Dorset County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
Information Pack

Outstanding Care, Outstanding Careers
A message from our Chief Executive

Thank you for your interest in working for Dorset County Hospital.

I am proud of the excellent reputation that we have as a healthcare provider and recognise this is only possible through the hard work and dedication of our talented staff.

Our mission is to provide outstanding care for people in ways that matter to them. We are therefore seeking outstanding people who share our trust values of integrity, respect, teamwork and excellence to help us continue delivering on this commitment.

On joining the trust, you will be welcomed into a friendly and supportive environment invested in your ongoing training and development.

I would encourage you to read on to discover why you should join us on our journey to becoming the best performing trust in the country, and wish you all the very best in your application.

Patricia Miller, Chief Executive

Outstanding Care, Outstanding Careers
Dorset County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust is a high performing District General Hospital and part of the pioneering ‘Our Dorset’ Integrated Care System: a partnership of health and social care organisations with an ambition to help people to have the best possible health and care outcomes – living healthier, longer and fulfilling lives. Our mission at DCH is to deliver outstanding care for people in ways that matter to them and we are working hard every day to achieve this aspiration.

We are the largest and most diverse employer in West Dorset with over 3,000 staff. We provide a full range of district general services to a population of around 270,000, with 400 beds, seven main theatres, two day theatres and satellite services in five community hospitals.

We are a major trauma unit within the Wessex Trauma Network, with some of the best survival rates in Wessex, and as a regional provider of renal services our teams care for patients throughout Dorset and South Somerset.

We are regularly recognised as one of the top performing Trusts in the country and have enjoyed consistently positive responses in national staff survey results with staff feeling recognised and valued, as well as for equal opportunities in career progression. In our last survey, 80% of respondents said that if a friend or relative needed treatment they would be happy with the standard of care provided at our Trust.

We have been rated by the CQC as “Good” and our clear ambition is to reach “Outstanding.” We believe this aspiration is realistic given some of our achievements this year. Our anaesthetics team were presented with the prestigious Anaesthesia Clinical Services Accreditation (ACSA) from the Royal College of Anaesthetists; we were rated as one of the best Trusts by our patients in the National Inpatient Survey and the Emergency Department survey; two of our staff were accepted onto a prestigious Florence Nightingale Windrush Leadership Programme offered to nurses and midwives from black and minority ethnic backgrounds and our Cygnet Homebirth Team were awarded Team of the Year by the Royal College of Midwives.

We are committed to continuous improvement with an active Research and Innovation department and pride ourselves on the exemplary levels of training and support provided to our clinical trainees. This commitment is vital to the sustainability of our Trust and the NHS as a whole.
Outstanding Location

West Dorset with its outstanding scenery and rugged coastline is characterised by a number of small towns, each with a distinct identity. The coastline is protected by World Heritage as a site of outstanding natural beauty. The majority of people live in the south of the area in and around Weymouth, Portland and Dorchester and the remainder of the population live in the centres of Lyme Regis, Bridport, Sherborne, Blandford, Sturminster Newton and Shaftesbury.

Dorchester is the traditional county town of West Dorset, made famous by the novels of Thomas Hardy. It’s an intriguing mix of historic and the modern, with the new Brewery Square development offering a vibrant and sophisticated leisure and shopping complex. The local schools are amongst the best in the country with a mix of public and private education.

Dorset County Hospital is close to the town centre of Dorchester, and is close to bus and rail networks, making the major centres of London Bournemouth, Southampton, Exeter and Bath Bristol easily accessible.
Outstanding Lifestyle

Here’s a flavour of some of the many outdoor pursuits that are available across Dorset:

**Diving**
There are good diving haunts across the majority of the Dorset coastline. The best are probably to be found at Kimmeridge and off Chesil Beach where there are shipwrecks you can view on a clearer day.

**Sailing and windsurfing**
There is a host of sailing and windsurfing clubs and associations across the area, and with our coastline it’s easy to see why.

**Climbing, cycling and walking**
A range of amazing challenges await across our Jurassic coastline! Climbing is best in the hard limestone areas of Lulworth, Swanage and Portland, and some of the most spectacular walks include the Abbotsbury Ring, Cerne Abbas Valley and the Purbecks.
Outstanding Rewards

**NHS Discount Scheme** – free to join and a huge range of discounts for NHS staff

**Cycle to Work Scheme** – we run a Cycle to Work Scheme, offering savings on the cost of a new bike plus cycling equipment

**Pension** – the NHS offers one of the UK’s best pension schemes with an excellent package of benefits

**Accommodation** – the Trust offers affordable onsite accommodation (subject to T&C’s and availability)

**Flexible working** – a range options including compressed hours, term-time contracts and part-time working

**Staff Recognition** – as well as regular appraisals, local and corporate inductions, we recognise the great work of our staff through the Monthly Hospital Heroes Award and the Annual Gem Awards

**Employee Support and Well being** – a free, confidential counselling service for both work and non-work related matters. A physiotherapy service is also available

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