



Health and Wellbeing Board

Date: Wednesday, 24 September 2025
Time: 2.00 pm
Venue: Meeting Room 1, County Hall, Dorchester, DT1 1XJ

Members (Quorum: 5)

Steve Robinson (Chair), Patricia Miller (Vice-Chair), Clare Sutton, Gill Taylor, Paula Bennetts, Jan Britton, Sam Crowe, Paul Dempsey, Stewart Dipple, Margaret Guy, Marc House, Martin Longley, Jonathan Price and Simone Yule

Chief Executive: Catherine Howe, 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. If you would like to attend this meeting and have any specific requirements please contact the Democratic Services Officer named above.

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Agenda

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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 george.dare@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk by 8.30am on Friday, 19 September 2025.

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

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Health and Wellbeing Board - 24 September 2025 Questions from Councillors

Question 1, submitted by Cllr Carole Jones

- The South West Regional Health Conference focusing on children and young people.
- The Government's Ambition is for this to be the healthiest generation.
- Over-arching aim for the NHS to move from treatment to prevention.
- Justin Varney-Bennett, SW Regional Director Public Health and Senior Policy Advisor to the Department of Health, talked about the South West being THE region for teenagers. He said if you ask teenagers how they feel, their response isn't great. He believes there needs to be more physical activity and improved diets and nutrition.

In the Minehead area the PCN is working with the local secondary schools to target school absences. They are taking a health based approach, so that when a young person starts being absent from school (they didn't actually give a threshold but persistent absenteeism is 10% or more of sessions missed) the first intervention is by health. A GP appointment is made in order to explore any medical/health reason as to why the young person isn't attending school. Out of 15 pupils seen by this process 7 are back in full-time education, 1 has been provided a place in specialist education and the others are continuing to be supported.

This was a new approach and has only been running for about a year but is clearly having some success. It also goes to show GP surgeries working in a multi-disciplinary way in partnership with other agencies in the community.

Can we in Dorset please look at replicating this in our area?

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