

INNOVATE



Innovation Hub Newsletter

EDITION 17: AUG 2026

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

It's the classic summer holiday period, albeit Dorset finds itself in the fifth heatwave of the year and one there doesn't appear to be a slight lull in activity. Its perhaps not surprising due to the evolving pressures including organisational and geographical changes, financial constraints and restructures in Dorset and regionally. Whether you are working in NHS organisations, public services, local authorities, academia, local business growth hub, and voluntary & community partners or wider organisations, it has never been more important to explore innovative improvement approaches that support patients and service users.

Considering evolving changes and innovative approaches, in my role as Lead for the Dorset Innovation Hub (DIH) I see firsthand the importance of strategic system partnerships. Some of you may have seen this week's announcement DIH is set to begin a new chapter following agreement from partners on future hosting arrangements, a true demonstration of the power of partners collaborative working (page 2).

I am delighted that our bumper edition of the INNOVATE newsletter is now available and brimming with innovative updates from Dorset Innovation Hub (DIH) partners and wider activities. Further updates in this issue include: 'Developing the Impact' update from Dorset Council (page 3) and Arts University Bournemouth (page 4), value-based procurements and the importance of '5 value domains and whole life cost' (page 5), an overview of the Digital Skills Hub: Connecting Communities, Skills and Opportunity (page 7) and a highlight of the Falls Prevention priority project – FaME (page 8).

Whether you are reading this in a quiet moment during work on as part of your summer reading, I hope you enjoy reading about DIH partner innovative approaches to support patients and service users in Dorset ☺ Do contact me with any innovative projects or work you'd like us to share.

Sarah Chessell

Lead - Dorset Innovation Hub, Dorset ICS

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“Combining things is proven to be an excellent way of innovating. Many great new ideas are combinations of well-established ideas, just like the suitcase with wheels.”

Paul Sloane



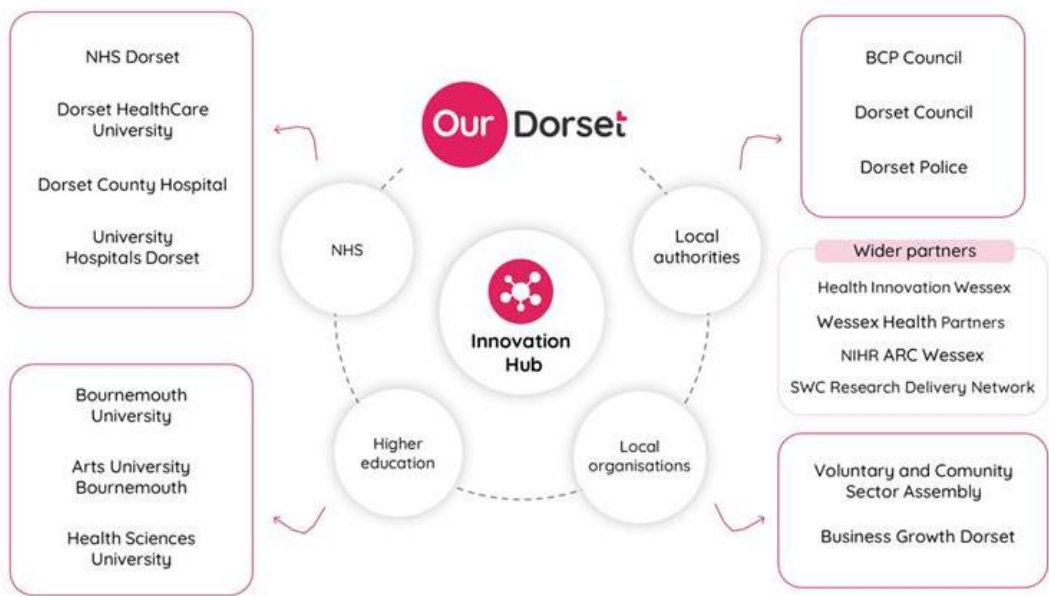
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Dorset Innovation Hub begins an exciting new chapter

The [Dorset Innovation Hub \(DIH\) is set to begin a new chapter](#) following agreement from partners on future hosting arrangements. The DIH is a strategic partnership, currently hosted by NHS Dorset, which brings together Dorset's NHS organisations, public services, local authorities, academia, business partners and the voluntary and community sector to drive innovation that improves outcomes for local people.

With the formation of the Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire (BSW), Dorset and Somerset Integrated Care Board, partners reviewed the future hosting arrangements for the Hub. Partners unanimously agreed a joint expression of interest from federated trusts Dorset County Hospital, and Dorset HealthCare, and Health Sciences University to host the DIH. The new arrangement reflects the Hub's collaborative ethos and shared ambition to help people live better in Dorset through innovation, prevention, population health and reducing inequalities.



Dawn Dawson, Deputy Chief Executive of Dorset HealthCare and Dorset County Hospital said: “We’re delighted that our two trusts are co-hosting this important facility with Health Sciences University. Developing innovative ways to deliver services for the future is essential in our drive to improve the health of our communities and we look forward to helping lead the next phase of the hub’s work with our partners.

Professor Lesley Haig, Vice-Chancellor, Health Sciences University, said: “The Dorset Innovation Hub has already demonstrated the transformative power of collaboration, bringing together partners from across health, care, academia, business and the community to develop innovative solutions that improve outcomes for the people of Dorset. We are delighted to be co-hosting the Hub alongside Dorset County Hospital and Dorset HealthCare as it enters this exciting new phase. This partnership provides an exceptional opportunity to build on the Hub’s strong foundations, creating an even more powerful platform for innovation, research and knowledge exchange that can deliver meaningful improvements in population health and help tackle health inequalities.”

Sarah Chessell, Dorset Innovation Hub Lead, said: “The strength of the DIH has always been its collaborative approach, and I am confident that this next chapter will build on our achievements and create even greater opportunities to drive innovation that improves outcomes, experiences and wellbeing for people across Dorset.”



Developing the Impact Updates, Dorset Innovation Hub Partner Organisation: [Dorset Council](#)

CQC ‘Good’ rating

Following the inspection in December 2025, Adult Social Care (ASC) services have received a “Good” rating following an assessment by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) in June 2026. The CQC report highlighted many areas of good practice and rated the service good for, ‘learning, improvement and innovation’. It explicitly states the council ‘Encourages creative ways of delivering outcomes and improving quality of life’ and ‘contributes to research, safe practice, and improvement activity’. The report evidences innovation through:

- Technology-enabled care
- New models of care and pathways
- Prevention and early intervention
- Workforce development and learning systems
- Data-driven management (dashboards, monitoring)
- Integrated partnership working



Community Conversations



Dorset Council has launched a programme of [Community Conversations](#) throughout 2026 to strengthen how it works with local organisations, town and parish councils, councillors, health partners and council staff. The aim is to understand how they can work more closely with communities by exploring local challenges and opportunities and shaping solutions together. The conversations will take place across 13 locations throughout Dorset, bringing together local partners to share, learn and explore opportunities.

These conversations will lead to:

- a clearer picture of each area's strengths and needs
- ideas for local forums that help residents and communities have a stronger say
- options for services or community buildings that could be managed locally
- suggestions for how Dorset Council can work differently to be a better partner
- early ideas for community led projects

Why Dorset Council are doing this:

- it's the right thing to do – enabling decisions to be made as locally as possible, with people involved in shaping what matters to them
- it will improve outcomes – better understanding of local needs leads to better, more joined up services and support
- it will strengthen Dorset Council's sustainability – prevention, partnership and community resilience reduce demand on statutory services and therefore costs

For more information visit the [Community Conversations webpage](#).



Developing the Impact Updates, Dorset Innovation Hub Partner Organisation: [Arts University Dorset](#)

Re-imagining how we live with British Weather



Alice Stevens, designer, researcher and Senior Lecturer at Arts University Bournemouth has recently appeared on the Met Office 'Deeper Dive' exploring how we can re-imagine how we live with British weather and the cultural obsession with "only sunny weather is good" narrative (Stibbe, 2019).

Alice importantly highlights climate changes and its effect on our weather with the UK winters predicted to get up to 30% wetter by 2070 (Kendon et al., 2025; Met Office, 2020).

Through an eco-linguistics lens, Alice outlines how negative language used about rain can impact on our mental health

and well-being, how it affects our relationship with nature and how we are potentially missing joyful experiences that can be created in safe habitable rain conditions.

Alice showcases several of the Weather-kin innovative tech immersive installations including: "Blissful Rain" inviting reflection on words we use when talking about weather, "welly walks" atmospheric pressure sensing wellies that sing eco poetry, "Pluvilore" nostalgic rain memory umbrellas, and "Rain Trail" which uses large scale

illustrations that appear when wet and invites individuals to step into 'rain' and discover their place within a living interconnected landscape.

For further information please see the links below:

- [Blissful Rain: How Language Shapes Our Weather](#) 🌧️
- [- Deeper Dive - Met Office weather forecast UK](#)
- Alice's work (Blissful Rain, Welly Walks, Pluvilore and Rain Trail)- [Weather-kin](#)
- Case study - [Welly Walks – Innovation](#)



Dorset Museum

[Treasure! Lost and Found](#) at Dorset Museum & Art Gallery shines a light on objects that were once prized, buried for centuries, and ultimately rediscovered, revealing fascinating stories about Dorset's past. Running until 13 September 2026, the exhibition brings together nationally significant loans and treasures from the museum's own collection, including several artefacts displayed publicly for the first time.



A key feature of the exhibition is the contribution of students from Arts University Bournemouth, who have transformed the visitor experience through innovative digital storytelling. They created immersive installations including a reconstructed Iron Age roundhouse, interactive holograms, sensory exhibits, and "Lucius", an AI-powered Roman soldier who brings Dorset's Roman history to life. These experiences help visitors connect with the people behind the artefacts, making archaeology engaging, accessible, and memorable for audiences of all ages.



Value-Based Procurement in the NHS

NHS Dorset is working with NHS Supply Chain (NHSSC) to locally implement their Value-Based Procurement (VBP) programme, a transformative approach that prioritises outcomes across the patient care pathway over upfront cost. Developed in partnership with NHS England and the Department of Health and Social Care, VBP focuses on the total cost of care and embedding clinical effectiveness into procurement decisions, ensuring that investments yield measurable benefits for patient pathways while optimising operational capacity.

The 5 value domains and whole life cost



Central to VBP is collaboration: suppliers, clinicians, and patient groups co-develop procurement specifications, with suppliers expected to provide evidence-based propositions spanning clinical, operational, and social outcomes. Procurement decisions consider the broader lifecycle of products, including post-warranty support, reduced admissions, and accelerated rehabilitation.

Pilot programmes have already demonstrated improvements such as reduced infection rates, accelerated diagnostics, enhanced patient throughput, and pathway-specific cost efficiencies, underlining VBP's practical impact in real-world NHS operations. NHSSC provides financial and other tools to help Trusts consider and build a case for VBP technologies, and Dorset Trusts are currently looking at implementation of transnasal endoscopy to increase patient throughput, and remote cardiac monitoring strategies to reduce complications and hospitalisations.

The benefits of VBP include reduced product waste, accelerated patient discharge, decreased complications, optimised operations, and strengthened supplier collaboration emphasising innovation. By shifting focus from upfront cost to comprehensive value, NHSSC's VBP initiative empowers Trusts to make procurement decisions that enhance patient care, advance operational performance, and align with the NHS long-term strategy for sustainable healthcare delivery.



Social media snips

Sarah Chessell • You
Head of Research and Innovation at NHS Dorset...
4w • 3

Many folk will be aware of the wide ranging changes nationally with the ICBs and closer to home within in [NHS Dorset](#). Before this afternoons [#DorsetInnovationHub](#) Programme Group (more updates in my next post) we were joined by [Ashleigh Boreham](#) who leaves [NHS Dorset](#) ...more

Laura White • 1st
Delivery Lead Adult Social Care: Transformation Management Office
2mo • 0

Would you like to develop your knowledge and skills to support successful innovation adoption and improvement projects?
... more

HSU HEALTH SCIENCES UNIVERSITY NHS Dorset

Fundamentals of Innovation Adoption Training

Upcoming dates
Dorchester: 01 Jul 26
Bournemouth: 21 Oct 26

Build your knowledge and develop skills to support the successful implementation of improvement solutions

Booking via
ourdorset.org.uk/innovation/events or
dorsetinnovationhub@nhsdorset.nhs.uk

Katherine Misun • You
Inward Investment Manager | Developing transformation opportunities | Growth ...
3w • 0

It was great to be back 'in the room where it happens' at the [#DorsetInnovationHub](#) (DIH) Core team meeting. Having been involved in the DIH on and off over the last 5 years, it was wonderful to see what has been... more

Dr Julie Northam • 1st
Director of Research at Health Sciences University, and Board Trustee for The ...
3w • 0

Delighted that the Dorset Innovation Hub Programme Group supported a joint EoI from Health Sciences University and the Federation (Dorset HealthCare University NHS Foundation Trust and Dorset County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust)... more

Sarah Chessell • 1st
Head of Research and Innovation at NHS Dorset and Lead Dorset Innovation Hub ...
3w • 0

Fantastic [#DorsetInnovationHub](#) (DIH) Programme Group meeting yesterday. Great presentation from [Rachel Clarke](#) on behalf of Bournemouth University on developing the impact update including BU2035 strategy... more

Learning, Sharing and Innovating Together

DIH continues to inspire collaboration and innovation across the system, bringing people together to share ideas, develop new skills, and learn from one another.

‘Getting Bid Ready’ – 20th May 2026



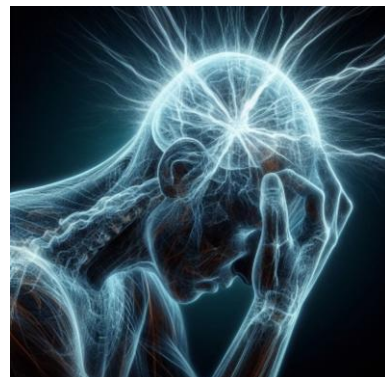
This session covered:

- Understanding funder requirements
- Key generic supporting documentation incl. checklist
- How we explore potential opportunities
- Opportunities for discussions and questions

If you would like to catch-up on the session, a recording of the event is available via the [DIH YouTube channel](#).

Shaping innovation through clinical audit: evidencing MedTech implementation and patient impact – 24th June 2026

We were delighted to be invited to present the DIH gammaCore project at the ‘Shaping the Future Together: Innovation and Transformation’ webinar. Highlighting the adoption of the gammaCore non-invasive innovation for cluster headaches, implemented by the clinical team at University Hospitals Dorset. Sarah Chessell emphasised that Innovation adoption isn’t just about the rate of use or the spread and adoption, it’s about the use and alignment with evidence and the importance of measuring use against evidence-based guidelines, e.g. NICE guidance, the importance of using the ‘right approach, people, tool and time’ and the vital role of clinical audit in innovation adoption and monitoring patient outcomes. Further information is available at:



Dorset gammaCore case study: [GammaCore for Cluster Headaches – Innovation](#)

Recording of the webinar including gammaCore presentation and slides are available at: [Clinical Audit Awareness Week, 22-26 June 2026 - HQIP](#) (Wed 24 June).

‘Visualising Innovation: creating impactful posters’ – 9th July 2026



This session covered:

- What makes a good poster
- How to create a compelling poster that highlights impact
- Key mistakes to avoid
- Insights from example posters
- Opportunities for discussions and questions

If you would like to catch-up on the session, a recording of the event is available via the [DIH YouTube channel](#).



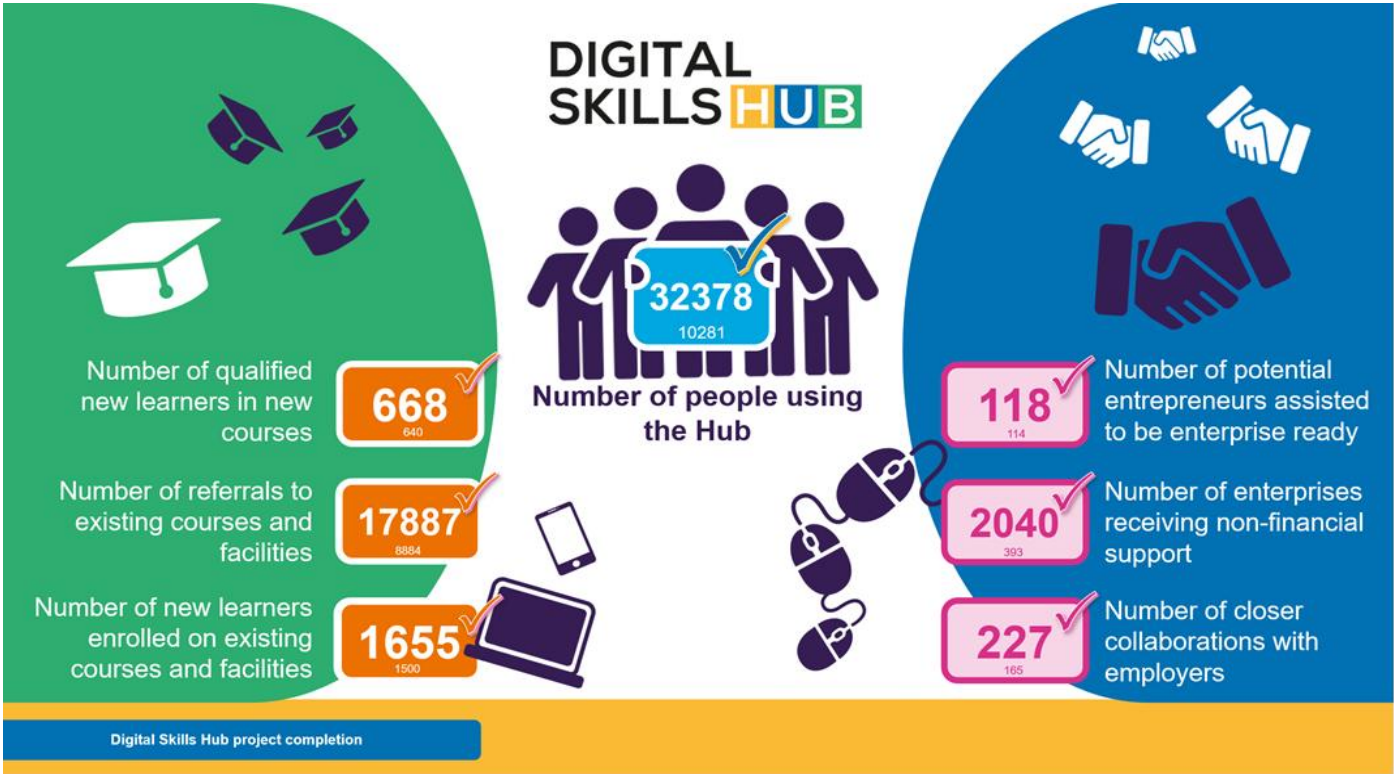
Digital Skills Hub: Connecting Communities, Skills and Opportunity

Funded through the Boscombe Towns Fund, the Digital Skills Hub has demonstrated how a locally rooted, partnership-led approach can help tackle digital exclusion in areas of deprivation, while supporting wider economic and social outcomes. Established to provide accessible digital skills support within the Boscombe community, the Hub evolved into far more than a training venue. By bringing together education providers, employment support services, community organisations and business partners, it created a single point of access for residents, and businesses, looking to improve their skills, confidence and opportunities in an increasingly digital world.

Over the lifetime of the project, more than **32,000 people engaged with the Hub**, highlighting the significant demand for trusted local support. The project helped **668 new learners** start new courses, supported **1,655 learners** onto existing programmes and facilitated over **17,800 referrals** to learning opportunities and support services. The Hub also strengthened links with the local economy, assisting **118 aspiring entrepreneurs**, supporting more than **2,000 enterprises**, and fostering **227 closer collaborations with employers**.

What made the Digital Skills Hub particularly distinctive was its ability to connect people with the right support at the right time. Whether helping residents access online services, develop workplace skills, explore self-employment, or progress into further learning, the Hub provided a flexible, responsive model to meet local needs.

The project has now concluded, but its legacy extends beyond the impressive outputs achieved. The Hub has clearly demonstrated the value of community-based skills hubs as catalysts for inclusion, collaboration and economic growth, creating lasting partnerships and helping residents build the confidence and capabilities needed to thrive in a digital society. The Hub [website](#) still provides a valuable online signposting resource while mechanisms to replicate the project and its benefits are explored.



Could FaME Work in Your Neighbourhood?

As part of the Dorset Innovation Hub Priority Projects Programme, the Falls Prevention Project was launched in 2025. This impact case study showcases the real-world impact of the FaME Project through storytelling, data-driven insights, and collaborative working across organisations.

A globally recognised falls prevention programme successfully delivered by Postural Stability Instructors in Weymouth & Portland and ready to scale across Dorset.

Proven to reduce rate of falls, increase Physical Activity and enables people to get up, stay up and live their best lives.

Why FaME?

- Evidence-based falls prevention
- Improves strength and balance
- Helps people stay independent
- Reduces concern about falls
- Improves confidence in stability
- Supports ageing well

Significant FaME Outcomes at 24 Weeks

- Improvement in Quality of Life
- Improvement in Timed Up & Go
- Improvement in Grip Strength
- Improvement in Sit-to-Stand ability
- Improvement in Balance (180° Turn)
- Improved confidence and reduced concern about falls

81% regained ability to rise from the floor independently

- All outcomes showed statistically significant improvement at 24 weeks measured across 41 participants

Ready to deliver FaME in your area



One hip fracture costs £15,000 - enough to provide FaME for 100 people for 12 months

FaME realises significant economic and social return on investment



For every £1 of public health money invested in FaME the social return to the public purse is £50.59

Every

£1

of healthcare money invested in FaME saves £2.28 in future healthcare costs

Floor Rise Recovery
0% at Baseline
16% after 12 weeks
81% after 24 weeks



Ready to implement?

Everything your Integrated Neighbourhood Team needs to implement FaME is available through the toolkit and supporting resources



Scan the QR code Ageing Well in Dorset Connecting healthcare to the local community



Scan the QR code FaME implementation toolkit

Participant Feedback



"I feel stronger and more confident."

"I am using public transport again."

"It gave me a reason to get out of the house."



Frailty identification, sarcopenia screening & falls risk stratification

Refer

FaME

Improved confidence

Maintained independence

Successfully delivered through partnership working across primary care, community services and local providers in Weymouth & Portland.



Diis
Dorset Intelligence & Insight Service

Our Dorset



Weymouth & Portland
Primary Care Network with
Two Harbours Healthcare



Dorset HealthCare University
NHS Foundation Trust



Dorset Council

Supporting Dorset's prevention, independence and demand management ambitions through evidence-based strength and balance interventions



Dorset Innovation Hub's Education Programme



Community of Practice event

Change can be challenging and frustrating – what enables meaningful and successful change within complex systems? Join this community of practice event to find out more about:

- Why managing change is important
- Strategies for achieving successful change
- Understanding the human reaction to change

To book a place, please complete a copy of our [booking form](#).



Fundamentals of Innovation Adoption

Remaining 2026 Fundamentals training date available for booking:

- Wednesday 21 October 2026 at Health Sciences University, Bournemouth

Each event runs from 10:00 to 16:00 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](#).

Other Training Opportunities

QI week: An annual showcase of the incredible work taking place to improve care, outcomes, and experiences for patients, colleagues, and communities.

This is an opportunity to share learning, inspire new ideas, and connect with others who are passionate about making a meaningful difference through improvement.

View the [agenda](#) to see what you want to attend, there are more than 40 webinars taking place across the week.



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.



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ourdorset.org.uk/innovation