

# Social Value Activity Report

May - October 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)

## Sustainability highlights

We're working with local students and organisations to transform a neglected courtyard into a sensory garden so our patients, staff and visitors can take a moment away from the busy hospital environment. Kingston Maurward College and Dorchester Men's Shed and Little Green Change are supporting us with the design and planting plan. The £45K project funded by NHS Charities Together.

The Trust is very close to achieving the NHS Clinical Waste Strategy targets in terms of reducing both costs and carbon emissions. Rehoming furniture and equipment alone has saved £ 3240 disposal costs and 92.5 tonne of CO2 emissions so far this year.

Interpretation boards and signs went up in 'Mark's Meadow' wildlife garden and a sightings board for recording wildlife seen on the main hospital site.



## Carer's Passport



The Patient Experience team had a busy summer engaging with local people at various Primary Care Networks drop in and wellbeing events. They were promoting the Carer's Passport for unpaid carers when their cared for person becomes an inpatient to ensure carers are identified and their rights observed and supported.

### Volunteer Activities

Our Volunteer Activity team provide opportunities for patients to engage in activities which can lead to improvements in their own wellbeing and potentially help them to leave hospital sooner. Activities include bingo, cooking, a game of cards or a friendly chat and we are now lucky enough to have five Pets as Therapy dogs visiting patients.



The team has recently launched a new book trolley service and our volunteers have also been supporting the Arts in Hospital team to expand their creative health programme which uses art to improve patients' wellbeing.

### Improving Tumbledown Farm

Members of our Strategic Estates team joined staff from our building contractors Tilbury Douglas and Blanchard Wells Ltd over the summer to volunteer at Tumbledown Farm in Weymouth. The team helped to improve their raised bed area and make it more accessible for people with mobility issues.



## **Healthcare Support Worker Vocational Scholarships**



The Widening Participation team finished its fifth support worker scholarship in July. The two-week programme includes an introduction to the care certificate, ward visits, clinical skills and values and employability sessions. We have supported 41 individuals into employment with a one year retention rate of 60%.

## **Supported Internships**

We have now supported two cohorts of internship students in partnership with Weymouth College. 66% of students have gained employment following their placement at DCH and we are now developing our third cohort. We are also offering placements to a second education provider in the area, the Southwest Regional Assessment Centre, to help young people with a special educational need or disability gain valuable experience in a workplace.

## **English and Maths**

Our functional skills offering has now evolved to include virtual learning so we can support even more staff at DCH. The first staff members are now starting to undertake and pass their exams. We are also working together with Dorset HealthCare to provide places for their staff in our classes at DCH with individuals signed up to both courses. We are currently supporting 34 staff on English and Maths programmes and 37 have already completed their courses.

## **T Levels**

We have now commenced our first Health T-Level industry placement with Weymouth College. We are currently hosting two students who will spend 315 hours on Evershot Ward and Mary Anning Unit as part of their course.