

Transforming Care Together:

Better for patients,
better for staff



A £500m investment in our hospital sites ensuring our patients receive the right care, in the right place, at the right time



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Care
Together

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Spring 2026

Our future together

- £500m invested in local health services
- New top-class patient facilities
- Royal Bournemouth Hospital as a major emergency centre - faster, better specialist emergency care when you need it
- Poole Hospital becomes the biggest major planned care centre in the UK - reducing waiting times
- Investment across our sites, in community services, access, and travel
- On track with carbon reduction and UHD Green Plan

Why all these changes

Following the Dorset Clinical Services Review, plans to reform local health services were approved in 2019. More than 10,000 hours of NHS staff time went into developing these plans, with input from doctors, nurses, allied health professionals and many others.

These are the most significant changes in healthcare in Dorset since the late 1980s. The reforms are already under way, with patients beginning to see the benefits:

- **The new BEACH building.** This six-storey building brings together maternity, children's health, emergency and critical care services in one modern space, giving patients faster access to the specialist care they need.
- **Better care environment.** The new Barn Theatre at Poole Hospital gives staff a modern, purpose-built space that makes it easier to deliver high-quality care for patients.
- **Better meals for patients.** New kitchens and a whole new approach to food production at the Royal Bournemouth Hospital provide more choice, healthier ingredients and meals, all prepared on site.
- **Digital Transformation.** New digital systems are improving how appointments are booked, how scan images are shared and how pathology is supported by AI. With the Electronic Health Record planned for 2027-8, patients will experience quicker, safer and more coordinated care.
- **One team approach.** Staff increasingly work across sites so that patients can be seen by the right people, in the right place, at the right time.



“Thanks to our public and partners support, we’re certain our ambitious plans for our hospitals will make a real difference to the population we serve. The changes are already underway. Taken together, they will improve healthcare for patients and the wider community, creating a great place to work for our staff for years to come.”

Siobhan Harrington, chief executive

Transforming Royal Bournemouth Hospital



The Royal Bournemouth Hospital (RBH) will soon be our emergency care site. Focusing on emergency care will mean emergency cases will be centered on the site with increased consultant and specialist team cover, seven days a week. This will reduce numbers of patients transferring between hospitals, put less demand on ambulances and hospital services, and so achieve better outcomes for patients.

The BEACH Building - 22,650m² of modern patient care

The new six-storey BEACH building (**B**irths, **E**mergencies **A**nd **C**ritical Care, **C**hildren’s **H**ealth) was completed in early 2025 with teams moving in from March 2025.

Great news for growing families

On 31 March 2025, University Hospitals Dorset celebrated a historic milestone as Baby Isla became the first newborn delivered in the new BEACH building.

This moment marked the official transition from St Mary’s Maternity Unit, which closed its doors after over 60 years of dedicated service. The birth of Baby Isla symbolised the beginning of an exciting new chapter in maternity care for families across the region.

The new Maternity Unit is larger, with birthing pools and single postnatal care rooms for new mums and their partners.



New Critical Care Unit

The new Critical Care Unit has more space for patients and teams caring for them, including access to a garden, recently refurbished with the help of the UHD Charity Team, providing a peaceful haven for those who need it most.



Emergency Department

The Royal Bournemouth Hospital's Emergency Department relocated to a new, purpose-built facility on the ground floor of the BEACH Building, featuring separate entrances for walk-ins, cars, and ambulances. The new space includes two dedicated CT scanners.

When the Royal Bournemouth Hospital becomes our emergency site, this new space will allow for around 150,000 emergency and urgent care patients to be seen quicker.



The new main entrance

The new upgraded main entrance has a 24/7 Costa Coffee, a Co-op convenience store, and a stock shop for clothing alongside vital hospital services including the chaplaincy centre, charity facilities, Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) and a dedicated volunteer hub.



“Our plans are focused on streamlining the journey of emergency patients through our hospitals, with the ultimate goal of enhancing the quality of care and overall patient experience.”

Dr Deborah Mayne, emergency medicine consultant and clinical director for emergency and urgent care

Our new £91m Coast Building

Construction has started on the Coast Building, a £91m state-of-the-art ward and catering block, with additional beds, improved catering facilities, and enhanced facilities for staff.

The new building will have:

- 110 additional beds over four levels of ward accommodation - supporting respiratory and gastroenterology
- a new catering facility on the ground floor
- links to the existing hospital 'street' at both the ground and first floor level
- plant space and solar panels on the roof



Dorset Pathology Hub

Dorset Pathology Hub improves diagnostics for patients, helps meet the growing demand for specialist treatment as well as providing development opportunities for staff.

The Hub is part of the One Dorset Pathology network, a partnership between Dorset County Hospital and University Hospitals Dorset. It delivers wide-reaching benefits:

- Processes over 9 million tests each year
- Supports diagnosis for over 70 percent of NHS patients
- Employs around 200 staff providing 24/7 year-round support
- Operates in a sustainable green building with a BREEAM (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method) 'excellent' rating



Navigating made easy

The Royal Bournemouth Hospital will soon be divided into three clearly marked areas (Zone A, Zone B, and Zone C) to make it easier to find your way around the site. We'll continue to share updates through our usual communication channels, so stay tuned.



Transforming Poole Hospital



Poole Hospital will soon be our planned care site. Bringing together planned care on the Poole Hospital site will provide rapid treatment of elective operations. These are without the disruption or delay that can occur from high volumes of emergency cases having to take precedence. Thousands of patients each year will benefit from shorter waiting times.

State-of-the-art theatre complex

This new theatre complex is an extension to the existing hospital site comprising of a purpose-built five storey tower. Opened by patient Julie Hills in July 2023, it incorporates a four-table 'barn' theatre, where the main surgical area is large and open-plan. This is one of the first facilities in the UK, with each patient treated in a dedicated space with an ultraclean air canopy over each station. The completion of this project will see major investment at Poole with:

- 6,000 planned care patients seeing shorter waiting times
- 10 new state-of-the-art operating theatres
- major refurbishment of wards and facilities to create improved surgical 'flow'
- a wider range of surgical procedures available, including Enhanced Post-Operative Care (EPOC)

What we say:

“Separating planned and emergency care means there will be shorter wait times and fewer cancellations for planned procedures.”

Dr Isabel Smith, consultant anaesthetist and medical director for strategy and transformation

Urgent Treatment Centre

The Urgent Treatment Centre will remain on the Poole site and will continue to provide timely access to urgent care for patients with minor injuries or minor illness. This will ease the pressure on the Emergency Department at the Royal Bournemouth Hospital, freeing up the team there to treat the more unwell patients, most of whom will arrive by ambulance. The Poole UTC will be:

- there if 111 phone or online books you in, or if you walk in, as you can now
- treating nearly 800 different types of minor illness and injuries - including fractures, cuts, abdominal pain and scalds/burns.
- staffed by specialised nurse practitioners and GP's.

Expanding our endoscopy service

Endoscopy allows diagnosis and treatment using tubes with cameras, allowing early detection of cancers and other diseases. The new facility will house six procedure rooms with the opportunity for future expansion as a training centre. The £21m development is central to Dorset's long-term vision for the Community Diagnostic Centres Programme (CDC), providing a 'hub and spoke' model for elective diagnostics.



What we say:

“It's really exciting to look forward to our new centre which will enable us to see and treat more people, reduce waiting times, improve people's experiences and train the next generation of endoscopy staff for Dorset.”

Dr Suranga Dharmasiri,

consultant gastroenterologist and the Dorset lead for endoscopy

Cancer care services

Cancer outpatient services will continue to run from Poole Hospital. There will still be oncology and haematology outpatient clinics and chemotherapy clinics running as they do now. The radiotherapy department is also remaining at the Poole site and Robert White Centre at Dorset County Hospital with linear accelerators used for cancer treatments. The department will continue to provide the full range of radiotherapy and brachytherapy planning and treatments as it does currently.



Clinical and rehabilitation services

Poole Hospital will also offer a diverse range of surgical specialties, including orthopaedics, urology, breast, including lower gastro-intestinal and dermatology procedures. Specialist rehabilitation will also be centred at Poole.

Treatment Investigation Unit (TIU)

All TIU services at UHD are being centralised at Poole Hospital. This strategic move is part of our commitment to enhancing services and optimising patient care. Consolidating our TIU services at Poole Hospital is designed to streamline access to care - with the entire TIU team available to support patients seamlessly throughout their treatment.

Endoscopy

Endoscopy services will continue to run at both Poole Hospital and the Royal Bournemouth Hospital site, as they do at present.

Gynaecology

A £1m investment programme has provided a complete renovation of our harbourside ambulatory gynaecology centre. This dedicated unit affords expert gynaecology services in a purpose-built centre, providing patients with faster access to treatment and an improved experience.

Other services on site

Poole's front entrance area continues to provide better space for patients, visitors and staff, including a patient information area and Changing Places toilet - helping people with limited mobility to use the toilet comfortably or get changed privately.



Christchurch Hospital



Christchurch Hospital continues to offer specialist palliative, rehabilitation and various outpatient and diagnostic services. Recent investment in extra physio facilities have been put to good use, with our 'mass clinics' featuring in BBC news coverage.



Offsite outpatients and support services

The sterile services team at Alderney Hospital ensures our medical/surgical supplies continue to meet high standards. Other sites including Yeoman's Way and Canford House, are providing flexible office hubs for valuable support services. We also run an Outpatient Assessment Centre (OAC) at St Mary's, strategically located to support patients with additional clinical services.



Access, Travel and Sustainability

We know that hospitals can be large and confusing places to visit. We also know that we see some of the most vulnerable people in society. That is why we are reviewing everything that helps people find their way around our hospitals, including signs, maps, appointment letters, and technology, starting at the Royal Bournemouth Hospital as this site is changing the most.

We are aware that our hospitals are situated in one of the UK's most congested areas, so we are pioneering efforts to alleviate traffic congestion. We support alternatives to single-occupancy car journeys, promoting eco-friendly options like bus services, cycle lanes, and lift sharing for staff.

At the Royal Bournemouth Hospital, we're enhancing road layouts to prioritise safer, more accessible routes for cyclists, pedestrians, and bus users. A direct inter-site shuttle bus service has also been introduced for staff, receiving praise for its simplicity, speed, and positive impact on work-life balance. Additionally, the recent opening of a new link road from Wessex Way has significantly improved access for staff, deliveries, and ambulances.

Our goal is minimising the environmental impact of our estate. We are aiming to attain a BREEAM "Very Good" rating or higher for ongoing projects - on track with our path to having 'net zero' carbon emissions by 2040. Our commitment to sustainability is evident in the development of comprehensive sustainability approaches.



Timeline

Already achieved

Cardiology and stroke

In April and May 2023, Cardiology and Stroke services were combined at our Bournemouth site. Patients now experience shorter hospital stays, with treatment taking only a third of the time it previously did. This has helped us meet our national targets

Poole 'barn' theatre open



Increasing efficiency meaning that patients are seen sooner

The BEACH building



'topping out' ceremony with Lord Markham, CBE, Minister for Health



New ward catering at RBH

offering improved choice and quality



Dorset Pathology Hub opens

improving diagnostics for patients

Haematology team

moved to RBH

Treatment Investigation Unit (TIU)

moved to Poole

New Coast Building

construction underway at RBH

RBH based critical care team

move into the BEACH



Maternity, neonatal team

moves into the BEACH

RBH new main entrance and shops open

RBH based emergency care team move into the BEACH

The Outpatients Assessment Centre (OAC)



moved from Beales in the Dolphin Centre to the former St Mary's Maternity Unit in Poole

New Surgical Same Day Emergency Care (SDEC)

opened at RBH in February 2026



New haematology and oncology wards at RBH

Looking ahead*

2026 -27:

New Coast Building at RBH completed enabling various ward moves across Poole and RBH

Emergency services move to RBH (Urgent Treatment Centre remains in Poole) and planned care moves to Poole

Poole Child Health Inpatients move into the BEACH

2027- 28:

Enhanced Post-Operative Care Unit (EPOC) open

Urgent Treatment Centre (UTC) at Poole complete

Acute Medical Unit (AMU)

Rapid Access Consultation and Evaluation Unit (RACE) at RBH complete

Child Health Outpatients move to RBH, Poole presence retained

Poole Surgical Hub complete

* these are approximate times and subject to change

Back the BEACH Appeal to help transform care across Dorset



The NHS is funded to provide the majority of the plans set out here. However, many of the 'above and beyond' items are not covered. Often, these can make all the difference between technically good care, and a positive heart-warming experience. This is where we need your help.

University Hospitals Dorset NHS Charity has launched a £1.5m fundraising appeal to take the Royal Bournemouth Hospital into the future. The BEACH Appeal is one of the charity's biggest ever fundraising appeal to provide additional items for the new six-storey building at the Royal Bournemouth Hospital to help transform healthcare across Dorset.

Projects include a welcoming indoor space and sensory play area for children, calming lighting to create a more relaxed maternity environment, and specially designed rooms in the Emergency Department for people with mental health needs. Support could also provide sleep pods so junior doctors can rest during long shifts, new technology for the hospital's classroom so young patients can keep up with their education, and sensory trolleys to bring moments of play and relaxation to children during their stay.

Head of Charity, **Debbie Anderson** said:

“The BEACH Appeal really is a once-in-a generation opportunity for us all to be a part of something special by helping to transform care together for everybody across Dorset.”

To support the investment in where you live and your local hospitals, go to uhdcharity.org/beachappeal for more information.



**Information provided by:
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