

# Garforth Neighbourhood Planning Forum

## Health sub-group

### Our Vision for the Future

The health of the community depends on the availability of the right number of practitioners of all necessary services. It also depends on the ability of all residents to access that care.

Health care in the community includes a wide variety of providers, including (but not limited to) :-

- GPs and practice nurses who provide a wide range of services and clinics.
- Dentists
- Opticians
- District Nurses
- Health Visitors
- Intermediate Care Teams, including nurses, physiotherapists and occupational therapists
- Speech and Language Therapists
- Dietitians
- Community Matrons
- Care homes for the elderly
- Neighbourhood Network Schemes

Many of the above services are provided by the NHS, but some are privately funded and others may have some charitable funding. Having access to care depends on more than just the care being available. It also depends on peoples' ability to reach it, so the geographical location of the care provision is crucial. This leads to Our Vision being in two sections, Garforth now and Garforth in the future.

#### **Garforth Now.**

Currently all of the above services are represented in Garforth, some as a constant and visible part of the community, such as GPs and Opticians; others are provided as and when needed, such as Community Matrons. We know the numbers and locations of the current constant care services, many of which are in the Main Street, but others are distributed around the town. We cannot be sure that these services fulfil the needs or expectations of Garforth residents, although we do know that GPs, for instance are still accepting new patients.

#### **Garforth in the Future.**

We expect that there will soon be a very substantial area of new houses, maybe as many as 2,500. These are likely to be situated well away from the current services and this is doubly beneficial because,

- the area of the new houses will necessarily include significant health service provision which, if centrally located, will be easily accessed by these new residents,
- because of this, the new residents will not be a further burden on currently overstretched existing services.

Approx 2,300 new homes in one development. Increase current services proportionately.

#### **Conclusion**

We want Garforth to have a fit and healthy population and to be able to access all services easily, as and when appropriate. For those who do require healthcare services there needs to be a full range, from birth to old age. It needs to be inclusive and look after its frailer residents, so that they are included in their local communities and not socially isolated. Frequent and accessible transport is necessary to ensure that residents can access shops, leisure facilities, libraries and other community facilities.

Health and well-being should be central to any community. In order to achieve this we should be looking not only at helping people to be restored to good health, but at preventing ill-health in the first place. This includes ensuring a healthy and pleasant environment, with a range of housing, green space and leisure facilities. It is essential that these are integral to both our existing community and any future community.