

News Release

8 September 2010

New cancer unit for Dorset County Hospital

A dedicated unit for inpatients being treated for cancer is to be created at Dorset County Hospital.

Patients and staff have been keen to establish a cancer unit for a number of years but finding a suitable space in the hospital has proved difficult.

Now, following a thorough review of the bed capacity of all the wards, plans are in the pipeline to form a cancer unit, although the location within the hospital is yet to be finalised.

As well as the creation of the cancer unit, the review will lead to other changes within the hospital which are aimed at ensuring all patients receive care delivered by staff with the right skills in the right specialty area.

Director of Nursing and Operations Alison Tong said: "This is great news for patients as it means they can be cared for in the most appropriate environments by dedicated staff.

"These plans incorporate a number of priorities for the Trust to further improve the patient experience and the efficiency of our services to secure their long-term future."

Other changes under the plans include:

- Moving the medical day unit (Casterbridge Unit), which is currently situated in a separate building near the Children's Centre, back into the main hospital in the area currently known as Evershot Ward;
- Relocating the Pre-assessment Unit from the Short Stay Unit to the space currently occupied by the Chronic Pain Service;
- Moving the Chronic Pain Service to a more suitable environment in the building vacated by the Casterbridge Unit;
- Designating 10 beds on Ridgeway Ward as a recovery area for short stay surgical patients to support increasing numbers of day case procedures.

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