

Continuing to keep patients and staff safe

COVID-19 is still with us, and the safety of our patients, visitors and staff is our top priority.

We are asking the public to continue to play their part when visiting Dorset County Hospital and other healthcare settings and continue to wear a face covering and follow social distancing measures that remain in place.

The restrictions will help to minimise the risk of transmission of COVID-19 and help protect our patients and staff, particularly those who may be more vulnerable to infections.

Chief Nursing Officer at Dorset County Hospital Nicky Lucey said: "We are really grateful for everyone's support in following the guidance during the pandemic, but we want to emphasise how important it is for us all to continue to follow this guidance in healthcare settings, despite restrictions easing elsewhere.

"It is vital for face coverings, social distancing measures, vigilant handwashing and ventilation, where possible, to remain in place at our Trust and other healthcare settings.

"These simple steps are a minor inconvenience but will help reduce the risk of infection for people who need our care and for everyone working in our services.

"In line with the national guidance, our visiting guidance also remains restricted to ensure patients and staff are protected.

"We understand this can be difficult but we do have a number of alternative ways families can keep in touch with loved ones and exceptions can of course be made in special circumstances.

"Coronavirus has not gone away and it is crucial we all continue to work together to follow the guidance to protect one another.

"It is also vital that people get vaccinated with both doses, if they have not already done so, to help reduce the risk of transmission and serious illness if infected."

We ask you all to please continue to act carefully and remain cautious.

For the latest information about the impact of coronavirus on our hospital services, visiting guidance and Dorset's vaccination programme, please visit

dchft.nhs.uk/patients-and-visitors/coronavirus-information/



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Welcome

...to the latest edition of our newsletter for the public and staff members of Dorset County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust.



If you have any comments on this edition of The DCH Way or would like to contribute something for a future edition please contact the communications team on **01305 253394** or email **communications@dchft.nhs.uk**



Marking the start of construction

The start of construction of Dorset County Hospital's multi-storey car park was officially marked with a turf cutting ceremony earlier this year.

Representatives from the hospital, health and care property developer Prime and contractors Willmott Dixon gathered on site to see how work was progressing.

The car park, due to be completed in summer 2022, is the first phase of the development of the hospital site to free up land for the expansion of clinical facilities, including a larger Emergency Department and Intensive Care Unit.

The multi-storey car park will include 12 electric vehicle charge points across seven floors (with future capacity for this to increase) and a dedicated disabled parking area.

It will deliver a 10% net gain in biodiversity improvements - the site will include bee blocks built into the gabion walls, native shrub planting, a wildflower lawn and bird boxes. The south and east elevations of the car park will include climbing plants of various species to add to the project's biodiversity.

As voted for by the local community, photos of Portland Bill, Durdle Door and Corfe Castle are planned to be used to create images on perforated metal facades to cover three sides of the car park. The theme of local landscapes and landmarks was chosen by hospital staff to represent the hospital's catchment area.

Dorset County Hospital's Chief Financial Officer Paul Goddard said: "We are delighted to see the construction of our multi-storey car park under way at Dorset County Hospital. This marks the start of a hugely significant and exciting period in the Trust's history and we would like to thank all those involved in helping us reach this important milestone.

"Our existing Emergency Department and ICU were not built to accommodate the volume of patients we are seeing now. Whilst our clinical teams have responded magnificently to the ever-increasing demand, alongside the additional challenges the coronavirus pandemic has brought, it is clear that we must create additional space and facilities to ensure the safety of our patients and secure the future of Dorset County Hospital."

For the latest updates about our site development plans, please visit dchft.nhs.uk/about-us/site-development/



Representatives of Dorset County Hospital, Prime and Willmott Dixon gather to mark the start of construction of the multi-storey car park

Launching our new Trust Strategy

Our new Trust strategy will focus on three strategic goals: **People, Place, and Partnership**.

It signals our intention to truly value our staff. Our people are our most important asset, and we want them to feel valued, welcomed, respected, that they belong and they matter. We recognise the link between high levels of staff satisfaction and improving patient experience and outcomes.

Our vision is to work with our health and social care partners, being at the heart of improving the wellbeing of our communities, demonstrating our continued commitment to collaboration and partnership, which will be key to the development of the Dorset Integrated Care System.

Aligned to our Social Value Pledge, we will work hard to deliver on our responsibilities to be a model employer, contributing to the local economy through our income and purchasing power. We will be improving our environmental sustainability plan to meet the NHS net zero targets by improving our carbon footprint and reducing the environmental impact of our services and becoming the world's first net zero national health service.

Committing to reducing our impact on the environment signals recognition of our contribution to better health and wellbeing of our local communities. We have a key role to play in reducing unfair and avoidable health inequalities and our commitment will continue both through the way we deliver services in the future and our partnerships across Dorset.

You can read our full Trust Strategy on our website at dchft.nhs.uk/about-us/trust-strategy/



Our commitment to tackling waiting times

The coronavirus response has had a significant impact on the services we can provide to our patients, but we have been working extremely hard to restart activities that were paused during the pandemic.

Our teams have worked tirelessly to maintain urgent procedures, and to run as many appointments as possible during the pandemic through telephone and video consultations.

Inevitably we are now facing some long waiting times for routine surgery within a number of specialities and work is under way to address this backlog with extra clinics and surgical sessions.

We understand the impact longer waits have on our patients and we apologise for the inconvenience of any delay in treatment. The safety of our patients is our top priority and we will prioritise the most clinically urgent patients. We have rigorous infection control safety measures in place to protect both our patients and our staff. As a result of these measures some planned treatments are taking longer to perform than they did before which is also adding to delays.

If you are on a waiting list for an appointment but haven't heard from us since your referral please be assured we will be in touch as soon as we are able to schedule your appointment.

Most cancer and clinically urgent appointments and procedures have continued to take place – it is possible the location may change and if this is the case you will be notified via letter or phone call.

We would like to thank you for your patience and reassure you that our teams are doing everything they can to restart services safely as soon as possible.

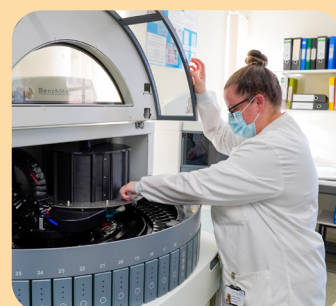
Our waiting lists are reviewed and re-prioritised on a regular basis. If your condition has changed or worsened since you were referred please get in touch with your GP practice.

More information and support is available on our website at dchft.nhs.uk/patients-and-visitors/waiting-well/

Thanking our incredibly hardworking staff

Recovering from the impact of the pandemic would not be possible without the hard work, dedication and teamwork from staff and volunteers in all departments across the Trust.

We are incredible proud of their ongoing efforts to care for and treat our patients under very challenging circumstances and we cannot thank them enough!



Updates from your Council

Your Council of Governors

The Council of Governors represents the views and comments of the membership, and therefore plays an important part in ensuring decisions made by the Trust are in the best interests of the community and patients.

For more information on membership or to make contact with the Governor for your constituency, please call the membership office on **01305 255419** or email **foundation@dchft.nhs.uk**

Public Governors

West Dorset

- Sarah Carney
- David Cove
- Kathryn Harrison
- David Tett
- Judy Crabb
- Steven Hussey

Weymouth and Portland

- Margaret Alsop
- Mike Byatt
- Stephen Mason
- David Richardson
- Dave Stebbing

East Dorset

- Simon Bishop

North Dorset

- Lynn Taylor
- Maurice Perks

Staff Governors

- Kathryn Cockerell
- Tracy Glen
- Tony Petrou

Appointed Governors

- Annette Kent, Friends of DCH
- Tony Alford, Dorset County Council
- Davina Smith, Weldmar Hospicecare
- David Thorp, Age UK

Governor Election 2021

A huge thank you to all our members who stood for our 2021 Governor Election and voted in the ballots.

We are delighted to announce the following results:

North Dorset

Maurice Perks (re-elected uncontested)
Lynn Taylor (elected uncontested)

West Dorset

Sarah Carney (re-elected)
David Tett (re-elected)
Steven Hussey (elected)
Judy Crabb (elected)

Weymouth and Portland

Stephen Mason (re-elected)
David Richardson (elected)
Dave Stebbing (re-elected following break)

Staff Governors

Kathryn Cockerell (elected uncontested)
Tony Petrou (elected uncontested)

We say goodbye and thank you to the following Governors:

Naomi Patterson – West Dorset
Wally Gundry – West Dorset
Christine McGee – North Dorset
Sharon Waight – Weymouth and Portland

Annual Members' Meeting and Annual General Meeting 2021

The Trust's Annual Members' Meeting and Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 30 September 2021 from 5pm to 7pm. The meeting will be held virtually and the agenda, along with a link to access the meeting, will be made available on our website closer to the date. All questions must be submitted in advance by emailing **foundation@dchft.nhs.uk**

All our meeting dates and papers can be found on our website at **dchft.nhs.uk/membership/public-events-and-meetings/**

Council of Governors

A warm welcome to our newly elected Governors

We are delighted to welcome our new Governors to the Trust and look forward working with them to address any issues or concerns raised by our Trust members as well as staff and the wider public.

Steven Hussey

My motivation to serve the hospital and its patients is born from when they cared for my wife and sons during two difficult pregnancies and myself when I was admitted to ED with a health scare.

It is now time for me to give something back to the NHS and our community.



Lynn Taylor

I was elected as governor at Salisbury NHSFT in 2014, I was a parish councillor for Chilmark for 15 years and throughout my life I have worked as a volunteer.

I now miss having interesting and engaging work within the NHS. I can bring long experience of the NHS as well as from other voluntary roles.



David Richardson

I believe my experience in the public and private sectors will help give a balanced viewpoint and help create a service that the Trust and its patients can be extremely proud of.



Dave Stebbing

I am honoured to be your voice to ensure the Trust is well managed and accountable. It is a privilege to represent you again after taking a year out.



Judy Crabb

I have lived in Dorset all my life and am proud that I worked at DCH for more than 30 years. The population the hospital serves are entitled to have their voices heard. This is important both now and for when planning the care for future generations.



Tony Petrou

I have extensive experience of the NHS gained over 21 years whilst working in a range of roles from a Clinical Technologist to Head of Medical Engineering.

The role of the governors, as I see it, is to help to create and maintain a safe, effective environment where the NHS is the best it can be for everyone, where both patients and staff are looked after.



Kathryn Cockerell

For patients, good nutrition and hydration is often overlooked or minimised in terms of the impact it can have on how one responds to medical treatments; the reduction in risk of pressure ulcers and falls; the reduction in length of stay and improvements in patient experience of hospital.

As a Dietetic Manager, I would like to influence the attention paid to issues of nutrition and hydration in the context of our staff and our patients.



For more information about the Council of Governors, including their statutory duties and key functions, please visit our website at

dchft.nhs.uk/membership/council-of-governors/





Conny (pictured front) and her colleagues in our COVID Testing Unit challenged themselves to walk from Weymouth Pavilion to the COVID Testing Unit at Dorset County Hospital in July to raise money for our Greatest Need Fund.

You can find out more and donate at justgiving.com/fundraising/conny-sargent5

The Greatest Need Fund supports treatment and care across all areas of the hospital. The use of this fund is determined by our clinical teams and will be directed towards the areas of greatest need. You can support this fund at dchcharity.org.uk/care-areas/greatest-need/



**Be part of the power of giving
and make patient care even
better at Dorset County Hospital**

With lockdown restrictions easing in the community, we are looking forward to being able to support fundraising events. If you would like to stage a fundraiser for us, please visit our website for ideas and advice at dchcharity.org.uk/community-fundraising/

Dorset County Hospital Charity launches new website

Our new website provides lots of information about what Dorset County Hospital Charity does and how you can help.

Find out about our fundraising projects and new appeals. Make a donation to a specialist care area or the ward of your choice and see how your support really helps make patient care even better at Dorset County Hospital.

Visit dchcharity.org.uk to find out more.

Scan to
make an
online
donation



Support our specialist care areas



Cancer care



Intensive care



Emergency care



Kidney health



Heart health



Children



Diabetes



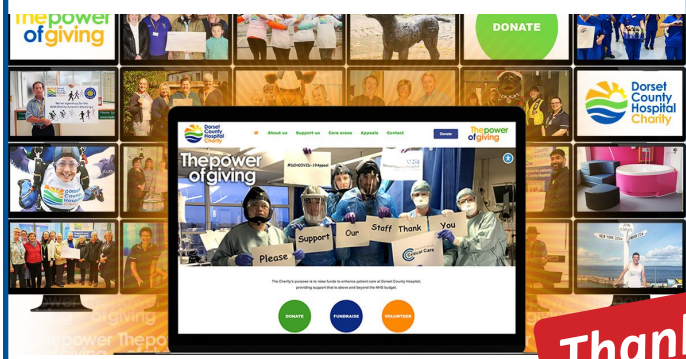
Eye care



Elderly care

Donate today

- Online at dchcharity.org.uk
- Send a cheque to our address
- Phone 01305 253215
- Email charity@dchft.nhs.uk



Thank You!

Dorset County Hospital Charity,
Williams Avenue, Dorchester, DT1 2JY
Registered Charity Number 1056479

facebook.com/DCHcharity

twitter.com/dch_charity



Enhancing the environment with art

Arts in Hospital is a small, charitable organisation based at Dorset County Hospital. We aim to enhance the healing environment, raise patients' spirits and give pleasure to all who are concerned with their welfare.

Our core objectives are to support patients and staff through therapeutic art projects that have medical and social benefit, engage the wider community in creative projects based on health and wellbeing outcomes, plus programme temporary exhibitions and maintain a permanent collection of life affirming artwork shown throughout the hospital and satellite facilities to create a healing environment.

For more information please visit dchartsinhospital.org.uk or scan the QR code to make a direct donation.



Expanding collection

Our most recent acquisition is Damien Hirst's 'Butterfly Rainbow'. In May 2020 Hirst created this piece to show support for the NHS in the coronavirus crisis.

The work is made up of bands of coloured butterfly wings, one of the artist's best known motifs. A limited edition of the work was produced, raising a total of £1,508,172, with all profits donated to NHS Charities Together, the organisation that represents and supports the official NHS charities working across the UK.

Hirst then released a limited edition print of his NHS Rainbow Butterflies to be donated to UK NHS Trusts to inspire and support staff and patients, and we were one of the lucky recipients. This is now proudly displayed in North Wing Level 1.



Temporary exhibitions



Zennor Box: Painter and Concept Artist

Zennor's background is in fine art but she has also worked in animation as a model maker and concept artist since 1994 and on projects such as Aardman's Were-Rabbit. Her painting style is instantly engaging, recognisable and unusual. Human concerns, habits or fantasies are in every painting, but by using animals or invented creatures Zennor has the freedom to think further than a preconceived idea or a person and concentrate on the character's behaviour. This will be shown alongside 3D pieces by the artist's mother, Greta Berlin, who is a sculptor working in West Dorset.

NHS Portrait Paintings for DCH

A fabulous exhibition of staff portrait paintings organised by local portrait artist Becky Blake. Having taken part in the national 'Portraits for NHS Heroes' project Becky decided to focus on local NHS staff and her local hospital.

Through Facebook she recruited artists willing to give their time and materials for free and organised partnering them with NHS workers who were willing to be part of the project.

The exhibition will go on show at the hospital before the sitters will be able to take home and keep their piece of work. It has been a wonderful community collaboration.

We would like to thank all the artists involved in this project - Becky Blake, Sue Fawthrop, Lyn Kirkland, Amanda Waite, Kim Cullimore, Podi Lawrence, Laura Dalton, Fiona Dent, Rob Adams, Joseph Field and Diana Trinca.



Contact Arts in Hospital by emailing artsinhospital@dchft.nhs.uk or calling 01305 253424.

Kickstart your career

As a Trust we are committed to creating employment and training opportunities for young people within our local communities. We are therefore proud to be supporting the Government's Kickstart Scheme and offering 46 placements across an array of departments such as healthcare support, facilities, estates, catering, procurement and administration. The scheme is a fantastic opportunity for young people aged 16 to 24 who are claiming Universal Credit to gain valuable workplace experience and we were thrilled to see our first cohort of kickstart employees join us in June 2021.

They are already making a valuable difference to the Trust.

For further information, please email our Kickstart Scheme Co-ordinator Tony Armstrong by emailing anthony.armstrong@dchft.nhs.uk or visit dchft.nhs.uk/working-for-us/kickstart-scheme/



Creating an inclusive culture

Equality, diversity and inclusion continues to be a focus of the Trust to ensure we provide an organisation where everyone feels valued and included and where each member of staff can come to work knowing they are free from discrimination and can access the same development opportunities.

The Trust has therefore launched three staff networks which are critical to improving our understanding of the steps we need to take to make the culture at DCH more inclusive and drive positive change.

The three networks include our Diversity Network, our Without Limits Network and our Pride Network. All networks aim to provide a safe, supportive and confidential space for members to share their experiences and thoughts in an environment where individuals feel accepted and valued.

Our Diversity Network is currently engaged in rewriting our key HR policies so that they are more inclusive; our Without Limits Network has driven work to improve our loop hearing system and our Pride Network has embarked on a piece of work with our clinical teams to change our patient forms to ensure they are LGBTQIA+ friendly and are developing a pathway for transgender patients.

More information is available on our website at dchft.nhs.uk/working-for-us/staff-inclusion-wellbeing/staff-networks/



The Pride Network brought Pride to DCH with a flag, cup holders, a colourful display of facts, history and myths and a pledge tree

New Trust website is launched



We were delighted to launch our new Trust website earlier this year. The new site has been developed in consultation with staff and public users to give people easy access to a wealth of useful information about the hospital and our services.

The fresh and simple look and feel of the design is aimed at making the site as accessible as possible and greatly enhances the functionality of the site for the benefit of users.

Visit the site at dchft.nhs.uk

If you have any feedback regarding the new hospital website, please email communications@dchft.nhs.uk