

Together online...

An update to our members

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



December 2025

Welcome from our CEO, Siobhan Harrington

As the year draws to a close, it's fair to say that 2025 has been quite the rollercoaster of change. So, before we launch into Christmas and 2026, let's reflect on the year we've had.

We've closed chapters and started new ones with our first set of teams moving into the BEACH Building at the Royal Bournemouth Hospital (RBH). We have also said goodbye to St Mary's Maternity Unit and now celebrate its new chapter as a hub for fantastic outpatient care.



It's been another year of extensive work on our hospitals and we're making progress on our new facilities across our sites that will improve both our patient and staff experience. Further changes will come as we split into our planned and emergency care sites over the coming year – with Poole becoming our planned care hospital, and RBH becoming our major emergency site. We will achieve this together if we continue with our unwavering focus on patients and people. Please look out for more engagement events in 2026 where you can find out more about these changes – we look forward to seeing you out and about across Dorset.

Finally, a very happy Christmas and Hanukkah to all of you who celebrate. My very best wishes to you all, and as always, an enormous thank you for your support for our hospitals.

Siobhan

Over 350 attendees at GATHER engagement event



We GATHERed in the Dolphin centre in Poole at the end of November – welcoming over 350 attendees and letting people know more about the changes at our hospitals.

Lots of partner agencies joined us, including Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service, Dorset Police, Help and Care (Poole), Poole Central and Shore Medical Primary Care Networks, LiveWell Dorset, Al-anon, Victim Support, Health Watch Dorset, NHS Dorset, Community Action Network, our UHD governors, UHD vaccinations staff and the UHD Volunteers Team.

Over 80 people dropped in to have their blood pressure taken, including one of our local MPs, [Neil Duncan-Jordan MP](#) pictured here with Sue Comrie, one of our governors and an active volunteer at UHD.

Keep an eye on our website www.uhd.nhs.uk and social media channels for more events in 2026.



Christmas trees and festive events at UHD

Our fabulous Christmas trees are bringing festive cheer across our sites. You can find them in the Dome at Poole, the main entrance of the BEACH Building, the Atrium in RBH, the West Entrance of RBH by the Eye Unit, and in the Day Hospital entrance at Christchurch.

We're fortunate to have a wide variety of festive events taking place across our sites, with visits from our wonderful local choirs, schools and brass bands. You can also attend the lighting of our Menorah with the Chabad of Bournemouth on 18 December in the BEACH Building from 4pm.

Please note, if you are suffering from any seasonal illness, please do not visit our hospitals at this time as we work hard to look after our patients.

New murals unveiled at RBH

Another step on our art trail is now in place at RBH. The murals, which were created in partnership between Arts University Bournemouth and UHD, are on the substation by the entrance to the BEACH Building. They form part of our Art Space initiative which aims to create a welcoming environment for all. A team of AUB students designed two nine-metre-long murals which have transformed the space with a colourful, vibrant and uplifting visual experience. [Click here to find out more about the AUB project](#). Arts Space is funded by our UHD Charity. [Visit our website to find out more about our UHD art strategy](#), including community art projects like this one and our on-site exhibition spaces.



The road to summer 2026

Touring the UK's largest Endoscopy Hub



We had a sneak peek at our brand-new Endoscopy building site at Poole Hospital, guided by our contractor, Premier Modular. This impressive facility is set to open in summer 2026 and will become the largest endoscopy hub in the UK.

With Poole Hospital becoming our planned care site, this new hub will play a key role in increasing our treatment capacity, reducing patient waiting times, and enhancing the experience for both patients and colleagues. It will feature six spacious procedure rooms, co-located decontamination facilities, and a dedicated space for staff training and meetings.

Celebrations



It's been a year of learning for our staff. Thanks to UHD Charity funding, three brilliant staff members attended the British Association of Study of Liver Conference in Belfast. That's not all - the charity funded one of our amazing nurses, Tega to attend the Nigeria Nurses Charitable Association, UK Scientific Conference in Manchester.

Colleagues nominated her as a rising star in nursing, and she won! These opportunities empower our staff, transform patient care and make us proud to be UHD every single day.

Hip surgery class

Have you had a hip replacement? Or are you on a waiting list for a hip replacement?



Come and join the hip surgery class at Christchurch Hospital. It is run by Private Health UHD. They are the private arm of UHD, and all funds are reinvested back into the hospital.

100% of respondents rated their experience as

'very good' and would recommend the class to other people after hip surgery. Cost is £7 per session. For information visit the website - [Hip Surgery Class - Private Health University Hospitals Dorset](#).

An update from Lead Governor, Michele Whitehurst

Dear members,

Governors maintained a strong focus on community engagement throughout the past month, hosting sessions that encouraged questions and feedback and reinforced our commitment to open dialogue.



We were delighted to take part in a multi-agency engagement event at GATHER in the Dolphin Centre on 20 November, where we shared updates on the ongoing transformation process and connected with many members of the public.

Many congratulations to everyone who took part in the UHD Governor elections, and to those who were successfully elected. The elections

were conducted in full accordance with the Trust's rules and constitutional arrangements. On behalf of the Council of Governors, please accept our warmest congratulations and sincere thanks for your commitment to representing our

members and the wider community. Terms of office will begin in January 2026, with an induction programme to follow.

We're delighted to continue our annual tradition of hosting a Christmas Choir event in the Atrium at the Royal Bournemouth Hospital. This year's event will be held on Thursday, 18 December 2025, and we hope to see as many members as possible join us. Further details will be available via this link: [Public engagement events](#).

🎄 On behalf of the Council of Governors, we send our warmest wishes for a very Merry Christmas and a joyful festive season to all UHD members. We sincerely thank all NHS staff for their outstanding dedication, hard work, and commitment throughout the year. Your efforts make a meaningful difference every day. Wishing you a well-deserved rest and quality time with loved ones. ✨ Happy New Year — here's to a healthy and successful 2026!

Warmest regards,

Michele



University Hospitals Dorset
NHS Foundation Trust



Merry Christmas
from the UHD Council of Governors



Ask 3 questions....

You have the right to be involved in making choices about your medical treatment, the medicines you take and any operations you have.

Shared decision making ensures you are supported to make decisions that are right for you - and that we work together to make these choices.

So, when you're in our hospitals, make sure you ask these three questions...



Ask 3 Questions

There may be choices to make about your health and care. Make sure you get the answers to these three questions:*

- What are my **choices**?
- How do I get **support** to help me make a decision that is **right for me**?
- What are the **pros** and **cons** of each option for me?



The illustration at the bottom shows a diverse group of people. On the left, there is a young man with black hair, an older woman with white hair and glasses, an older man with a grey beard and a blue turban, and a woman with red hair pushing a black baby stroller. On the right, there are three healthcare professionals: a woman with black hair holding a tablet, a man in green scrubs and a blue surgical cap, and a woman in blue scrubs.



Whether you're coming to hospital for an appointment or visiting a family member or friend in a ward or the Emergency Department, it can sometimes feel overwhelming – especially if you have mobility issues or a disability.

That's why our volunteers, known as Guiders, are on hand at both Poole Hospital and the Royal Bournemouth Hospital (RBH), Monday to Friday between 8am-5pm.

Wearing teal polo shirts and with yellow lanyards, they're always a friendly face at the entrance. Guiders are there to help you reach your destination – whether that's by giving clear directions, walking with you if you have sight problems or just need support, or providing wheelchair assistance for visitors with mobility needs.

Where to find Guiders

At Poole Hospital: inside the main entrance near the reception desk, at the North Entrance, and at the entrance to the Outpatient Department.

At RBH: inside the new BEACH Building entrance, at the West Wing entrance (next to Car Park P3 at the rear of the hospital), in Main Outpatients (West Wing, next to Car Park P2), and at the East Wing entrance (next to Car Park P1).

RBH Buggy Service

In addition to Guiders, RBH also offers a free buggy service to help you move around the site. This is particularly helpful for patients and visitors arriving by bus. The buggy runs at intervals in a clockwise route around the hospital, starting from the BEACH Building entrance by the Emergency Department and Urgent Treatment Centre and stopping at key locations including Main Outpatients, the West Wing entrance, Derwent, Orthotics, and the DVT Department entrance on the East Wing.

Travelling by bus?

At RBH, Morebus has installed a live bus times display board just inside the BEACH Building entrance (to the right as you enter from the plaza).

If you're travelling by bus from Bournemouth to Poole Hospital for Outpatients or a blood test, you may find it easier to use the North Entrance.



UHD Charity update

A slice of support for our Dementia and Delirium teams

At the beginning of December, our 2026 London Marathon runner David held a cake sale to support his incredible challenge to raise £2,500 for patients facing dementia and delirium in our hospitals. His wife also works for the team.




Every cake slice, rocky road and pistachio twist brought him closer to his goal. Support Dave and [donate today](#) to be part of his journey.



Supporting our Maternity and Neonatal teams

Our limited edition 2026 calendar, created by staff from the Neonatal and Maternity Units, [is now available to buy](#). All staff were invited to submit their photos for each season throughout the year. The criteria was for photos to be taken locally which represent Dorset and responding to the theme 'A Touch of Nature'. The images were selected by staff, patients and local photographers.

The winners have been printed and displayed as large-scale photographs in our units. Projects like this help improve the wellbeing of our NHS staff. By buying this calendar, you are [contributing to future art projects](#) in the hospital, raising money for our UHD Charity.

If you are interested in finding out more about how you can support the charity:
Follow @UHDCharity on  Facebook  Instagram and  Twitter Visit [UHDcharity.org](https://www.uhdcharity.org),
or contact the office on 0300 019 4060/8449

UHD in the news...

Did you see....?

- **Daily Echo** | [Bus drivers don Christmas jumpers to aid NHS](#)
- **BCP Council** | Early Years and Childcare News | [A new era for Children's Health](#)
- **BBC News** | [New car park in 2026, says hospital after feedback](#)

University Hospitals Dorset NHS Foundation Trust

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