**Report on BCUHB Stakeholder Event for People Aged 50+ and Later in Life**

This was one of a series of forums organised across North Wales by BCUHB to present their plans for coping with an increasing number of older people and to obtain ideas and feedback from the attendees.

Although 50+ seems very young to be classifying people as elderly, this is the age the WHO use as their benchmark, which includes many countries where the life expectancy is much lower than the UK. For consistency, the DOH has decided to use the same figure.

A slide and video presentation gave an outline of principles and progress to date. Basically, the principles were to give people a healthier lifestyle and easier access to medical services and support organisations. This would then promote a feeling of well-being and independence . Greater support for people within their own homes was also vital to free up hospital beds.

Progress so far: completed a baseline assessment, looked at research evidence and identified standards and guidelines.

We then had table discussions to identify what the stakeholders felt were the most important needs for the future. The recurring desires from the feedback from each group were:-

Easier access to GPs and the re-introduction of minor injury units to lessen the demand on A&E.

Better integration and communication between health, social care and the 3rd sector.

Listening to the community and ensuring the needs are community led.

There was a very diverse attendance at the event from various sectors of the community, so needs and desires were very different within the groups. But as with all health and well-being issues you felt the over-riding factor, in the end, would be how much money and resources would be available to implement these changes.