

News Release

27 January 2017

New car parking charges to be introduced at DCH

New parking charges are being introduced at Dorset County Hospital from April 2017.

Dorset County Hospital's Trust Board agreed to increasing public car parking charges on the hospital site at their board meeting on Wednesday 25 January.

The increased revenue will be re-invested into parking improvements and patient services.

The hospital's Director of Finance and Resources Libby Walters said: "While staff parking charges have been reviewed and increased recently, public car parking charges have remained unchanged for several years.

"The Trust Board last reviewed the charges in 2012 and rejected an increase at that time.

"Now we feel the time is right to increase the charges so that we can invest the extra revenue into improving car parking on site and clinical services.

"The new charges bring us in line with other NHS trusts in the region when we look at the average charges.

"We will be creating a new drop-off area at the main front entrance to the hospital and we are developing plans to create additional spaces for public use. Any further additional income will be re-invested into local healthcare services.

"The increased parking charges will not affect the many concessionary arrangements we have in place. Parking will remain free for blue badge holders, dialysis and chemotherapy patients and in the drop-off zones.

"Free parking is also available for families of palliative care patients and those being cared for in our intensive care, high dependency and critical care units, Kingfisher Ward and SCBU.

"We offer all-day parking for maternity, day surgery and endoscopy patients at the one hour rate. We also offer visitor concession parking permits on all our wards – visitors should speak to the ward their relative is staying on for details."

DCH Parking Charges:

DCH existing charges	DCH new charges from April 2017	Average charge for NHS Trusts in region
Up to 1 hour £1.60	£1.70	£1.68
Up to 2 hours £2.10	£2.60	£2.62
Up to 3 hours – not currently an option	£3.70	£3.72
Up to 4 hours £4.20	£4.50	£4.52
Over 4 hours £6.50	£7.00	£7.52

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