
WELLBEING - NARRATIVE

The WELLBEING investment portfolio will create health-related commercial and research opportunities in Dorset to help meet the global challenge of healthy ageing and unlock £140m of investment over the next 10 years.

By bringing together medtech, biotech, life sciences and digital partners with the NHS, local authorities, Bournemouth University and University Hospitals Dorset, the ambition is to be at the forefront of innovation that delivers improved health and wellbeing for communities, and turns Dorset's 'demographic crunch' into an economic and research strength.

Over the last five years Dorset has invested almost £40m in the Wellbeing agenda, including the creation of a medical imaging institute, an orthopaedic research institute and a histopathology diagnostic hub.

Ongoing investments include a joint clinical trials unit to enable innovation in medical science; a project to remotely manage high blood pressure, which affects around a third of adults in the UK; a new international centre for rehabilitation research and treatment, and a new institute of biomedical materials and tissue engineering research.

Dorset already has one of the leading integrated care systems in England called Our Dorset, and some of the most advanced population health intelligence data in the UK. Dorset also has a unique demographic, where the population will mirror the global demographic of 2050 some 20 years earlier.

With the number of people aged 65 and over growing faster than all other age groups across the world, Dorset will create a 'Living Lab' that brings together research, education and industry to drive innovation across health and care services, and attract world-class research companies.



The Living Lab will be located at a new Medtech Science Park at Wessex Fields, scaling up the existing collaboration between University Hospitals Dorset and Bournemouth University. The mixed-use development will include incubation facilities for new medtech businesses, grow-on space and around 500 key worker homes.

Allied to this is the One Health initiative which examines the interconnection between human, animal and environmental health, and has never been more pertinent given the coronavirus pandemic and threats from climate change. Dorset's third annual One Health conference took place on March 24 and there are plans to create a One Health Nucleus in Dorset, backed back research funding, to act as a national resource for research and innovation.

Over the next 10 years there is an opportunity to bring all these facets together into a Dorset health intelligence powerhouse, as a global leader in health innovation.

Factfile:

- The Dorset Wellbeing programme will unlock £140 million of investment in the next 10 years and an estimated £4bn uplift in GVA.
- Dorset's Integrated Care System is among the most advanced in the UK.
- 40% of Dorset's population will be aged over 60 by 2025.
- Social care spend across Dorset is 39% of total expenditure (England average is 23%)

WELLBEING INVESTMENT - SOME HIGHLIGHTS SO FAR

Orthopaedic research institute (phase 1 and 2)

Project budget: £3.43m

The Orthopaedic Research Institute (ORI) works across Bournemouth University and with local hospitals and industry partners to carry out research aimed at improving current orthopaedic treatments, developing better surgeries and testing new technology and better rehabilitation processes. Supported with £1.65m from the Local Growth Fund via Dorset LEP.

Institute for Medical Imaging and Visualisation

Project budget: £3.46m

A Bournemouth University project to create a groundbreaking institute focused on the next generation of medical imaging, using artificial intelligence, computer visualisation and augmented reality. It brings together research, education, high value medical industries, the creative industries and healthcare services. Supported with £1.4m from the Local Growth Fund via Dorset LEP.

Histopathology Diagnostic Hub

Project budget: £22.38m

Project to create histopathology (tissue) diagnostic hub at Royal Bournemouth Hospital to put Dorset at the leading edge of diagnostic services. Digitisation and the application of artificial intelligence could lead to improved quality and reduced diagnosis times for illnesses such as cancers, helping to meet the 'healthy ageing' challenge. Supported with £2.28m from the Local Growth Fund via Dorset LEP.

Remote management of hypertension

Project budget: £300,000

A Dorset NHS Clinical Commissioning Group project to develop a digital solution to the remote monitoring of hypertension (high blood pressure) in patients, plus education and support to help people manage their care in a better way. Funded from the Getting Building Fund via the Dorset LEP.

Integrated rehabilitation centre

Project budget: £5.81m

A new Integrated Rehabilitation Centre at AECC University College which is set to be a national leader and major boost to healthcare innovation and allied health professions in Dorset. It will combine a fully integrated rehabilitation clinic with leading-edge teaching and applied research and offer patients with multiple conditions coordinated access to different clinical services and diagnostic tests in one facility. Supported with £2.7m from the Getting Building Fund via Dorset LEP.



FOCUS FOR 2021/22

The LEP Board has indicated that the focus of the Wellbeing agenda for the next 12 months should be on medtech and the opportunities to develop the sector.

This will require a more detailed look at medtech business growth and collaboration opportunities. The implementation plan suggests the creation of a Medtech Sector Group to identify bespoke sector support requirements and potential marketing and inward investment materials.

There should be ample opportunity to build on the Medtech narrative through new projects such as the **Institute for Medical Imaging and Visualisation** and the **Remote management of hypertension** project, both of which are engaging with the private sector, especially the latter which will be procuring a digital solution from a medtech business.

The **One Health Nucleus** proposal is another opportunity, with a Sandbox event planned for May/June 2021, following the third annual One Health conference in March.

And there are two funding bids pending from University Hospitals Dorset and Dorset Council into the **Health Foundation Adopting Innovation Programme** and the **Health Foundation Economies for Healthier Lives Programme** respectively.

Progress on the Medtech Science Park, such infrastructure, land deals, masterplanning and planning applications all offer scope to reiterate the strategic Medtech vision for the site and maintain momentum.