University Hospitals Dorset

TheBrief

January 2022



## 2022: The year of you #YouMatter



## Your University Hospitals Dorset An update from chief executive, Debbie Fleming

A very warm welcome to your first edition of *The Brief* for 2022! It certainly feels like we've been catapulted into the new year, given that we have already been into critical incident mode in the first week of 2022, like so many other hospitals around the country. So I want to start the year by paying tribute to your tremendous resilience, your compassionate can-do attitude, and your absolute drive to do your very best for our patients. But perhaps more importantly, I want to stress that you are not alone in coping with all this, and as the pressure ramps up, we shall be providing more support for you too.

As a board and senior leadership team, we are really clear that as we start 2022, you must stay at the front and centre of all our plans. Working for the NHS will always be demanding, but the past few years in particular have given us many a mountain to climb, and it's very easy to feel overwhelmed. We must give ourselves time to take stock and focus on our own wellbeing, so we have the energy to embrace everything that 2022 throws at us, both personally and professionally. Please take a look at our enhanced health and wellbeing offering and let your colleagues know about it too - you can find out more about this on page 9. I'd also really encourage you to complete the quarterly People Pulse survey. There's a focus on health and wellbeing in there and as our physiotherapist and occupational health advisor Soracha points out on page 7, we need to know how you feel so we can support you in the best way possible.

The next few weeks are likely to be very pressured, with rising Covid-19 admissions in the midst of our busiest period. It is also clear that with high infection rates locally, there will be an increase in short term staff sickness, which of course makes things even more challenging. Nevertheless, we are hoping that the omicron peak passes through quite swiftly, and we have learned a lot already about this variant from colleagues elsewhere in the country.

In the meantime, I would like to say an enormous thank you to all of Team UHD who have risen to the challenge and who are working differently to support colleagues; to those who have moved wards or departments at short notice; for the non-clinical staff who are out on the wards supporting with mealtimes and admin tasks - and to our BEAT team for turning these vitally important training courses around at short notice; to our first year nursing students who have just started a special placement this week to bolster our wards and make a huge difference to our patients; and for those involved in planning our care hotels so patients can leave hospital when they're medically ready. There are so many examples of you going the extra mile, which is really heartwarming - and there are of course many examples of real innovation as people find new ways of tackling these problems, which is actually very exciting!

As you would expect, in these challenging times, we are working extremely closely with our senior clinical leaders, and with other partners across Dorset in planning for a range of scenarios. As always, we plan for the worst and hope for the best - and hopefully, it won't be too long before it feels like business as usual again.

Of course, with a new year comes new year resolutions. There are some top tips from our sustainability colleagues on page 12 to put your green foot forward this year, while our staff networks leads would love you to get involved with the fantastic work they do. Fancy jumping out of a plane or trekking through northern Spain? Our wonderful UHD charity team has you covered - find out more on page 15. We also know 2022 will be a very exciting year for our transformation programme so watch this space for updates on the latest moves and building work.



New year, new roles: A warm welcome to our new international nurses who have joined us from Ghana, Nigeria, India and Hong Kong.

As always, there will be many opportunities throughout the year to find out more about the work of our trust, so please keep an eye out for our regular All Staff Briefings, the Ask Aly events with chief medical officer Alyson O'Donnell, and the many videos and newsletters we produce to keep you up to date. There is always such a lot going on!

And this week, we are announcing more important news. Our Chairman David Moss is stepping down at the end of March this year. David has had a long and illustrious career with the NHS and we have been fortunate in UHD to have been able to benefit from all his experience. There will be many opportunities to say goodbye properly to David before he goes, but in the meantime, I am sure that everyone will wish to join with me in thanking him for all his service to the NHS - and to UHD in particular and wishing him all the very best for the future.

In closing, I would like to share with you part of a poem by the young American poet Amanda Gorman, who spoke at President Biden's inauguration. It was sent to me by our wonderful chaplaincy team. In 'New Day's Lyric', Amanda

encourages us to look ahead with confidence and poignantly writes:

This hope is our door, our portal. Even if we never get back to normal, Someday we can venture beyond it, To leave the known and take the first steps. So let us not return to what was normal. But reach toward what is next.

So here's to 2022. To Team UHD. To the year of you. Thank you for everything, I'm extremely proud of you all.

**Debbie Fleming** Chief executive



### OBE for our chief executive

**Congratulations to Debbie** who was awarded an OBE for services to the NHS in the Queen's New Year Honours List 2022.

Debbie has worked for the NHS for nearly 38 years and been a chief executive for 20 vears.

She said: *"I am absolutely* delighted to have been awarded this honour, and was incredibly humbled to receive this news. I am so very proud of the NHS, where it is a real privilege to work with such talented, dedicated and highly skilled people, providing such *important services for local* people."

## Chairman to step down

David Moss will be stepping down as Chairman of UHD at the end of March. He has a long career with the NHS and oversaw the merger of the trusts, as well as helping steer the trust through the Covid pandemic.

David said: "I am very proud of the way our new trust and our staff joined forces to help improve health outcomes for the people of our region with the backdrop of the Covid pandemic. I am very grateful to all our staff for all their hard work and dedication and I wish them all the best for the future as I step down."

Debbie Fleming added: "We wish David all the best for his future and thank him for his long service both to the NHS and our hospitals."

The recruitment process for David's replacement is underway. If the new chair is not in post by 1 April, Philip Green, vice chairman for UHD, will take on the role of acting chairman of the Trust Board and Council of Governors.



## Covid-19 update Mandatory Covid-19 vaccinations are coming - how will it affect you?

Ahead of the national 1 April deadline for most NHS staff to have received at least two doses of the Covid-19 vaccination. there's another chance to put your questions to our panel of experts.

All staff are invited to the briefing chaired by our chief medical officer, Professor Alyson O'Donnell, on Teams from 12-1pm on 20 January. Join it here at this time.

Detailed guidance around the HR implications of the mandatory vaccine, and the impact on unvaccinated staff, is expected from NHS England shortly. The session will be a chance to hear more about how these changes might

affect you, and ask questions.

The new mandate will apply to all staff in patient-facing roles, for example doctors, nurses,

"I work for UHD and I am triple jabbed, and so is my 25 year old son. I have a rare disease which means I might only have some T cell antibodies but not risking not having the jabs. I want my children to have a mother!"

Jo - IT project support and PA

#### #GetVaccinatedNow

"I am an ex-nurse but still work at

UHD as a clinical risk advisor

and am triple vaccinated.

Protect yourself and others

against Covid-19."

Diane - clinical risk advisor

#GetVaccinatedNow

"I'm a theatre matron, I'm double vaccinated and boosted, and my family are all vaccinated. I've tested positive for Covid with mild symptoms and I'm able to recuperate at home. Get vaccinated, believe the science, stay safe."

Will - matron for theatres

#GetVaccinatedNow

"I'm triple vaccinated, as are my family. We believe in the science, vaccines are the greatest discovery supporting avoidable death and hospital admission."

Jo - general manager women's and child health

#GetVaccinatedNow

therapists, healthcare support workers and porters,

as well as those who work regularly in close proximity with our patients, such as housekeepers, some receptionists and others in ancillary roles. This includes substantive, fixed term and bank workers.

## Get your vaccine

To meet the government deadline of 1 April you should have had your first dose by 3 February.

You can get all doses through our occupational health teams and jabs are offered at Poole on Mondays and Tuesdays, and RBH on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

Bookings can be made by calling occupational health on ext. 4217, or emailing

#### occupational.health@uhd.nhs.uk.

You will then be able to choose from the appointments available. Please provide your:

- name
- NHS number
- date of birth
- preferred site

For more on staff Covid-19 vaccinations, click here.

## Covid-19 update Self-isolation guidance

The latest guidance on selfisolation following the onset of symptoms or following contact with someone with Covid-19 is now available here. Please note that this guidance is frequently updated so please check the bulletin or the intranet regularly for the latest version.

#### Before you go, lateral flow:

It's really important to continue to regularly do your lateral flow tests and report your results online at mytest.uhd.nhs.uk. Details of how to restock your lateral flow kits is below. And you can now report your results via a handy link on our staff app. If you don't have the app yet, search under 'a' on the intranet for details of how to download it today.



## Lateral flow kits

Due to an unprecedented demand for lateral flow kits, the Public Health Dorset van is unable to attend Poole or RBH to distribute kits to staff.

We are working hard to source other stock. In the meantime, please order your kits via

www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests

Kits are currently available online and in some local pharmacies.

### **Revised guidance for visitors**

With the increase in cases in our local area and the emergence of the omicron variant, our visiting restrictions have been tightened to help us maintain social distancing and ensure we are protecting you, our patients and their families as best as we can.

Currently, each patient may have only one named visitor (except for compassionate reasons and by agreement with the ward). This person may visit for one hour each day.

You can view the full guidance here. Guidance for staff to support this will be available on the intranet.

#### Advice for visitors:

We have also produced a leaflet for visitors which should be given to them on arrival to the ward. These have been distributed to all wards and can also be found here.

#### NHS University Hospitals Dorset Advice for visitors

Thank you for visiting today - it makes a huge difference to our

ID

While we welcome visiting, we do need to ensure it is in a very careful and Covid-secure way. Therefore we ask you to:

- take a lateral flow test before visiting the hospital -you can order free tests from www.gov.uk
- always wash or gel your hands when entering and lead the hospital and ward
- wear a face covering and any other PPE required for the ward you are visiting you'll see our staff are all wearing them too not visit our hospital if you have any symptoms of Covid-19, are self-isolating or have diarrhoea, vomiting or any other infectious condition
- Covid has not gone away please consider we covering in busy places outside of our hospitals as we believe this has made a huge difference in infection rates.

#### When you leave the ward

Make sure you dispose of any perse protective equipment in the bins provided and wash your hands.
Use your own face covering as you exit the hospital and keep it on until you have left the building.

Thank you for your co-operation

# Get trained in quality improvement

QI Lite is a free, interactive two-hour course, which gives participants a quick and basic understanding of quality improvement (Qi). methodology in our everyday roles. It introduces QI methodology and some of the most commonly used tools to support you in making small improvements in your work area. You will get a digital workbook to take away.

The next dates are:

- Thursday 10 February (10am-12noon)
- Monday 28 March (10am-12noon)

The course is open to all who want to understand what we mean by 'Qi' and how we can use an improvement

**Book now** for Qi Lite; or if you want more advanced training please see UHD's <u>Quality Service</u> Improvement Redesign page.

# Super student support

A warm Team UHD welcome to the 76 first year student nurses who have started a placement at our hospitals, joining our first year student nurse apprentices who started in October.

For many of these students, they first encountered Covid-19 while still at school or college, and have now bravely stepped forward to join the nursing profession and the NHS at its time of greatest need. These students join us from Bournemouth University showing us once again the value and importance of our partnership.

Throughout January these students will be an army of ward support taking on roles similar to that of our volunteers and hostesses. They will provide much needed patient companionship, including supporting mealtimes and hydration, and will work with the therapy wrap around teams to assist with patient mobilising and dressing. They will also be working alongside our healthcare support workers to maintain bed spaces and ward environments, supporting infection prevention and control. Additionally the students will help with general ward administration and support patients to communicate with friends and relatives via phone or face-time.

Our education and training student team will be providing pastoral care and delivering skills labs throughout the month. This will enable them to gradually take on more clinical duties as they move into February.

These are by no means our only students you will see across UHD. We also welcome student midwives, nursing associates, physicians associates, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, dieticians, speech and language therapists, operating department practitioners, paramedics, healthcare scientists, pharmacy technicians, medical students and many more allied health professionals.

Alice Girling, deputy head of education, said: "Please give a warm welcome to all of the students you meet, say hello, ask if they are ok or if they need support with anything. Make sure they know where the restaurants and changing rooms are, and remember that we were all new once!

*"We are so proud to have them join our trust, and cannot wait to support them on their journey to registration."* 



# Your voice counts

Your wellbeing starts with a first step. Speak up, have your say, help yourself and others. Be part of the bigger picture. Your experience really counts, please tell us about it...

Hilary Fenton-Harris, Poole Africa Link co-ordinator, RCN steward

#### The National Quarterly Pulse Survey

Our experience at work changes. It's important that we listen to you regularly and respond.



UHD takes part in the national NHS employee engagement tool, People Pulse and this month's People Pulse survey is now live. Please take five minutes to tell us about your experiences at work and ensure your voice is heard.

Listening to you regularly means we can act and respond on your concerns and help improve the support we provide to you.

<u>Click now</u> to tell us how you feel or use the above QR code. When you access the survey, you will need to select University Hospitals Dorset NHS Foundation Trust as your organisation.

#### So why should we fill it in?

This survey focuses on your wellbeing and your view absolutely counts. The most recent feedback on work we did as culture champions has been taken very seriously by our senior leaders, with working groups set up immediately to address some of YOUR biggest challenges. We can only help address what we are aware of....

Lyn Jackson, pharmacist

We want to support our staff at UHD in the best way possible. In order to do this we need to know how you feel...?

NHS

Soracha Dossit, occupational health advisor and physiotherapist

This is our collective voice. This is how we can be heard, listened to and understood....

Jo Hill-Cousins, PA to pathology managers

trainee clinical scientist and staff governor

It is important to share your point of view to make a difference in the wellbeing of yourself and your colleagues...??

Deepa Pappu, clinical educator

As a trust we care about all our staff, please have your say on your health and wellbeing by completing the staff survey. It will only take a few minutes. Your opinion matters...

Karin Bauser, senior education administrator

We are caring one team (listening to understand) open and honest (always improving) (inclusive

The Brief in 2022!

*The Brief* is your monthly magazine, packed full of the latest news, events and features about Team UHD, and we want to hear from more of you in 2022!

You can find a publication schedule for *The Brief* on our <u>communications intranet pages</u>. Pop the dates in your diaries and send any content to **jane.b.a@uhd.nhs.uk**.

### Join us for the first Ask Aly of 2022

Join us at 12noon on 13 January for our first Ask Aly of the year, hosted by our chief medical officer, Dr Alyson O'Donnell. It's a great opportunity to ask questions, raise concerns or share your views. You can join the meeting here and if you'd like to send any questions in advance, pop them through to communications@uhd.nhs.uk and we can ask on your behalf.

# All staff briefing

The**Bri** 

Join us at 12.30pm on Wednesday 2 February for the first all staff briefing of the year, hosted by our executive team. You can join the meeting <u>here</u> and if you'd like to send any questions in advance, please email **communications@uhd.nhs.uk**.

The**Brief** 

Br

### **UHD health events 2022**

Planning is well underway for the Understanding Health events for 2022. The virtual 2021 talks proved to be very popular and talks on prostate cancer and endometriosis have already been planned for March 2022. Keep an eye on the <u>events</u> <u>page</u> of the UHD website to stay updated.

arch for Me

84

## March for Men returns!

Sunday 13 March, 9.30am at Bournemouth Pier Approach: Every March, hundreds of sons, fathers, brothers, uncles, grandfathers - as well as their loved ones - come together to walk, jog or run either 3km, 5km or 10km to help raise important funds to support men's health.

Further details and sign up information coming soon - follow @UHDcharity across social media or visit UHDcharity.org



It is essential that at this time, more than ever, we look after ourselves and feel supported. At UHD, our health and wellbeing needs will be different but support is available for everyone.

Our health and wellbeing activities, for both our mental and physical health, aim to nurture our overall health and wellbeing, and for our teams as well. For the majority of us at this challenging time, we may benefit from an additional focus on our own wellbeing. **#YouMatter**.

Our new <u>health and wellbeing intranet pages</u> bring you lots of ideas and opportunities to support your health and wellbeing.



**Be Active at UHD** - Look out for physical activities including the running club, cycle to work, yoga, pilates and mindfulness, as well as signposting to external opportunities from Our Dorset and Live Well Dorset with sea swimming, paddle boarding, relaxation sessions, cardio and dance sessions, and sleep support.

**Emotional and mental health wellbeing support** - If you feel stressed, overwhelmed or are struggling with your mental health, there are a wide variety of options. You may just need a listening ear and want to talk confidentially to someone, for example contacting one of our UHD mental health first aiders, or our staff networks such as the ProAbility Network.

Some of us may require more specialist intervention, including our UHD psychological and counselling service which you can access via occupational health or externally via Our Dorset, Steps2Wellbeing, our employee helpline Care first, and other NHS helplines, many of which are available 24/7.

For others, you may benefit from wellbeing videos and apps - more information can be found on the intranet.

Have a look at your <u>health and wellbeing</u> <u>intranet pages</u> and please contact organisational.development@uhd.nhs.uk or occupational.health@uhd.nhs.uk with any queries.

## **Network news**

Alongside your fitness goals or new hobbies, why not think about a resolution to learn more about a culture or group different to yours, making your social media posts more accessible or finding out something new about your colleagues?

2022 is going to be another busy year for our valued employee led staff networks. Everyone is welcome to join in and get

involved in their work to guide UHD to being a truly inclusive organisation and provide support for you too.

Full details of the networks and how to get in touch are on the <u>staff network intranet</u> <u>pages</u> and via the UHD app.





Social media has been full of the festive spirit, rounding off the year with daily news updates, health information and of course,

# Let's get social

celebrations of the amazing work of #TeamUHD. So why not give our social media channels a follow in 2022 and join the conversation?

Our Twitter posts were viewed over 252,200 times in December, while over on Facebook our posts were read over 328,700 times. Some 1,193 people interacted with our content on Instagram and our YouTube videos received 4,042 views.

University Hospitals Dorset Published by Annabel Platt ● - December 29, 2021 at 2:00 PM - ④ Therapy teams at the Royal Bournemouth and Poole hospitals are appealing for the return of therapy equipment so it can be reused and recycled for other patients. Items needed include walking aids – for example crutches, zimmers and adjustable walking sticks - toillet frames and seats, kitchen trolleys, high back chairs, perching stools and bed levers. Senior physiotherapist. Kim Coles, said: "If you have equipment you no longer need, please return it to us as soon as you are... See more

0



On Facebook our top post reached over 43,500 people, as we shared a key message from our therapy teams about returning unwanted equipment to be used by our current patients.

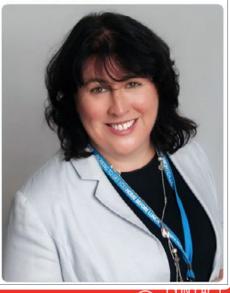
1,833 people saw our Instagram post encouraging people to vote for their favourite #TeamUHD Christmas decorations. Beth from our orthoptic department stole the show with her snowman hairpiece!

Our top Tweet which received 119 likes and 35,300 impressions was the announcement that Siobhan Harrington will be the new chief executive of UHD from 1 June 2022, with many of us wishing Siobhan a warm #TeamUHD welcome.

GR

University Hospitals Dorset NHS Foundation Trust @UHD\_NHS

We are pleased to share @S\_HarringtonNHS has been appointed as our new chief executive and will take up her role on 1 June 2022. Siobhan will succeed @DebbieFleming18, who announced in September that she would be retiring from the NHS on 31 March 2022. uhd.nhs.uk/newc/latest-ne...







Covid-19

16 December 2021 University Hospitals Dorset You Tube

A

GROUPS

Some 686 people caught up with our briefing on mandatory vaccinations at UHD on YouTube, finding out more information directly from some of our clinical leaders.

0

FACEBOOK!

Have some good news you would like to share? Get in touch with the communications team on **communications@uhd.nhs.uk** 

# Successful launch Welcome Pre-booked appointments only of Outpatient Assessment Clinic

Almost 300 patients have already And so far we have received been seen at our Outpatient Assessment Clinic at Beales since it opened less than a month ago.

The clinic was up and running on Monday 20 December when it also became a public vaccination centre, with an amazing 2,383 jabs given out during five days.

On opening day we were joined by ITV Meridian, BBC South Today and the Bournemouth Echo. Professor Alyson O'Donnell, our chief medical officer, told the BBC: "By taking a large volume of patients out of our hospitals and bringing them here, it allows us to keep doing things where we can maintain social distancing and manage our space well.

Since opening, our teams have seen over 120 ophthalmology and over 40 dermatology patients and held more than 130 breast screening appointments.

some great feedback from patients, including one who said: "I think the unit is a brilliant idea. No sitting for ages in a waiting room with lots of other patients."

Thanks to everyone who has been involved with this project to make a real difference to our patients and help us tackle our waiting lists.



utpatient assessment clinic









Watch: **ITV meridian:** https://youtu.be/Qs380mY3f1I **BBC South Today:** 

https://youtu.be/WPym4ckARnE

# Put your green foot forward this 2022

*The Brief* spoke to Tracy Lyons, pharmacist and sustainability lead for radiology and pharmacy, and Stuart Lane, our sustainability and carbon manager, for some top green tops to kick start the year.

#### Plant forward for planetary health

A 'plant-forward' diet is one that keeps us healthy but can be sustainably produced across the globe, feeding everyone without harming the environment.

There's no need to go completely vegetarian or vegan, but the emphasis should be on small, high-quality portions of meat or dairy food, with the majority of food taken from plant sources.

This is what the planetary-health plate would look like:

#### And now for the science...

Traditional diets featuring lots of meat, dairy and highly processed foods harm the environment by contributing to biodiversity loss and climate change. Meat consumption is also a very inefficient way to provide calories for the huge amount of land required. Simply shifting meat consumption from red (beef and lamb) to poultry, or better still a plant-based diet, will significantly reduce the carbon footprint of what you eat.

#### **Challenge yourself**

If you're a regular meat eater try eating less meat. 'Meat Free Mondays' are simple way to get involved: **meatfreemondays.com**.

Or perhaps you're ready to take it to the next level? Why not try going vegetarian or even vegan for the rest of January? <u>Veganuary 2022 |</u> <u>Home | The Go Vegan 31 Day Challenge</u>

Our restaurants across our hospitals offer a really good range of meat free food, so why not try something new in 2022. And keep an eye on our <u>Greener UHD pages</u> of the intranet for updates and more hints and tips throughout the year.

# Have a lucky 2022 - join the UHD staff lottery!

**GUH** 

Our staff lottery is now open to all monthly-paid staff, so why not get involved! Prizes range from  $\pounds$ 50 to  $\pounds$ 750 each month, with quarterly additional bonus prizes of  $\pounds$ 1,000. You can choose one to five numbers for  $\pounds$ 1 each, with the money deducted directly from your pay.

To join <u>complete the form</u> on the staff lottery page of <u>the intranet</u>. Also look out for our annual lottery fund which gives your team the opportunity to bid for money to buy goods to benefit staff, such as materials for wellbeing spaces, pictures to enhance staff rooms and staff physio sessions.



## Transformation update Update on RBH developments

- The new modular theatre, which will increase our planned orthopaedic surgery capacity by almost a third, is close to completion. It was handed over by the contractor at the end of December and is currently being commissioned. It is due to 'go live' and receive its first patients in February.
- It's great to see progress on this new purposedesigned pathology hub, putting Dorset in the frontline for diagnosis, testing and research.

# A day in the life of...

As well as showcasing the changes planned across our hospitals, we've been speaking to colleagues to find out their role in these exciting developments.

In our latest update we spend time with **Debbie** Lennon, transformation manager for theatres and anaesthetics.

#### I started my career...

I grew up in Eswatini (formerly Swaziland) and attended Waterford Kamhlaba United World College of Southern Africa, the first multiracial school in southern Africa, before completing my education at Bournemouth School for Girls and then Exeter University. I've spent the majority of my working life as an accountant, joining the NHS in 2011 and the strategy and transformation team in 2018.

#### My alarm goes off at...

I'm usually logged on to my laptop by 8am. In this role no two days are the same - I spend my days in meetings with clinical and operational leads, writing business cases and reports and ensuring our responsibilities are on track.

## Top of my to-do list today is...

To complete the project briefs and gather all relevant documentation required for my projects within the New Hospital Programme.

#### The biggest challenge in my work area currently is...



Working with our clinical and support teams to ensure we are making the best use of the existing and new estate developments at both Poole and Bournemouth.





#### I keep motivated by...

Knowing our work will lead to real benefits for the local population.

## The most rewarding part of my job is...

The interaction with different staff groups and personalities across the hospital and the challenge of finding solutions that are acceptable to all parties.

#### Away from work...

My focus is running with the aim of qualifying for an English Age Group Masters Vest. I also enjoy travelling, walking (especially with my daughter's border collie, Griff) and playing golf - especially in the warmer summer months.

# Alyson's Blog

Alyson O'Donnell, chief medical officer

Happy new year everyone and welcome to 2022. Although it might not feel like it at the moment I think we can be hopeful of a better year than last. I suspect for many of you, like me, the festive season seems already in the distant past.

The news over the last few weeks has often felt quite alarming about what we are facing. There is no doubt the omicron variant is leading to much higher infection rates than we have seen before. The good news is far fewer people are becoming sick and needing hospital care - though that doesn't mean fewer Covid patients in the hospital as there are so many more people infected. We have been watching the data for a number of weeks and working really hard on the plans for higher numbers of patients, and also what we will do if we have a lot of staff who are sick. It is that old adage of planning for the worst and hoping for the best. The good news is we

are not in the same place as London. We have really good rates of vaccination both in the community and also among our staff. The best protection to prevent hospitalisation or needing intensive care is to be vaccinated and boosted. There are still lots of vaccination slots available so please, please make an appointment if you or your family need dose 1, 2 or 3. No one will comment or judge you if it is your first dose. We will just be glad that vou came along.

The other thing that is really important is to keep an eye on our own and others wellbeing. It is really easy to overwork when there are so many pressures - please ensure you are getting your breaks and taking your leave. Remember taking time back is not a crime. It is really important if you have had to work longer than you should.

I am certainly feeling the benefit of a few days off. Even better I had the maternal battery re-charge of getting

up to Scotland to see my son between Christmas and New Year. I was obsessively socially distancing and hand sanitising in the run up to the trip, as well as being very diligent with the lateral flow tests to ensure it was safe to go. All was good and there were no Australian border quards to face in the strip between Carlisle and Gretna Green. It was so lovely to see him and his previously unseen flat and girlfriend and to spend my birthday with him even in lieu of Christmas. Even better the Labrador was incredibly good on his first long distance road trip. He slept all the way and we actually needed a wee stop before he did. We were staying in a barn in ancient woodland so the smell of the roving red deer drove him nuts every time we went out!

So back to work with my sleeves rolled up, ready to face what's coming. Thanks to all of you who worked over Christmas and New Year and thanks to your families for their sacrifice in not having you there. Take care of yourselves and each other - I know we can get through this together.

Alyson

## Easy Expenses

We are launching Easy Expenses at UHD on 1 February, a national NHS system aligned to the electronic staff record (ESR).

Please ensure all your expenses prior to 1 February are logged and approved by 11 February on the <u>current sel- expenses</u> system. From 1 February you will then be able to register for the new system to log your expenses. Anyone who uses our current system will be receiving an email inviting them to register, along with user guides and tutorials.

If you make business journeys, you will need to provide information as part of your individual registration process, including appropriate business insurance, valid driver's licence, and assurance an MOT and vehicle road tax is in place.

If you have any queries please contact **stuart.pentelow@uhd.nhs.uk** from our financial systems team.

#### University Hospitals Dorset **First look:** 2022 charity challenges

Whether you're a keen walker, thrill seeker, fancy dress lover or passionate about travel, our hospital charity team has a great range of challenges to suit all. You can represent #TeamUHD and make a huge difference to your hospitals in 2022!



#### **Jurassic Coast Challenge:** 14/15 May

**NHS** Charity

25km, 50km or 100km charity trek along Dorset's very own Jurassic Coast.

**Ride London: 29 May - registration now open!** 

Cycle a whopping 100 miles while passing the capital's most iconic landmarks.

#### Wing Walk: 1 July

Soar over 2,000 feet above sea level at speeds of 130mph on the wings of a Boeing Stearman Biplane.





#### Sky Dive: 24 July

One for the bucket list! Take a leap of faith as you soar through the sky. Register here.

#### **Camino Way Charity Trek: 10-17 September**

An overseas 125km rural trek through northern Spain!

#### **London Marathon: 2 October Ballot closes in February**

**TCS London Marathon** 

Take on 26.2 miles at the world's largest annual fundraising event.

#### **Run Bournemouth:** 8/9 October

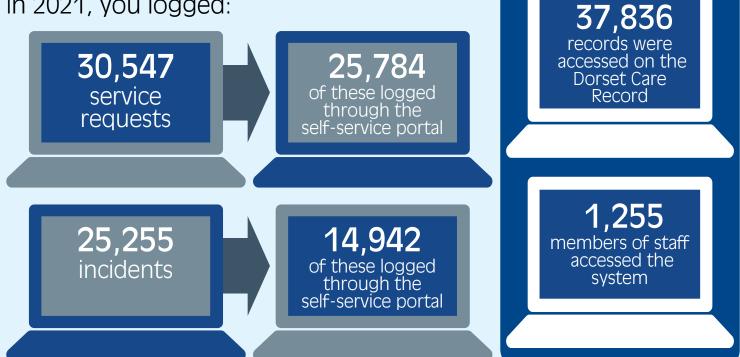
Push yourself to the limit at Bournemouth's biggest running event.



Further challenge details will be available soon at UHDcharity.org. Find out more by emailing charity.events@uhd.nhs.uk or call 0300 019 8449 - the events team would love to hear from you.



### Vital statistics In 2021, you logged:



# Improvements to the portal

It's been a busy year on the self-service portal. The team has amalgamated 21 previous password reset forms into one, so you have one form for all password reset requests. This reduces the amount of forms to search through.

They have also introduced 15 new forms to the portal to speed up your IT support requests, including a form for password resets, account unlocking and ways to report problems with emails and printers. 17 forms to make them more useful, including the IT equipment request form and the forms to create and schedule a clinic.

In December...

By using these forms, your job will be automatically assigned to the relevant IT team with the pre-agreed priority.

#### Need a new form?

Contact **dean.feegrade@uhd.nhs.uk** if you think there should be a form created for a specific incident/request, or if you have any suggested improvements to current forms.

Meanwhile, the team has majorly overhauled

# EPR upgrade

The go live date for the next EPR upgrade is February/March 2022. The elements contained in this upgrade include:

- HICSS single sign on from the EPR
- cancelled outpatient appointments will no longer show on clinic lists
- new pathology feed moving to the new feed