



University Hospitals Dorset
NHS Foundation Trust

Together online...

An update to our members

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



October 2025

Welcome from our CEO, Siobhan Harrington

Future care, smoking support, prepping for winter and more!

The NHS 10-year plan has a very clear focus on care closer to home, and recently the NHS announced it is setting up an 'online hospital' - NHS Online. This will digitally connect patients to expert clinicians anywhere in England from 2027. It's a bold but necessary development, and I know here in Dorset we have been embracing virtual technology to see patients for years. It is very clear our NHS is changing and that we need to be a part of that.

As you may now know, UHD is a smoke free site. October is our stop smoking month (Stoptober), and we encourage those who currently smoke to seek help from our Tobacco Addiction Care and Treatment Service or Smoking in Pregnancy teams, more information can be found further down this newsletter.

As winter edges in, we will be prepping our hospitals for the increase demand. We would like to ask people to choose well when seeking medical help and encourage you to protect yourselves by getting your flu jabs.

I'm pleased to say that the transformation of the Trust is progressing steadily. An updated brochure on what's to come, can be viewed later in this newsletter.

Thank you for your continued support,

Siobhan

Transformation update

Latest brochure, out now

Read our latest edition of the Transforming Care Together brochure, which shows how our sites are being transformed through a £500m investment. The latest update highlights the benefits already making a difference for our patients and staff, as well as what is yet to come. It also includes an updated timeline of the changes. You can read it [online here](#). Printed copies will also be available across our sites in the coming weeks.



RBH: our ward names are changing



A new way to navigate our RBH site is being introduced to assist everyone as we move around our changing site.

The site will be divided into three zones:

Zone A (West Wing)

Zone B (BEACH Building, including new main entrance)

Zone C (East Wing and Coast Building)

Each ward/department will be given a new location identifier, this is made up

of the letter of the zone the department is in and a number (for example, A19). The function of the ward will not change and will still be visible for patients (for example, our Outpatients Department).

Stoptober at smokefree UHD

Stopping smoking is one of the best things you can do for your physical and mental wellbeing. This Stoptober, why not take the first step towards a smoke-free future - for your health, your family, and your community.

Our Tobacco Addiction Care and Treatment Service and Smoking in Pregnancy teams are here to support you on your quit journeys. Studies have shown that people who quit for 28 days are five times more likely to quit for good. Even a small step can lead to a big change. Let's go smokefree, together.



Stopping smoking in pregnancy

If you smoke, quitting during pregnancy is one of the most important things you can do for your baby's growth and wellbeing. It's not always easy, but you don't have to do it alone. Our Smoking in Pregnancy Team offers free nicotine replacement therapy, vapes and behavioural support to make quitting feel more manageable, for you and your friends and family, one day at a time.

UHD is a smokefree Trust!

Smoking cigarettes or other tobacco items is not allowed anywhere on our Trust grounds. This applies to all our colleagues, patients, visitors and contractors. You can see our smoking policy, as well as more information and support to quit smoking [here](#).



Why have we gone smoke free at UHD?
Let our colleagues - and their families - tell you more... [We are Smoke free UHD](#)



The road to summer 2026

Big changes are on the way next summer as some of our hospital services change sites. Our new series highlights the teams making the move and what it means for their patients and staff. First up is Child Health, whose inpatient team will be moving from Poole to their new home in the BEACH Building at RBH.

A new era for Child Health

Dr Fiona Hignett started her UHD career as a resident doctor in 2018, becoming a consultant paediatrician in October 2021. Recently appointed as the Transformation Lead for Child Health, she is leading the Child Health team's move into the BEACH Building.

Lucy Wadams sat down with her to ask her a few questions about the upcoming move...

What are you most excited about?

We'll be working in a space that's been purpose built with children and young people in mind. It will have finishing touches that will work well for children such as lower handrails, basins and reception desks. It's bright, spacious and built to modern standards with a new, larger playroom, and we're hoping to work with our UHD Charity to kit out the outdoor play space on the balcony. Some of our colleagues who've already moved into other areas of the BEACH Building have noticed the environment feels calmer and less stressful, mainly because it's less cramped and better designed, making a difference to staff and patients.

What areas will remain at Poole?

Inpatient services are moving to RBH, but Poole will still have a strong Child Health presence. It will become our Elective Outpatient Hub, and children will continue to be seen in other parts of the hospital too, such as radiology. There will continue to be an Urgent Treatment Centre (UTC) on site, which will also care for children.



What is the long-term goal for Child Health Outpatients?

The long-term goal is to have dual outpatient departments at both Poole and RBH. By expanding outpatient services across both sites, we'll make things easier for patients. Ultimately, it's about making care more local and accessible for all.

How long will the move take?

Our priority is to move safely, as well as quickly. We hope the move will be complete within 24 hours.

How will patients move to RBH?

For complex or long-stay patients, we'll work with our regional intensive care transfer service, who specialise in safely moving unwell children. Many children are inpatients for less than 48 hours and those who are nearly ready to go home may stay in Poole. We'll briefly run both sites, admitting new patients to Bournemouth while preparing to move those still in Poole. To run both sites safely, we'll likely pause non-urgent outpatient activity for a short period to make sure we have the right numbers of staff available. It's a big task, but we are up for the challenge!

Celebrations

Rising star at UHD



Huge congratulations to Debbie Daniels, our UHD Senior Health Play Specialist, who has been named Mentor of the Year in the 2025 Starlight Play in Healthcare Awards.

With over 20 years' experience, Debbie has supported children through some of the most challenging hospital treatments, and now, by mentoring the next generation of health play specialists, she's making an impact that will last for years to come.

Read more [here on Starlight UK's page](#).

Con-grad-ulations Saima

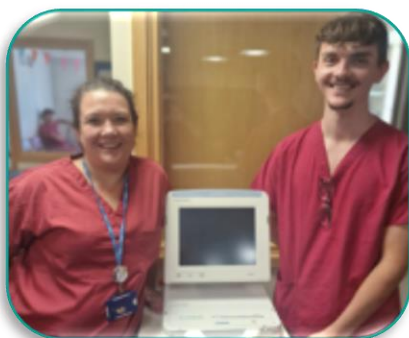
A very big congratulations to Saima Islam, our first ever UHD Radiotherapy apprentice, who graduated this July with honours.

Saima began her journey with the Trust in February 2019 as a Band 2 healthcare assistant and three years ago applied for a new apprenticeship position within the Radiotherapy Department.

It is no small feat to work and study at the same time, especially when you are the only apprentice in a brand-new role that has never been done before.



Double the celebrations



A huge congratulations to our two Level 6 Healthcare Science apprentices within Cardiac Physiology, Katy and George, for completing their degrees and securing permanent positions as qualified Cardiac Physiologists within the Trust. They are the first apprentices to complete the Cardiac Physiology Scheme at UHD in 15 years, marking a significant milestone.

Going for the win with our Capital Estates Team

We're thrilled to celebrate our Capital Estates Team for being shortlisted for Public Sector Organisation of the Year at the APM Project Management Awards, taking place in November 2025!



This recognition reflects the team's hard work, innovation and dedication, which have been at the heart of our transformation journey.

Governor update and election information

An update from Lead Governor, Michele Whitehurst

Dear members,

It was a pleasure to present at the UHD Annual Members' Meeting on Thursday 18 September and share highlights from the Council of Governors' (CoG) work over the past year.



The CoG has made significant strides in strengthening our role and impact across UHD and the wider community. We achieved more than we realised and some of our key achievements include:

- **Defining our purpose and pledges**, which now guide our collective work and values.
- **Participating in 17 public and community events**, allowing us to connect with diverse groups and represent the Trust.
- **Engaging with members of the public**, listening to their views, and gathering feedback to share with UHD.
- **Contributing to the recruitment of non-executive directors**, ensuring strong leadership and governance.
- **Advancing our Membership and Engagement Strategy**, with a focus on reaching those we don't often hear from and engaging younger members of the population.
- **Attending the pan-Dorset governor event** alongside colleagues from Dorset HealthCare and Dorset County Hospitals, helping us grow in our roles and explore new ways to improve public engagement and collaborative working.

The UHD CoG election process for 2025 is now officially open. Members who have held their membership for more than one year are eligible to stand for election to become a governor. This is a great opportunity to get involved, represent your community, and help shape the future of our Trust. If you're considering standing, we encourage you to review the election materials and submit your nomination before the deadline. Full details can be found via this link: [Home](#)

Warmest regards,

Michele

Charity update



University Hospitals Dorset
NHS Charity

Registered Charity No. 1157366

Church, cheers and charity fun!

Last month, fearless fundraisers raised £5,157 for our hospitals in the first gravity-defying charity Abseil of St Peter's Church spire for the BEACH Building.

One highlight of the day was seeing our Deputy Finance Business Partner Fiona's, delighted face when her husband surprised her by abseiling down the church with her.

Find out how you can Back our BEACH by visiting our [website here](#).



Colouring books bring fun and joy

Our patients living with dementia and delirium at Poole and RBH are enjoying custom made colouring books, all thanks to the brilliant local artist, Sebastian Avoray.

The designs are a trip down memory lane with traditional fish and chips, the legendary TV dog and the iconic retailer Woolworths pages. This is beneficial as colouring promotes focus and reduces stress that can come with living with dementia and delirium.



Porters go the extra pink mile for breast cancer patients in October

During Breast Cancer Awareness Month, our brilliant porters are proudly stepping out in style to raise awareness and support for everyone supported by our Breast Cancer Teams at UHD.

If you want to send them some love, visit the UHD Porters JustGiving page [here](#).



Media highlights

Did you see?

- **Daily Echo** | Fundraisers abseil down 105ft St Peter's Church spire | see [online](#)
- **Daily Echo** | UHD team offers CPR training for members of the public | see [online](#)
- **Daily Echo** | AFC Bournemouth players learn CPR and defibrillator skills | see [online](#)
- **Daily Echo** | New youth support scheme at Bournemouth and Poole hospitals | see [online](#)

University Hospitals Dorset NHS Foundation Trust

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