

University Hospitals Dorset



Summer 2025 logeth

for staff and supporters

Emergency Department

Graent Treatment Centre

Join our Annual Members Meeting

NHS 10 year plan

Cancer information hub opens



New era for emergency care

Welcome to Together

This is a pivotal moment for our health service... 59

Our NHS is firmly in the headlines once more. Recently we celebrated our 77th anniversary, a milestone that came hot on the heels of the publication of 'Fit for the Future: Our 10 Year Health Plan for England'.

In essence, this is our roadmap for the next decade, built on the foundations of what we have achieved over the past 77 years, and taking the best of the NHS to the rest of the NHS to ensure it is there for generations to come.



The 10 Year Plan focuses on three shifts - from hospital to community, from analogue to digital, and from sickness to prevention. We explore

how our Trust is aligning with these shifts later on in this magazine.

Everything is changing, and transition is difficult. However, at University Hospitals Dorset (UHD), we're more accustomed than most to continuous change, and I believe that stands us in good stead for the road ahead.

It's really positive to see a number of new services run from our new BEACH Building at the Royal Bournemouth Hospital (RBH), and we look forward to Poole and RBH splitting into emergency and planned care sites in the future, major changes that centre around what is best for our patients, and that brings with it hope and optimism.

We know now there is a delay with our Coast Building at RBH, which will have a knock-on effect on our overall timeline, including moving services like our Poole Emergency Department (ED) and Paediatrics to RBH.



I hope many of you will be able to join us for our Annual Members' Meeting on 18 September at Poole Hospital, which will be followed by a health talk. More information can be found on page 13.

Don't forget, this is the last printed edition of this magazine. If you would like to continue reading about what's going on in our hospitals, please take a look at the accompanying letter.

Thank you for continuing to support our hospitals.







RBH Emergency Department opens in new BEACH Building

Our new, purpose-built ED is up and running in the BEACH Building at RBH. The new department is three times larger than the previous EDs at RBH and Poole combined and is home to state-of-the-art equipment.

Just 100 metres from the previous site, the new facility also houses the Urgent Treatment Centre (UTC) and features separate entrances for walk-in patients and ambulances.

Dr Deborah Mayne, Clinical Director for Emergency and Urgent Care, commented:

11 The move of Bournemouth ED into our new department is an exciting step in our wider plan to improve the flow of emergency care, ensuring patients get the right treatment in the right place, at the right time.

Emergency services at Poole Hospital are still available at this time and Poole currently remains the region's designated trauma unit.





Introducing the new Interventional Radiology Day Case Unit at RBH

Interventional Radiology has opened a new Day Case Unit in the BEACH Building at RBH.

The expansion will benefit all services referring into Interventional Radiology, enabling the team to perform more procedures in response to growing demand across various areas.





New Endoscopy Unit at Poole Hospital

Exciting plans are now in full swing to expand UHD's endoscopy services at Poole Hospital with the creation of a new, state-of-the-art centre.

Constructed using the latest modular technology, the new unit will feature six procedure rooms with the potential for future expansion as a training centre.

Dr. Suranga Dharmasiri, UHD consultant gastroenterologist and the Dorset Integrated Care System (ICS) lead for endoscopy,



shared his enthusiasm for the project:

The new centre will enable us to treat more patients, reduce waiting times, enhance patient experiences, and train the next generation of endoscopy professionals in Dorset.

UHD celebrates construction milestone

In June, we celebrated the last structural element being placed at the top of RBH's new Coast Building, in a symbolic 'topping out' ceremony.

The Coast Building will contain a modern ward and catering block to expand the hospital's patient capacity and enhance services. It will feature 110 new beds

across four floors, and a larger kitchen and catering facility.

Spanning 10,800 square meters, the facility also reflects a commitment to sustainability and carbon reduction with renewable energy supported by photovoltaic panels.

It is due to open next Summer.





Countdown to our new Surgical Hub

We're now on the countdown to the next phase of our plans to create an emergency hospital at RBH and a planned care hospital at Poole. This marks a major milestone in our ambitious transformation programme - setting the stage for a new era in patient care and cutting-edge surgical facilities.

At the heart of this transformation is the









development of a new Elective Surgical Hub at Poole Hospital. This hub will help us reduce cancellations, improve patient flow, and support innovative ways of working.

Over 6,000 people a year are expected to benefit, supported

by upgraded theatres, wards, and recovery areas.

New technology, including robotic surgery, an Enhanced Post Operative Care Unit, and a Urology Investigation Unit, will take surgical care to the next level.

Enhancing your recovery

We are introducing a brand-new service set to launch in 2026, the Enhanced Post-Operative Care Unit or EPOC. With Poole becoming our planned care site, this new unit will be a vital part of ensuring patient safety and improving their experience and outcomes.

What is EPOC?

Based at the Poole site, EPOC will be a purpose built, six-bed unit designed to provide enhanced recovery support for patients undergoing complex surgery or those with complex medical needs after surgery.

It will be among just a few units in the country providing standalone enhanced care for complex postoperative patients outside a typical Critical Care Unit environment.

What makes it different?

Unlike general critical care units, EPOC is designed for planned admissions and will be less affected by emergency pressures. With 24/7 anaesthetic cover and a maximum stay of 72 hours, the unit will ensure a smooth and focused recovery journey, from theatre to enhanced care, then to the ward.



Our hospitals are changing. You can stay up to date with what's happening when, and find out more about upcoming public information events, at www.uhd.nhs.uk/about-us/future

The NHS 10 year plan and our hospitals

The Government's 10 Year Health Plan for England, 'Fit for the Future', was launched earlier this summer, setting out a roadmap for the NHS over the next 10 years.

The plan has been shaped by the experiences and expectations of members of the public, patients, as well as health and care staff across the country, reflecting the changes that people wanted to see.

The plan gives us a clear path ahead, setting out three 'big shifts' in how the NHS works:

From hospital to community

- creating a neighbourhood health service where care should happen as locally as it can: digitally by default, in a patient's home if possible, in a neighbourhood health centre when needed, in a hospital if necessary.

From analogue to digital

- to create the most digitally accessible health system in the world. Patients will have a 'doctor in their pocket' in the form of the NHS App, providing continuity of care.

From sickness to prevention

- using various tools, resources and methods to prevent ill health rather than treat it.



How are our hospitals adapting to these changes?

From hospital to community

Our Outpatients Assessment Clinic

We now have an Outpatients Assessment Clinic (OAC) in the former St Mary's Maternity Unit in Poole.

The clinic, formerly located in Beales in Poole town centre, significantly reduces waiting times and eases pressure on our main hospital sites. The Community Diagnostic Centre (CDC) based there will increase accessibility to patients by being open for longer hours and for seven days a week and will provide vital outpatient services including abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA) screening, dermatology, dexa scans, ophthalmology, orthopaedics, phlebotomy and ultrasound.

Mark Mould, UHD's Chief Operating Officer, said: The national Community Diagnostic Centres programme has allowed us to work with partners across Dorset to expand diagnostics in community settings.

elective care hub for east Dorset, alongside sites in Weymouth, Dorchester and Health Sciences University, we are delighted to open St Mary's at Poole, further improving accessibility to care.



Hospital at home - our virtual wards

Our hospitals are now offering elements of specialist hospital level care delivered, where appropriate, in the comfort of the patient's usual home. This is sometimes known as a 'Virtual Ward' or 'Hospital at Home'.

Many observations, monitoring and treatments can easily be delivered at home under the right supervision, delivered by our specialist teams.

Supporting patients in their own homes also helps our hospitals, enabling us to get patients home sooner and continue their care there, or avoiding the need for a hospital stay at all. It also means we have beds available for very poorly patients who do need to stay with us.





'Hospice at Home'

Forest Holme Hospice has launched its Hospice at Home service in Poole, providing high-quality, personalised end-of-life care to patients in their own home.

Thanks to the generosity of the local community and its partnership with Macmillan Caring Locally, this much-needed service is now available for patients at the Macmillan Unit in Christchurch, and now those under the care of Forest Holme Hospice.

Hospice at Home offers additional, specialist support alongside existing community nursing services, ensuring that patients can stay in a familiar environment, surrounded by the people and things that matter most to them.

Debbie Waters, Deputy Lead Nurse Palliative Care at Forest Holme Hospice and the Macmillan Unit, explains: When time is precious, everyone should have the choice of where they wish to receive care, and for many, that means being at home, in peace and dignity.





The service is delivered by a dedicated team of nurses and healthcare support workers, who work closely with the Community Specialist Palliative Care Team, consultants, and other community teams to provide truly personalised care.

From analogue to digital

Using AI to detect skin cancer

Across the UK, there is huge demand for our dermatology services, especially appointments to look at suspected skin cancers.

Along with Dorset County Hospital, we now have a rapid access 'teledermatology' service. This is where digital photos are taken of a patient's skin at a specialist photo clinic by a healthcare assistant. The service is run in partnership with Skin Analytics, who support the assessment of the images using an artificial intelligence (AI) computer program called 'DERM'. DERM is a medical device that recognises skin cancer and harmless skin conditions using dermoscopic images.

Consultant Dermatologist, Dr Alice Plant, said: We are always looking for innovative ways to approach demand and improve patient outcomes so I'm really motivated by our partnership with Skin Analytics. I am eager to see the impact Al can have on our teledermatology service in helping us achieve timely diagnosis and treatment for our patients, which will have a knock-on effect throughout our service.

With UHD providing care to approximately 800,000 people, we're proud to help even more patients and play a key role in speeding up their access to a skin cancer diagnosis and where necessary, treatment.





New tool enhances patient experience

Patients arriving at our ED and urgent treatment centres at RBH and Poole Hospital are benefitting from an innovative 'Streaming and Redirection' tool designed to get them seen in the most appropriate place for their needs and reduce waiting times.

This tool guides patients through a series of questions and performs a clinical assessment. Based on the results, it offers one of four options:

- A booked appointment in the ED
- A scheduled appointment with a GP or primary care practitioner
- A review by an initial assessment nurse for further clinical judgment
- Redirection away from the ED (not yet in operation at our Trust)

Bruce Hopkins, ED Matron, explained:,

demand more effectively. For example, patients who are booked into later appointments can leave the department and return at a designated time, often within 90 minutes, rather than spending hours in the waiting room. This improves their experience and helps staff manage patient flow more predictably.

Patients have responded positively. One commented:

efficient service." After using the tool, she was given a prompt appointment, went for a coffee nearby, and was seen and discharged within half an hour of returning."



From sickness to prevention

Clinic to reduce cholesterol levels

A clinic led by nurses from our Cardiology Team has seen remarkable results for patients needing to reduce their cholesterol levels.

The Secondary Prevention Lipid Clinic supports those who have experienced a cardiac event, focusing on medication optimisation and dedicated patient education to reduce cholesterol levels and reduce the chance of a secondary cardiac event and hospital stay.

In just six months, 72% of patients have reached



Anthony Young, UHD Lead Advanced Clinical Practitioner

cholesterol levels below national targets, a figure that far surpasses the typical 30-40% improvement seen over a 12-month period.

The team's achievements were recently recognised on an international stage in Milan. Additionally, the clinic has been awarded a £350,000 grant by

the British Heart Foundation to support the expansion of secondary prevention of cardiovascular disease in east Dorset.

Consultant Cardiologist, Professor Christopher Boos, said

The wider implementation of this service is expected to significantly reduce secondary 'atherosclerotic' cardiovascular events for patients with conformed significant coronary artery disease in our area."

'Revolutionary' skin cancer vaccine trial

Patients with advanced melanoma being treated at UHD are set to be fast-tracked into clinical trials of a new cancer vaccine following the expansion of the world-leading NHS Cancer Vaccine Launch Pad (CVLP).

NHS National Cancer Director,
Professor Peter Johnson, said: Skin cancer can have a devastating impact, and we know that cancer vaccines have

the potential to revolutionise cancer care for patients in this country and across the world - and to save more lives.

It's incredibly exciting that the NHS is expanding its world-leading programme so more patients with different types of cancer could benefit from the development of new vaccines that could stop their cancer coming back.

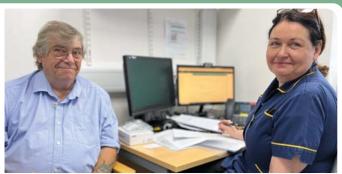


Bournemouth hosts UK's first ever norovirus vaccine trial

Moderna's NOVA Trial is taking place at our Bournemouth Research Hub, looking at the safety and immune response of a vaccine aimed at preventing norovirus and its serious symptoms.

Norovirus, also known as the winter vomiting disease, causes gastroenteritis and is highly infectious.

Sarah Herbert, Chief Nursing Officer at UHD, said: *From my experience, norovirus outbreaks can cause significant disruption



in hospitals, leading to ward closures and affecting both staff and patients, especially those who are most vulnerable.

The development of a vaccine offers a promising path to reducing these disruptions and **safeguarding patient health**. I am proud that our Bournemouth Research Hub is playing a key role in this vital initiative.

New Macmillan Cancer Information

Hub opens

Our new Macmillan Cancer Information Hub is now open for patients, their families and the community in response to patient feedback.

The hub is situated at the entrance to the Jigsaw Unit at RBH and is staffed by a cancer support worker and patient experience volunteers. They are on hand to offer wellbeing support and to signpost people to trusted resources both online and in the community.

Thanks so much to Macmillan for funding and supporting this important resource, and for all those involved in this brilliant initiative.



Private Health UHD: Supporting Patient Choice and NHS Investment

Did you know that you can pay for private healthcare at UHD? And better yet, all income generated from this service is reinvested directly back into the NHS?

Private Health UHD delivers consultant-led care across a range of specialties within the Royal Bournemouth, Christchurch, and Poole hospitals.

All our private patients are UHD patients and follow the same high standards of care as NHS patients, but on a faster pathway. The service is fully supported by NHS-employed staff.

Since launching in April 2017, Private Health UHD has returned millions of pounds to the Trust. The main areas of our private work include eye care, urology, radiology, gastroenterology and colorectal services.

We also offer 'amenity beds' at the Royal Bournemouth-where eligible patients can pay to stay on the private ward while remaining under NHS care.

To find out more about our services or to enquire about amenity beds, please contact us on **0300 019 4992** or **privatehealth@uhd.nhs.uk**. You can also visit our new website: **www.private-health-uhd.co.uk**





Congratulations!

UHD nurse wins national nursing award Created in

Sam Whittle, a Diabetes Specialist Nurse at UHD, has won the Innovation Award at the Diabetes Nursing Awards 2025 in recognition of her pioneering work to transform type 2 diabetes care.

Sam was praised for developing the 'Refocusise' programme - an innovative eight-week diabetes rehabilitation initiative that combines structured education with tailored exercise sessions.

Created in collaboration with the Bournemouth

Heart Club, the programme equips people living with type 2 diabetes with the tools they need to take control of their condition, improving both physical health and mental wellbeing.

Sam said: "It is fantastic recognition for my work and winning this award will help raise the profile of our initiative."



The eyes have it

Head Orthoptist, Julie Dowdney, has won a prestigious national award for services to the orthoptic profession.

Julie was awarded the 'Outstanding Leadership' accolade by the British and Irish Orthoptic Society (BIOS) during their annual award ceremony held in Birmingham.

The award reflects Julie's dedication to her work as both Vice Chair of BIOS for two terms, as well as her role as Chair of the Leaders of the Orthoptic Profession.

Julie, whose career at UHD spans over 20 years, has also been Chair for the Trailblazer Group, supporting students who aren't able to enter the traditional university route to work while training.

Julie said: "It is both humbling and wonderful to receive this award in recognition for my work to our professional body. The ceremony was a great night of celebration for myself and my peers, and I'm very proud to have been acknowledged in this way."

Biomedical scientist receives prestigious prizes

Congratulations to John Williams, our Senior Biomedical Scientist in Cellular Pathology, for scoring the highest mark in cellular pathology and

the highest mark across all Higher Specialist Diploma disciplines nationally.

As a result of this outstanding achievement, John has been awarded the R.J. Lavington Prize and the Institute of Biomedical Science (IBMS) Company Members Prize.

Working towards this qualification, John has harmonised key dissection processes across our hospitals engaging with clinical colleagues to put best working in place. John has also taken on many of the dissection duties that have been traditionally undertaken by consultants.

Governors' update

Message from Lead Governor, Michele Whitehurst

Hello everyone,

I want to take a moment to reflect on the significant work your governors have been doing on your behalf and to express my gratitude for your continued support and engagement.

Over the past year, we have actively connected with local communities through various events, meetings with residents associations, churches, and public forums. We are also excited to host Understanding Health talks on organ donation, skin conditions and our addiction care and treatment later this year.

We are always eager to connect with the community and have a full schedule of events planned until the end of 2025. You can find the full details on our website under 'News' and then 'public engagement events'. Please do come along and say hello.

I had the honour of contributing to the judging of this year's UHD Staff Awards. It was wonderful to read the nominee

statements and witness the depth and standard of work, patient care,

and collaboration among UHD staff. Some of the governors attended the staff awards evening, and it was heartwarming to see our dedicated staff enjoying the celebration together.

As governors, we remain committed to asking the right questions, being constructively curious, and ensuring there is rigour in the hospital Board's assurance processes. We are here to represent you. and we take that responsibility seriously.

Our Council of Governor meetings are open to members to attend. Meetings are typically held in April, July, October, and January each year, either in person or via Teams. If you would like to join us, please contact ftmembers@ uhd.co.uk.

Warmest regards,

Our Interim Chair

Judy Gillow has been appointed Interim Chair of UHD for a year. She started this role on Thursday 1 May. Rob Whiteman stepped down from the role at the end of March.

Judy has been a non-executive director of UHD since April 2023 and has been Chair of our Audit Committee. A nurse by background, she has had a varied career across the NHS and has worked in a range of clinical settings in acute, community, primary care and education. Roles have included Director of Nursing and Organisational Development at University Hospitals Southampton and

she has also been a non-executive director at Dorset County Hospital.

Peter Wilson, Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Medical Officer, said: "Judy brings a great wealth of experience from across the NHS to her role as our Chair. We

non-executive director and look forward to her leadership at a very exciting and

challenging time for UHD and the NHS."



Join us for our Annual Members' Meeting

This year, our Annual Members' Meeting (AMM) will be taking place on **Thursday 18 September**, at **4pm** in the **Lecture Theatre** at **Poole Hospital**.

The event, which will also be live streamed via Microsoft Teams, will include presentations from Chief Executive, Siobhan

Harrington, and Chief Finance Officer, Pete Papworth, on the 2024/25 Annual Report and Accounts, and 2025/26 forward plan.

Michele Whitehurst, Lead Governor, will give a presentation from the Council of Governors on their activity during 2024/25.

The AMM will be followed by an Understanding Health talk on 'Transforming care for older people across Dorset'.

Information stands will be set up from 3.30pm and light refreshments will also be provided. Booking is encouraged due to limited capacity. Any information regarding allergies or accessibility requirements should be given when booking your place. Please email **FTMembers@uhd.nhs.uk** with names and contact details of who would like to attend, or call **0300 019 8723**.

If you would like to submit a question at the AMM, please also send this to **FTMembers@uhd.nhs.uk** by **Thursday 11 September**. Questions submitted in advance will be prioritised at the meeting.



nnual Member

Charity news



The BEACH Appeal - Nearly half way!

In April 2024, our hospital charity launched The BEACH Appeal, with the goal of raising £1.5m to support the new BEACH Building - home to our Birth, Emergency, Children and Critical Health services. The appeal is helping to provide vital enhancements that go above and beyond what the NHS is able to fund.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our supporters - including grant-making trusts and foundations, local businesses, and the wider community - we have already raised over £735,000. That's nearly halfway to our ambitious target.

What we've achieved so far:

- a vibrant new children's waiting area in our Emergency Department
- an extra CT scanner, enabling an additional 13,000 scans each year
- a peaceful wellbeing garden for critical care patients and an area for staff on this ward to get fresh air outside
- a sensory trolley to enhance patient care for our children's Emergency Department
- comfortable recliner chairs for birthing partners in our Maternity Department

What we still need your help with:

We still need to raise over £750,000. We're working hard to fund projects that will make a meaningful difference, including:

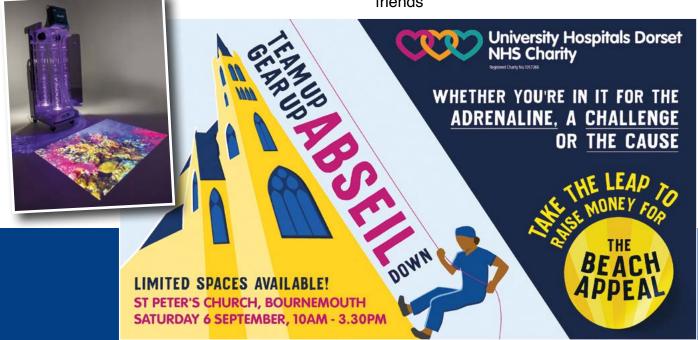
- furniture for the mental health rooms in our Emergency Department
- mood lighting to support comfort and calm in maternity
- classroom resources for young patients
- children's play areas to support wellbeing and recovery

Together, we can make the BEACH Building a truly transformative space filled with the right equipment to give every patient the best possible experience.

How you can help

Your involvement could make all the difference. Here are just a few ways you can support The BEACH Appeal:

- abseil St Peter's Church on 6 September
- take on the 10,000 Step Challenge Walk every day for a month!
- team challenge organise a sponsored walk, quiz, cycle, or another creative event with friends



Visit our charity pages at **uhdcharity.org** or email **uhd.charity@uhd.nhs.uk** to find out more.



Walk for your Wards 2025

Our much-loved Walk for Wards event will be back at Upton Country Park on Saturday 13 September 2025. Everybody across Dorset is invited to step out for any chosen ward at UHD that holds a special place in their heart.



SIGN UP - SHOW UP - CHANGE LIVES

Choose from a 3, 5 or 8km route before reaching the finish line where there will be live entertainment, music from Hot Radio, and a complimentary burger for every participant. There will also be balloon art, face painting and so much more. Tickets are priced at £5 for adults and £3 for children.

Sign up today at uhdcharity.org/walkforwards



Mount Kilimanjaro -The Challenge of a Lifetime

Are you ready to take on the highest freestanding mountain in the world?

Join us in October 2026 for an unforgettable adventure - climbing Mount Kilimanjaro in support of University Hospitals Dorset NHS Charity.

If you're up for the challenge, learn more at uhdcharity.org/challenges



Leaving a Legacy

By leaving a gift in your Will to University Hospitals Dorset, you can make a life-changing difference for future generations. 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.

On the phone: 0300 019 8449
Or email: uhd.charity@uhd.nhs.uk



New RBH charity shop opens

Our brand new charity shop is now open on weekdays at RBH, located on the ground floor of the new BEACH Building. You will find a range of items similar to our Poole shop, including hand-knitted baby goods, jigsaws, books, and bric-a-brac.

We are currently seeking:

 donations of good quality items (please drop them off at the Charity Office on the BEACH Building ground floor)

 new volunteers to join our team and help run the shop.





Why volunteer?

Volunteers are the heartbeat of our UHD Charity. By giving your time, you'll be:

- supporting your local community
- boosting your wellbeing through purposeful activity
- building connections and friendships
- enhancing your skills great for career changes or gaining new experience

If you would like to become a charity shop volunteer, get in touch with us today.



Corporate fundraising - The Power of Partnership

Businesses and corporate partners have a unique opportunity to make a lasting impact by supporting UHD Charity.

You can:

- sponsor a charity event
- organise a team fundraising activity
- donate directly to a specific project or department
- choose UHD Charity as your Charity of the Year

The money raised from our corporate supporters plays a vital role in helping us deliver meaningful improvements across all our hospital sites.

Your contributions - whether through sponsorship, project donations, fundraising, or employee engagement - have already made a significant difference. They highlight the power of collaboration in driving change, creating better



outcomes for patients, and building a healthier, more connected community. If you are linked to a company that would like to help, please get in touch.

To find out more about any of these opportunities, visit uhdcharity.org or email uhd.charity@uhd.nhs.uk

Visit our charity pages to find out more. www.uhdcharity.org

Contact us: uhd.charity@uhd.nhs.uk, call 0300 019 4060/8449 or @UHDcharity on X (Twitter) X Facebook and Instagram

Keep our waters and environment Medications can contaminate water sources and harm aquatic life if flushed or disposed of

There are a variety of ways that drugs get into the environment. One of the most significant is when unused medications are disposed of down the drain or toilet.

Wastewater treatment plants are not equipped to remove these chemicals from sewage; they are eventually released into the marine environment when treated wastewater is discharged into nearby waterways.

Throwing drugs in with our rubbish, even in an unusable form, is also a problem because water in landfills is treated through the wastewater system and eventually released into local waterways.

Medications can contaminate water sources and harm aquatic life if flushed or disposed of improperly. Please help keep our waterways drug free and members of the public safe by disposing of medications as advised, thus protecting the environment and allowing those who enjoy using our rivers,

lakes and sea without the risk of contact with medication, sharps or other hazardous waste.

MANY THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Poole and Bournemouth Bluetits Chill Swimmers.

