment services.

While we wait for the broadband upgrade to Alston, we will start work with other community hospitals to get them up and running.

EVENTS

20th November is Social Enterprise Day and the Cumbrian Social Enterprise Partnership is working in conjunction with Alston Healthcare to deliver a networking event for Health related social enterprises in the County and briefing for Commissioners from NHS Cumbria.

In the morning, **the event will focus on senior staff in health & social care social enterprises in Cumbria, allowing them to find out what other social enterprises are achieving, and how to get more work from organisations like the NHS.**

Details: www.socialenterpriseincumbria.org

From lunchtime, the event **is targeted at Commissioners and other interested PCT staff, allowing them to find out what social enterprises are achieving in Cumbria, and how they can potentially assist in delivering "Closer to Home."**

Details: <http://www.alstonhealthcare.co.uk/Events>

The Team

Daniel Heery - *Project Supervisor*

Daniel raises finance for Alston Healthcare and is responsible for overall management of the project. He has a background in rural development and technology projects.

Chris Buckingham, *Registered Nurse and Nurse Advisor*

Project Manager Video Link

Chris' role is to pioneer video technology and e-health for patient assessment.

Jan Boulding, *Registered Nurse and Nurse Lecturer*
Project Manager Telecare and Telehealth

Jan's main role is to manage and evaluate aspects of the project related to the use of telecare and telehealth products; to work in collaboration with our health and social care partners to enable this new technology to support the health and care of people at home.

Collette Eames, *Community Nurse Practitioner*
Clinical Champion for Telehealth & Telecare

Collette's role is clinical support of staff and service users in the use of e-health.

Keep up to date with the project at www.alstonhealthcare.co.uk