

# Media Release



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## ROOMS WITH A VIEW

When Fiona Gordon was a sister in the old Sauchie Hospital, she counted herself lucky to work in a building which had such a wonderful view of the Ochils. She recalls that during winter, the snow-sprinkled hilltops were particularly attractive, and says the Ochils were a focal point for patients and staff alike.

Fiona is now Clinical Nurse Manager with NHS Forth Valley and has been closely involved with the design of the new Clackmannanshire community hospital. She's delighted that patients who will occupy the 45-bed unit will still be able to enjoy the magnificent vista from their window, together with the hustle and bustle of streets in the Sauchie area.

The in-patient facility at the new community hospital will cater for frail elderly who need rehabilitation, palliative care or have complex health needs. It will also treat older people with mental health problems. One ward will have 17 single rooms, the other 17 single and four double rooms, all with en suite facilities. Four of the single rooms in the frail older people's ward will be bigger than the others. This means that families will be able to spend time with their relatives if they are confined to bed, and there will also be facilities to make a welcome cuppa if they need to stay overnight.

The walls in each bedroom wing will be painted in fresh colours which will reflect a local theme, for example primrose after Primrose Street, and green to tie in with Greenfield, home to Clackmannanshire Council and also the name of an adjacent road.

Said Fiona Gordon: "Often people will have to spend some time in the community hospital and we have tried our very best to make the accommodation home from home. The plan is that each room will have a television. Sitting rooms will also be equipped with tv and there'll be a special quiet room in both units where patients can read or simply enjoy peace and relaxation."

But it is not all about beds. This community hospital will have its own well-equipped gym and occupational therapy service. In the gym patients will be able to improve their mobility through exercise. For some this will mean being able to move more easily, for others it could get them back

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*Forth Valley NHS Board is the common name for Forth Valley Health Board*

onto their feet and then home. An occupational therapy room will also host lots of activities for patients including diversional therapy such as quizzes, as well helping them get back to handling the simple things in life such as making a cup of tea. Add to this a large multi-purpose room for concerts and parties, and it is evident that this is very much 21<sup>st</sup> century healthcare which incorporates a sense of wellbeing.

Patients will be guaranteed the very best quality of care. When Sauchie Hospital closed in November 2006 the last remaining ward was moved to Clackmannan County Hospital just over the other side of the brae. This brought together the two units which are going to form the major part of the new community hospital giving staff the opportunity to share skills. In addition staff have, over the past four years, developed a rehabilitation model of care in preparation for the new community hospital. It is primarily aimed at getting patients back home and has been very successful. Part of the staff training has involved a falls prevention programme – about one third of women over 65 experience a fall each year and the figure is higher for those 75 plus.

Kathy O'Neill, General Manager Clackmannanshire Community Health Partnership said: We have been working closely with patients and their families and our staff, to make sure that we have the very best in both design and models of care. We have listened to what people would like to see and are confident that the new in-patient unit will be of tremendous benefit to people in Clackmannanshire both in terms of what services will be offered, and the fact that they will be available nearer to where people live.”

The £20 million pound community hospital and replacement health centre is due to be completed at the end of this year. Fiona Gordon says staff are looking forward to the move into what reflects the NHS Forth Valley new healthcare strategy – bringing care closer to people's homes.

“I started in Sauchie in 1990 and I've always had ties with the area” she said. “It is going to be lovely.”

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*Notes to Editors*

For more information please contact Communications Department on 01786 457243