

News Release

13 July 2017

Health Secretary Visits Dorset's Acute Hospitals

Secretary of State for Health Jeremy Hunt visited hospitals across Dorset today (July 13) to hear how they are putting patient safety first.

The minister began the day of informal private visits in the morning at the Royal Bournemouth Hospital, before heading to Poole Hospital at lunchtime and Dorset County Hospital in the afternoon.

Mr Hunt told staff at each hospital that safety was a key focus for the health service under his tenure.

During each visit, hospital staff outlined a range of safety initiatives to the minister, including:

- How DCH has reduced grade 2 pressure ulcers by 71 per cent by working on education and ways of managing patients who have a high risk of developing pressure ulcers
- How the Older Persons Assessment Unit has helped reduce the average length of stay at Royal Bournemouth from over 10 days to 6 days
- How the introduction of new forms has led to a 26 per cent reduction in deaths from acute kidney injury at Poole Hospital

Staff then had the chance to pose questions to the minister, covering topics including workforce, investment in social care, Brexit and its effect on staffing, and the removal of bursaries for nurses in training.

Nicky Lucey, Director of Nursing and Quality at Dorset County Hospital, said: "The clinical teams were very proud to share the outcomes of the improvements in safe care they have made by working with partners and patients across the health and care system."

Dr Alyson O'Donnell, medical director at Royal Bournemouth Hospital, said: "This was a great opportunity for the Trust to share the improvements we have made with patient safety over the recent years, which are reflected in consistent and significant improvements in our mortality rates."

Mr Robert Talbot, medical director at Poole Hospital said: "We were delighted to welcome the minister for this during a private and informal visit today to meet staff and hear how we're putting safety at the heart of what we do."

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For more information please contact the DCH Communications Team on 01305 254683 or communications@dchft.nhs.uk