

# Foundation Focus

Issue 5

Summer 2011

## Trust launches public consultation on strategy

**Members of Dorset County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust are being asked to help shape the strategic direction of the Trust.**

A Consultation Document for our Strategic Direction for 2011 - 2014 is now available on our public website under the membership section here:

[www.dchft.nhs.uk/foundation/index.html](http://www.dchft.nhs.uk/foundation/index.html)  
or you can contact us for a printed copy on 01305 254114 or [foundation@dchft.nhs.uk](mailto:foundation@dchft.nhs.uk)

We would really appreciate it if you could read through this document and answer some or all of the questions within it, and send us any further comments you may have. You can give us your views by filling out the feedback form included with the document. An electronic version of the form is available on our website or a paper version will be included with your printed copy of the document if you request one.

The strategy is founded on our desire to provide the best possible care for patients. Over the next three years we aim to:

- consolidate our role as the acute service provider of choice;
- deliver high quality, safe services that meet our patients' expectations;
- deliver on our commissioners and regulators requirements;
- develop our facilities and workforce to assist in maximising our productivity and efficiency.

We intend to focus on improving the experience that patients have at our hospital



and make it a safer place in which to be treated. We know we must provide value for money and that there are opportunities to improve our productivity. We must target our improvements if we are to retain financial health and invest in services for the future. We intend to invest in improving our facilities and ensure that staff recognise us as being an exemplary employer.

Our strategy is a result of collaboration between the Board, Governors, staff and stakeholders. We have revisited the vision, mission and goals of the hospital and believe that by delivering this strategy we are well positioned to meet the challenges the NHS is facing. Our plan outlines how we aim to maintain a strong and viable hospital into the future.

**We plan to finalise our strategy in September so we would appreciate it if you could send us your feedback by 17 August 2011.**

## Trust wins top hospital award

Dorset County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust has been named one of the CHKS 40 Top Hospitals 2011. The 40 Top Hospitals award is presented to the 40 best performing CHKS client trusts and is based on the evaluation of 21 indicators of clinical effectiveness, health outcomes, efficiency, patient experience and quality of care. CHKS (Comparative Health Knowledge System) is a leading provider of healthcare intelligence and quality improvement services.

## New patient alert system installed

Patients at Dorset County Hospital are now benefitting from a new hi-tech system called VitalPAC which monitors their condition and immediately alerts their doctor if they are getting sicker. The system enables nurses to record patients' vital signs electronically into handheld computers at the bedside rather than using a paper chart to record data such as pulse, temperature and blood pressure. VitalPAC then automatically analyses this information, along with data stored in other hospital databases such as blood test results, and identifies priority patients.

## Hearing aid clinic service improves

Patients who attend Dorset County Hospital's hearing aid clinics are set to benefit from an improved service. The audiology department has been running drop-in clinics at DCH and the surrounding community hospitals but the high demand has led to long waits for patients. From 5 September 2011, the clinics will be run through booked appointments only, so people can attend at a set time rather than face a long and unpredictable wait to be seen. Anyone wishing to book an appointment from September should call 01305 255563.

## New online patient visiting room

Dorset County Hospital has endorsed a new website which is helping hospital patients, their families and carers keep in touch. Justvisiting.com is a free confidential social networking site designed to support not only people in hospital but particularly their families and carers. Patients visiting the site from their hospital bedside benefit from more social contact while family and friends can log onto the site to view updates about the patient's progress - saving nursing staff and family members from sharing the news via costly phone calls.

## Message from our Lead Governor

Our hospital is at a very key time in its development and we as members can have an important role in it. The Board are inviting members to comment on the strategy document, which is available on the hospital website, or you can request a printed copy. The Governors have on your behalf been involved in the writing of the document and now are seeking your views. So please do reply if you wish.

The Annual Members' Meeting and Annual General Meeting is being held at the Dorford Centre, Dorchester, on 6 September from 6pm. This is another opportunity to have your say and to meet with the Governors and hear what has been happening over the past year in the hospital, as the Board have been working to recover the financial situation. I hope that you will be able to come and join us.

The Governors also wish to hear what it is you as members want from us and would like to see, so please do contact any Governor (details on the back page), we welcome your input.

I hope to be able to meet you on 6 September at the AGM.

**Bill Mitchell**  
Lead Governor

# All members invited to Annual Members' Meeting

**Our Annual Members' Meeting and Trust Annual General Meeting is being held on Tuesday, 6 September 2011 from 6pm in the Dorford Centre, Top O' Town, Bridport Road, Dorchester, DT1 1RR.**

All members are invited to attend, no need to RSVP, please just come along on the day. There will be an executive presentation on the Annual Report and Accounts for 2010/11,

and the chance to give your comments and ask questions.

The full Annual Report is available to read on our public website at [www.dchft.nhs.uk](http://www.dchft.nhs.uk). We have limited the number of printed copies as it is a weighty document but copies will be available at the meeting. We are also producing a public Annual Review document which will be in a more accessible format.

# Governor Profile - Colin Dann

Written by Governor Michel Hooper-Immins

**Seven times Mayor of Gillingham, Councillor Colin Dann brings many decades of industrial and political experience to his role as a Public Governor, elected in 2009.**

Born in West Sussex and married to Janet for 46 years with their twins Nicholas and Claire, Colin was a Sales Executive with Reckitt & Colman - of mustard fame - looking after Dorset. They lived at Wareham, Corfe Mullen and then Gillingham, because it has a railway station and so much easier to travel further afield.

He has served for 26 years on Gillingham Town Council and is a former North Dorset District councillor, as well as President and Chairman of many organisations in the town.

Like many DCH Governors, Colin Dann is also a patient of the hospital, twice as an inpatient. His GP recommended DCH when he began to suffer from kidney problems a few years ago.

"I'm ever grateful to him for that," recalls Colin, "I attend the Renal Unit regularly and it's a real five-star service - very much a centre of excellence. The staff are so caring about the welfare of their patients, we are made to feel totally at ease."



*Councillor Colin Dann when Mayor of Gillingham*

As a Governor, Councillor Dann makes a point of listening to patients' views. "I'm enjoying being a Governor immensely, we're a valuable link between patients and the hospital management. We are the middlemen where communication with the hospital is concerned, we pass on any concerns to the Directors. I am always available to talk to patients about their concerns." He is a member of several important Trust Board committees and attends most meetings, but especially enjoys the Finance & Performance Committee. Colin is ever upbeat about the hospital: "The care and attention given by all members of the staff is really outstanding. We have a fine building, but it's the people inside it that make so much difference."

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## Final push for mammography appeal



**You can't have missed the publicity surrounding the Dorset County Hospital Charity's Digital Mammography Appeal.** The public response to the appeal to raise

£500,000 for a new digital mammography machine has been phenomenal and the charity is close to raising its total. There is now a final push to raise the final

£100,000 and the charity is appealing for help to keep up the momentum. The breast service unit at DCH needs to replace its outdated x-ray equipment with a state-of-the-art digital machine to maintain its expertise and offer faster, more accurate diagnosis for women in West Dorset.

**To find out more about the appeal and become involved you can visit the appeal website at [www.boostdch.co.uk](http://www.boostdch.co.uk) or call the fundraising office on 01305 255419.**

# Your Council of Governors

## West Dorset



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## North Dorset

## Weymouth & Portland



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**Sue Bruce-Payne**  
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## East Dorset



**Peter Coghlan**  
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## Purbeck



**Malcolm Shakesby**  
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## Staff Governors



**Duncan Farquhar-Thomson**



**Tracy Glen**



**Sue Browne**

## Appointed Governors

**Fran Leaper**  
Weldmar Hospicecare

**Amanda Gallaher**  
NHS Dorset

**Andy Cooke**  
Dorset County Council

**Jason Cridland**  
Weymouth College

**Peter Wood**  
Age Concern Dorchester

**Nigel Pennington**  
Friends of Dorset County Hospital

**Mark Robson**  
South Western Ambulance

**Simon Bishop**  
Dorset Kidney Fund

## Help us to keep in touch with you

We keep in touch with our members via email or post depending on your preference. If your contact details change could you please call us on 01305 254114 or email [foundation@dchft.nhs.uk](mailto:foundation@dchft.nhs.uk). Alternatively you can write to us without using a stamp FREEPOST RRAY-BKJZ-KBTY, Trust HQ, Dorset County Hospital, Dorchester, DT1 2JY.

## On the lookout for younger members

We are keen to recruit some younger members so we can better represent the local community. If you know a young person aged 16 to 25 please encourage them to become a member. They can register online at [www.dchft.nhs.uk](http://www.dchft.nhs.uk), email [foundation@dchft.nhs.uk](mailto:foundation@dchft.nhs.uk) or call 01305 254114.