



## October 2018 Information about the Dorset Clinical Services Review (CSR)

### What is it and what will it mean for health services in Dorset?



It's a review of local health services carried out by the NHS in Dorset. It focuses mostly on hospitals (both acute and community hospitals) and community services. It does not include GP services or mental health services (although there may be changes to those services coming from other reviews).

In September 2017, it resulted in the decision to make some changes to services in the future, including:

- The Royal Bournemouth Hospital becoming a Major Emergency Hospital and having a new maternity unit.
- Poole Hospital becoming a Major Planned Care Hospital.
- 13 “Community Hubs” being created in locations round the county, where different teams of care professionals can work together and where people can receive care and be treated for some conditions for which they might before had had to go to hospital.

(Dorset County Hospital in Dorchester will continue to receive patients for both emergency and planned care.)



[NHS Dorset's website about the Clinical Services Review](#)

[NHS Dorset's account of the benefits to patients of the changes](#)

## Anything else we need to know?

Some of the other results of the changes will be:

- Poole Hospital will no longer have an A&E (Accident and Emergency department). But it will have an Urgent Treatment Centre.
- Maternity services currently at Poole Hospital will be moved to the Royal Bournemouth Hospital.
- St. Leonard's Community Hospital will close and some of the other community hospitals in the county will lose beds.



[NHS Dorset's website about the changes](#)

[NHS England web page about Urgent Treatment Centres](#)

[NHS web page about when to use an urgent care centre](#)

## What are people saying about it?

Some local people have serious concerns about some of the proposals. Their concerns centre round what they believe will be unsafe travel times to access A&E and maternity services after the changes at Poole Hospital, and they are concerned that beds in community hospitals will be closed before staffed replacement services are in place.



['Defend Dorset NHS' Facebook page](#)

## Recent developments

Local campaigners succeeded in getting a Judicial Review hearing in July 2018 about the Dorset Clinical Services Review proposals. In September, the Judicial Review concluded that NHS Dorset had properly adhered to the necessary processes when it took the decision

to reorganise services, and dismissed the case brought by the campaigners. Campaigners are now appealing that decision.

Separately, campaigners also asked Dorset County Council's Health Scrutiny Committee to refer the Dorset Clinical Services Review to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care for review. At a meeting in October 2018 the Committee decided to do just that, citing concerns about patient travel times and the future of community hospitals.



[Press article about the outcome of the Judicial Review](#)

[Press article about the decision of Dorset County Councils' Health Scrutiny Committee to refer to the Secretary of State](#)

[Article about what happens with referrals to the Secretary of State](#)

## Further reading

The local Ambulance service (The South Western Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust) wrote a report on the potential impact of the Dorset Clinical Services Review on the Emergency Ambulance Service. You can read it by clicking [here](#).

- The report ends with 5 recommendations for further action from NHS Dorset, including supporting “the expert review of cases identified where extended journey times may increase the clinical risk” and considering “the potential impact of the CSR on the emergency ambulance service...to ensure that any changes are appropriately commissioned, and patients across Dorset continue to receive a timely response to 999 calls”.
- Healthwatch Dorset asked NHS Dorset CCG (Clinical Commissioning Group) for a statement on what actions they were taking in response to those recommendations. You can read their response to us by clicking [here](#).