

Together online...

An update to our members

caring one team listening to understand open and honest always improving inclusive



November 2025

Welcome from our CEO, Siobhan Harrington

Thank you to everyone involved in preparing our hospitals for the busy Winter season and for the big changes happening across our hospitals. ahead We have amazing colleagues across our Trust, with a wide range of skills to help us move forward.



In times of change, listening becomes even more vital and it remains a core value at UHD. It's how we learn, grow, and strengthen our culture of openness and support.

Preparations for our next phase of service moves are continuing, including our Emergency Department and Inpatient Paediatrics moving from Poole to the Royal Bournemouth in July and August next year. This is all part of our vision of creating the main emergency centre at Bournemouth and the major planned care centre at Poole to ensure patients get the best possible care for them in the right environment. You can read more about our Surgical Hub at Poole later in this newsletter.

It's been a very busy few weeks in our hospitals, but I'm really pleased to see continuous improvement in managing our waiting lists and reducing the time for people to have their first appointment.

I'm also very proud of our Endoscopy services who have been awarded the Royal College of Physicians Joint Advisory Group accreditation for the year. Many congratulations to the team.

Thank you for your continued support,

Siobhan

News, events and features

GATHER - at the Dolphin Centre



Join us for our engagement event at the [GATHER space in the Dolphin Centre](#) in Poole on Thursday 20 November between 10am and 4pm and find out more about changes that are taking place across our hospitals.

We've organised a busy schedule of informative, fun and interactive display areas at the community focused venue.

Blood pressure tests are available for anyone who comes along, as well as free Covid and flu vaccinations (from 1pm onwards) for those who are eligible.

Partner organisations who will also be attending and sharing details of their current campaigns and initiatives include; Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service, Dorset Police, Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner, Help and Care (Poole), Poole Central and Shore Medical Primary Care Networks, LiveWell Dorset, Al-anon, Victim Support, Health Watch Dorset, NHS Dorset, UHD governors, UHD vaccinations staff and the UHD Volunteers Team.

AFC Bournemouth footballers learn vital CPR skills



Our Resuscitation Team joined forces with football club, AFC Bournemouth, to teach lifesaving skills as part of the annual resuscitation awareness campaign 'Restart the Heart Day'.

The football players were joined by their club ambassador Steve Fletcher, and club staff to learn how to give CPR and use a defibrillator at their new performance centre.

The initiative aims to equip individuals with the skills and confidence to respond quickly in situations of cardiac arrest, which could happen anywhere, including home or on the football pitch. Read the full story on our website.

The road to summer 2026

Big changes are on the way next summer as some of our hospital services change sites. As part of our series highlighting the teams making the move, join us as we delve into some of the changes at Poole Hospital and its journey to becoming the biggest major planned care centre in the UK...

Seeing our patients sooner - an interview with Robin Armstrong.

Robin Armstrong is the General Manager responsible for delivering the Elective Surgical Hub at Poole Hospital. The hub will focus exclusively on planned surgical procedures and will aim to improve how we use our theatres, streamline patient pathways and have consistent, dependable operating schedules.

What are you most excited about?

Personally, I'm excited for our patients and staff. Our patients will receive a reliable surgical service with a reduced chance of their operation being delayed or cancelled.



What is moving to Poole and what is moving to RBH?

Apart from the most complex or high-risk surgery in Ophthalmology and Paediatrics, all elective activity within Orthopaedic, Upper GI and Colorectal Surgery, Urology Gynaecology and Head and Neck will be run from the Poole site. All emergency surgery, trauma and complex elective surgery will be performed at RBH.

What is the long-term goal?

It is our goal to develop the largest dedicated Elective Surgical Hub in the country, delivering the highest quality care in a setting which prioritises professionally satisfying, effective and efficient care.

Are the barn theatres at Poole being used already?



Our barn theatres at Poole are already up and running. These are open-plan theatres with four tables and privacy screening. The benefit of this space includes enhanced safety, teamworking and reduced infection rates. Alongside our Poole theatres, they will become dedicated to exclusively delivering elective care. In addition, two new theatres have been commissioned and work on these will begin early next year.

How long before the planned care move is complete?

We are targeting the moves for the last weekend of July 2026 – so watch this space.

What are the main challenges?

As with any highly complex project, there are many challenges. We need to have the right staff, in the correct building, in the right place, at the correct time with the right patient!

Celebrations

Celebrating 50 years of play in hospitals

We welcomed our very own Mario and Luigi in Poole Hospital as part of National Play in Healthcare Week. We celebrated 50 years of play in hospitals and the incredible impact our play teams make every single day on children's health and wellbeing.



UHD earns national recognition

As part of T Levels Week, our Ready2Step Team marked our success at the National Skills and Apprenticeship Awards. UHD was announced as a highly commended entry for the Southwest National Apprenticeship and Skills Awards.



A new chapter

Meet Carys, Jaimee and Lynette, our newest cohort of preceptorship midwives who joined UHD this month. We're thrilled to have them as part of our #TeamUHD family and wish them success for the journey ahead.



Governor update and election information

An update from Lead Governor, Michele Whitehurst

Dear members,

Governors took part in the Freshers' Fair at Bournemouth University which drew a strong turnout and enthusiastic student participation. It was fantastic to welcome many new members to UHD, and the conversations throughout the day highlighted a clear interest in hospital placements, work experience, and volunteering opportunities.



Thank you to St. Luke's Church in Parkstone for welcoming the UHD Communications Team and Governors recently. We sincerely appreciated the warm reception and the thoughtful engagement from everyone who attended. We're especially grateful for the positive feedback and insightful questions during the session.

The UHD Council of Governors election process for 2025 is now officially underway. Voting closes at 5pm on Tuesday 9 December 2025. We encourage all members to take part — review the election statements and cast your vote. Full details can be found via this link: [Home](#)

Warmest regards,

Michele

Providing gifts for patients who can't be home for Christmas

Your hospitals' charity is calling on everybody across Dorset to support this year's Christmas Appeal to provide a gift to every patient who can't be home for Christmas.

While most of us prepare for Christmas, our hospitals are working tirelessly to provide around the clock care for our patients. On Christmas Day more than 1,000 patients will spend it away from home, which can feel particularly lonely.



It's our mission to offer exceptional care and support every day, and that continues throughout the Christmas period. As our NHS teams work hard to spread some cheer with decorations and special meals, you can help too.

Each gift will include some luxury socks, activity books and pens, and a sleep mask. Please donate £12 to help us ensure every patient receives a Christmas gift at www.UHDcharity.org/Christmas-Appeal

Sharing the experience of menopause through art

An art installation has just been installed in the BEACH Building at RBH to engage patients in topics that impact people. The installation of artwork will change every few months but the current display exhibits paintings that capture the support needed for people experiencing menopause.

Many women in the UK experiencing menopause are still not getting the support they need. The 'This is Menopause' project has been pulled together through participatory research with over 50 peri, post and menopausal women who have shared their experience of menopause through written stories, photographs and creative workshops.



We are extremely grateful for everybody who took part and shared their story so that professionals could learn from their experiences.

Leaving a Legacy

For anybody who is thinking about writing a Will or who has thought about leaving a legacy, you can make a *life-changing* difference for future generations by leaving a gift in your Will to University Hospitals Dorset. It costs you nothing now, but your legacy could transform care for years to come.

To find out more about legacy giving, our Charity Director, Debbie Anderson, is here to chat to you about any questions or concerns, in complete confidence and with no obligation. Call: 0300 019 8449 or email: uhd.charity@uhd.nhs.uk

Media highlights

Did you see?

- **Daily Echo** | Hospital unit celebrates years of community service | see [online](#)
- **Daily Echo** | Life-saving skills learned | see [online](#)
- **Daily Echo** | Green energy funding for hospital | see [online](#).

University Hospitals Dorset NHS Foundation Trust

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