



Health
Innovation
Wessex



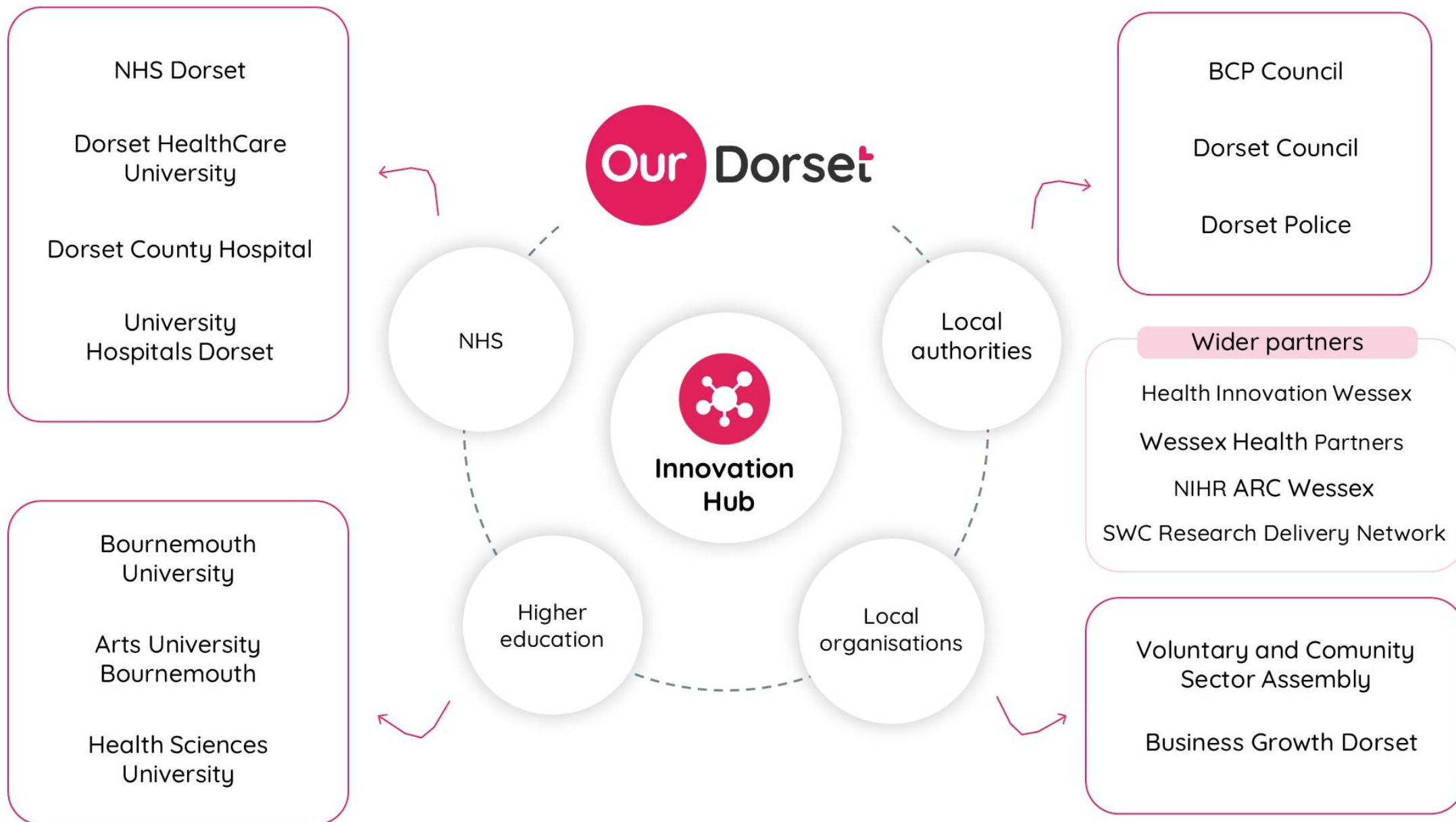
Innovation in Dorset - Dorset Innovation Hub – strategic partnership and system case study

Accelerating Innovation Systems – Peer Learning Session 3

15th July 2025

Sarah Chessell, Head of Research and Innovation, NHS Dorset

Leah Gallon, Associate Director - Innovation Adoption (Dorset Locality), Health Innovation Wessex



Introducing the Dorset Innovation Hub



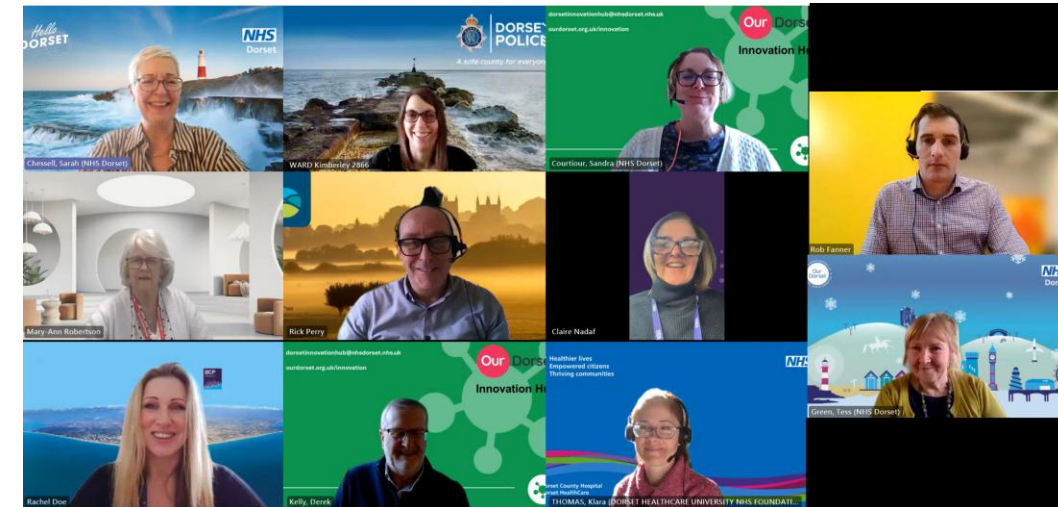
Programme Group

Innovation core team - small but perfectly formed! :

- Provide practical support and facilitative innovation advice and support (priority projects) working with project sponsor and clinical teams
- Support work towards strategy (key distinguishers) inc. e.g. 'developing the impact', education programme, governance, project management

Programme group – likened to a mini ICP, representatives from all partner organisations are our strategic partnership who oversee:

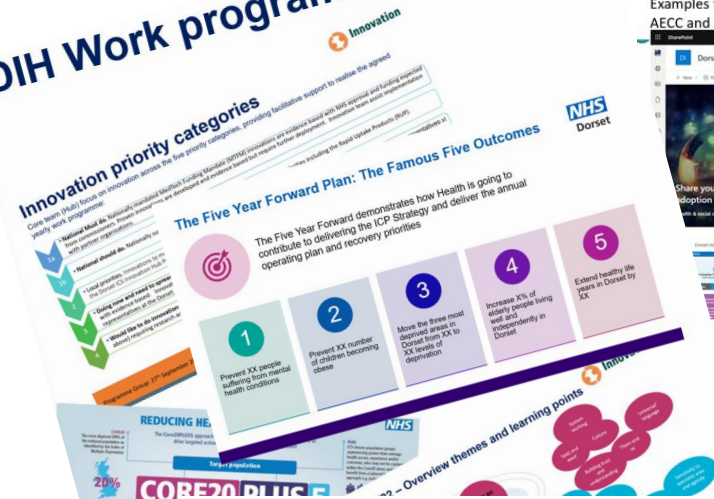
- Development and approval of programmes e.g. key distinguishers, priority projects, communication strategy.
- Receive and approve, reports, e.g. quarterly performance reports inc. risks, issues and mitigating factors.



Core team

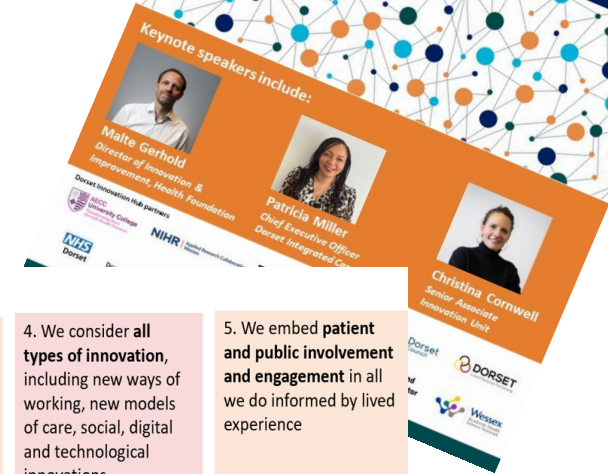
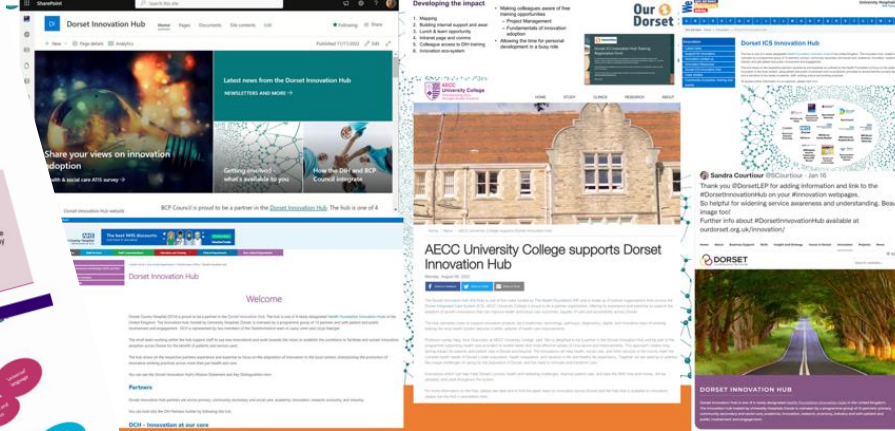
What we set out to do...

DIH Work programmes update

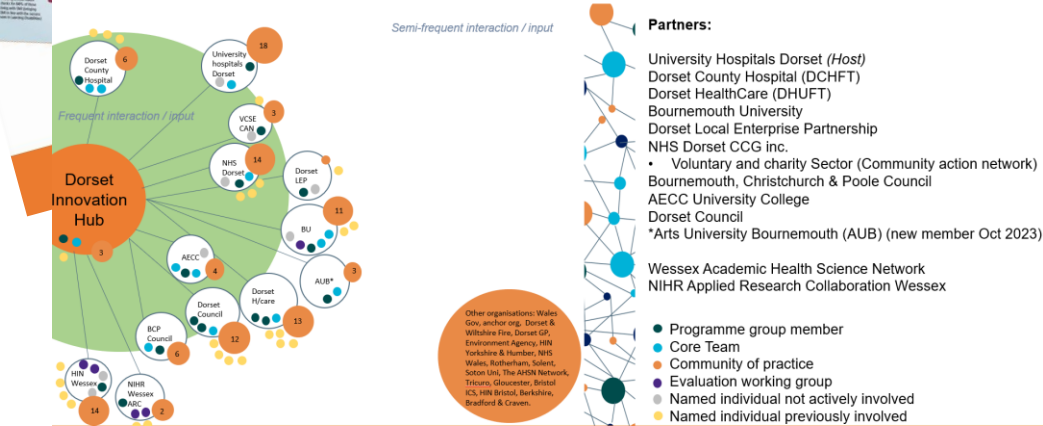


Part B – Developing the impact

Examples to date of partner organisations updating on their 'developing the impact' within their organisations inc. BCP Council, Dorset LEP, AECC and University Hospitals Dorset.

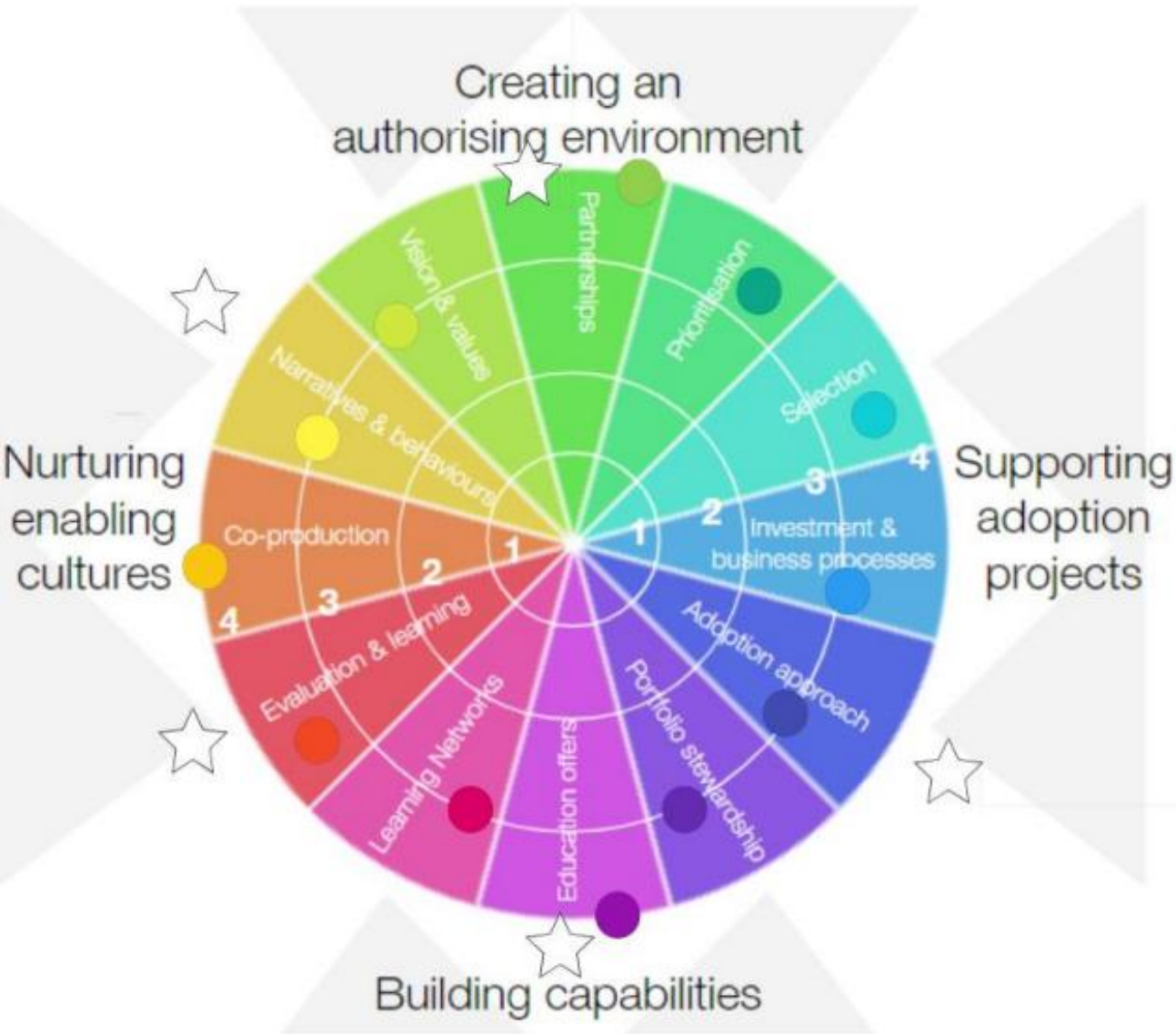


DIH Mapping current connectivity – @ Nov 2023

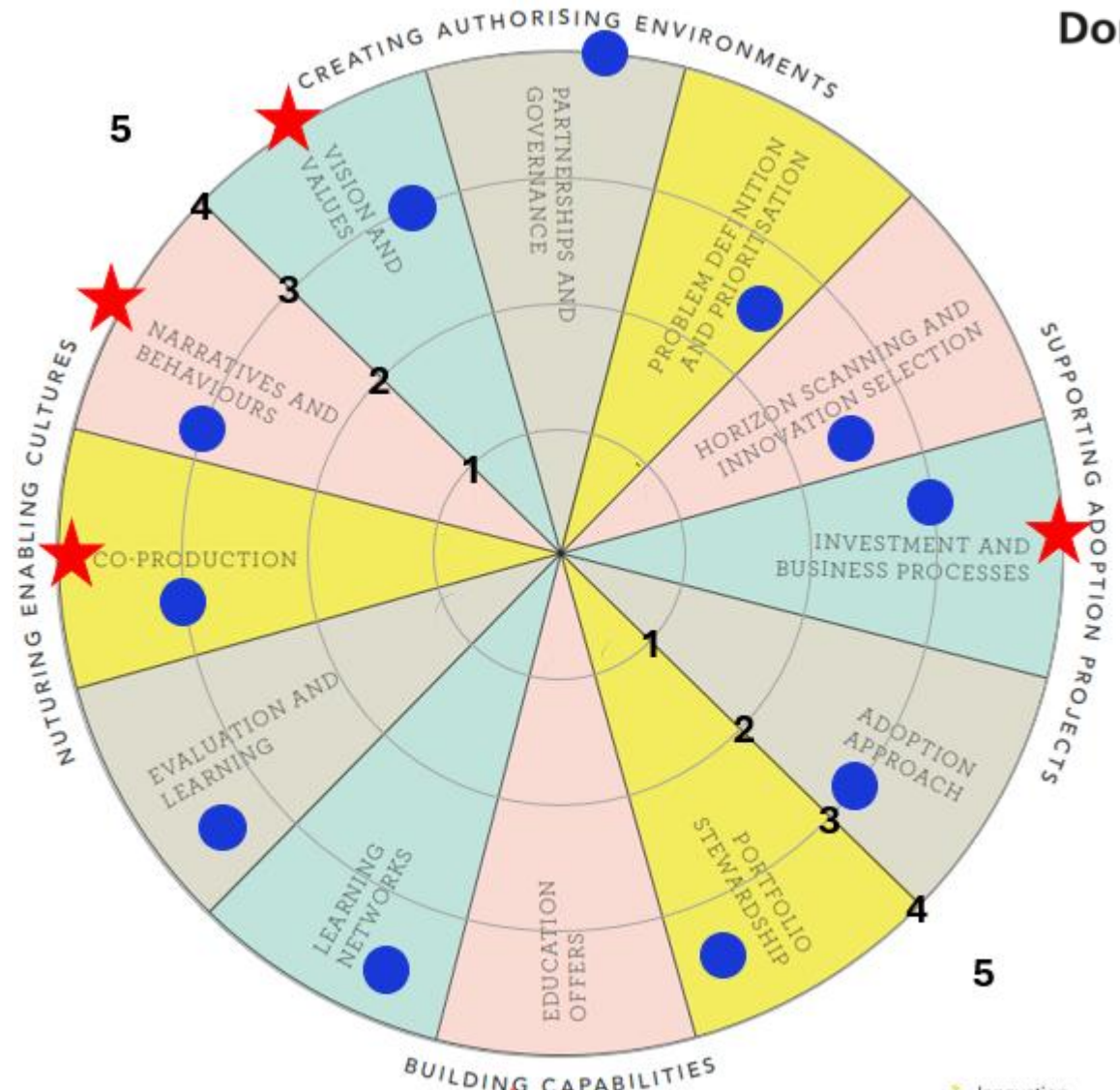


Key distinguishers

1. We always work as a **system** to identify and prioritise opportunities to improve **quality of care** for people in Dorset
2. We prioritise resources where there is a **clear problem** to be solved, that links to our **ICS strategic priorities**, and where teams have **energy & motivation** to engage
3. We look **internally & externally** for **evidence-based** innovations with high potential to meet our needs
4. We consider **all types of innovation**, including new ways of working, new models of care, social, digital and technological innovations
5. We embed **patient and public involvement and engagement** in all we do informed by lived experience
6. We work as a **partnership** to **nurture the conditions** needed to encourage staff to engage in innovation and adoption activity and value it as a **core aspect** of their role.
7. We signpost and provide the **tools and support** to **enable teams** to adopt innovation
8. We encourage staff to be **creative and open to new ideas** and to apply **rigorous approaches** to testing, monitoring and managing risks
9. We embed **evaluation** throughout our work, with a focus on **people's experiences and wider system benefits**
10. We consider the **impact and long term sustainability** of innovations we adopt in the **changing Dorset system**



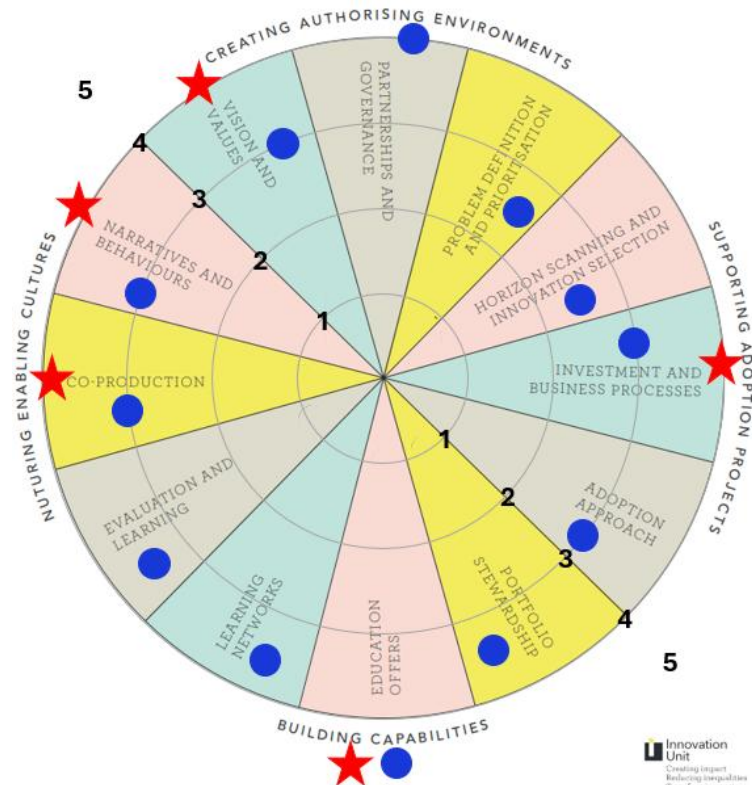
November 2023



November 2024

Level 1: sleeping, Level 2: awakening, Level 3: developing, Level 4: thriving, Level 5*: sustaining

Mini deep dive



Developing the impact

Benefit realisation

Benefit Realisation

Benefits Realisation



Why is it an important exercise to complete?

- Justify the investment of time and money
- Enables the identification of unexpected negative impacts
- Provides a framework to bring different stakeholders together to articulate common goals and prioritise actions
- Aids future resource allocation and service planning
- Integral part of accountability within a project
- Demonstrates contribution to wider strategic objectives
- Enables monitor of sustainability once a project has ended
- Adds to the knowledge base for the innovation
- For DIH - Important component of the DIH evaluation / HF programme evaluation



Implementation of gammaCore™ at University Hospitals Dorset



Dr Peter Grenholm, Consultant Neurologist (University Hospitals Dorset); Sandra Courtiour Acting Innovation Programme Manager (Innovation Hub)



BACKGROUND

Cluster headache is a highly debilitating primary headache disorder which is widely described as the most painful condition a human can experience¹ and is reported to affect 0.1% of populations studied².

Cluster headache has a major negative impact on personal life, self-perceived health, and societal costs³.

It is a life-long condition with treatment taking on two main forms: abortive and preventative.



WHAT IS THE INNOVATION

gammaCore is a non-invasive vagus nerve stimulator which offers a non-pharmacological option for the treatment and prevention of cluster headaches.

It is a hand-held device designed to be self-administered by the patient or their carer.

After applying conductive gel, gammaCore is held against the neck (over the cervical branch of the vagus nerve) and delivers a small electric current for about 2 minutes. By stimulating the vagus nerve the aim is to block the pain signal causing the attacks⁵.

- Established integral part of the DIH project and evaluation framework.
- As part of the DIH project framework benefit realisation is built into all stages of the initiative.
- Utilise tools inc. logic model, system data, e.g. DiiS, benefit realisation framework and where appropriate clinical audit and patient experience (survey/interview).
- Utilising these tools enable the identification of clear deliverables and direct and indirect benefits to the Dorset partner organisation/system and people of Dorset.



Developing the impact

Embedding innovation at Health Sciences University

- Dedicated pages on our RKE Hub.
- Standing agenda item at our Research & Innovation Committee.
- Discussed by the Senior Management Group.
- DIH updates regularly circulated to staff, e.g. newsletters.
- Internal funding has a requirement for innovation.
- Internal training & development, e.g. KE Kickstart.



UHD Improvement Posters at DIH Summit



Clinical study developing a portable device to detect skin cancer from chemicals released by the skin

A new clinical study will explore the potential of using a rapid portable sensor to detect skin cancers from chemicals released by the skin.

Skin cancer sites are known to release volatile organic compounds (VOCs) – organic chemicals which easily evaporate.

The study aims to identify the VOCs which are specific to skin cancers and develop a rapid, portable device which can detect them.

- Established three years ago, approach rapidly central to our approach to imbedding innovation within Dorset.
- Through developing the understanding within partner organisations we are increasing involvement and awareness of innovation.
- Together we are ‘developing the impact’ and building networks across the Dorset system that meets the needs of individual organisations and improves the lives of people in Dorset.
- Standing agenda item – Programme Group and Core Team

Developing the impact



Welcome to your latest edition of **AUB Engage**, our monthly newsletter providing the latest news and info on how you can get involved with culture and creativity at Arts University Bournemouth.

Innovation and Research

Creative Tech Studio Sessions

NHS DIH Partnership

Homewards

ARTS UNIVERSITY BOURNEMOUTH

DORSET POLICE

AI & Data Science Innovation Sandpit

- Dorset Police
- Avon & Somerset Police
- Hampshire Police
- Devon & Cornwall Police

Improvement is for Everyone

How can QI help - audit, innovation and PSIRF?

Clinical audit and QI

Innovation and improvement - why it matters

The Patient Safety Incident Response Framework (PSIRF) and Quality Improvement (QI)

PODCAST ONE: Dorset County Hospital & Dorset Healthcare - Improving Together

Tune in to the launch episode of our 'Improving Together' podcast, where we explore how Dorset Healthcare and Dorset County Hospital are leading the way in creating a culture of continuous improvement.

In this episode, we're joined by Anita Thomas, Chief Operating Officer at Dorset County Hospital, and Nick Johnson, Deputy Chief Executive Officer and Joint Chief Strategy, Transformation, and Partnerships Officer for Dorset County Hospital and Dorset Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust.



Four Priority Areas

- How we work
- Better short-term support
- Self-Directed Support
- Support at Home

We have evaluated our learning from the 3 conversations approach and analysed the data to work out how we create the conditions for this approach to thrive.

We want to improve community access to short-term support (reablement), so that we can prevent more people from needing long term care.

We want more people to be in control of their own support. We have planned how to develop more community-based options for people to access through a Direct Payment or Individual Service Fund.

We have reviewed the current Support at Home provision and developed plans for future commissioning, to ensure that we enable people to stay as independent as possible in their own home

One Health Enterprise Network

'One Health' is an approach to design and implement programmes and research in which multiple sectors communicate and work together to achieve better public health outcomes, recognising the interconnectedness of human, animal, and environmental health in achieving this

<https://www.dorsetlep.co.uk/one-health>

ONE HEALTH ENTERPRISE NETWORK

finding commercial solutions to global problems



And in other news!



iese Awards **Finalist 2025**
The Public Sector Transformation Awards

Looking into the future



Working Together

- Joint **Leadership** roles
- Joint **Strategy** in development
- Joint **Improvement Framework** to be developed next

OUR APPROACH TO IMPROVEMENT

At Dorset County Hospital we will inspire, empower and enable our staff who are closest to issues affecting care quality to make measurable improvements and solve the problems that matter to them, their patients and their community. We will build a culture where everyone matters, focused on learning, growing and continuously improving together and making a real difference to the experience of patients and the working lives of staff.

This involves a systematic and coordinated approach using specific methods and tools with the aim of bringing about a measurable improvement which address our strategic priorities, vision and mission.

To achieve sustainable, aligned and consistent improvements across multiple complex systems, Dorset County Hospital is developing a joint Improvement Framework, together with Dorset Healthcare, which will generate a consistent and aligned improvement approach across both Trusts and create the conditions and structure required for an improvement culture to flourish.

This joint Improvement Framework is an exciting opportunity for us to create an innovative way of working with the potential to put innovation at the core of how we consistently deliver change at Dorset County Hospital and Dorset Healthcare.

NHS Dorset and HIW Innovation roles within the system

This is considered as a resource and a guide and is not prescriptive



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NHS Dorset

- Statutory ICB duty for Innovation, research and improvement
- Prioritised work programmes realising the NHSE Ten year health plan, with a focus on prioritisation using population health management approach
- Developing system wide, data driven strategy for innovation, improvement and transformation
- System leadership of strategy; aligning partners and driving accountability
- Funding and scaling pilots and procuring system wide innovations
- Strategic commissioning and decommissioning of pathways and services
- Dorset Innovation Hub strategic system partnership inc. NHS organisations, public services, local authorities, academia, local business growth hub, and VCSE.

Shared

- Implementing the innovation strategy and priorities for the system
- Providing facilitative support to teams leading innovation
- Coordinated front door for new innovations and Industry relationships
- Innovation scanning – HIW is commissioned to provide Innovation scanning, but it is a shared role to take the scan forwards
- Responding to funding opportunities inc. bid writing and review
- Building capabilities for innovation adoption and spread
- Convening networks and developing partnerships
- Identifying / signalling innovation demand within the system
- Interface with prioritised innovation programmes
- Innovation adoption education programme
- Enabling factors to support, e.g. tools, templates
- Digital transformation
- Developing a culture of innovation within the system

Health Innovation Wessex

- Commissioned by NHSE and the OLS to be their NHS innovation arm and to deliver national programmes in partnership with the Wessex system and to tackle Wessex priorities with national expertise
- Specialist innovation adoption support with national delivery of transformation programmes at scale in addition to local work
- System partnership strengths which links systems, ICBs and others regionally and nationally inc. Health Innovation Network
- Innovator support to develop a rich pipeline of demonstrably useful, evidence-based innovations and support economic growth which HIW has a proven track record of capabilities and experience
- Supporting health and care systems to develop innovation adoption capability to become innovation ready
- Evaluation and rapid insight to support learning health systems
- Innovator support to meet health needs and economic growth for the region
- Delivering Patient Safety Collaborative with systems on quality improvement

Dorset Women's Health Programme 2024/25

The Women's Health Strategy for England (July 2022) sets out 10-year ambitions for boosting the health and wellbeing of women and girls, and for improving how the health and care system listens to women. NHS Dorset and Health Innovation Wessex led and supported a system led approach, along with other partners, to deliver six projects in Dorset.

Stakeholders:

NHS Dorset
Health Innovation Wessex
Dorset Women's Community
Interest Company (CIC)
Bournemouth University
Dorset County Hospital
University Hospitals Dorset
Dorset HealthCare NHS Trust
Wessex Health Partners
Health Sciences University

Our impact highlights:

- ▶ Conducted a digital survey and produced a report which **analysed just under 1000 responses**.
- ▶ Enabled **21 groups** to be connected to the Women's health hub work **from 20 organisations**, to enable the public voice
- ▶ Completed an **innovation scan** looking for innovations **ready for adoption** in the areas of menopause, young women's physical and mental health, long-acting reversible contraceptive and pelvic floor health
- ▶ Implemented **five new applications** to support the women of Dorset, **Squeezy App** and **four apps for menopause** have been added to the Dorset App Library
- ▶ Supported the **creation of an online resource website**, which went live in April 2025. It will support the women of Dorset with **education, treatment and signposting** for more support
- ▶ Supported the delivery of **two new pathways** of care enabling better access to services, more timely access and access closer to home



I remain hugely grateful for everything HIW have overseen, led on and supported with, under the Dorset Women's Health Programme. They are an incredible organisation and working in partnership with them has greatly increased the success of this programme and benefited thousands of clinicians and women across the Dorset system.

Helen Crook, Programme Manager for Dorset Women's Health Hubs – NHS Dorset



Dorset Women's Health Hubs: Influencing Nationally



NHS Dorset and Health Innovation Wessex had the opportunity to present the local Dorset work and the overview of women's health innovation adoption across the HIN to NHSE, NICE, and HIN colleagues.

Health Innovation Network

The Maternity, Neonatal and Women's Health Pipeline working group - presented the Dorset work and also across HIN work around innovations adopted.



England

Sue Mann (NHSE Women's Health NCD) and Ralph Evans (IRLSS Innovation Development Senior Manager)



Farhan Ismail (NICE Associate Director, Office for Digital Health)

Interest from NHSE and NICE colleagues has been driven by alignment to national plans and demand signalling for future NHSE and NICE priorities and work. The HIW innovation scan work for Menopause support has been used by NICE in their planning and thoughts around future considerations. Colleagues from NICE and NHSE are now joining the Maternity, Neonatal and Women's health pipeline working group for ongoing conversations and sharing. The work was further disseminated through an NHS Dorset and HIW presentation at NHS ConfedExpo in June 2025.

Innovation website key info and contacts

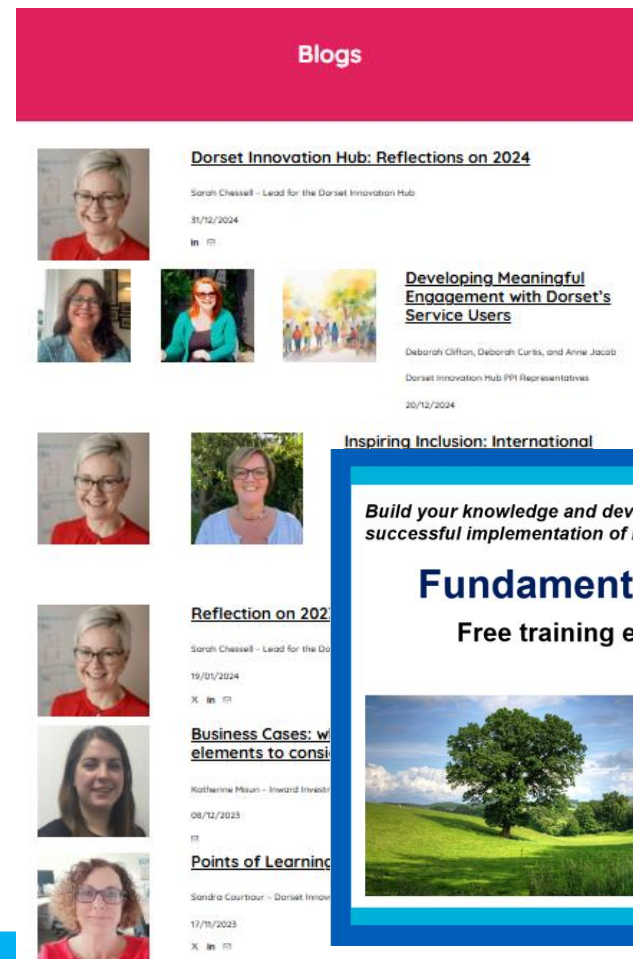
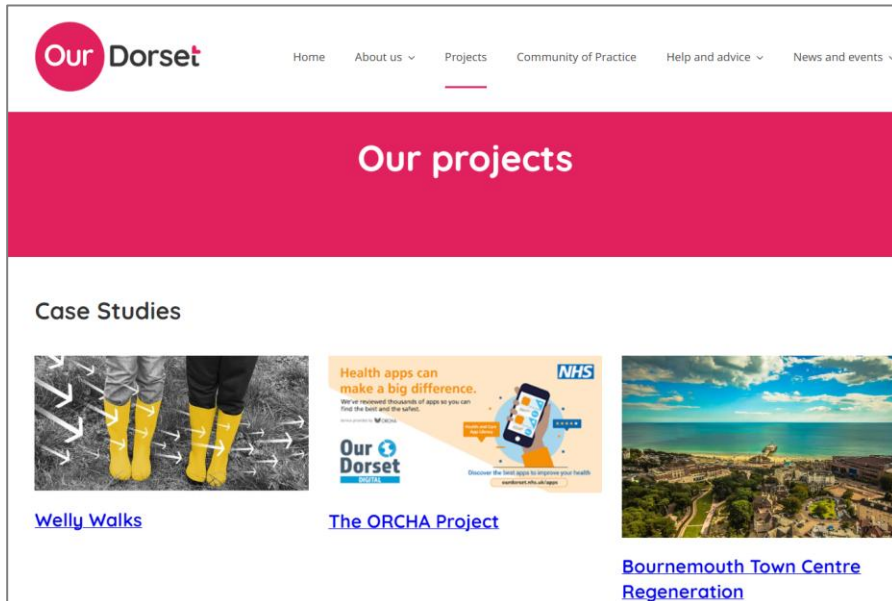
Contains key information including; about us, NHS Dorset Innovation Service, Dorset Innovation Hub and partner organisations, key documents, case studies, training opportunities, resources, FAQs, newsletters, blogs, news and events.

<https://ourdorset.org.uk/innovation/>

<https://healthinnovationwessex.org.uk/>

dorsetinnovationhub@nhsdorset.nhs.uk

[Dorset Innovation Hub engagement form](#)





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