

YOUR NHS

Working together to shape
Dorset's Health

The NHS in Dorset has to change

We currently have good NHS services in Dorset. But we know we need to make significant changes to ensure you continue to have high quality, safe and affordable care both now and in the future. We want as many people as possible to live healthier lives for longer.

Our health needs are changing

The number of people living in Dorset is growing. And we'll have more people living longer with more long-term conditions like diabetes and dementia. This will increase demand for, and pressure on our health services.

At the same time fewer of us are suffering heart attacks, strokes or major accidents and if we do, we are more likely to survive. This is a good thing but puts pressure on the health and social care system.

Quality of care varies

Most patients generally receive good care but we know there are variations in quality. For example in 2014/15 we failed to meet the national standard for a maximum two-week wait for first outpatient appointment for patients referred urgently for suspected cancer by a GP.

We need to address this, so that everyone gets the same level of care. National quality standards are rising, we have to do more to make sure we continue to meet them.

Increasing numbers of people living with long term conditions



- Annual inpatient care to treat complications of diabetes is between £1,800 and £2,500 per patient.
- The cost of diabetes to the NHS in England and Wales is over £1.5m per hour.

Source: Diabetes UK 'Cost of Diabetes'



Over 31,000 staff are employed in health and social care in Dorset but we face challenges in recruiting GPs, mental health nurses and emergency medical consultants. This shortage of staff could mean changes for some services.

Keeping and attracting the right staff

For you to receive safe and high quality care it is important that we have the right staff in the right jobs. In Dorset we face a number of challenges, for example we have a high number of staff approaching retirement age and difficulty filling vacancies for certain roles. We can also expect changes in how services are delivered to impact existing staff.

Local organisations are working together now to support and develop local staff whilst at the same time attracting new staff to Dorset and making sure there are enough training opportunities available for local people who want to work in health and social care.

Access to care

Most of the GP practices in Dorset have core opening hours between 8am and 6.30pm. Availability of extended hours appointments is highly variable with a large number of practices only providing extended hours on a 'one day or part week basis' and most practices are closed at weekends.

The money available for healthcare

The amount of money we have to spend on healthcare is increasing, but both demand and the cost of providing services is increasing faster. In Dorset we run the risk of overspending by around £433,000 every day by 2020/21.

It is important that we spend the money that we have more effectively. We want the biggest health gain for local people from every pound we spend.

£433,000 is roughly one third of the amount spent every day on running three acute hospitals.



Prevention is important

We also know that it will become increasingly important for people to stay well, avoid ill-health and better manage long-term conditions. To allow them to do this, we will need to make sure they have the right information and support in place. We have been working with our partners across Dorset to support the integration of health and social care, and direct increased funding towards early intervention and care planning.

This will be strengthened by integrated working across primary, community and hospital based services, multi-disciplinary team working, improving access to GPs, and delivering more care closer to home. To see what this would look like go to www.dorsetsvision.nhs.uk.

What will happen if we do nothing?

Staying as we are is not an option if we are to continue providing safe, high quality care for local people.

If we don't plan to do things differently then, because of staff shortages and insufficient money it is likely that local people will have more problems getting appointments, see an increase in demand but no increase in bed space, increasing number of sick patients but no increase in the number of staff to care for them, more operations being cancelled and potentially much more.

Most importantly, it would mean worsening health outcomes and survival rates. You can watch a short video explaining what will happen if we fail to change Dorset's health and care system on our website www.dorsetsvision.nhs.uk.

Get involved

We know we can't make these changes alone. It's **your** NHS and we need **your** help to shape and improve healthcare in Dorset.

By the time we go to public consultation later this year, we want as many people as possible to know about the review, understand what we are trying to do and to have had the opportunity to help inform our plans.

We continue to provide a range of engagement opportunities to allow people to understand the detail and have an input into our plans.

Make sure you are the first to know about these opportunities by joining our Health Involvement Network. We can easily keep you informed and up-to-date on what we are doing and when.



www.dorsetsvision.nhs.uk/get-involved/



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