

28th June 2021

## Community project to deliver new and improved garden space at Newton Community Hospital

- Gardening project led by Community Integrated Care and the people it supports
- Project to include accessible garden space inspired by Rugby League World Cup 2021

Patients, visitors and NHS staff at Newton Community Hospital will enjoy a new and improved garden space this summer, thanks to a new project by the national social care charity Community Integrated Care in partnership with Renova and Community Health Partnerships (CHP).

[Community Integrated Care](#) is one of the UK's biggest and most successful social care charities, supporting more than 4000 people who have learning disabilities, autism, mental health concerns, acquired brain injuries and dementia. Founded in the North West, they are the largest social care provider in the communities of St Helens, Knowsley, Warrington, Widnes and Runcorn.

The charity has formed a strategic partnership with Renova – an investor in community healthcare facilities in the North West - aimed at creating greater social impact and inclusion locally, through maximising the benefits of Renova's buildings and creating life-changing opportunities for typically isolated groups.

At the heart of this collaboration is the creation of a unique inclusive gardening project, which sees the charity and the people it supports create a Rugby League World Cup 2021 inspired feature garden at Newton Community Hospital. Funded by Renova, and supported by additional coordination and investment from CHP, the programme brings together the three organisations to deliver a range of improvements at Newton Community Hospital including:

### **A MORE WELCOMING, ACCESSIBLE SPACE:**

- The Community Integrated Care, CHP and Renova teams will create a special garden space for patients, visitors and staff and patients at Newton to sit in, unwind and enjoy all year round.
- There will be upgrades to existing raised beds; repainted chairs, tables and seating; and improvements to footpaths to allow full access for wheelchair users and to enable easy access throughout the garden.

### **NEW PLANTING CHOSEN BY NHS AND HOSPITAL STAFF:**

- Following suggestions from NHS and hospital staff, new planting at the garden will include scented flowers, vegetables and a herb garden

### **AN INCLUSIVE AND ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY PROJECT:**

- The new eco-friendly World Cup garden will enable a range of gardening activities, both for people supported by the charity and patients at Newton Hospital.

### **BRINGING THE EXCITEMENT OF THE RUGBY LEAGUE WORLD CUP TO THE HOSPITAL:**

- Community Integrated Care is the Official Social Care Partner of the tournament, leading the world's first Inclusive volunteering project at a major event. By enabling a range of vocational opportunities, the works at Newton Hospital will become a focal point of the project.
- With the tournament being one of the biggest global sporting events of 2021 and several major games taking place in Newton-le-Willows home borough of St Helens, in Merseyside, Lancashire and Greater Manchester. The garden is not only creating life-changing opportunity for participants but also bringing the excitement of the World Cup to the hospital.

CHP are the head tenant at Newton Community Hospital, responsible for providing facilities management for various NHS services including a 30-bed inpatient ward. These patients are often older people moving from hospital, via intermediate care at Newton Community Hospital, then returning to their homes.

Work on the new garden is now underway, following Covid secure guidelines, and is creating around 10 rewarding volunteering placements for people who have care and support needs.

**John Hughes, Director of Partnerships and Communities at Community Integrated Care, says:** *“Renova’s commitment to social impact and maximising the impact of their estates is inspirational. Through their support of our charity this year we have been able to develop this unique, life-changing project. The opportunities that it will offer to the people we support, through providing vocational and learning opportunities, are exceptional.*

*“We are sure that the people who work at Newton Community Hospital and access its services will equally be delighted by this project. Our thanks also go to CHP, who have been instrumental in managing and delivering this opportunity.”*

**Simon Waters, lead for Corporate Social Responsibility at Community Health Partnerships said:** *“We are excited for the upgrade to the Newton Community Hospital garden and are confident that it make a big difference to the physical and mental health of staff, patients and visitors. Just as importantly, we are excited to continue our partnership working with Community Integrated Care and look forward to seeing the benefits created for staff, patients, & visitors to Newton Hospital, as well as the people supported by Community Integrated Care. We are confident that Renova and CHP will ensure this project creates tangible social value for our local community.”*

**Renova General Manager Ian Willett said:** *“The recent challenges we have all faced have shown the huge value of quality outdoor space, so the improved garden at Newton Community Hospital will be a huge boost to patients, visitors and staff. This project is also a great chance to support the social and personal development of people who access social care, allowing them to learn a range of new skills and develop a love of gardening. We can’t wait to see this exciting project take shape over the coming weeks.”*

Renova’s charitable support of Community Integrated Care has also enabled it to lead a wider inclusive gardening project across each of their local communities. The charity has created wheelchair accessible raised beds and a range of environmental and gardening resources to 21 of its care services within Renova’s communities – further amplifying the impact of this partnership.

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#### **Notes to Editors:**

##### **Community Integrated Care:**

Community Integrated Care is one of the UK’s largest and most successful social care charities. It supports more than 4000 people who have learning disabilities, autism, mental health concerns and dementia. It was named as the 2019/20 Charity Times Charity of the Year for its impact and innovation. [www.c-i-c.co.uk/](http://www.c-i-c.co.uk/)

##### **Renova Developments**

Renova is owned by Fulcrum, an investor in over 40 community health centres under the NHS Local Improvement Finance Trust (LIFT) Programme in partnership with Community Health Partnerships. Renova is based in the North West of England, delivering health centres that serving the Merseyside and Cheshire boroughs of St Helens, Knowsley, Halton & Warrington. [www.fulcrumgroup.co.uk](http://www.fulcrumgroup.co.uk)

##### **Community Health Partnerships**

Community Health Partnerships (CHP) was established in 2001 to improve primary care and community access to services across local communities through Public Private Partnerships

(PPP). Wholly owned by the Department of Health and Social Care, CHP oversees the public sector investment in the development of primary care and community health estate through the NHS Local Improvement Finance Trust (LIFT) programme, acting as the public sector shareholder in 49 LIFT companies. As experts in healthcare infrastructure, CHP also provides expertise and resource to support health and social care systems to develop and implement local estate strategies, enabling integration and transformation of service delivery. In addition, in 2013 CHP became head tenant for the £2.5bn NHS LIFT estate, comprising 310 health premises, managing almost 900,000 sq.m. of high quality, well-maintained accommodation for more than 1200 tenants delivering a wide range of integrated health and care services out of hospital.

<https://communityhealthpartnerships.co.uk/>