

# Social Value Activity Report

2023 - 2024

We are very pleased to publish our latest edition of the Dorset County Hospital Social Value Activity Report. The report highlights some of the wide-ranging initiatives as part of the hospital's ongoing social value programme.

Dorset County Hospital is committed to maximising the positive social value impact we have on our local communities, contributing to improving the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the local population.

The Trust's Social Value Pledge is available on our website at [www.dchft.nhs.uk/about-us/social-value](http://www.dchft.nhs.uk/about-us/social-value)

For more information about DCH's social value commitments and how you can contribute and make a difference, please contact Simon Pearson, Head of Charity and Social Value, at [simon.pearson@dchft.nhs.uk](mailto:simon.pearson@dchft.nhs.uk)

## Tree planting

In February 2024 our hospital joined forces with Wessex Grounds Services for a tree planting day.

The planting of 130 native tree and hedge starter whips from NHS Forest was supported by staff from our sustainability and volunteering teams.



Native trees provide food and habitat for wild species of birds, butterflies, hoverflies and bees, can help filter, reduce summer temperatures adding shade and oxygen and lower carbon emissions.

## Young Volunteer Programme - autumn rotation



For our Autumn Young Volunteer Programme (YVP) intake, we refreshed the overall programme to offer our volunteers a broader experience at the hospital.

Volunteers were offered at least six weeks in each of our three key volunteer roles - Healthy Visit, Healthy Stay and Activity Squad - rather than the full 18 weeks in one role.

Our young volunteers supported wards with tea rounds and activities for patients in day rooms, supported clinics and pharmacy, as well as assisting patients with wayfinding when arriving at the hospital. We have had a number of our recruits from this programme choose to continue to volunteer in their preferred role.

## Working with St. Osmund's School



We work closely with our local schools on a number of projects.

Most recently, we had a visit from the Year 7 'Agents of Hope' from St. Osmund's School to donate memory boxes for our dementia patients.

The aim of the project is to ignite forgotten memories and stimulate conversation and story-telling through sounds, smells, textures and pictures.

## Tilbury Douglas

Volunteers were joined by staff from Tilbury Douglas who supported them in their varying roles across the hospital from wayfinding to supporting hydration rounds on the wards.



Tilbury Douglas also hosted a site visit at South Walks House to give young people an experience of a modern construction site, find out about the large variety of roles needed in the industry, and learn about the importance of health and safety in modern construction.



## Healthcare Support Worker Vocational Scholarships



We continue to offer our Healthcare Support Worker Vocational Scholarships, with our latest cohort joining us in February. This three-week programme includes ward visits, clinical skills and employability sessions.

All candidates from this cohort were successful in securing a role at DCH.

Four cohorts have now successfully completed the scholarship with 36 out of the 41 individuals securing HCSW roles at DCH.

## Supported Internships

We are supporting young people on placements across the hospital, working with Weymouth College to provide opportunities into continued employment. Following our last programme, two interns have been successful in gaining employment. We have commenced our second cohort of supported internships and are continuing to develop the programme.

## English and Maths

We continue to grow our maths offering to staff. The courses aim to empower individuals, support confidence and reduce number anxiety and allow staff to have the formal qualifications to commence the next steps in their learning journey. We have 10 members of staff who have completed this.

Our English courses have now commenced with eight staff members. In partnership with Skills and Learning, we are offering face-to-face delivery of a formal English qualification.

## **Work experience**

This year we have grown and developed the organisation's work experience programmes, giving our local community an insight into careers at DCH, with a range of offerings. The programme offers work experience in medical, non-clinical, therapies and bespoke placements. We have hosted 30 placements in the last 12 months.

## **Employability skills and NHS careers**

We deliver structured career and employability skills sessions for staff offering advice and guidance on the next steps in their NHS careers. In partnership with our retention team, we have also delivered bespoke sessions for the spouses of our international nurses.

## **DCH Careers Fair**

In March 2024 the hospital opened its doors for its first DCH Careers Fair to showcase the wide variety of job opportunities within the NHS and at DCH, as well as recruiting to specific roles.

The day was a great success and saw more than 200 people from the local area attend.



## **How can ICSs best build economic and social value among their populations?**

Our Social Value Lead Simon Pearson took part in a Health Service Journal (HSJ) webinar on 25 January 2024, as one of the panel members discussing 'how Integrated Care Systems can deliver on economic and social value as anchor institutions'. A recording of the HSJ webinar can be viewed at [www.hsj.co.uk/hsj-webinars/hsj-webinar-discussed-how-icss-could-best-build-economic-and-social-value-among-their-populations/7035862.article](http://www.hsj.co.uk/hsj-webinars/hsj-webinar-discussed-how-icss-could-best-build-economic-and-social-value-among-their-populations/7035862.article). You can also read the HSJ's follow-up article at [www.hsj.co.uk/workforce/how-nhs-organisations-can-increase-the-health-and-wealth-of-their-local-communities/7036669.article](http://www.hsj.co.uk/workforce/how-nhs-organisations-can-increase-the-health-and-wealth-of-their-local-communities/7036669.article).

## **Investing in our local economy**

The Trust works hard to attract new local suppliers and at present 7% of spend is local to the hospital within the Dorset postcode catchment area, which during 2023/24 equated to just under £7 million.

Currently, 50% of our catering suppliers are based in Dorset and we spend 25% of our catering spend with them.

Our local suppliers have been asked to confirm if they:

- have a carbon reduction plan
- pay at least the Real Living Wage
- are a small to medium sized enterprise (SME).

Although responses are still being received, we now know that:

22% have a Carbon Reduction Plan, 49% are paying at least the Real Living Wage and 50% are SMEs.

## **EcoEarn**

Dorset NHS Trusts and the South Western Ambulance Service teamed up to use the Eco pledge platform EcoEarn in April 2022 for each trust's staff to record their positive sustainability and wellbeing actions, and since then staff have been busy. There are more than 20 activities to take part online or in the app.



While racking up points to beat other departments, staff can bag themselves one of the monthly £20 gardening or cinema vouchers.

Over the last 12 months we held a low carbon travel and a bird garden birdwatch photo competition.

We have 161 members of the EcoEarn app and we are continuing our work to increase these numbers.