



## Cabinet

**Date:** Tuesday, 25 February 2025  
**Time:** 6.30 pm  
**Venue:** Council Chamber, County Hall, Dorchester, DT1 1XJ

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

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To receive questions submitted by councillors.

Councillors can submit up to two valid questions at each meeting and sub divided questions count towards this total. Questions and statements received will be published as a supplement to the agenda and all questions, statements and responses will be published in full within the minutes of the meeting.

The submissions must be emailed in full to [kate.critchel@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:kate.critchel@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk) 8.30am on Thursday 20 February 2025.

[Dorset Council Constitution](#) – Procedure Rule 13

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## Cabinet

25 February 2025

### Questions submitted by Councillors

#### Question from Cllr Gill Taylor

NHS Continuing Healthcare (NHS CHC) is a package of care for adults aged 18 or over which is arranged and funded solely by the NHS. In order to receive NHS CHC funding individuals, have to be assessed by integrated commissioning boards (ICBs) according to a legally prescribed decision making process to determine whether the individual has a 'primary health need'.

The initial application is carried out with a health care professional, there is then an assessment to decide if there are grounds to progress the application. There are several routes to apply depending on need but many residents apply through the Standard NHS CHC route. Nationally the conversion rate for this is around 20%, it is a post code lottery and I'm pleased to say Dorset is higher than the national average at 34%. This does however mean that 66% of applications are turned down. (Q1 24/25 figures)

For residents who go through the application process, it is really traumatic when they are already dealing with a very difficult situation. I'm saying this from personal experience. When the applicant is self funding it means that, if refused, they will get no financial assistance with the health care aspects of care.

For residents who are not self funding, there is an impact on the budget of Adult Services. The needs of the client are assessed and where necessary they are supported in applying for CHC. If they are turned down, as 66% of them are, the council is liable for the cost of all their ongoing care.

Due to my personal circumstances, I speak to many health care professionals who have given me anecdotal stories of residents they are trying to help being refused.

I understand that concerns have been raised from a member of the public whose mother has applied for CHC and also from the MP for West Dorset.

I have previously asked for this issue to be scrutinised by the People and Health Scrutiny Committee due to the impact it is having on self funding residents and the Dorset Council and I ask the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care to make this request again.

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