

# News Release

21 July 2011

## **DCH moves forward improvement plans**

Dorset County Hospital is pressing ahead with plans to improve care for patients and save money.

Staff have been working together on plans for some time to make more efficient use of beds and reduce the amount of time patients have to stay in hospital.

Thanks to their efforts, over the last two to three weeks the hospital has seen unprecedented numbers of empty beds, so has decided to seize the opportunity to move forward with the project.

On Friday (July 22) the hospital will be reducing the bed capacity on Abbotsbury Ward by 9, on Ilchester Ward by 16 and on Ridgeway Ward by 10. Where necessary, staff will be relocated to other appropriate wards/departments, covering vacancies and reducing the use of bank staff.

New processes are already working well to enable the hospital to run efficiently with fewer beds so patients will not notice any difference – other than the benefit of being able to return home quicker following their operation or treatment.

The hospital's Director of Operations Patricia Miller thanked staff for their efforts to make this project a success.

She said: "Staff have been working hard to ensure a smooth flow of patients through the hospital and although we have seen a high level of emergency admissions recently, we have continued with elective surgery and minimised cancellations.

"None of this would have been possible without the determination and commitment of all the teams involved, for which we are very grateful."

**ENDS**

**For more information please contact Communications Manager Susie Palmer on 01305 254683, [susie.palmer@dchft.nhs.uk](mailto:susie.palmer@dchft.nhs.uk), Mon to Fri, 9.30am to 2.30pm. Outside of these hours you can contact the Chief Executive's Office on 01305 254645.**