**BOoster JAB**

£9m community care funding will bring boost to Haslemere hospital

HASLEMERE Community Hospital stands to benefit from the £9m million investment in National Health Service (NHS) services over the next five years.

More than £9 million is being invested in adult community care services.

Community hospitals will see beds expanded to help meet frail patients and prevent the need for acute admissions.

FULL STORY Page 3

---

**Hospital to play key role in plan**

BY BEATRICE PHILLIPPS

A BIG boost for Haslemere Hospital has been welcomed by supporters fearful for its future.

The £9.5 million investment in adult community care just announced by Royal Surrey County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust will see more nurses and other staff recruited and a proactive care hub created, clinically led by a dedicated geriatrics, COP specialist and nurse practitioners.

The plans developed in partnership with Practice Federation of local GPs, also include the introduction of a specialist team in the Royal Surrey’s Emergency Department to identify frail and elderly patients who are suitable for care at Haslemere.

Haslemere and other community hospitals will see their falling bed numbers returned to the 50 commissioned by Guildford and Waverley Clinical Commissioning Group.

A seven day acute frailty service will also be developed and work has already started to deliver the scheme before peak winter demand.

The move will ease pressure on Royal Surrey’s overwhelmed A&E, which is dealing with double the national increase in demand – a rise of 15.4 per cent compared to 6.9 per cent.

Adult community health services director Mandy Sambrook said: “This highlights the importance of Haslemere Hospital for years to come.”

“Our community hospitals are a key part of this plan and the trust has recently invested £30,000 in new X-ray equipment at Haslemere Hospital. We are also looking at how we can make better use of the site by hosting other teams and services there.”

Haslemere League of Friends (LoF) chairman Rose Parry said: “We are delighted that the trust are investing in adult community services and replacing the X-ray equipment.

“Over so many years the providers have taken money out to meet their financial targets. The requirements of health care in the community have changed so rapidly and services need to be invested in and prepared for.”

“The full range of services at Haslemere Hospital is extremely important to us and we want as many people as possible to be treated locally and are working with the trust to enhance output, ingenuity and diagnosis to support this.”

“Despite the challenges of recruiting GPs, the Haslemere practice have developed a role for supporting the direct admissions, rehabilitation and respite beds in the hospital.”

“This model provides continuity of care for patients and a supported foundation position for those whose longer term wish is to go into general practice.”