

Together online...

An update to our members

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



February 2026

Welcome from our CEO, Siobhan Harrington

Welcome to your February edition of Together Online.

After a long (and very wet) January, February often feels like the beginning of change, with spring around the corner.

This year we will see the biggest changes yet for University Hospitals Dorset (UHD), with the split of our planned and emergency services across Poole and the Royal Bournemouth Hospital (RBH) in the summer, and many more moves in between. We will all go through a journey of adapting to the new as we look forward to a bright future for our hospitals. You can find out more below.

I'm also really pleased to announce the launch of our 2026 UHD Awards, and specifically, the category of Patient Choice Award. This is a great opportunity to give recognition to those who make a difference and appreciate the value of the work we do here in our hospitals. If you would like to nominate a member of staff or team who you feel have gone above and beyond, details on how to do this can be found later in this newsletter.

Change is afoot in our hospitals, let's hope that with it comes the change to dryer weather.

Thank you for your continued support,

Siobhan

Transformation update

Transforming care for our patients

2026 is a key year for change at our hospitals. This summer, we will separate our emergency and planned services, with our main emergency site being based at the Royal Bournemouth Hospital, and our major planned services based at Poole.

Before this happens, a lot of other important changes are taking place. Below is a look at what we've already achieved this year and what to expect in the next few months.

What's changed so far?

New MPCC Ward in Poole

On 22 January, we opened a new Medical Patient Continuing Care (MPCC) Ward at Poole Hospital. Lulworth Ward became a dedicated ward for patients who are medically fit but have complex needs.



Yet to come

Oncology inpatient services moving to RBH



From 23 February 2026, oncology inpatient services and the Oncology Assessment Unit (Oncology SDEC) will move to the Royal Bournemouth Hospital from Poole Hospital. From this date, all Oncology and Haematology ward admissions will take place at RBH.

Radiotherapy services will remain at Poole Hospital. Outpatient and chemotherapy appointments will continue at both sites.

Read more about this change on the 'latest news' page on our website [here](#).

RBH Surgical SDEC and SAU relocation

Same Day Emergency Care (SDEC), Surgical Admissions Unit (SAU) and Emergency Gynaecology Assessment teams at RBH are moving into the newly refurbished areas on the first floor of the BEACH. This will provide improved facilities for patients and staff.

Surgical SDEC and the Emergency Gynaecology Assessment Unit will move on Sunday 15 February, with Surgical SDEC reopening on Monday 16 February. The SAU will move on Wednesday 18 February.

RBH ward names are changing

From Tuesday 3 March, ward names at RBH will change as part of ongoing improvements to hospital wayfinding.

The new ward names are based on location identifiers and are designed to make it easier for patients and visitors to find their way around the hospital. New signage has been installed across the site to support navigation.



You should start to see the new ward names on signs and appointment letters, and our staff and volunteers will be available on site to help with directions and answer any questions.

These changes will help ensure ward names remain clear and consistent, even if wards move location in the future.

The ward name changes will not affect patient care or appointments. Only the names of some wards are changing.

More information about the Trust's transformation programme is available on our [website](#), and patients and visitors are encouraged to speak to a member of staff if they need support during their visit.

Did you know that the Emergency Department at Poole Hospital is moving in Summer 2026?

Please share your views with us by scanning the QR code and completing a short survey.



A large, close-up photograph of a woman's eyes looking directly at the camera, set against a solid blue background. This image serves as the main visual for the campaign.

Transforming Care Together
Better for patients, better for staff

To find out more about the changes visit www.uhd.nhs.uk/future

Thank
you!

Scan for NHS 111 online:



! IMPORTANT

Poole Hospital's Emergency Department will move to the Royal Bournemouth Hospital in Summer 2026.

Both hospitals will keep their Urgent Treatment Centres.

Find out more: www.uhd.nhs.uk/future

Spotlight on: Stroke

The opening of our newly enhanced Stroke Unit at RBH in 2024 has provided significant advancements to the way we care for our patients thanks to state-of-the-art facilities, improved amenities, and expanded office space.

Consultant stroke physician and UHD's Clinical Lead for Stroke, Dr Suzanne Ragab, said:

“Having our stroke service on one site is already enhancing patient care, particularly in reducing the average length of stay for our patients. We have already observed notable improvements, with recent data showing a significant reduction in treatment times since the consolidation.

“For instance, patients from the Poole and Purbeck areas are now receiving life-saving treatment in about one-third of the time it took before these changes were put in place.”

News and events

New group training initiative allows quicker access to life-changing technology for diabetes patients



People living with type 1 diabetes are experiencing life-changing improvements sooner, thanks to the introduction of a new group-based training initiative being rolled out by the Diabetes Team (pictured right) at UHD.

These group training sessions allow larger numbers of patients to be trained on the new hybrid closed loop insulin pump technology at any one time.

This approach, the second of its kind in the country, not only speeds up access to the technology, but helps patients build a sense of community and shared support.

To read more, [click here](#).

Nominations open for our Patient Choice Award at UHD



Who will you nominate?



Funded by
 University Hospitals Dorset
NHS Charity

Supported by
 **Westmade Ltd**
Building Contractors

 **Locum's Nest.**
Your total workforce solution

Your local hospitals are giving you the chance to put forward staff or volunteers you feel have gone the extra mile for special recognition.

Our Patient Choice Award is seeking to highlight some of the incredible individuals and teams that make up University Hospitals Dorset – Christchurch, Poole, and the Royal Bournemouth Hospital.

They form part of the UHD Awards 2026, which recognise and celebrate hospital staff, those working for key partners in our hospitals and for volunteers who give their time and skills for free.

Nominating is simple – just [click here](#) to find an online form and guidance on what judges will be looking for to help your nomination stand out.

Nominations must be made by midday on Monday 3 April 2026.

To read more, [click here](#).

Governor update

An update from Lead Governor, Michele Whitehurst

Dear members,

January marked the first meeting of the newly elected Council of Governors (CoG). We were pleased to approve the appointment of Judy Gillow as the ongoing Interim Chair of the Board of Directors, to reappoint Claire Whitaker as Senior Independent Director, and to reappoint four non-executive directors for a further three-year term.



If you would like to learn more or read the minutes of our meetings, please visit: [Our Governors](#)

Part 1 of each Council of Governors meeting is open to the public. If you would like to attend virtually, please email uhd.company.secretary-team@nhs.net

CoG meeting dates for 2026 are:

- 16 April - 4pm
- 29 May - 10am
- 16 July - 4pm
- 15 October - 4pm



To kickstart our programme of events for the year, governors were delighted to support the Thrive Event on Thursday, 29 January, organised by BCP Council and led by the Boscombe Digital Hub. This one-stop health and wellbeing event offered a valuable opportunity to engage with the community and share information about the hospital's transformation plans for 2026.

Our Communications Team has updated the UHD website with upcoming key events. Please do come along and connect with us where you can: [Public engagement events](#)

Warmest regards,

Michele

Charity update



Spring into action with your hospital's charity

With spring around the corner, there are some exciting events coming up to support your hospitals.

In March, during Prostate Cancer Awareness Month, UHD Charity hosts its annual March for Men event (see below).

Then get ready to sparkle and shine towards a brighter future for breast cancer patients at the Twilight Walk, taking place on Friday 15 May.

For more information on how you can connect with your hospitals' charity, check out UHDcharity.org.



March for Men: walk, run and change patients' lives



Step into action along Bournemouth's seafront on Saturday 28 March 2026 and show your support for everyone affected by prostate cancer in our community. Every year, over 52,000 people in the UK are diagnosed with prostate

cancer. March for Men is the perfect opportunity to come together and raise funds to create a brighter future for patients and their families, supported by University Hospitals Dorset.

Register for March for Men today and enjoy £2 off your tickets:
www.UHDcharity.org/M4M

Light up the prom with love and remembrance



Join us on Friday 27 February at 7pm at Bournemouth's pier approach as we gather with the local community to remember loved ones.

It's a shared space to connect with others and enjoy music from a local choir while watching our collective love light up the seafront with fireworks.

Funds raised will go towards meaningful projects and extras for when our patients need it most.

Register today to secure your spot and get a candle to light in honour of your loved one: <https://uhdcharity.enthuse.com/cf/lutp>

Do it for the KIDS

DONATE NOW TO GIVE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE A HAPPIER HOSPITAL EXPERIENCE



University Hospitals Dorset NHS Charity

Registed Charity 1070416

Regulated by the FUNDRAISING REGULATOR

To donate and find out more: Scan the QR code UHDcharity.org/kids 0300 019 4060/8449



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

Media highlights

Did you see?

- **Daily Echo** | Have your say on new MRI unit | see [online](#).
- **Daily Echo** | Bournemouth Hospital children's unit with £12,692 | see [online](#)
- **BBC Radio Solent** | Rachel Barnett, our UHD Lead Nurse for Organ Donation, spoke to BBC Radio Solent about her role and the patient pathways - from the initial referral through to finding suitable recipients and supporting families throughout the process and much more. | [listen here](#).
- **BBC Radio Solent** | Join Jeremy Cooper, one of our UHD Porters, as he shares to BBC Radio Solent what a typical day looks like, how he supports patients, the variety of personalities he meets along the way and more. | [listen here](#).

University Hospitals Dorset NHS Foundation Trust

You are receiving this newsletter as a valued member of University Hospitals Dorset NHS Foundation Trust. If you would like to be removed from the list, please email uhd.ftmembers@nhs.net