

**Statement from Clare Sutton to the Cabinet Member for Community and Resources in relation to the Quarterly Asset Management Report**

I applaud the Cabinet for working to expedite the transfer of leases to the relevant bodies, and appreciate that in some cases this has been quite a difficult process. However, as a Trustee of STEPS in Weymouth, which lies within my division, I would like to make a couple of additional points:

1. Unlike some of the other groups, the STEPS Charity has been fully functional (including in terms of our legal representation) throughout the period and our Trustees signed the final version of the Lease over two months ago. In our case, the delays to completion of the transfer have been mostly due to the fact that there are four bodies involved: the STEPS Charity, DCC, W&PBC (from whom DCC lease the land) and the DfE, because of the 'Myplace' capital grant.

From the outset, Trustees have been acutely aware of potential complexities in relation to the Myplace agreement with DfE and we have worked actively with DCC and our solicitor to resolve these. Indeed, we were assured by our solicitor that these had been resolved around 8 months ago. However, we now understand that the DfE (who hold a covenant on the title of the property) need some assurances relating to the original conditions of the grant before they grant permission for the transfer. In order to assist with that, the Charity's Principal Youth Worker has now written a summary document outlining how the Club will continue to meet the original aims/conditions of the Myplace agreement which the locum DCC solicitor who is handling the STEPS lease can send to DfE.

2. In light of the fact that STEPS the Charity is in robust health and, alongside numerous partners, is delivering an excellent range of services to local young people, and the only outstanding matter is the permission from DfE, I hope the Cabinet can reassure us that if the timetable for transferring the lease needs to be extended due to circumstances entirely outwith our control DCC will accommodate that.