

# News Release

**9 November 2017**

## **Hospital seeks volunteer Patient Research Ambassadors**

Dorset County Hospital is asking for public volunteers to help shape innovative health research at the hospital.

The Research and Innovation Department is recruiting Patient Research Ambassadors to help raise community awareness of lifesaving medical research and to represent the patient perspective at meetings. Ambassadors can also assist with guiding the direction of the hospital's research strategy or help with the design of research projects.

Based in the Old Chapel in Damers House, near to the Children's Centre, Research and Innovation is a very active department currently taking part in over 150 clinical research studies covering most clinical areas.

Dr Zoë A. Sheppard, Head of Research at the hospital said: "We're very excited to be able to offer members of the public the opportunity to get involved with our work. The volunteer Patient Research Ambassadors will work alongside our team to promote the health research and clinical trials work that we undertake at the hospital. No prior medical knowledge or experience of health research is required, just enthusiasm for the role and a desire to get involved."

To register your interest or for further information please contact the Research and Innovation Department on 01305 253106 or e-mail [research@dchft.nhs.uk](mailto:research@dchft.nhs.uk), or visit the research page of the hospital's website. All applicants will be required to undergo the hospital's usual human resources checks for volunteers.

**ENDS**

**PHOTO: Members of the Research and Innovation team promoting their work at the hospital's annual open day.**

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