
Supporting Emergency and Critical Care Together
Dorset County Hospital Charity
Emergency & Critical Care Appeal



A personal message from the Emergency and Critical Care Appeal Patron, Kate Adie CBE DL.

Dorset County Hospital is my local hospital; it is a privilege to be involved in the Emergency and Critical Care Appeal. Our NHS provides an exceptional service and is there for all of us when we need it.

Throughout my career I've witnessed first-hand the extraordinary work of emergency and critical care teams around the globe.

The Emergency and Critical Care Appeal will make a significant difference to our hospital, providing state-of-the-art equipment and facilities to provide the best possible care and environment for patients, staff and families – for generations to come.

Please join us in supporting Emergency and Critical Care, together.

Kate Adie

Dorset County Hospital Charity

Supporting Healthcare Together

Dorset County Hospital Charity works with its valued supporters to raise vital funds for our hospital to help ensure it is equipped to deliver the highest standards of care and wellbeing for patients, their loved ones and its staff.

Together, we are committed to making healthcare even better.

Emergency & Critical Care Appeal

Dorset County Hospital's new Emergency Department and Critical Care Unit is due to open in 2027. Our £2.5 million Appeal will fund enhanced facilities and state-of-the-art medical equipment for the new Emergency Department and Critical Care Unit.

Together, with your generous support, we will make a positive, lasting difference to healthcare for our community.

The Need

Dorset County Hospital is the main provider of acute hospital services to a population of around 300,000, living within Weymouth and Portland, West Dorset, North Dorset and Purbeck.

With housing developments, a growing population, increased tourism and the COVID-19 pandemic, we have never had a higher demand for our emergency and critical care services.

The Emergency Department was built to accommodate 22,000 attendances. In 2025/26 attendances were 60,579, more than twice the amount it was originally built for.

The Critical Care Unit is currently operating under significant constraints including lack of staff and relatives' facilities and no capacity for future need.

There is currently insufficient Emergency Department and Critical Care Unit capacity at Dorset County Hospital to meet both current and future demand.

Demand is expected to rise, so investment is vital to make sure we can meet our patients' needs for future generations.





"The relatives' room on the Critical Care Unit became the centre of our world for 24 hours when my mum was taken seriously ill. It was cramped and claustrophobic, made worse with every hard conversation; every moment of realisation that the worst was going to happen to our beloved Jane. My memories will forever include that room, and I wish it had been a more consoling environment to give us just a little more comfort during such a traumatic time.

Sally O'Neill, patient relative





Your Future Hospital:
Future proofing our hospital

To help ensure our resilience in the future, Dorset County Hospital is building a new £100 million Emergency Department and Critical Care Unit, with the main construction funded from the Government's New Hospital Programme. This is the largest investment in hospital facilities for the West and North Dorset region in 25 years.

This major development is planned for completion in 2027 and will provide:

- Two-storey building incorporating Emergency Department and Critical Care Unit that will link to the existing hospital
- 24 critical care beds in new Critical Care Unit (currently 11 beds)
- 47 Emergency Department spaces (currently 35)
- The layout for the Emergency Department will be reconfigured to work more efficiently, providing more space with a dedicated majors unit, minor injuries unit and paediatrics
- New rooftop helipad

Appeal Impact

Dorset County Hospital Charity's £2.5 million Emergency and Critical Care Appeal will fund important enhancements to the new Emergency Department and Critical Care Unit, making it the very best it can be for patients, staff and loved ones.

Support for the Appeal will specifically fund the following:

Critical Care Unit (CrCU) funding areas:



- **CrCU paediatric bed facilities** and associated equipment providing specialist facilities for seriously ill children. Target £220K
- **CrCU relatives' overnight accommodation** will have two en-suite double rooms which will bring significant benefits to families, allowing them to be close to their loved ones at a very difficult time. Target £200K
- **Staff Overnight Accommodation** will include two single occupancy en-suite rooms, directly improving the welfare of specialist doctors and nurses working overnight and on-call. Target £150K
- **Staff Quiet Room** will provide space for reflection and mental recovery for clinical staff, with reclining chairs. Target £100K
- **Staff Rest Area** for staff breaks during shifts to allow space for rest and decompression. Target £140K
- **CrCU patient winter garden and outdoor area** to provide a quiet and reflective indoor/outdoor space for CrCU patients, their families and CrCU staff. Total equipment £150K
- **CrCU medical equipment** such as a Mobile X-Ray Imaging Unit enabling examinations to be performed by a patient's bedside (£85K). Total target £300K





Emergency Department (ED) funding areas:



- **ED Relatives' Rooms** will provide a designated space where family members can wait, receive updates and support, and process distressing information about a loved one. Target £160K
- **ED Child & Adolescent Mental Health facilities** providing separate and dedicated spaces for children and adolescents to receive assessment and treatment. Target £100K
- **ED Staff Room and facilities** will support the health and wellbeing of staff working long hours under immense pressure. Target £120K
- **ED medical equipment** such as a slit lamp to examine a patient's eye and measure eye pressure (£21K). Total equipment target £180K
- **Furnishings** required for both Emergency Department and Critical Care funded rooms and facilities above. Target £115K
- **Arts in Hospital:** artistic commissions to enhance and create a more welcoming and calming care environment in both the Emergency Department and Critical Care Unit. Target £150K (Costings for specific art commissions available on request)

DCH Charity is raising £2.5 million, including fundraising costs, in support of the new Emergency Department and Critical Care Unit.

Emma's Story

Emma Sidey is the Critical Care Matron at Dorset County Hospital and has been working on the unit since 2008. One area which is close to Emma's heart is the new patient garden: The Winter Garden.

In my early days as a nurse working in our current Critical Care Unit, there was a gentleman I was caring for who sadly was at a point of no recovery. His dying wish was to be outside, with his family, as he passed. We wanted to be able to facilitate this, so we cleared a space in our conservatory and wheeled him in there, with the doors open to the small garden outside. It was far from ideal but the best we could do. His family were so grateful we were able to do something to accommodate his wishes, but now we look forward, we know we can and will be able to do better. The new Winter Garden will also play a crucial role in the rehabilitation of those patients whose length of stay lasts weeks or even months. We will be able to make this standard of treatment the rule, not the exception.

> **"His dying wish was to be outside, with his family, as he passed.**



Hatty's Story

Hatty Terry has lived with paranoid schizophrenia from a young age. Her mum, Julia, describes her condition and why access to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Facilities (CAHMS) locally, is so important.

My daughter Hatty has paranoid schizophrenia which affects every aspect of her life. Hatty has spent most of her adolescence experiencing severe and life threatening physical and mental illness in general hospitals and psychiatric hospitals around the country, far away from her family in Dorchester.

Moving somebody from place to place is no substitute for effective treatment when change is a major trigger for difficulties; it can cause untold damage. Hatty always expressed her wishes to be at home and after years of fighting to make it happen, she now has a Housing Association flat. The combination of the correct antipsychotic medication, an intense package of 24-hour care and being able to have contact with friends and family, is helping to keep her stable.

Dorset County Hospital is a place where Hatty has received kindness, understanding and excellent care. The fact that Hatty feels comfortable at Dorset County Hospital and has a fantastic relationship with many staff around the hospital is amazing because many people with mental illness feel uneasy in general hospitals. We are delighted there will be child and adolescent mental health facilities available in the new Emergency Department as we know first-hand how patients like Hatty benefit from staying close to homes and families during times of trauma.



Valued Fundraising Support

Dorset County Hospital staff and patients experience the remarkable impact the generosity of our valued local community makes through fundraising, every day. Thank you!



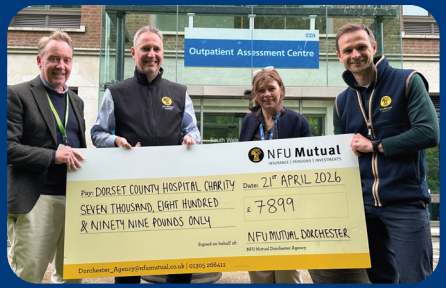
Michael Dooley with friends and colleagues raised £111,000 with the DCH100 Jurassic Coast Challenge in 2024.

"Walking 100km along the Jurassic Coast with colleagues was a challenge; the reward is supporting the Emergency and Critical Care Appeal. As a former consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist at Dorset County Hospital for over 25 years, I've seen the staff's extraordinary commitment and the hospital's vital role in our community."



Hazel Hoskin and her team at Maiden Castle Farm have raised over £31,000 for the Appeal since 2024, and their fundraising continues.

"We are delighted to have contributed to the Emergency and Critical Care Appeal through our Sunflower Trail and events. It's our way of giving something back for the incredible care our family has received from Dorset County Hospital."



Matt Uren, Partner at NFU Mutual (Dorchester). The company has so far raised £33,126 in support of the Emergency and Critical Care Appeal. Fundraising is continuing.

"This is the fourth year of our partnership with Dorset County Hospital Charity. It's a charity that's close to all of us in the business – and to our customers and members – and it's a charity we feel very proud to be able to support."

Valued Fundraising Support

We receive valued support from donors, charitable trusts, events, community organisations and local businesses. This commitment and generosity create a positive impact for patient care and staff welfare at our hospital.



The Appeal Committee held the Chettle Gala in May 2026 and raised over £300,000 towards the Appeal. Annabel Elliot is Chair of the committee:

"Supporting Dorset County Hospital was an easy decision for me; it is a cause close to my heart. It provided incredible care to my family, and other families, consistently delivering despite funding and capacity pressures. Through this appeal, we hope to secure even better health outcomes for Dorset families in the future."



The Buckham Fair Committee raised £141,500 with the return of Buckham Fair in August 2026, bringing back this event specifically to support DCH.

"Thank you to all our volunteers, friends, neighbours and supporters, not to mention the thousands of happy visitors who came from far and wide making the whole day such a success. We are so proud to support DCH and this Appeal and its essential work to furnish this splendid new building."

Rotary
Club of Dorchester Poundbury

Poundbury Rotary Club have raised £29,960 to fund a new ventilator for the Critical Care Unit and aim to fund additional equipment with continued fundraising.

"This has been a major fundraising project for our club, and we set ourselves an ambitious target. It is with thanks for the generosity of our members, local businesses, community supporters, other clubs across the Rotary District and support from a Rotary grant, that we were able to reach and exceed our target to support something that has a lasting benefit for our community."

Please join us in supporting Emergency and Critical Care together.

Thank you for your interest in our Emergency and Critical Care Appeal.
We are committed to delivering a tailored supporter experience that aligns with your own personal values. Simon Pearson and Jodi Hibbard from Dorset County Hospital Charity would be delighted to speak with you at your convenience to understand your specific areas of interest. Your support is invaluable to us, and we would welcome the opportunity to work together to support healthcare at Dorset County Hospital, for generations to come.

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