

Armed Forces Covenant

Some more great news is that Military personnel past and present and their families in Dorset will benefit from a grant of £234,786 from the Ministry of Defence Armed Forces Covenant Fund. The grant will boost a project to make sure members of the armed forces community are treated fairly across the county. It will focus on areas such as employment, training, schools, health, and wellbeing, and housing. The successful funding bid was made by Dorset County Council, Bournemouth Borough Council and Borough of Poole, working with Dorset HealthCare and Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner's Office. There are an estimated 58,000 veterans living in Dorset.

David Walsh is representing the county council on the Armed Forces Covenant Board.

For more information contact the programme co-ordinator Kevin Moore on DHC.Dorset.covenant@nhs.net

Dorset signs Digital Declaration

The Shadow Dorset Council has joined other councils across the UK in signing the Government's Local Digital Declaration. The declaration demonstrates a collective commitment to use the power of digital technology to improve services, benefiting people and communities.

Update from the Health and Wellbeing Board

Agencies from across the county met this week to talk about health and wellbeing. By working together, the board plan how best to meet the needs of local people and tackle local inequalities in health. You can read more about what was discussed and watch the videos on the intranet.

Bridport Connect is moving to a new home

Plans for a new 'care village' to be located at the Flood Lane site in Bridport are progressing well. This will see the provision of a new care home to replace the ageing Sidney Gale House, day centre facility and an extra care housing scheme.

As part of the plans, the current Bridport Connect day centre facility for adults will move to new premises. The re-provision of service, at least in the short term, will be moved to the St. Andrews site in the town. The current Bridport Connect building is out-dated and nearing the end of its usable life.

Weed control continues across Dorset

DCC's annual weed control programme is continuing to treat all hard, sealed surfaces such as tarmac, pavements and residential roads (adopted by DCC). The programme started in Christchurch on 20 June and is working its way westwards across the whole of Dorset, taking six weeks. It's important to kill weeds to prolong the life of the sealed surfaces. More information on our website.

Update from the Arts Development Company

The Arts Development Company has written its first Annual Review. This includes financial information taken from their audited accounts. After spinning out of the county council, The Arts Development Company is still the only arts-based public services mutual in the UK, and seen as an exemplar by Arts Council England.

During this year, they delivered across Dorset creative activities to nearly 5,000 participants including adults living with dementia (through the Stepping into Nature project) children with disabilities (through the DCC Short Breaks contract) and parents identified with additional parenting needs (through a referral process from local Children's Centres).

There is now a growing body of evidence showing the power of arts and creativity to transform places and make a significant difference to the quality of people's lives. Through their work, and the work of arts organisations they support:

For every £1 invested in us by DCC, we return £4 of external investment back into Dorset

- 71% of people agree that culture makes Dorset a better place to live
- Culture is increasingly at the heart of communities. In 2018, we are supporting Weymouth and Gillingham libraries to develop a new art offer for their local area.

Over 60 Applications for New Low Carbon Dorset Programme

Low Carbon Dorset is now entering its third month and has already received over 60 applications for support from Dorset based businesses, community and public-sector organisations. The EU funded programme, led by the county council, provides businesses, communities and the public sector with free support and funding for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.