

SHAREHOLDER COMMITTEE FOR CARE DORSET HOLDINGS LTD

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 5 DECEMBER 2023

Present: Cllrs Laura Beddow (Vice-Chairman), Spencer Flower (Chairman), Byron Quayle and Jane Somper

Present remotely: Cllrs Gary Suttle

Officers present (for all or part of the meeting):

Chris Best (Interim Managing Director, Care Dorset)
Vivienne Broadhurst (Executive Director - People Adults)
Aidan Dunn (Executive Director - Corporate Development S151)
Chris Harrod (Senior Democratic Services Officer)
Joshua Kennedy (Apprentice Democratic Services Officer)
Jonathan Price (Corporate Director for Commissioning)
Matt Prosser (Chief Executive)
Caroline Tapster (Chair of the Independent Board, Care Dorset)

16. Apologies

Cllr G Suttle was not able to be physically present, but was joining the meeting remotely in the knowledge that he would not form part of the quorum or be in a position to vote.

17. Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were signed and confirmed as a correct record.

18. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest

19. Public Participation

No requests to participate had been received from members of the public.

20. Councillor Questions

No questions had been received in advance of the meeting.

21. Forward Plan

The Forward plan was noted.

22. **Dorset Council Organisational Update**

The Corporate Director for Commissioning - Market Relationships, Major Contracts and over 65's, introduced the report which provided Members with an overview of the commissioning activity undertaken by the Council since the previous update.

The Portfolio Holder for People – Adult Social Care, Health and Housing added that she believed that Care Dorset had exceeded all expectations so far and was very happy with the progress made. She further highlighted that Care Dorset would be taking part in a webinar in the coming weeks to give elected members the opportunity to understand its journey so far and how it interacted with the Council.

The Chairman explained that he was very pleased with the feedback that he had heard in relation to the operation of Care Dorset and agreed with the Portfolio Holder's view that it was continuing to exceed expectations.

NOTED

23. **Care Dorset Update**

The Chair of the Independent Board of Directors introduced the report which provided a company update.

Officers responded to Members' comments and requests for clarification, details included:

- Care Dorset managed significant risk given the nature of its regulated activity and the vulnerable nature of the individuals it supported. That said, the Interim Managing Director offered the assurance that there had been a 50% reduction of 'red' ratings, which had now moved to 'amber'. There was an expectation that the overall risks would move to 'amber' before moving to green as time progressed.
- When translating the figure for 'bed days', this equated to estimated cost savings of approximately £1.7M to the Council and its health partners.

NOTED

24. **Report to Cabinet on Performance of the Trading Activities of the Company**

The Interim Managing Director, Care Dorset, introduced the report which summarised the performance of the company over the previous year.

Officers responded to Members' comments and requests for clarification, details included:

- Referring to Para 22 within the report, it was clarified that ‘local firms’ meant firms operating within the county of Dorset, with the majority being based within the area that Dorset Council served.
- Care Dorset had an ambition to set up its own academy to focus on the training and retention of staff and was hoping to pursue this in 2024. It would also be launching apprenticeship scheme from January 2024 to provide its workforce with training and development opportunities to allow staff to progress with their careers. A Leadership programme would also be developed and would work with skills providers to utilise their programmes for Care Dorset staff. There was also an ambition for the Academy, once launched, to be open to other care providers as well. This this would all be referenced in the upcoming strategy due to be considered at a future meeting.
- To date, there hadn’t been much engagement with local communities in order to recruit staff from local areas, but this was something that Care Dorset was keen to do in the future and this engagement would also include providing outreach services and raising awareness of what Care Dorset could offer. This would also be featured in the upcoming strategy.
- There were challenges within the sector in terms of recruitment, but the pay and terms and conditions of work on offer from Care Dorset allowed it to be an attractive proposition. Care Dorset was aiming to work with schools and colleges to attract future staff and it was considered that with the right marketing Care Dorset would be able to attract and retain its staff.

NOTED

25. **Urgent Items**

There was no urgent business.

26. **Exempt Business**

There was no exempt business.

Duration of meeting: 2.30 - 3.01 pm

Chairman

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