

Hens saved from slaughter need a home

HAPPY homes are being sought for hundreds of commercial hens who were destined for slaughter.

Devon-based charity The British Hen Welfare Trust is hosting a special pop-up rehoming day in Devon.

Events take place on Saturday, October 24, in Chulmleigh and South Zeal.

Members of the public interested in giving some hens a home are encouraged to call the trust first to go through a simple adoption process.

The British Hen Welfare Trust, which is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year, specialises in rehoming commercial laying hens.

The organisation also educates the public about how they can make a difference to hen welfare, and encourages support for the British egg industry.

For more details about the rehoming events call 01884 860084 or visit the website www.bhwt.org.uk



'I think this is the to

Anita Merritt talks to the chief executive of the Devon Clinical Commissioning Group and reveals just how tough things are running the NHS in Devon

IF you were given £1.1 billion to spend on health care in Devon, what would your priorities be?

How the region's share of NHS funding can best meet the needs of the population is decided by the NHS Northern, Eastern and Western (NEW) Devon Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).

It also has to choose where to make cuts and inevitably, not all those decisions have been popular with the public, such as the axing of hospital beds in Crediton, Ottery St Mary and Axminster.

Shouldering much of that responsibility is its chief executive Rebecca Harriott, who readily admits the NHS is facing its toughest challenge ever.

The biggest cause of concern is Devon has been spending vastly more on health care than it receives.

NEW Devon CCG has debts of £45.7m, its deficit having been double the expected level during the last financial year. This year it is predicting a deficit of £40m, bringing its total debts to over £80m.

The CCG deficit when combined with hospital deficits has led to Devon to being named as one of the four priority areas in the country in most need of intervention under a new Success Regime programme.

The injection of help is being positively received by NEW Devon CCG, including Rebecca, who admits the time for change is now.

"I think this is the toughest time for the NHS I've ever seen," she said. "I have to acknowledge the NHS has more than its fair share of public sector funding, but making that stretch as far as it needs to, given the increasing needs of the growing population, means it's got to the point where it's as difficult as it has ever been."

"The need to work in partnership across the NHS has never been greater, and trying to solve it as an individual organisation is too difficult."

"Doing it together will vastly improve our ability to get on top of the challenge."

Work has recently started with the formation of the Success Regime team.

"I accept it very much so," said Rebecca. "Within the next few weeks we expect to share how the Success Regime will function in Devon. We will be working on a plan which will involve public engagement; People will get the opportunity to comment on it."

When it comes to consulting the public, Rebecca concedes there is things she would change when asked if the CCG has ever got it wrong.

"I like to think we always listen, reflect and learn as we go," she said. "I'm not sitting here thinking about the outcome of a policy we have done where we've not got it right."

"I mean different policies we maybe could have gone about differently. For example, when



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FORTHCOMING AUCTIONS

Tuesday 27th October at 10.30

HANGAR 1: Office furniture & equipment. Apple G5 PCs & others. Mobile white boards. Reception sets. PCs & Printers. Holiday chalet furniture. Good House Clearances. New & used fishing tackle. Rugs & carpets. Ornaments, Clothes. Toys & gifts. 7 new Wood-burning Stoves. Ballroom & Prom dresses, Gents suits & wedding attire. Many new Beds & mattresses. Professional cleaning equip. Hoovers & polishers. Catering equipment. 200 banquet chairs + stage.

Antique & Period Furniture: Heavily carved oak rent table, oak dressers & sideboards, Mahogany dining table, chairs, Art Deco dressing table, boudoir grand piano, Escretoire desk. Oak carver chairs. Elm & yew Windsor chairs.

Wednesday 28th October at 10.30

HANGAR 2: General building equipment, mixers, space heaters, diesel pumps, ladders, cuprinol fence coatings, hardwood oak flooring & architrave, hand & power tools etc.

Woodworking: Wilson spindle moulders, D'Walt cross cuts, Startrite 24-S-5 band saw, chisel morticers, sash cramps

Engineering: Myford 254S Lathe (little use), tool sharpener,