



People and Health Overview Committee

Date: Tuesday, 6 February 2024
Time: 10.00 am
Venue: Council Chamber, County Hall, Dorchester, DT1 1XJ

Members (Quorum: 3)

Mike Parkes (Chairman), Cathy Lugg (Vice-Chairman), Tony Alford, Pauline Batstone, Jean Dunseith, Beryl Ezzard, Ryan Holloway, Stella Jones, Rebecca Knox and Howard Legg

Chief Executive: Matt Prosser, County Hall, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1XJ

For more information about this agenda please contact Democratic Services Meeting Contact 01305 224185 - george.dare@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Members of the public are welcome to attend this meeting, apart from any items listed in the exempt part of this agenda.

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Agenda

Item	Pages
4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION	3 - 4

Representatives of town or parish councils and members of the public who live, work, or represent an organisation within the Dorset Council area are welcome to submit either 1 question or 1 statement for each meeting. You are welcome to attend the meeting in person or via Microsoft Teams to read out your question and to receive the response. If you submit a statement for the committee this will be circulated to all members of the committee in advance of the meeting as a supplement to the agenda and appended to the minutes for the formal record but will not be read out at the meeting. **The first 8 questions and the first 8 statements received from members of the public or organisations for each meeting will be accepted on a first come first served basis in accordance with the deadline set out below.** For further information read [Public Participation -](#)

[Dorset Council](#)

All submissions must be emailed in full to george.dare@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk by 8.30am on Thursday, 1 February 2024.

When submitting your question or statement please note that:

- You can submit 1 question or 1 statement.
- a question may include a short pre-amble to set the context.
- It must be a single question and any sub-divided questions will not be permitted.
- Each question will consist of no more than 450 words, and you will be given up to 3 minutes to present your question.
- when submitting a question please indicate who the question is for (e.g., the name of the committee or Portfolio Holder)
- Include your name, address, and contact details. Only your name will be published but we may need your other details to contact you about your question or statement in advance of the meeting.
- questions and statements received in line with the council's rules for public participation will be published as a supplement to the agenda.
- all questions, statements and responses will be published in full within the minutes of the meeting.

People & Health Overview Committee – 6 February 2024 Public Questions and Statements

1. Question from Jenny Murray

With reference to new guidance issued by the Government dated 18th December 2023 regarding how public authorities should be complying with their duties under the Equality Act 2010

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/public-sector-equality-duty-guidance-for-public-authorities>

and the accompanying letter from the RT Hon Kemi Badenoch MP, Minister for Women and Equalities, Secretary of State for Business and Trade and President of the Board of Trade,

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/public-sector-equality-duty-guidance-for-public-authorities/letter-to-public-authority-leaders-from-the-minister-for-women-and-equalities>

it clearly states:- *“They (Authorities) should not use concepts such as gender or gender identity, which are not encoded in the act and can be understood in different ways.”* This is again repeated under “Myth 8”.

So why has Dorset Council’s EDI strategy document included ‘Gender identity’ as a protected characteristic and also made the undemocratic and startling announcement that all Dorset residents have a “gender identity” (see point 5.1) when they do not.

‘Gender Identity’ is a disputed, nebulous notion and has no definition in law. (The ONS wording included is also meaningless as there is no accompanying definition of “gender” in the document). Dorset Council must be aware of the risks it places on itself by going above the law at the request of Stonewall and/or other lobby groups – this is very well documented now - indeed the ONS is one of those very examples and has now withdrawn from Stonewall's WEI scheme.

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