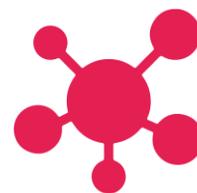


INNOVATE



Innovation Hub Newsletter

EDITION 15: FEBRUARY 2026

Welcome to the February 2026 edition of the Innovation Hub newsletter.

There is a promise of spring in the air and it's that the time of year where we all will be planning our priority work programmes with system partners for the upcoming year 2026/27.

However, whilst we are planning priority work programmes for 2026/27, many of us will also be preparing annual reports. With the recognised evolving national, regional and local system changes, annual reporting is a natural opportunity for us to reflect on activity, achievements and impact and, an opportunity to consider if our focus has remained on improving the outcomes and experience of patients, service users and local communities.

In this edition of the INNOVATE newsletter we are delighted to highlight great examples of recent activity, achievements and impact from across the Dorset Innovation Hub partners including, the Diabetes Refocusise Project and Serving Understanding: A Collaborative Learning Lunch case studies (page 5), Developing the Impact updates from the Federated Model: Dorset County Hospital, & Dorset HealthCare, NHS Dorset Integrated Care Board and University Hospitals Dorset (page 6),

In addition, we have highlighted the Accelerating Innovation Systems: Time To Be Bold project (page 2), Data Storytelling – creating meaningful narratives and visuals from data community of practice event (page 4) and thought-provoking articles from Spotlight on Clinical Audit - The Key to Improvement and Efficiency (page 7) and the Innovation Unit 'From bureaucratic to human: What real changes looks like in practice' (page 8).

We hope you enjoy reading this issue of the INNOVATE newsletter and do share with colleagues. Also, do let us know if you'd like your innovative work included in the next edition.

Happy reading ☺.

Sarah Chessell
Head of Research and Innovation, NHS Dorset
Lead - Dorset Innovation Hub, Dorset ICS

✉ Sarah.Chessell@nhsdorset.nhs.uk

“The only way to discover the limits of the possible is to go beyond them into the impossible.”

Arthur C. Clarke



In This Issue

- Time To Be Bold guide
- DIH 2025 'At a glance'
- 'Data Storytelling' event
- New case study publications
- Developing the Impact updates
- Spotlight on Clinical Audit
- Business Growth Dorset events
- WHP Our Big Conversation event
- Innovation Unit. From bureaucratic to human
- Education opportunities

Accelerating Innovation Systems: Time To Be Bold

NHS Dorset ICB were proud to be one of nine ICBs, together with seven partner Health Innovation Networks (HINs), involved in The Health Foundation's Accelerating Innovation Systems (AIS) initiative.

Supported by the Innovation Unit (IU) as delivery partners, the AIS focused on increasing the health and care systems' understanding of the different roles ICBs, with their partner HINs, play in supporting the adoption and spread of health and care innovation.

This initiative concluded in December 2025 with the publication of [Time To Be Bold](#).

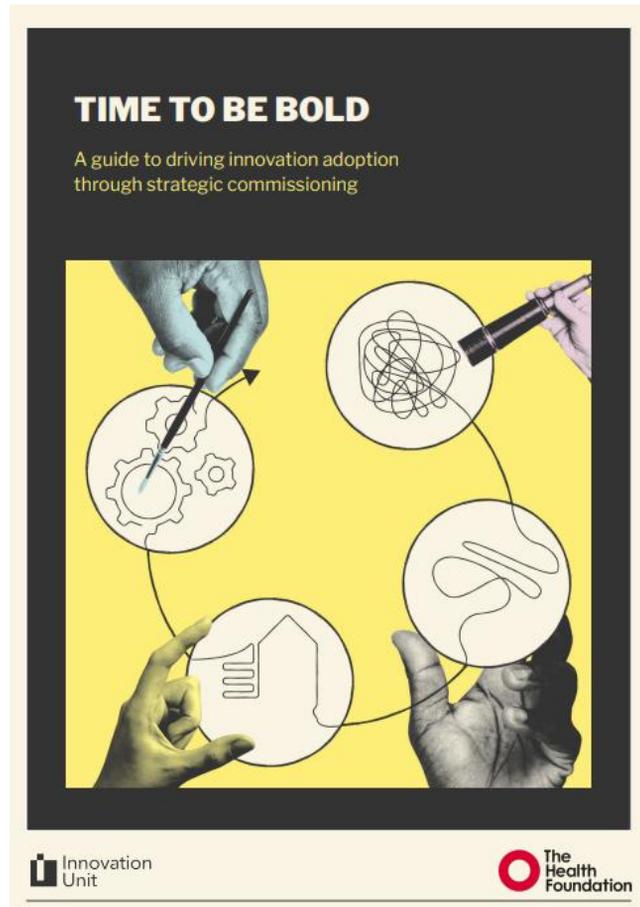
The guide highlights the critical role ICBs play in driving innovation adoption through strategic commissioning and developing their system's innovation culture and capabilities through their role as leaders and convenors of local systems.

Key steps to embedding innovation adoption within strategic commissioning are reported as:

- Stage 1: Understanding context
- Stage 2: Developing long term population health strategy
- Stage 3: Delivering the strategy through payor functions and resource allocation
- Stage 4: Evaluating impact

Enablers of success include ICBs protecting and developing their own innovation capabilities, alongside better use of local assets and resources by strengthening regional partnerships with critical partners such as the HINs.

The Time To Be Bold guide is interweaved with illustrative case study examples from the ICBs and HINs who participated in the AIS initiative and can be accessed via the [IU website](#).



Education: Creating Impactful Posters



On the 15 January, the Dorset Innovation Hub education team were delighted to join a Dorset PCN Action Learning Set meeting to provide a session on Creating Impactful Posters. This was to support PCN colleagues in developing posters to showcase learning from hypertension behaviour change projects, which will be displayed as part of a CCLIP CVD Prevent event on 11 March.

During the session we explored the strengths and limitations of example posters, discussed key design principles, worked through a structured planning activity, and shared practical tips for creating effective posters – including common pitfalls to avoid!

We will be re-running this session as a DIH Community of Practice on 09 July. For further information and to book a place, click [here](#).



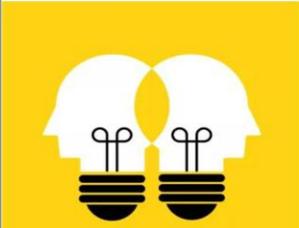
Blog ~ Dorset Innovation Hub (DIH) 2025 'At a glance'

As we welcome the start of 2026, we pause to reflect on what we've achieved through the strategic system partnership work of the DIH. As you will see, we believe through learning together with a collaborative people centred approach we are creating an innovative system culture that can help to make Dorset the healthiest place to live. There have been so many great moments over the year, so we hope you enjoy our selection of 2025 'at a glance'.

January: Taking forward learning from Adopting Innovation Programme reports.

Sarah Chessell - 1st
Lead Dorset Innovation Hub, Head of Innovation at NHS Dorset Working Gr...

As 1 of 4 hubs set up under the Health Foundation Adopting Innovation Programme the DorsetInnovationHub (DIH) are delighted to see the publication of RAND Europe's programme evaluation report. As well as documenting the ...more



February: Successful bid to participate in Accelerating Innovation System initiative.

Sarah Chessell - 1st
Lead Dorset Innovation Hub, Head of Innovation at NHS Dorset Working Gr...

We are delighted that NHS Dorset have been selected as one of seven ICBS to participate in The Health Foundation Accelerating Innovation Systems 12-month discovery initiative: <https://vhf.uk/accelerating-innovation-systems> ...more



March: Continued collaborative work on system priorities, including Nutrition in Ageing People & Ageing Well programme.

Sandra Courtiour - You
Innovation and Research Programme Manager (secondment) at NHS...

It seems very fitting that today's meeting of Our Dorset Nutrition in Ageing People (NIAP) Steering Group is during Nutrition & Hydration Week. A week committed to focusing energy, activity and engagement on ...more

Nutrition in Ageing People Steering Group
19/03/2025



April: Delivering educational events to support building innovation adoption and improvement capabilities.

Sandra Courtiour - You
Innovation and Research Programme Manager (secondment) at NHS...

Just want to say thank you to those who came to today's #DorsetInnovationHub Community of Practice event 'Demonstrating Impact - Measuring'. It was great to see a wide range of folk and have that ...more



May: Using the DIH Communications Strategy to raise awareness, highlight opportunities, and make connections.

Our Dorset
INNOVATE
Innovation Hub Newsletter
EDITION 57 - MAY 2025

Welcome to the May 2025 edition of the Innovation Hub newsletter.

"You can't use up creativity. The more you use, the more you have."
Maya Angelou



June: Working to support co-production as a central component to all innovation and improvement work.

Sarah Chessell - 1st
Head of Research and Innovation at NHS Dorset and Lead Dorset Inno...

Each year the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) hosts a national Co-production Week which, for 2025, starts today (30 June). ...more

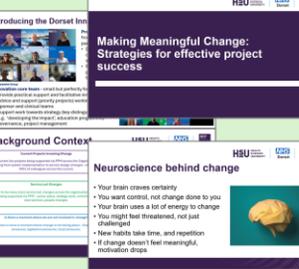


July: Innovation priority project support for BCP Council through 'Making Meaningful Change' training.

Introducing the Dorset In...
Making Meaningful Change: Strategies for effective project success

Background Context
Neuroscience behind change

- Your brain craves certainty
- You want control, not change done to you
- Your brain uses a lot of energy to change
- You might feel threatened, not just challenged
- New habits take time, and repetition
- If change doesn't feel meaningful, motivation drops



August: DIH core team collaboration to create resources enabling realisation of DIH Vision & Values ambitions.



September: DIH Programme Group & 'Developing the Impact' of innovation updates from partner organisations.

Sarah Chessell - 1st
Head of Research and Innovation at NHS Dorset and Lead Dorset Inno...

Catching up on the actions from the September #DorsetInnovationHub held on the 16th September. I found myself reflecting on what a diverse informative meeting we had, which is only made possible by the ...more



October: Strengthening evaluation skills with a focus on the use of qualitative data to demonstrate impact.

Sandra Courtiour - You
Innovation and Research Programme Manager (secondment) at NHS...

Yesterday the #DorsetInnovationHub ran their latest Community of Practice event which was based on the use of qualitative evaluation to show ...more

Activity
Dorset Innovation Hub Community of Practice
Beyond numbers: showing impact through qualitative evaluation



November: Showing the work of the DIH and making new connections at the Hampshire & IOW ICP Research Assembly.

Sandra Courtiour - You
Research and Innovation Programme Manager (secondment) at NHS Dorset

Last week, Sarah Chessell and I had the privilege of representing #Dorset at the Hampshire and IOW ICP Research Assembly with our 'Research & Innovation in Dorset' stand. ...more

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Integrated Care Partnership Research Assembly
19 November 2025



December: Core team & programme group working on Dorset Innovation Hub business planning for 2026/27.

Sarah Chessell - 1st
Head of Research and Innovation at NHS Dorset and Lead Dorset Inno...

What an inspiring, energising, and fun day we had on Tuesday!

On 18 November, we held our annual #DorsetInnovationHub (DIH) ...more



Social media snips



Community of Practice Event: Data Storytelling – creating meaningful narratives and visuals from data

On 28 January 2026, we ran our latest community of practice (CoP) event which was focused on the topic of data storytelling.

The session covered:

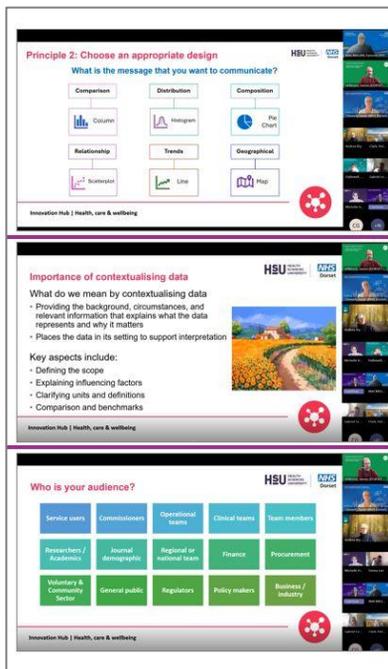
- Key data visualisation principles of show the data, use an appropriate design, maintain data integrity and accessibility
- The importance of providing contextual information to support interpretation and avoid misunderstanding
- Points to consider when tailoring data stories for different audiences such as needs, role, perspectives and data literacy.

There was some great discussion and questions from those who attended covering topics such as:

- 'compassion' fade when reporting very large, unrelatable numbers
- the use of AI and Chat GPT to visualise data
- how to make data visuals more accessible

One of the challenges we have when developing these 1-hour CoP events, is how to squeeze all the information into time without overloading. It's always a balancing act! An aspect folk wanted more of in this session was examples of different data stories. Therefore, using this opportunity to signpost to the [DIH website](#) where there are a range of different approaches to data stories within the posters and case studies presented.

Finally, if you were unable to attend, but would like to catch-up on the session, a recording of the event is available via the [DIH YouTube channel](#).



HSU HEALTH SCIENCES UNIVERSITY NHS Dorset

Dorset Innovation Hub Community of Practice

Data Storytelling: creating meaningful narratives and visuals from data

Wednesday 28 January 2026
13:00 to 14:00
Online event
<https://forms.office.com/e/jnbYwGkSPX>

Follow the link/scan the QR code to register for the event via the Dorset Innovation Hub. Should you wish to opt out of further communications following the event, you can do so by emailing dorsetinnovationhub@nhs.uk



Recent Case Study Publications on the Dorset Innovation Hub Website

Serving Understanding: A Collaborative Learning Lunch

This [case study](#) has been provided by BU PIER and the Lantern Trust.

‘Learning Lunch’ grew out of the ‘*I am more than...*’ project which aims to better understand what being involved in research means to those with lived experience of homelessness or being vulnerably housed.

The ‘Learning Lunch’ went beyond ‘*I am more than...*’ to create a shared space for Lantern Trust customers and Dorset Council to engage outside the usual constraints of the system – an opportunity to share food and connect on a human level.

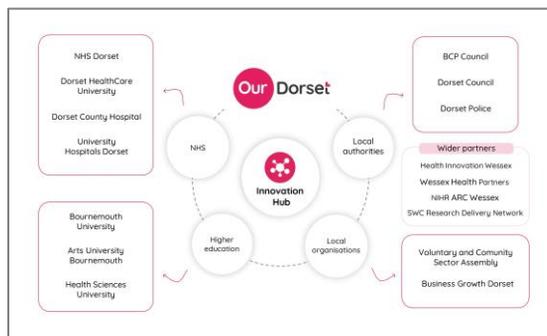
The [case study](#) reports on the ‘Learning Lunch’ activities, impact, learning gained, and next steps.



Innovation in Dorset – DIH strategic system partnership

This [case study](#) has been developed as an output from NHS Dorset’s participation in the Health Foundation’s Accelerating Innovation Systems (AIS) initiative.

The [case study](#) reports on the development of the Dorset Innovation Hub (DIH), highlighting key points of challenge and opportunity sought to address, response, progress and impact to date, together with key lessons and insights for ICBs as they evolve towards the regional and ICB model blueprint.



Diabetes Refocusise Project

Refocusise, undertaken by University Hospitals Dorset (UHD) represents an adaption on a ‘rehabilitation’ programme similar to cardiac or pulmonary rehab by adding exercise into an already proven diabetes education offering called Refocus. The aim of this being to improve fitness, glycaemic control and psychological outcomes for people living with type 2 diabetes.

Immediate and longer term (2-year) impacts of this service redesign have been reviewed and reported as part of this [case study](#).



Approaches to Change – training project

The BCP Council Adult Social Care Fulfilled Lives programme delivers sustained transformational change aligned to the strategic vision of ‘*supporting people to achieve a fulfilled like, in the way that they chose, and in a place where they feel safe*’.

As part of delivering such a significant and large-scale change programme, the programme team identified that specific challenges were being experienced, such as change fatigue, certain skills and knowledge gaps, and some cultural differences.

Through discussions, it was agreed that a bespoke change training offer would help to address many of these challenges. This [case study](#) reporting on how the training was developed and delivered, together with reflections on enabler, key challenges, learning and impact.



Developing the Impact Updates from Dorset Innovation Hub Partner Organisations

'Developing the Impact' is a rolling DIH programme, implemented in 2022, which has rapidly become central to the DIH approach of embedding innovation within Dorset. The essence of 'Developing the Impact' is partner organisation activity which supports developing an innovation culture, capabilities, and raising awareness of innovation activities in partner organisations. 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.

DIH core partner organisations provide 'Developing the Impact' updates at the DIH programme group and DIH core team meetings that highlight the innovation activities in their organisation and collaborative working. In the past couple of months updates have been provided by Federated Model: Dorset County Hospital & Dorset HealthCare, NHS Dorset ICB, and University Hospitals Dorset (UHD), and we wanted to share some 'headlines' from these 'Developing the Impact' updates with you.

Federated Model: Dorset County Hospital (DCH) & Dorset HealthCare (DHC)

- Establishment of collaborative partnership between DCH & DHC through a federated model
- Development of joint (DCH & DHC) strategy "Working Together, Improving Lives" and supporting enabling plans
- Development of 'Improving Together' - a Joint Improvement Framework supporting a consistent approach to improvement
- Work in progress supporting building of capabilities e.g. QSIR
- Celebration of QI Week 2025 activities



NHS Dorset ICB

- Establishment of the NHS Dorset Centralised Research & Innovation (R&I) Service to enable R&I activity within the ICB
- Hosting of the Dorset Innovation Hub and leading of core activities such as the education programme and communications
- Innovation activities supported within Our Dorset Ageing Well Network and Our Dorset Respiratory Network
- Utilisation of data into action e.g. hypertension optimisation
- Dorset's Oral Health Programme impact e.g. Dental Aid Vans



University Hospitals Dorset (UHD)

- Evolving innovation support at UHD with move of DIH from UHD to NHS Dorset
- Adoptive innovation projects focused on med tech funding mandate programme and value-based procurement products
- Updates to the Intellectual Property policy
- Programme of inventive innovation projects including:
 - NERVE – smartphone device monitoring peripheral neuropathy
 - BERTIE – diabetes structured education & support programme



For more information on the DIH 'Developing the Impact' programme, please email dorsetinnovationhub@nhsdorset.nhs.uk. Please see the DIH website for information on DIH [core team](#) and [programme group](#) membership.



Spotlight on Clinical Audit

The Key to Improvement and Efficiency

Within our Innovation education programme, we often talk about the golden thread of quality which runs through the various improvement methodologies. The challenge being to use the right approach and the right tool for the task in hand.

Clinical audit is one of the improvement methodologies within our toolbox. Clinical audit being a systematic process used to measure the quality of processes, care or outcome against agreed standards. These standards may be drawn from local, regional or national resources such as guidelines, protocols, policy documents, standard operating procedures, and benchmark data. It is a way for teams to evaluate whether local practice is in line with best practice and, if not, to take actions to improve.

Clinical audit can often form a key component of evaluation within an innovation adoption project as when assessing impact, we need to be able to differentiate when failure is due to the incorrect use or application of the 'innovation'.

In a recent [BMJ Leader Blog](#), Dame Celia Ingham Clark explained why clinical audit must play a key role in designing an NHS that is "Fit for the Future". Dame Celia Ingham Clark stating that "By measuring the quality of care, it enables us to see what is working well, and what is not, against recognised standards. It identifies where change would have the greatest impact, driving the targeted use of resources. As such, clinical audit is a critical tool in delivering efficiencies that will lead to the most important measures, improving and saving lives". The blog goes on to provide several examples of national clinical audits that have been able to report improvements across a range of care and outcome measures over time, as well as provide data that has enabled the identification of inequalities in care and outcomes.

Clinical Audit Awareness Week (CAAW), 22-26 June 2026

CAAW is a national annual event which aims to improve and save lives by promoting and celebrating the critical role of clinical audit and data-drive healthcare improvement. The 2026 campaign will be based around 5 themed days as well as featuring daily lunch and learn sessions – [more information here](#).

Excellence in Clinical Audit Awards: Opening 16 March

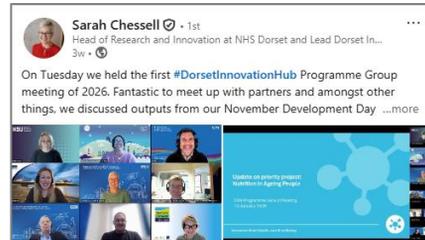
These awards will link to the CAAW daily themes and celebrate the professionalism, impact and high standards demonstrated by clinical audit professionals. [Entries open 16 March 2026](#).

Local event: Moving Forwards Together

Jointly hosted by Bournemouth University, DCH, DHC, and UHD, this event celebrates research, clinical audit & quality improvement in Dorset. This in-person event is on 16 April 2026 – [more information here](#).



Social media snips



Innovation Unit Article. From bureaucratic to human: What real changes looks like in practice

The DIH and the NHS Dorset Centralised Research & Innovation Service have been privileged to work and learn from the [Innovation Unit](#) over the past five years or so, firstly through the Adopting Innovation Programme and latterly through the Accelerating Innovation Systems initiative. We strive to stay up-to-date with the work and outputs from the Innovation Unit and were particularly interested in a recent article, created in partnership between the Innovation Unit and James Plunkett, exploring how systems and services can shift towards a more holistic, person-centred and strengths-based approach.

Within the article, Plunkett argues that bureaucratic systems struggle to support people with complex needs because they fragment care and constrain practitioners. Drawing on the Innovation Unit's Living Well programme approach, he outlines a repeatable transformation process that works like a "chrysalis": a protected space where leaders, practitioners, and communities dissolve rigid organisational patterns and redesign services around strengths, relationships and whole-person support. The outcome being a "new organism" with clearer perception and greater agility, capable of delivering person-centred, cost-effective outcomes. Plunkett also reflecting on what is needed for the "new organism" to survive and thrive in the wider operating environment.



The full James Plunkett article is available [here](#) and further information on the Innovation Unit's Living Well programme is available [here](#).

Business Growth Dorset Events

Business Growth Dorset are a DIH partner and are dedicated to supporting business across the whole of Dorset. They provide access to a range of resources, information, advice and business programmes to help Dorset businesses flourish including start-ups, established companies and growing enterprises.

To help businesses thrive, Business Growth Dorset run a regular programme of workshops, networking opportunities and business events.

For a full list of events, together with booking details, please visit the [Business Growth Dorset website](#).



Wessex Health Partners (WHP) Event

WHPs annual flagship event – Our Big Conversation – brings together leaders, practitioner, researchers, industry partners, policymakers and communities to address the region's most pressing health challenges and shape collective action for healthier futures.

This year the event is on 15 April 2026 and will be focused on rural and coastal communities. More information and booking details are available [here](#).



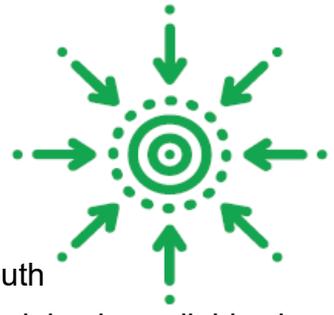
Innovation Hub Education Programme

Fundamentals of Innovation Adoption

2026 Fundamentals training dates are available for booking:

- Wednesday 22 April 2026 at Health Sciences University, Bournemouth
- Wednesday 01 July 2026 at County Hall, Dorchester
- Wednesday 21 October 2026 at Health Sciences University, Bournemouth

Each event runs from 10:00 to 16:30 and further information on this free training is available via the [DIH website](#). Places can be booked by completing a copy of our [booking form](#).



Community of Practice events

Our next Community of Practice event is centred on the theme 'Influencing: shaping outcomes through communication and relationships'.

This 1hr online event is on 24 March 2026 at 13:00 and will focus on how we can Use the skills of influencing to drive and deliver change. The event is free and open to all to attend.

Further information and booking details available via the [DIH website](#).

Recordings of previous Community of Practice events are available via [DIH YouTube channel](#).

Dorset Innovation Hub Community of Practice

Influencing: shaping outcomes through communication and relationships

HSU HEALTH SCIENCES UNIVERSITY **NHS** Dorset

How can we use the skills of influencing to drive & deliver change?

Join this community of practice event to find out more about:

- What does influencing mean
- Influencing styles and strategies
- Practical tips and tools to support

With opportunities for discussions and questions, case studies, and links for tools and resources.

Tuesday 24 March 2026
13:00 to 14:00
Online event
<https://forms.office.com/e/Qg9ZnCNEZN>

Follow the link/scan the QR code to register for the event via the Dorset Innovation Hub. Should you wish to opt out of further communications following the event, you can do so by emailing dorsetinnovationhub@nhsdorset.nhs.uk

Innovation for Improvement in Health and Social Care (Level 7)

The 'Innovation for Improvement in Health and Social Care' course is designed for people working in health and social care settings in a role which supports innovation and improvement. This level 7 course will be delivered by NHS Dorset and Health Sciences University. Further information on this course will be available soon.

Other Training Opportunities

Qi Lite and QSIR: Quality Improvement training is available to all staff across the Dorset ICS and is offered in a tiered approach. [See website for further details.](#)

PM Lite: Introductory course to project management which is aimed at individuals who are new to project management or those looking to refresh their knowledge. [See website for further details.](#)

The Innovation Hub team provides advice and hands-on support to adapt, adopt and sustain proven innovation and develop ideas into new services & products that will benefit the Dorset ICS. If you would have a project that you would like to discuss, or if there is anything in this newsletter that you would like further information on, please do contact us.

 dorsetinnovationhub@nhsdorset.nhs.uk

 ourdorset.org.uk/innovation