

# News Release

**9 June 2017**

## **Show your support for Dorset County Hospital**

North Dorset residents are being asked to show their support for Dorset County Hospital by becoming a Foundation Trust member.

In 2007 Dorset County Hospital was proud to be awarded Foundation Trust status. As a Foundation Trust, the hospital has a membership and a Council of Governors, both of which play an important part in ensuring decisions made by the Trust Board are in the best interests of the community and patients. The members elect governors to represent their views to the hospital, which enables people to have a say in how their local health service is run.

Being a member of the Trust is a great way of showing your support for the hospital. As a member of the hospital you will receive regular newsletters and invitations to members' events at the hospital. Members are able to access a range of discounts only usually available to NHS staff, including discounts at local businesses. You will also have the right to vote for Governors in your constituency, or have the chance to stand as a Governor yourself and represent local members and the public.

Public Governor for North Dorset, Christine McGee said: "We value all our members, whatever their level of involvement with the Trust. Residents from North Dorset and South Somerset are currently underrepresented among the membership of the hospital, but the services provided by Dorset County Hospital are vital to our community's wellbeing. Becoming a member is a way of demonstrating your support for the hospital in these challenging times for the health service."

Membership is free and joining is easy. You can apply online at [www.dchft.nhs.uk/members](http://www.dchft.nhs.uk/members) or call the Membership Office on 01305 255419.

**ENDS**

**For more information please contact the DCH Communications Team on 01305 254683 or [communications@dchft.nhs.uk](mailto:communications@dchft.nhs.uk)**