Dorset County Hospital
2020 Strategy

Outstanding care for people in ways which matter to them

We will be involving staff throughout the organisation at all levels as we work through our strategy. Please ensure you make the most of any opportunities to get involved. We will keep you updated through the usual staff communication channels – Team Brief, CEO Brief, intranet, email, noticeboards, infomation stands, staff sessions and social media.

In the meantime, think about some of these questions and be ready to share your views and ideas:

- What do you think matters most to our patients?
- How will living the Trust values help you improve our patients’ experiences?
- How can you work more closely with colleagues across the Trust?
- How can you work more closely with our partners in the primary, community and acute settings?
- How can my team work better?
- How can I personally contribute to making our strategy happen?
- How can I make every contact with patients count?
- How can I help improve the health of our population?
- Am I delivering services in the right place and at the right time for our patients?
- How can you embrace technology for your service?

Any questions?

If you have any questions or comments about what you’ve read here please feel free to call or email us:

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Any other queries?


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Our NHS is facing its greatest challenge yet. Rising demand on our services coupled with stretched resources mean we simply cannot carry on doing things the way we always have done.

The local picture in Dorset is no different. We have to fundamentally change the way our services are delivered so we can afford to continue providing high quality care for our patients.

One of the major challenges Dorset has to contend with is its ageing population. People are living longer and chronic long-term conditions like diabetes are on the increase. Our focus must be on improving the health of our population, keeping people well and out of hospital.

We are also facing ongoing challenges with recruiting enough nurses, doctors and healthcare workers, and have reached the point where we are competing with neighbouring organisations for the same pool of staff.

If we don’t take action now we won’t be able to provide what our community needs in the longer term and we will lose control of our own future.

We have developed a strategy to take us where we need to be and now we need your help to make it happen.

With the scale of the challenge, we can’t do this alone. We will need to work more closely with our local partner organisations to join up health and care services so they work more efficiently and effectively for our patients.

We need to work as a healthcare ‘system’ rather than as standalone organisations. As part of that work we will site a Mid-Dorset Integrated Community Services Hub at Dorset County Hospital to provide that crucial link between hospital, community and primary care.

We have not worked like this before and it may sound daunting, but we should also view this as an exciting opportunity to take a close look at what we do and reshape services so patients get an even better, more seamless service.

Local hospitals, local authorities and the Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group have worked together to develop a Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP). This outlines how we will work together to join up services. The Dorset Clinical Services Review (CSR) will feed into this work.

Together we are far stronger and together we will ensure our community has access to first class health and care services, now and into the future.

Our aim is to join up health and care services in Dorset by breaking down barriers between organisations and keeping the patient at the centre of everything we do. We want to help people stay healthy for longer and empower patients, giving them greater control of their own care.

Our Mission
Outstanding care for people in ways which matter to them.

Our Vision
Dorset County Hospital, working with our health and social care partners, will be at the heart of improving the wellbeing of our communities.

We will achieve our mission and deliver our vision through a culture and set of values focussed on excellence, integrity, respect and teamwork. These values are at the core of everything we do at DCH. Our People Strategy sets out a plan to continue to make DCH a great place to work. We need to ensure that we have the right people with the right skills in the right jobs. We also need to support and develop our leaders and managers to build effective teams and enable staff to do the best job they can.