



Council

Date: Thursday, 15 October 2020
Time: 6.30 pm
Venue: A link to the meeting can be found on the front page of the agenda.

Membership: (Quorum 21)

The Council membership is listed on the following page.

Chief Executive: Matt Prosser, South Walks House, South Walks Road, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1UZ (Sat Nav DT1 1EE)

For more information about this agenda please contact Democratic Services
Susan.dallison@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk



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Due to the current coronavirus pandemic the Council has reviewed its approach to holding council meetings. Members of the public are welcome to view the meeting on line by using the following link to access the Dorset Council meeting.

[Teams Live Event](#)

Members of the public wishing to view the meeting from an i phone, i pad, or android phone will need to down the free Microsoft Team App to sign in as a guest. It is advised to do this at least 30 minutes prior to the start of the meeting. Please note that public speaking has been suspended however public participation will continue by written submission only. Please see detail set out below.

Recording, photographing and using social media at meetings

Dorset Council is committed to being open and transparent in the way it carries out its business whenever possible. Anyone can film, audio-record, take photographs, and use social media such as tweeting and blogging to report the meeting when it is open to the public, so long as they conform to the Protocol for filming and audio recording of public council meetings.

A recording of the meeting will be available on the council's website after the event.

Membership of Dorset Council

Anthony Alford	Stella Jones
Jon Andrews	Andrew Kerby
Rod Adkins	Paul Kimber
Michael Barron	Rebecca Knox
Peter Barrow	Noc Lacey-Clarke
Shane Bartlett	Howard Legg
Pauline Batstone	Robin Legg
Derek Beer	Cathy Lugg
Richard Biggs	Laura Miller
David Bolwell	David Morgan
Alexandra Brenton	Louie O'Leary
Cherry Brooks	Jon Orrell
Piers Brown	Emma Parker
Ray Bryan	Mike Parkes
Andrew Canning	Andrew Parry
Graham Carr-Jones	Mary Penfold
Simon Christopher	Bill Pipe
Kelvin Clayton	Valerie Potheary
Susan Cocking	Byron Quayle
Robin Cook	Molly Rennie
Tim Cook	Belinda Ridout
Toni Coombs	Mark Roberts
Janet Dover	Julie Robinson
Jean Dunseith	Maria Roe
Mike Dyer	David Shortell
Beryl Ezzard	Jane Somper
Tony Ferrari	Andrew Starr
Spencer Flower	Gary Suttle
Les Fry	Clare Sutton
Simon Gibson	Roland Tarr
Barry Goringe	David Taylor
David Gray	Gill Taylor
Matthew Hall	David Tooke
Paul Harrison	William Trite
Jill Haynes	Daryl Turner
Brian Heatley	David Walsh
Ryan Holloway	Peter Wharf
Ryan Hope	Kate Wheller
Robert Hughes	Sarah Williams
Nick Ireland	John Worth
Sherry Jespersen	
Carole Jones	

A G E N D A

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1 APOLOGIES

To receive any apologies for absence.

2 MINUTES

7 - 26

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 3 September 2020.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive any declarations of interest.

4 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

To receive any announcements from the Chairman of Council.

5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS

A period of 30 minutes is allocated to receive and respond to questions and statements on the business of the Council in the following order:

- (a) Questions and statements from Town and Parish Councils;
- (b) Questions and statements from those living or working in the Dorset Council area.

A person or organisation can ask either 2 questions, or 2 statements or 1 question and 1 statement at each meeting.

****Important****

The full text of the question or statement must be received by 8.30am on Monday 12 October 2020.

Each question or statement is limited to 450 words.

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic public speaking has been suspended, however questions and statements will be published on the website and the Chairman of Council will decide whether a question or statement is to be read out aloud in whole, in part or not at all in the meeting. The Chairman will invite the relevant member to respond to the questions and statements at the meeting.

Details of the Council's procedure rules can be found at:

[Temporary Council Procedure Rules](#)

6 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS

A period of 15 minutes is allocated to receive and respond to petitions in accordance with the council's petitions scheme.

A period of 15 minutes is allocated to receive and respond to deputations in accordance with the council's constitution.

The petitions scheme and procedures relating to deputations can be viewed at :

[Temporary Full Council Procedure Rules](#)

7 ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS FROM THE LEADER OF COUNCIL AND CABINET MEMBERS

To receive any announcements and reports from the Leader of Council and members of the Cabinet.

8 QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

To receive questions submitted by councillors. The deadline for receipt of questions is 8.30am on Monday 12 October 2020.

9 COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN 2020-2023 27 - 42

To consider a recommendation from Cabinet.

10 APPROVAL OF YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2020-21 43 - 74

To consider a recommendation from Cabinet.

11 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES' PLAN 2020 - 2023 75 - 124

To consider a recommendation from Cabinet.

12 CLIMATE CHANGE NOTICE OF MOTION 125 - 138

To consider a report by K Buchan, Head of Environment & Well Being.

13 URGENT ITEMS

To consider any items of business which the Chairman has had prior notification and considers to be urgent pursuant to section 100B (4) b) of the Local Government Act 1972. The reason for the urgency shall

be recorded in the minutes.

14 EXEMPT BUSINESS

To move the exclusion of the press and the public for the following item in view of the likely disclosure of exempt information within the meaning of paragraph 3 of schedule 12 A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

The public and the press will be asked to leave the meeting whilst the item of business is considered.

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DORSET COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 3 SEPTEMBER 2020

Present: Cllrs Val Potheary (Chairman), Mike Parkes (Vice-Chairman), Rod Adkins, Jon Andrews, Mike Barron, Pete Barrow, Shane Bartlett, Pauline Batstone (Chairman), Derek Beer, Richard Biggs, Dave Bolwell, Alex Brenton, Cherry Brooks, Piers Brown, Ray Bryan, Graham Carr-Jones, Simon Christopher, Kelvin Clayton, Susan Cocking, Robin Cook, Tim Cook, Toni Coombs, Jean Dunseith, Mike Dyer, Tony Ferrari, Spencer Flower, Les Fry, Simon Gibson, Barry Goringe, David Gray, Matthew Hall, Jill Haynes, Paul Harrison, Brian Heatley, Ryan Holloway, Ryan Hope, Rob Hughes, Nick Ireland, Sherry Jespersen, Carole Jones, Stella Jones, Andrew Kerby, Paul Kimber, Rebecca Knox, Nocturin Lacey-Clarke, Howard Legg, Robin Legg, Cathy Lugg, Laura Miller, David Morgan, Louie O'Leary, Jon Orrell, Emma Parker, Andrew Parry, Mary Penfold, Bill Pipe, Byron Quayle, Molly Rennie, Belinda Ridout, Mark Roberts, Maria Roe, David Shortell, Jane Somper, Andrew Starr, Gary Suttle, Clare Sutton, Roland Tarr, David Taylor, Gill Taylor, David Tooke, Bill Trite, Daryl Turner, David Walsh, Peter Wharf, Kate Wheller, Sarah Williams and John Worth

Apologies: Cllrs Tony Alford and Andy Canning

Due to technical difficulties Cllrs Janet Dover, Beryl Ezzard and Julie Robinson were unable to take part in the meeting.

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

Vivienne Broadhurst (Interim Corporate Director - Adult Care Operations), Hayley Caves (Member Development and Support Officer), Kate Critchel (Senior Democratic Services Officer), Susan Dallison (Democratic Services Manager), Aidan Dunn (Executive Director - Corporate Development S151), Theresa Leavy (Executive Director of People - Children), Jonathan Mair (Corporate Director - Legal & Democratic Service Monitoring Officer), Matt Prosser (Chief Executive), John Sellgren (Executive Director, Place) and Helen Whitby (Senior Democratic Services Officer)

1. Election of Chairman

Pauline Batstone, the previous Chairman, stated that it had been a privilege to represent Dorset as Chairman of the Council over the last year.

It was proposed by Cllr P Batstone and seconded by Cllr T Coombs that Cllr V Potheary be elected Chairman of the Dorset Council until the Annual Meeting of Council in May 2021.

It was proposed by Cllr P Kimber that he be elected Chairman of the Dorset Council until the Annual Meeting of Council in May 2021. This was not supported.

Decision

That Cllr V Potheary be elected Chairman of the Dorset Council until the Annual Meeting of Council in May 2021.

Cllr Potheary then made and signed her declaration of office. She thanked Cllr Batstone for her hard work and dedication over the last 16 months. She also thanked her proposer and seconder and members of the Council for her election and would promote Dorset, and support Dorset businesses and communities as much as she could.

2. Election of Vice-Chairman

It was proposed by Cllr V Potheary and seconded by Cllr R Bryan that Cllr M Parkes be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Dorset Council for the period until the Annual Meeting of Council in May 2021.

It was proposed by Cllr N Ireland and seconded by Cllr A Brenton that Cllr H Legg be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Dorset Council for the period until the Annual Meeting of Council in May 2021.

Upon being put to the vote Cllr M Parkes was appointed Vice-Chairman of the Council.

Decision

That Cllr M Parkes be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Dorset Council for the period until the Annual Meeting of Council in May 2021.

Cllr M Parkes made and signed his declaration of office and thanked his proposer and seconder and Dorset Councillors for the confidence they had shown in appointing him.

3. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Tony Alford and Andy Canning.

4. Minutes

The minutes of the meetings held on 18 February and 11 June 2020 were confirmed. The Chairman would sign the minutes at the earliest opportunity.

5. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests were made at the meeting.

6. **Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman reported the recent death of Cllr A Thacker.

A pre-recorded message from Cllr T Alford was played in tribute to Cllr A Thacker and a minute's silence was held as a mark of respect.

7. **Election of Leader of Council**

It was proposed by Cllr P Wharf and seconded by Cllr A Parry that Cllr S Flower be elected Leader of the Council for 2020/2021.

There were no other nominations.

Decision

That Cllr S Flower be elected Leader of the Council for 2020/2021.

Cllr S Flower thanked Councillors for their support and looked forward to a constructive and productive year.

8. **Appointment of Deputy Leader of Council, Cabinet/Portfolio Holders and Lead members**

The Leader of the Council reported the appointment of the Deputy Leader, Portfolio Holders and Lead Members as follows:-

Spencer Flower	Leader/ Governance, Performance and Communication
Peter Wharf	Deputy Leader/Corporate Development and Change
Gary Suttle	Finance, Commercial and Capital Strategy
Ray Bryan	Highways, Travel and Environment
Tony Ferrari	Economic Growth, Assets and Property
David Walsh	Planning
Jill Haynes	Customer and Community Services
Andrew Parry	Children, Education, Skills and Early Help
Laura Miller	Adult Social Care and Health
Graham Carr-Jones	Housing and Community Safety
Byron Quayle	Lead Member for Education
Jane Somper	Lead Member for Safeguarding
Piers Brown	Lead Member for Health
Simon Gibson	Lead Member for Care
Noc Lacey-Clarke	Lead Member for Environment, Travel and Harbours
Cherry Brooks	Lead member for Highways

9. **Leader's Announcements**

The Leader reported that the next Leader's Bulletin would be available on 15 October 2020. He added that although the Covid-19 pandemic was a challenging time for the Council, it had provided opportunities to show how adaptable the Council had been for greater working with partners and communities.

10. **Public Participation - Questions and Statements**

Public questions, statements and the responses from Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder are set out in Appendix 1 attached to these minutes.

11. **Public participation - petitions and deputations**

There were no petitions or deputations.

12. **Questions from Councillors**

Cllr A Brenton asked questions of the Portfolio Holder for Children, Education, Skills and Early Help and Planning.

Cllr M Roe, Cllr N Ireland and Cllr B Ezzard asked questions of the Portfolio Holder for Customer and Community Services.

Cllr N Ireland asked questions of the Portfolio Holder for Planning.

Cllr R Legg asked questions of Portfolio Holder for Finance, Commercial and Capital Strategy and the Leader of the Council.

Cllr B Ezzard asked questions of the Portfolio Holder for Highways, Travel and Environment.

The questions and responses are attached to these minutes at Appendix 2.

13. **Appointments to Committees, Joint Committees and Appointment of Committee Chairmen and Vice-chairmen**

The Council considered a report on the appointment to Committees, Joint Committees and the election of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen for 2020/21.

The nominations to committees from the Political Group Leaders had been circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting. It was proposed by Cllr S Flower and seconded by Cllr P Wharf that the three recommendations be approved.

In respect of recommendation 3, it was proposed by Cllr N Ireland and seconded by Cllr K Wheller that this be amended to give delegated authority to the Harbour Committee members to appoint the Chairman and Vice-Chairman at their first meeting following the meeting of Annual Council..

This amendment was debated with various points raised. Some members thought the amendment went against the Council's constitution; that the Council had the statutory responsibility for Harbours and the appointments should sit with it; and the amendment would allow Council members to be overruled by the independent members on the Committee. Other members thought independent members of this Committee should have the opportunity

to appoint the Chairman and Vice-Chairman as they were an integral part of Committee.

Upon being put to the vote the amendment was lost.

Upon being put to the vote, the original proposal was agreed.

Decisions

(a) That the allocation of committee seats and the appointments to committees and joint committees, as nominated by the Political Group Leaders, be approved for 2020/21.

(b) That delegated authority be given to Political Group Leaders to make in-year changes to committee appointments.

(c) That the nominations for committee Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen for 2020-21 be approved.

14. Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel - Dorset Scheme of Members' Allowances

The Council considered a report by the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) on the Dorset Council Scheme of Members' Allowances.

The Leader reminded members that the original scheme had been approved by the Shadow Council in February 2019 and was to be reviewed after a year. Since then the outcomes of a governance review had been agreed by Council on 18 February 2020 and these arrangements were taken into account within the report. The costs of the increases in allowances were a reduction when compared to the costs of the previous councils' allowances schemes. The IRP were satisfied that the role of lead members involved additional work and responsibility similar to those of a chairman. The additional capacity they would provide would help bring about the transformation necessary to maintain a balanced budget. The new scheme would also enable people of all ages and social backgrounds to be involved in local democracy. He thanked the IRP for their evidence-based report. It was proposed by Cllr S Flower and seconded by Cllr P Wharf that Recommendation 1(i) be taken separately and Recommendations 1(ii) to (vi) en bloc.

Cll N Ireland proposed and it was seconded by Cllr N Lacey-Clarke that members' allowances remain unchanged at £13,000 per annum.

In the debate that followed some members were of the view that members' allowances should not be increased because of the financial difficulties and hardship faced by residents and the Council arising from the Covid-19 pandemic and that the increase was more than staff salary increases. Other members suggested that members could choose not to accept the additional allowance and give it to charity and highlighted the need to be able to attract a more diverse range of members.

On being put to the vote the amendment was carried.

Decision

That the basic allowance remain unchanged at £13,000 per annum.

Cllr C Sutton proposed and Cllr K Clayton seconded an amendment that Recommendations 1(ii) and (iii) be deleted.

During the debate a number of differing views were expressed. These included: that providing a special responsibility allowance (SRA) for this role was inconsistent with the above decision; that there were 76 other councillors who could provide support and who had experience and abilities which could be used at no cost; that the money would be better spend on supporting children and young families; and that this was insensitive when residents had been made redundant, were on furlough and facing unemployment and financial hardship.

Those in support of the SRA stated: it would enable younger people to take part in democracy; it would mean that members were paid and recognised for the work to be undertaken; it would compensate for any loss of income; members did not have to accept an SRA; the new roles would play a part in creating new ideas, strategies and policies and strengthen the member-led Council; and it would provide the means for younger members to be able to play a greater role in supporting Portfolio Holders.

Those voting in favour of Recommendations 1(ii) and (iii)

Cllrs R Adkins, J Andrews, P Batstone, R Biggs, C Brooks, P Brown, R Bryan, G Carr-Jones, R Cook, T Coombs, J Dunseith, M Dyer, T Ferrari, S Flower, L Fry, S Gibson, B Goringe, P Harrison, J Haynes, S Jespersen, C Jones, A Kerby, N Lacey-Clarke, C Lugg, R Knox, L Miller, L O'Leary, E Parker, M Parkes, A Parry, M Penfold, B Pipe, V Potheary, B Quayle, B Ridout, M Roberts, D Shortell, J Somper, G Suttle, W Trite, D Turner, D Walsh, P Wharf, K Wheller.

Those voting against:

Cllrs M Barron, P Barrow, D Bolwell, A Brenton, K Clayton, S Cocking, T Cook, D Gray, B Heatley, R Holloway, R Hope, N Ireland, S Jones, P Kimber, H Legg, R Legg, D Morgan, J Orrell, M Rennie, M Roe, A Starr, C Sutton, D Taylor, G Taylor, R Tarr, D Tooke, S Williams, J Worth.

Abstentions:

Cllrs S Bartlett, S Christopher, M Hall.

Decisions

1. A new special responsibility allowance be awarded for Lead Members;
2. the special responsibility allowance for Lead Members be set at £10,000 per annum;

Cllr S Flower proposed and Cllr P Wharf seconded that Recommendations 1(iv), (v) and (vi) be taken en bloc.

As the meeting had reached the three hour mark, it was proposed by Cllr S Flower and seconded by Cllr N Ireland to continue the meeting until no later than 10.00pm.

Decision

That the meeting continue until no later than 10.00pm.

On being put to the vote Recommendations 1(iv), (v) and (vi) were approved.

Decisions

1. special responsibility allowances be awarded to the chairs of the Scrutiny Committees of £10,000 per annum;
2. special responsibility allowances be awarded to the chairs of the Overview Committees of £10,000 per annum; and
- 3 the special responsibility allowance for school appeal members should be discontinued.

Reason for Decisions

To enable Full Council to consider recommendations on the scheme of allowances following a review undertaken by the Independent Remuneration Panel.

15. Fundamental Review of Outside Bodies

The Council considered a report on the Fundamental Review of Outside Bodies.

Cllr L Fry, Chairman of the Task and Finish Group who undertook the review, presented the Groups findings. It was proposed by Cllr L Fry and seconded by Cllr S Williams that the recommendations be approved.

The Group were thanked for the work undertaken in order to provide a sound basis for any future review. It was noted that some of the bodies included were no longer relevant and these would be addressed through any future review. The Group had been a good example of cross-party working.

Decisions

1. That the list of Outside Bodies appended to the report be approved subject to any in year amendments being made by the Democratic Services Team in consultation with the Chairman of the Panel, Cllr Les Fry, and Political Group Leaders.
2. That the Outside Body Task and Finish Group reviews the list of Outside Bodies in 2021 to take into account any changes and to review how well the revised list is operating.
3. That the Chairman of the Task and Finish Group works with officers to find an appropriate mechanism to enable members to upload updates on outside Bodies to the Dorset Council intranet pages.

16. **Amendments to the 2020-21 Calendar of Meetings**

The Leader explained that the calendar of meetings had been amended to reflect the new governance structure. It was proposed by Cllr S Flower and seconded by Cllr B Pipe that the recommendations be approved.

Decisions

1, That the amendments to the Calendar of Meetings for the period September 2020 to May 2021 be approved.

2. That authority be delegated to the Corporate Director - Legal and Democratic Services to make any necessary changes, in consultation with the relevant Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen, to ensure effective political management.

17. **Urgent items**

There were no urgent items.

18. **Exempt Business**

There was no exempt business.

19. **Public Participation - Public Questions and Responses**

Appendix 1

Question 1 – submitted by Tony Walter

GETTING TO ZERO CARBON: LOBBYING NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

On 15 July, Dorset Council published its long-awaited Draft Climate and Ecological Emergency (CEE) Strategy, now passed for public consultation by Place Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet. One of the most striking things about this strategy from a council controlled by the same party as the UK government is its highlighting of *national* policies and regulations, a *national* lack of direction and low *national* standards, hampering local authorities from moving to zero carbon, including several policies/regulations/standards introduced in the last decade (p.17). Reforming this national framework is essential if the UK is to achieve the government's de-carbonisation commitments.

The Strategy (pp.27,30,48,49,55) promises to lobby government on the national policies, regulations and standards that undermine its climate & ecological ambitions in 5 of the Strategy's 8 areas for action:

RENEWABLE ENERGY (P.26)

- Uncertainty at national level re strategy & direction
- National grid limits deployment of renewable energy at scale
- Current policy framework does not support the move to low carbon
- The planning system does not actively encourage renewable energy

BUILDINGS AND ASSETS (P.29)

- Lack of national strategy for heating
- Current & potential *Future Homes* standards for new builds not high enough to deliver national carbon-reduction targets
- Lack of legal requirement to retrofit buildings

THE ECONOMY (P.35)

- Low carbon & renewable energy economy growing only slowly & adversely affected by recent changes in legislation and incentives
- Government introduced Additional Business Rates Levy penalising businesses that install renewable energy on their premises
- Circular economy heavily influenced by national policy & regulation

WATER (P.41)

- Government limits councils' power to enforce water conservation in new developments

TRANSPORT (P.47)

- Lack of national direction and policy

Question: How does Dorset Council propose to lobby government effectively?

RESPONSE FROM THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR HIGHWAYS, TRAVEL AND ENVIRONMENT

Thank you very much for your question, this is a really important issue which has been highlighted in our Climate Emergency Action plan and Strategy. Many of the actions required in Dorset are heavily reliant on an effective national policy framework and support to achieve our aspirations.

We will therefore be lobbying government in a number of ways to include:-

1. Cllr Ray Bryan, the chair of our climate change EAP and portfolio holder is a member of the Westminster Policy Group on Climate Change called the Conservative Environment Network working with policy makers which includes 80 Parliamentarians.
2. Lobbying national government through Dorset Council's membership of the Local Government Association and attending LGA Seminars. Meeting with Ministers with responsibility for achieving carbon neutral by 2050
3. Direct lobbying through our local Members of Parliament and National Political contacts across the UK.
4. Lobbying ministers for funding to support our plans and strategy.

QUESTION 2 – SUBMITTED BY JOE BURLINGTON

Greta Thunberg(1) said “I’ve met many of the most powerful people in the world. And even among them, **pretty much everyone lacks even some of the most basic knowledge**” and, in *The Guardian*, Rebecca Willis (2) wrote “(One MP) said that **just a few of her 600 or so fellow parliamentarians took climate seriously** as an issue: ‘You might not get into double figures’.” The Council has acknowledged that there is ‘a climate emergency and an ecological crisis’ but its current policies will not deliver a sustainable future and it is clear that many politicians (and most voters) are unaware of dire threats to the future of our children. Question:

What actions will Councillors take to educate themselves and the public about these matters?

To this end, I am willing to support councillors in person or by Zoom (or similar). I am a former physics teacher. I have been studying these matters intensively for 16 years.

(1) *Summer with Greta* (Chapter 8) “(P)eople understand much less about the climate crisis than you’d think ... **the level of knowledge and awareness is close to nonexistent.**” July

2020 <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m000kwcc>

(2) Rebecca Willis: ‘In return for anonymity, MPs agreed to speak candidly with me about climate change. ... ‘ 21 May 2020

www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/may/21/i-dont-want-to-be-seen-as-azealot-what-mps-really-think-about-the-climate-crisis?utm_campaign=Carbon%20Brief%20Daily%20Briefing&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Revue%20newsletter

RESPONSE FROM THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR HIGHWAYS, TRAVEL AND ENVIRONMENT

Thank you very much for your question. We have identified awareness raising and behaviour change as essential to achieving the aims of our Climate Emergency Strategy.

We will be developing a comprehensive communications strategy for our approach to the climate and ecological emergency. This strategy will draw upon a variety of media and approaches to deliver key messages. This will include:-

RAISING AWARENESS - through a range of channels, upgrading our climate change website, developing an online information hub for sharing information, and best practice, and providing information to residents through Council literature.

We will improve the awareness, engagement, and knowledge of our staff and service providers through staff awareness campaigns, organising targeted briefings and training sessions for officers, members, and decision makers

and including information in staff induction training. We will also establish an internal climate change champion's programme.

SUPPORTING COMMUNITY ACTION

We will support & work closely with Town and Parish Councils and other organisations to signpost and communicate shared messages.

ENGAGEMENT WITH KEY STAKEHOLDERS

We will build support from stakeholders and the wider public by informing and educating on the benefits and opportunities of acting on climate change.

QUESTION 3 – SUBMITTED BY PROFESSOR PHILIP MARFLEET (ON BEHALF OF DORSET

Says – Low Pay, No Way - Convenor, Weymouth and Portland Action on Wages (WeyPAW), and Jenny Lennon-Wood - Secretary, Dorset Trades Union Council

REAL LIVING WAGE FOR EMPLOYEES OF DORSET COUNCIL

Question:

Dorset Council (DC) proposes increased payments to Council members and new paid roles for members of the majority party. Our Council appears to have ignored repeated recommendations to introduce the Real Living Wage for its employees and those working for its contractors. Dorset is a low-wage county: we need urgent action to address a crisis of poverty wages and declining social mobility. Why is DC directing funds to its senior members while thousands of Council workers and others struggle to make ends meet?

Statement:

Over a year ago, local organisations urged DC to tackle poverty incomes and declining social mobility:

- Declare its public commitment to meet legal requirements on the National Minimum Wage, Equal Pay for women, and terms and conditions of employment - and expect this of its contractors.
- Prepare to introduce the Real Living Wage (£9.30 an hour) and encourage others to follow suit.
- Take the lead in educating our young people about rights at work.

Our proposals were referred to the Executive Advisory Panel on Economic Growth, to which we gave a presentation in September 2019. Having heard nothing from the Panel, we raised questions at the Council's meeting in February

2020 and were informed that the issues would be considered during development of the Council's *Economic Growth Strategy (EGS)*. The Cabinet has apparently approved this Strategy without the benefit of democratic debate by Full Council. There are no proposals to introduce the Real Living Wage; meanwhile, senior Council members are to be appointed to new paid positions, increasing the annual cost of councillors' fees by over £100,000.

DC has undertaken a preliminary assessment of the implications of introducing the Real Living Wage - yet the EGS contains no evidence of practical measures to address the injustice of low pay. Almost a third of jobs in the Council's area pay less than the Real Living Wage: in Weymouth and Portland this rises to 48%, the second-worst record in the country (government figures).

Many of Dorset's low-paid jobs are in tourism and retail - among the sectors hardest hit by the COVID crisis. Termination of the government's Job Retention Scheme could have a devastating impact. HMRC recorded claims to furlough a third of all eligible jobs in Dorset by the end of July - around 51,600 potential redundancies. Dorset is likely to be one of the areas worst affected by the COVID crisis - its low wages making many families vulnerable.

Cornwall shares many economic problems with Dorset. Its Council introduced the Real Living Wage for all employees in 2015. Why can't DC do the same?

DC should abandon plans to increase payments to councillors. Instead, let's work together to make Dorset a Living Wage County.

RESPONSE FROM THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR CORPORATE DEVELOPMENT AND CHANGE

The Government sets the National Minimum Wage for employees up to the age of 24 and the National Living Wage for those who are 25 and older. The National Living Wages for 2020 is £8.72.

The majority of Dorset Council employees are on Green Book terms and conditions. The Green Book pay spine is subject to annual increases which are negotiated at a national level between the Local Government Association and trade unions. The lowest point on our current Green Book pay spine, effective from 1 April 2020 is £9.25.

The setting of Members Allowances is a different and separate matter. On our agenda this evening is the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel. The Council is required in law to establish a Panel and have regard to its recommendations.

20. Councillors' Questions and Responses

Appendix 2

QUESTION 1 – SUBMITTED BY CLLR ALEX BRENTON

A question for Cabinet member for Children's Services and Planning. 3.9.2020 The plans to build a new Children's Home at 45 Dorchester Road Weymouth is good news for the looked after children of Dorset.

I hope it is also good news for Dorset to prove it is fully committed to a Low Carbon future. The plans for 45 Dorchester Road we assume will include modern green building techniques. Such as using low carbon concrete, Ground source heat pump (GSHP) or air source heat pumps (GSHP) solar panels, rainwater storage and grey water usage system and all the other eco-friendly adaptations built in.

If we care about the future of our children Dorset Council should prove a leader in building for the future and be an example to the County developers that good modern design should last lifetimes.

Can the cabinet member confirm that low carbon building techniques will be used on all public buildings from now on?

RESPONSE FROM THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR PLANNING

Dorset Council's statutory responsibility as the Local Planning Authority is separate from any role it has as a developer and it is important to maintain a distinction. The Local Planning Authority must consider all applications as submitted and on their merits, including those by or on behalf of Dorset Council, having regard to the local plan and any other material considerations.

Response from Children, Education, Skills and Early Help

The detail design and specification will be undertaken in line with aspirations contained within the Council's, Climate Emergency strategy, subject to existing budget constraints. The new build part of the project will use 'modern methods of construction' (MMC) – in effect a modular build using advanced sustainable principles and off-site construction reducing embedded carbon. We do intend to use a 'heat pump' and 'photovoltaic panels – indeed incorporating as much 'sustainable technology' as we can achieve within the budget and the procurement process before the project goes to contract.

All reasonable steps will be taken to reduce the carbon impact of future public buildings, however, this will need to be supported by Council policies and resources as we drive our estate towards zero carbon. Our Climate Emergency Strategy sets out our intention to develop these new zero carbon policies over the next year for further consideration by Cabinet.

QUESTION 2 – SUBMITTED BY CLLR MARIA ROE

Tetra Pak is a food packaging used for dairy, beverages, soups, ice cream and other prepared food. One of the biggest benefits of Tetra Pak is that it is completely recyclable. Most Councils accept Tetra Pak with their kerbside collection. Aluminium foil and foil trays are also collected at the kerbside by 86% of councils according to Aluminium Insider (31/12/2015).

In Dorset this waste is either sent to landfill or people have to drive to a recycling centre or recycle bank to dispose of it which if you live in a village

can be some distance. Why can't Dorset Council include this waste in its kerbside collection?

Response from the Portfolio Holder for Customer & Community Services

Cartons are comprised of layers of different materials bonded together (plastic, card and in some cases foil). The process of separating the materials requires a specially designed process so they cannot be reprocessed with other paper and card. Foil is another material which required special sorting.

The council's contracted materials recycling facility is unable to separate cartons and foil from other materials for recycling, though technologies in sorting facilities are being developed.

Meanwhile the council maintains banks for cartons and foil in car parks and at the network of Household Recycling Centres.

QUESTION 3 – SUBMITTED BY CLLR NICK IRELAND

Back on the 1st October 2019, I asked a question of Cabinet concerning the drastic reduction of service levels relating to bin collections and particularly recycling collections experienced by my constituents in the Crossways Ward and also in neighbouring areas. This stemmed from a shortage of serviceable vehicles combined with a chronic lack of qualified drivers.

Cllr Alford responded that "There have been a number of vehicle breakdowns and issues with driver recruitment ... Upon investigation, we have concluded that Dorset Council currently pays the DWP's LGV drivers less than neighbouring authorities and comparable companies. Therefore, we are reviewing Dorset Council's pay rates for DWP drivers. Officers are working closely with HR colleagues to explore all options on pay and grading, including the option of a market supplement being applied to DWP driver posts."

I have followed this up numerous times since and the service hasn't improved; if anything it has got worse and I'm hearing the same from fellow members whose wards are served by the Wareham Depot.

I see no evidence that the vehicle situation has been resolved and have yet to be informed that we are now competitive in our offer to LGV drivers.

Seemingly nothing has been achieved since the issue was raised; why hasn't this been sorted and who's taking responsibility to ensure it is?

RESPONSE FROM THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR CUSTOMER & COMMUNITY SERVICES

The review of the drivers pay across Dorset Council waste services has now been completed and local market increments have been applied to all driver roles, so drivers are now being actively recruited. Now that the depot refurbishment has been completed at Wareham, in the short term an additional vehicle has been hired to assist. Mike Moon Head of Waste Operations will continue to work closely with the Area Operations Manager and the Service Manager for Fleet in this area.

QUESTION 4 FROM CLLR NICK IRELAND

The proposed development of Dorset County Hospital is extremely important not just to those patients local to Dorchester but also to patients further afield who choose our local hospital to meet their health needs. With the likely merger of the Poole and Royal Bournemouth & Christchurch Trusts, combined with the changes proposed under the Clinical Services Review, we are seeing a migration of services away from Poole to the more distant Bournemouth campus and a likely increase in the demands on DCH as the treatment centre of choice.

The planning application was submitted back in October 2019 and has since been deferred three times from the Northern Area Planning Committee by Dorset Council.

The £65m funding allocated for these improvements has to be applied for and there is a real danger that further delays in considering the planning application could impact upon the central government set deadline of December for the submission of the business case and the subsequent loss of some or potentially all of the funding.

Can the portfolio holder explain in detail the reasons for the delays in considering DCH's planning application and give assurance that it will be considered before the December deadline?

RESPONSE FROM THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR PLANNING

This is a current application and so the following response is given without prejudice to any decision which the Local Planning Authority may make.

Officers are aware of the masterplan for DCH and the hospital's position on the importance of the current application. There have been ongoing negotiations between applicant and the planning authority to resolve matters outstanding between the parties which the applicant was made aware of in pre-application advice, and the case officer has been liaising closely with the applicant over timescales. Most recently, the application was intended for presentation to the Northern Area Committee at its scheduled meeting of 18th August, a meeting that was subsequently cancelled.

The officer's report is being finalised and the application will be considered at the next available committee meeting, which is scheduled to take place on 15th September.

QUESTION 5 FROM CLLR ROBIN LEGG

It looks inevitable that a sum of nearly £21.8M will need to be returned to the Treasury as the unallocated portion of funding made available by Government for

Small Business Grants and Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grants during the Covid Crisis. Whilst acknowledging the efforts made by many authorities and MPs to get 5% of the original funds useable on a discretionary and more flexible basis it is now clear that 5% was not enough. What work is this authority presently doing to engage with Dorset's Members of Parliament so that they can lobby on our behalf for a large part of that £21.8M to be used where it is desperately needed to support local business?

RESPONSE FROM THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR FINANCE, COMMERCIAL AND CAPITAL STRATEGY

My thanks to Cllr Legg for the question.

The sum in question is based on the receipt from govt of £134m however dorset council calculated that in fact we had a requirement for £120m as yet govt has not quantified why the additional money was sent over. As yet govt have not given us the method to calculate the final position. I would also like to stress that this is a national scheme and whilst we have been in a positive position there are councils that have found themselves in a negative position, it may be that the final reckoning allows any surplus in one area to fund the shortfall in others. It was always going to be the case that an underspend would occur as some larger organisations, restricted by state aid rules, tend to claim in the areas where their head offices are based.

Thanks to council leaders and MP's and national lobbying a discretionary grant scheme was allowed and calculated as 5% of the actual total grant funding for the area, therefore the 5% was as a calculation of the £120m and not the £134m in our case it amounted to just in excess of £6m.

The council has provided numerous reminders via a variety of means to those who did not claim the original small business grant or the retail hospitality and leisure grant, but we are not in a position of forcing people to accept the money and there are those who decided not to take up the funding and we must respect their views.

Cllr Legg makes a statement that additional funding is required due to a desperate need by local business and if that is the case we need to see the evidence that will assist us to lobby for additional support. During the early days of covid and the grant system, I was dealing with up to 45 phone calls a day and numerous emails from those who were as he describes desperate to obtain funding. In the last month or so this has dwindled to the odd email and call, certainly no more than 1 or 2 a week and I am able to direct them to suitable assistance where possible.

Any new scheme or assistance will need to be a national scheme as I am sure you are aware the cost of covid to Dorset has left us unable to consider any scheme that would give further stress on the budget other than that funded by central govt.

May I ask Cllr Legg to let me have the evidence that he has and i give him my assurance that I will follow it up.

QUESTION 6 FROM CLLR ROBIN LEGG

The appendix to the Independent Remuneration Panel report sets out a long list of things which the six new Lead Members might be called upon to do in support of Cabinet colleagues. At the present time, with so many suffering financial hardship as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic, there is an even greater need to justify these posts and their associated costs. What therefore will be done to monitor the performance of those appointed so that at the end of twelve months a clear, transparent and public account is given of their work in relation to each of those elements in the appendix?

RESPONSE FROM THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

At Full Council on the 18 February members voted in favour of the recommendation from the Cross-Party Task and Finish Group to support the Governance Review, which included the appointment of up to six Lead Members by the Leader of Council. So, the principle and purpose of Lead Members has the broad support of Members.

As previously mentioned at the Members Briefing on the proposed Governance Review at the end of January; the involvement of Lead Members is well proven and exists in many councils across the country, who operation an executive governance [Cabinet] arrangement. Can I refer you to the Constitution which sets out the detail the role of a Lead Member.

Later on the agenda I will announce who the Lead Members are and importantly their individual roles in support of some of the portfolio holders.

Also, on the agenda members will be asked to support the Independent Remuneration Panel recommendation, which included a Special Responsibility Allowance for Lead Members. The role of a Lead Member will be time consuming and like any role with additional responsibilities will be scrutinised on a routine basis to ensure the performance of the council does not undermine the delivery of the Council Plan or the Annual Revenue and Capital Budgets.

The Council does face massive challenges for the remainder of the term. Having the additional member capacity, in support of the Cabinet will be vital if we are to bring about the transformation necessary to maintain balanced budgets without the loss of services and to achieve the maximum benefits from unitary local government.

The importance of transparency in the way we as members carry out the business of this council cannot be overstated. However, this will of course apply to all aspects of the council rather than just one centring on Lead Members in particular, as has been suggested by Cllr Legg.

QUESTION 7 FROM CLLR BERYL EZZARD

Issues with Dorset Waste Partnership Recyclates Collections. On behalf of my ward community, I wish to complain of the woeful lack of service, over a 6-week period (3 collections), when no collections were made, during the hottest spell of the summer. Having been in close contact with the Wareham Depot and defended the DWP Service many times stating to folk of the exemplary service that DWP staff have done throughout the Covid-19 lockdown, I was being told in July/August of Staff absences; sickness and holidays, plus truck breakdowns, in circumstances with no spare capacity or backup plan!. Why? It is painfully obvious that the DWP Service is lacking in maintenance and adequately trained staff; with common knowledge that we lose HGV Drivers to neighbouring Councils as the Wages are better than DC's. This is and will cause continuing problems with keeping staff and particularly HGV Drivers? When, I ask, will this be addressed?

Also, when we encourage our communities to access the DC website, local folk find it unhelpful, not updated or gives inaccurate information, causing more issues. Usually then calling the local Members with complaint after complaint. Can we have an update on this too please?

RESPONSE FROM THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR CUSTOMER & COMMUNITY SERVICES

The review of the drivers pay across Dorset Council's waste services has now been completed and local market increments have been applied to all driver roles. There are currently two driver roles actively being recruited to in the Wareham depot to fill vacant posts, along with other driver roles across all depots. Now that the depot refurbishment has been completed, and the application to increase the numbers of LGV vehicles located at the Wareham depot being accepted, an additional hire vehicle has been located there to assist.

The waste pages on the Council's website are regularly reviewed and updated where necessary. Recent improvements to the online missed bin reporting form now provides residents with details of service disruptions that have affected their collections, along with details on when we will return to rectify the problem. In addition, Dorset Council's waste services are currently investing in in-cab technology that will allow for live collection information to be shared with residents though our online forms in the near future. For those residents who do not have access to the internet, particularly the elderly, there is always assistance on the Dorsetforyou helpline where operators will be able to access all the website information, report missed bins, and provide details of service disruptions.

QUESTION 8 FROM CLLR BERYL EZZARD

Electricity Charging Points for Vehicles. Where and when is DC going to show the way by putting in Electric Charging Points on Car Parks? I know there has been some work done in encouraging buying electric vehicles, but we have to follow-on to make it easy for folk to re-charge their vehicles, within the Dorset Council area; there are very few at the present time.

When will DC be lobbying the Motor Manufacturers & Government? We need to bring them together to enable a universal charging system as now, most makes of vehicles have their own charging machines. This does make it difficult to decide if it is viable to choose a system that may go out of date within a few years! However, we must not be daunted by the fact that if we don't, we will be unable to achieve our Carbon Footprint and air pollution reduction significantly.

We are all conscious of our Climate Change & Ecological Emergency commitment, we need some action now! When, where and how many are Dorset Council prepared to install Electric Charging Points in the next year? Please give it this some resource, as we need to demonstrate we have an action plan for the community to change to cleaner and greener electric vehicles.

I and other Members would willingly give up our £500.00 (5% increase in our allowance) to achieve this in the next year.

RESPONSE FROM THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR HIGHWAYS, TRAVEL AND ENVIRONMENT

I'd like to reassure all members that I share Cllr Ezzard's sense of urgency on this matter and have been working closely with officers to ensure that we are able to meet national and local expectations about electric vehicle charge point provision as soon as we can. We intend to place an order with a private sector company called JoJu very shortly to install 53 fast charge point sockets in 23 new car parks (including in Wareham*) and replace the 5 rapid chargers we already have, which have regrettably not been as reliable as we'd have liked in recent years. I've recently signed an Executive Decision Notice to that effect. We plan to start installing them this autumn – I'd like to be more specific, but the final details are still being worked out. The good news is that this company is willing to invest in Dorset, and is installing the charge points at no cost to the Council.

With regard to ensuring that systems are universal, Cllr Ezzard is right to raise that point. There are two things that we are doing. Firstly, we have partnered with a number of local authorities in the Central Southern Framework which covers most of the South of England with a single charging network. All of our new charge points I mentioned will have the most commonly used connection types. Secondly we are working with partners in the Subnational Transport Body to make this point to Government. It's not a problem that is unique to Dorset but one we take very seriously, and I'm sure you appreciate that there

is only so much we can do at a local level, hence the need to work closely with other local authorities on this matter.

*Rempstone Centre car park, Church Street, Wareham, BH20 4NX

Duration of meeting: 6.30 - 9.42 pm

Chairman

.....

Recommendation to Full Council

From Cabinet – 30 June 2020

Community Safety Plan 2020-2023

For Decision

Portfolio Holder: Cllr G Carr-Jones, Housing and Community Safety

Local Councillor(s): All Councillors

Executive Director: Vivienne Broadhurst, Acting Executive Director
People - Adults

Report Status: Public

Recommendation:

That the Community Safety Plan 2020-23 be recommended to Dorset Council for adoption.

Reason for Recommendation:

To ensure Dorset Council meets its duties as set out in relevant legislation.

Appendices

Report to Cabinet of 30 June 2020 and Community Safety Plan 2020-2023

Background Papers

Community Safety Plan 2020-2023 – Report to Place Scrutiny Committee, 30 January 2020 – available [HERE](#)

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Cabinet - 30 June 2020 Full Council - 3 September 2020

Community Safety Plan 2020-2023

For Recommendation to Council

Portfolio Holder: Cllr G Carr-Jones, Housing and Community Safety

Local Councillor(s): All Councillors

Executive Director: Vivienne Broadhurst, Acting Executive Director
People - Adults

Report Author: Andy Frost

Title: Service Manager for Community Safety (Strategic Lead)

Tel: 01305 224331

Email: andy.frost@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Report Status: Public

Recommendation:

That the Community Safety Plan 2020-23 be recommended to Dorset Council for adoption.

Reason for Recommendation:

To ensure Dorset Council meets its duties as set out in relevant legislation.

1. Executive Summary

Dorset Council is under a legal duty to work with the following partners (responsible authorities) to identify and tackle community safety issues in its area:

- Dorset Police
- Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group
- Dorset & Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Authority
- National Probation Service (Dorset)
- Dorset, Devon and Cornwall Probation Services

Partners come together through the Dorset Community Safety Partnership (CSP). The CSP must produce three-year community safety plans that are revised annually. The plans should set out partners' priorities (informed by their latest Partnership Strategic Assessment (PSA)) and how they will address them in broad terms.

The Dorset CSP agreed its latest three-year plan at its meeting on 9 March 2020 (appended). The Plan was developed using an analysis of local data and statistics and findings from public consultation.

The Council's Place Scrutiny Committee (which is the Council's formal Crime & Disorder Scrutiny Committee) considered the process by which the CSP would develop the 2020-2023 plan at its meeting on 30 January 2020.

It is a legal requirement for the Community Safety Plan to be adopted by Dorset Council.

2. Financial Implications

The Dorset CSP does not receive funding, however partners' plans and strategies clarify where they will focus their time and effort and their broad activity to meet priorities.

From time to time, central government makes available one off funding opportunities to support community safety work such as tackling domestic abuse. When possible, partners apply for such funds.

3. Climate implications

It is not anticipated that partners' work to tackle community safety, including through the Community Safety Plan, will have an adverse effect on the environment or climate change.

4. Other Implications

The CSP works closely with other partnership bodies on areas of mutual interest, including safeguarding boards and partnerships. This work includes having joint approaches to learning lessons and good practice in relation to Serious Case Reviews and Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs).

5. Risk Assessment

Having considered the risks associated with this decision, the level of risk has been identified as:

Current Risk: Low

Residual Risk: Low

6. Equalities Impact Assessment

An Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) was completed whilst drafting the plan. The EqIA highlighted a positive impact on several protected characteristics.

The EqIA is available on the Council's website [HERE](#)

7. Appendices

Appendix – Community Safety Plan 2020-2023

8. Background Papers

Community Safety Plan 2020-2023 – Report to Place Scrutiny Committee, 30 January 2020 – available [HERE](#)

9. Background

- 9.1 Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) are required to produce three-year Community Safety Plans that are revised annually. The Dorset CSP agreed its 2020-2023 Plan at its meeting on 9 March 2020.
- 9.2 The Plan had been developed by analysing information and data and was informed by the findings of public consultation. Members of the Council's Place Scrutiny Committee considered the process by which the CSP would develop the Plan at their meeting on 30 January 2020.
- 9.3 The Plan sets out the priority community safety issues for the area and how, in broad terms, the Council and its partners will address them.
- 9.4 It is a legal requirement for the plan to be formally adopted by Dorset Council.

10. Partnership Work

- 10.1 CSPs were first established over twenty years ago and during this period partners have developed strong working relationships. Community Safety Plans set the framework for their activity.

10.2 Some examples of partners' work driven by previous community safety plans include:

- Developing partners' collective response to tackling domestic abuse including how different services can work better together to support victims, developing pathways for support services, improving multi-agency approaches to supporting high risk victims and running numerous awareness raising campaigns.
- Conducting reviews into homicides relating to domestic abuse and ensuring the learning from these is used to improve practice and reduce risk and harm.
- Working together to tackle County Lines (where gangs and organised criminals transport illegal drugs across Police and local authority boundaries) including identifying and supporting young and vulnerable people who may be exploited as part of the process.
- Running various initiatives to tackle rural crime, an issue that is important to many residents in the Dorset Council area.
- Tackling neighbourhood issues including anti-social behaviour through locality based multi-agency Partnership Coordinating Groups.

11. Developing the 2020-23 Community Safety Plan

Partnership Strategic Assessment (PSA)

- 11.1 CSPs are required to complete an annual PSA. The assessment uses a range of data and information to consider community safety issues and provide suggestions for priority work areas for inclusion in partners' community safety plan.
- 11.2 The purpose of the PSA is to provide an objective evidence base for partners to work from. In Dorset, a scoring tool called 'MoRiLE' (Management of Risk in Law Enforcement) is used to inform and guide the annual PSA.
- 11.3 MoRiLE is a national project that was created in 2014 to develop an approach to risk prioritisation that could be used by law enforcement agencies in a structured and consistent way. Many CSPs now use MoRiLE in the production of their PSAs.
- 11.4 MoRiLE uses a matrix of statistics, trends, impacts and forecasts to score issues and organise them in order of priority.
- 11.5 The latest PSA was agreed by the Dorset CSP at its meeting on 9 March 2020. The findings of the PSA have informed the Community Safety Plan 2020-2023.

Consultation and Engagement

- 11.6 Community safety plans should be informed by members of the public's views on community safety issues.
- 11.7 As part of the development of the new Plan, questions relating to how safe people felt in their neighbourhood were included in the Council's last residents survey and more detailed questions were sent to members of the Dorset People Panel.
- 11.8 The findings were used to determine the priorities in the Community Safety Plan. The priorities were then made available for public comment on the Council's website prior to the Plan being agreed by the CSP.

12. Community Safety Plan 2020-2023

- 12.1 The new Community Safety Plan includes the following priorities:
- Domestic Abuse
 - Serious Sexual Offences
 - Rural Crime
 - Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking
 - County Lines
 - Fraud
 - Public Place Violence
 - Anti-Social Behaviour
- 12.2 Partners will also monitor and address Hate Crime including in the wider context of community cohesion.
- 12.3 Reducing re-offending remains a cross cutting area of work for partners and they have a separate strategy to address this issue. There is also a separate Alcohol & Drugs Strategy that covers the pan-Dorset area.
- 12.4 The new Community Plan sets out in broad terms how partners will address priorities. More detailed delivery plans are being developed to complement the Plan.
- 12.5 The Dorset CSP will consider progress against the plan and deal with any performance management issues at its quarterly meetings. The CSP must also provide annual reports on progress to the Council's Crime & Disorder Committee.

12.6 The Plan will be refreshed annually based on the findings of the latest PSA.

13. Partnership Work on Domestic Abuse During the Covid 19 Pandemic

13.1 At the start of the lockdown period, partners began holding weekly community safety teleconferences to develop their understanding of issues (for example community tensions such as neighbour disputes and noise complaints, domestic abuse, rural crime issues etc.) and ensure a coordinated response to them. The meetings continue but are now held fortnightly.

13.2 Tackling domestic abuse is one of the key priorities in the new Community Safety Plan and has been a key focus for partners during the lock down period.

13.3 At the start of lockdown, partners in Dorset did not see an increase in domestic abuse issues. As lockdown progressed, there were increasing reports of lower risk issues such as arguments, family tensions and disputes. In more recent weeks, partners have reported increases in domestic abuse and general enquiries to local domestic abuse helplines have increased.

13.4 Partners' work to respond to domestic abuse issues during the pandemic includes:

- Support services for victims of domestic abuse have continued to operate although some have needed to be delivered differently due to government restrictions.
- Services have been able to manage demand including for outreach support and refuge provision though the more recent increase in general enquiries to helplines has created some pressures.
- Council officers have been in daily contact with front line services to understand issues and help develop solutions to problems. These include making sure there is adequate refuge provision.
- Partners have run a public communications campaign since the start of lockdown to raise awareness of domestic abuse issues and make sure people know about the support services available to help. Communication messages have been assessed weekly and adapted to address any emerging issues or trends. Posters have been placed in key locations including GP surgeries and pharmacies.

- A communications campaign has also been run to raise awareness of healthy relationships and support services to help address tensions before they escalate into more serious issues.

13.5 Partners continue to meet regularly to respond to issues and plan for any further increases in domestic abuse following the easing of lockdown measures.

Footnote:

Issues relating to financial, legal, environmental, economic and equalities implications have been considered and any information relevant to the decision is included within the report.

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Community Safety Plan 2020-2023

Dorset Community Safety Partnership



Introduction

The Dorset Community Safety Partnership (CSP) aims to:

- Reduce crime and the fear of crime;
- Address risk, threat and harm to victims and local communities; and
- Facilitate the strengthening of Dorset's communities in the delivery of local initiatives.

Find out more about the CSP here: [Dorset Community Safety Partnership](#)

CSPs are required to have three-year Community Safety Plans that are refreshed annually. This latest Plan sets out partners' current priorities based on the most recent assessment of community safety issues.

The Community Safety Plan should be read in conjunction with partners' annual work plans which can be found here: [Annual Work Plans](#)

Crime in the Dorset Community Safety Partnership Area

Total crime in the Dorset Community Safety Partnership area is a lot lower than the average rate across the UK. Although total recorded crime has risen in recent years, this is largely due to improved crime recording practices and changes to Home Office recording standards. These help to provide a better picture of crime levels and issues.

Crime levels are usually higher across the summer months and crime rates vary according to location.

Detailed information can be found here: [Dorset Statistics Crime Statistics](#)

Consultation and Engagement

Partners use the findings of consultation and engagement exercises to help inform their understanding and work to tackle community safety issues.

Dorset Council undertakes a residents survey every year. The survey includes questions on how safe residents feel in their local area. The latest survey was completed in the autumn 2019. 2,635 surveys were completed. The results showed that:

- 93% of respondents felt either very safe or fairly safe when outside in their local area during the day
- 77% of respondents felt either very safe or fairly safe when outside in their local area after dark

In January 2020, a series of questions were given to members of Dorset Council's People Panel. 155 responses were received. They showed that:

- The vast majority of respondents felt that crime where they lived did not have a significant impact on their daily life (approx. 89% of respondents said that either 'crime isn't an issue where I live and doesn't affect my daily life' or 'there are some issues but they don't have much impact on my daily life'. None of the respondents felt that crime was a big issue where they lived and had a serious impact on their daily life).
- In relation to anti-social behaviour, 32% of respondents felt anti-social behaviour wasn't an issue where they lived and didn't affect their daily life. 48% of respondents felt there were some issues where they lived but they didn't have much impact on their daily life.
- 8% of respondents had been a victim of crime in the last 12 months.
- The issues that respondents were most concerned about were rural crime and anti-social behaviour.

The National Rural Crime Survey is organised by the National Rural Crime Network which was formed in 2014 to bring greater recognition and understanding of impact and problems of crime in rural areas. The Network brings together 30 Police and Crime Commissioners from across the country along with a number of other interested bodies.

Although the National Rural Crime Survey is not specific to Dorset, it includes 654 responses from the Dorset Police Force area and aims to reflect the views of rural communities. The 2018 National Rural Crime Survey can be found here: [National Rural Crime Survey 2018](#)

The findings include:

- That the perception of policing in rural communities is poor, and much worse than in urban areas
- Some of the most common concerns are not solely policing matters, like flytipping and speeding – too many partners, like local authorities, are less able to respond to the needs of rural communities
- Crime is not just an inconvenience - crime, and the fear of crime, is leading to emotional strain and a loss of confidence within rural communities, particularly among young people, families and farmers
- Communities believe crime in rural areas is a big problem – and is getting worse
- Many crimes in rural communities go unreported – especially by business owners, because they don't feel the offence will be taken seriously or anything will be done
- Residents and businesses in rural communities believe they are being specifically targeted – and, on balance, most believe the crime is organised
- Farmers and agricultural businesses are facing huge challenges – and they don't feel there is enough being done to support them
- The financial impact of crime is substantial – for residents and, particularly, for businesses who are the lifeblood of the rural economy
- Rural victims feel angry and annoyed that they are not taken seriously by those in positions of power – and the extent of crime is making communities feel vulnerable
- Ultimately, rural communities are not understood and services do not match need – if nothing is done there is a risk of a wholesale loss of trust in rural policing

Members of the public were encouraged to provide feedback on priorities for inclusion in this plan via the Dorset Council website. There was overwhelming support for the priorities with several respondents emphasising the importance of preventative work.

Findings from further consultation exercises undertaken over the course of the year, including with the People Panel for Dorset Council, will be used to inform future revisions of this plan.

Community Safety Priorities

Partners carry out an annual Partnership Strategic Assessment (PSA) using evidence from a variety of sources to assess crime and disorder issues in the area. The assessment is used to set and review partners' priorities. When setting and reviewing priorities consideration is also given to the local Policing objectives in the area. Priorities are reviewed regularly.

The following priorities have been agreed by partners for 2020/21:

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| • Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking | • Rural Crime |
| • County Lines | • Fraud |
| • Serious Sexual Offences | • Public Place Violence |
| • Domestic Abuse | • Anti-Social Behaviour |

Partners have also agreed to monitor and address Hate Crime including in the wider context of community cohesion.

Reducing re-offending remains a cross cutting area of work for partners and they have a separate strategy to address this issue. There is also a separate Alcohol & Drugs Strategy that covers the pan-Dorset area.

A summary of the type of activity partners will take to address priorities is provided below. Full details are included in partners' annual work plans.

Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking

Summary of Activity:

- Develop our understanding of modern slavery in Dorset and raise awareness of the issues.
- Ensure there are effective processes in place to identify and support victims and people vulnerable to modern slavery.
- Work together to stop perpetrators of modern slavery.

County Lines

Summary of Activity:

- Use work already completed to raise awareness of issues, focusing on specific groups and organisations that may come into contact with those vulnerable to County Lines exploitation.
- Further develop our knowledge and understanding of County Lines issues locally including areas that are vulnerable to County Lines activity.
- Ensure support is available for victims and people vulnerable to County Lines exploitation.

Serious Sexual Offences

Summary of Activity:

- Undertake training and awareness raising focusing on those most vulnerable.
- By working with partners including the Children's Safeguarding Partnership, ensure children and young people have access to education on healthy relationships.
- Work with male and female victims to ensure we have the right services in place.
- Ensure support is available for historical victims of sexual violence.
- Work with partners, including those in the criminal justice system, to ensure offenders are brought to justice.
- Explore opportunities to reduce offending and reoffending by perpetrators.

Domestic Abuse**Summary of Activity:**

- Develop initiatives that focus on prevention, early help and education.
- Develop interventions for perpetrators to reduce offending and prevent risk and harm.
- Further develop the whole systems approach to domestic abuse to ensure services are working together effectively.
- Continue to develop partners' response for high risk victims including implementing learning from the High Risk Domestic Abuse (HRDA) pilot.
- Respond to any legislative requirements emerging from the Domestic Abuse Bill.
- Implement learning from Domestic Homicide Reviews.

Rural Crime**Summary of Activity:**

- Communicate and engage with rural communities, building on the work already undertaken.
- Increase awareness of the need to report rural crimes.
- Further develop intelligence gathering to enhance understanding of rural crime issues.

Fraud**Summary of Activity:**

- Raise awareness of fraud and cyber-crime issues focusing on those most vulnerable and / or at risk.
- Develop initiatives that aim to prevent fraud from happening.
- Work with businesses to understand and help address the issues they are facing.

Public Place Violence**Summary of Activity:**

- Develop our understanding of public place violence issues including working with Public Health and using intelligence from the Cardiff Model project.
- Respond to any requirements emerging from the government's Serious Violence Strategy and any related legislation.
- Partnership Coordinating Groups to develop specific actions and initiatives in response to local public place violence issues.

Anti-Social Behaviour**Summary of Activity:**

- Undertake work to respond to offenders who will not engage with services.
- Develop initiatives that respond to people with lower level support needs who don't meet thresholds for statutory services.
- Partnership Coordinating Groups to develop specific actions and initiatives in response to local anti-social behaviour issues.

Performance Management

Partners use performance information and data coupled with an assessment of progress against their agreed actions at each meeting, to determine whether they are delivering against their priorities.

Partners' intend to gather a wide range of information and data to complement Police statistics and develop a comprehensive understanding of community safety issues.

Governance

The Dorset CSP is the statutory Community Safety Partnership for the local area. It brings together senior officers and elected members from:

- Dorset Police
- Dorset Council
- Dorset & Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Authority
- National Probation Service
- Dorset, Devon and Cornwall Probation
- Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group

Many other partners such as Public Health Dorset, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, the Dorset & Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service and the Dorset Combined Youth Offending Service also contribute to the work of the CSP.

At a local level, there are Partnership Co-ordinating Groups (PCGs) that come together to identify solutions to local issues. The PCGs feed into the Dorset CSP.

Recommendation to Full Council

From Cabinet – 28 July 2020

Approval of Youth Justice Plan 2020-21

For Decision

Portfolio Holder: Cllr A Parry, Children, Education, Skills and Early Help

Local Councillor(s): All Councillors

Executive Director: Theresa Leavy, Executive Director for Education and Early Help

Report Status: Public

Recommendation:

That the Youth Justice Plan be approved.

Reason for Recommendation:

Local authorities are required to publish an annual Youth Justice Plan, setting out how the statutory requirements for a multi-agency youth offending team are fulfilled locally. Dorset Combined Youth Offending Service is a partnership between Dorset Council and Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council, along with Dorset Police, NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group and the National Probation Service Dorset. Approval for the Youth Justice Plan is also being sought from Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council. The Youth Justice Plan needs to be approved by the full Council.

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Report to Cabinet of 28 July 2020

Appendix 2 – Youth Justice Plan 2020/21

Background Papers

[Minutes of Cabinet - 28 July 2020](#)

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Cabinet

28 July 2020

Approval of Youth Justice Plan 2020-21

For Recommendation to Council

Portfolio Holder: Cllr A Parry, Children, Education and Early Help

Local Councillor(s): All

Executive Director: Theresa Leavy, executive Director for Education and Early Help

Report Author: David Webb
Title: Manager, Dorset Combined Youth Offending Service
Tel: 0300 123 3339
Email: david.webb@bcpcouncil.gov.uk

Report Status: Public

Recommendation:

For the Cabinet to recommend approval of the Youth Justice Plan to Full Council

Reason for Recommendation:

Local authorities are required to publish an annual Youth Justice Plan, setting out how the statutory requirements for a multi-agency youth offending team are fulfilled locally. Dorset Combined Youth Offending Service is a partnership between Dorset Council and Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council, along with Dorset Police, NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group and the National Probation Service Dorset. Approval for the Youth Justice Plan is also being sought from Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council. The Youth Justice Plan needs to be approved by the full Council.

1. Executive Summary

Under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 there is a statutory requirement to publish an annual Youth Justice Plan which must provide specified information about the local provision of youth justice services. The Youth Justice Board provides guidance about what must be included in the plan and recommends a structure for the plan. The draft Youth Justice Plan for the Dorset Combined Youth Offending Service is attached at Appendix One. A brief summary of the Youth Justice Plan is provided in this report.

2. Financial Implications

The Youth Justice Plan reports on the resourcing of the Youth Offending Service. Local authority and other partner budget contributions remained static from 2014/15 to 2018/19. In 2019/20 a cost of living increase to local authority contributions was applied, along with a redistribution of the funding proportions to reflect Local Government Reorganisation. There was no cost of living increase in the local authority contributions for 2020/21. The annual Youth Justice Grant has reduced from £790,000 in 2014/15 to £600,482 in 2020/21.

The creation of the pan-Dorset Youth Offending Service in 2015 increased the service's resilience and ability to adapt to reduced funding and increased costs. The management of vacancies, and the deletion of some posts, has enabled a balanced budget to be achieved. It is recognised that the local authority is now facing additional financial pressures which may affect funding available for the Youth Offending Service.

3. Climate implications

No adverse environmental impact has been identified. The Youth Justice Plan notes that the Covid-19 lockdown has led to changes in the working arrangements of the Youth Offending Service. These changes include significant reductions in staff travel, both to and from work and to visit service users, with more activities being carried out remotely.

4. Other Implications

Young people in contact with youth justice services are known to be more likely than other young people to have unmet or unidentified health needs. The Youth Offending Service includes seconded health workers who work directly with young people and who facilitate their engagement with community health services.

The Youth Justice Plan sets out the measures being taken to prevent and reduce offending and anti-social behaviour by young people. The Youth Offending

Service contributes actively to the work of the Community Safety Partnership. The Youth Offending Service Manager chairs the pan-Dorset Reducing Reoffending Strategy Group which reports to the Dorset Criminal Justice Board and to the Community Safety Partnership.

Children who are in contact with the Youth Offending Service often experience risks to their safety and well-being, including risks at home, risks in the community such as child exploitation and detriment to their education prospects. The Youth Justice Plan refers to the work of the Youth Offending Service to safeguard children, working in conjunction with other local services in the Dorset Council area. The Youth Offending Service is working closely with colleagues in other Dorset Children's Services in order to align with the new services and structures.

5. Risk Assessment

Having considered the risks associated with this decision, the level of risk has been identified as:

Current Risk: Low

Residual Risk: Low

6. Equalities Impact Assessment

The Youth Justice Plan does not relate to a new strategy, policy or function so an Equalities Impact Assessment has not been undertaken. Some information about equalities issues is included in the report. No adverse equalities impacts have been identified.

It is recognised nationally that young people from minority ethnic groups, and young people in the care of the local authority, are over-represented in the youth justice system and in the youth custodial population. It is also recognised that young people known to the YOS may experience learning difficulties or disabilities, including in respect of speech, language and communication needs. Information from Dorset Combined Youth Offending Service records, summarised in the Youth Justice Plan, shows that these issues of over-representation also apply in the pan-Dorset area. Actions have been identified in the Youth Justice Plan to address these issues.

7. Appendices

Appendix One: Youth Justice Plan 2020/21.

8. Background Papers

None

9. Summary of Youth Justice Plan contents

- 9.1 The Youth Justice Plan provides information on the resourcing, structure, governance, partnership arrangements and performance of the Dorset Combined Youth Offending Service. The Plan also describes the national and local youth justice context for 2020/21 and sets out our priorities for this year.
- 9.2 The Youth Justice Board continues to monitor three 'key performance indicators' for youth justice. The first indicator relates to the rate of young people entering the justice system for the first time. Local performance in this area had declined in the previous two years but improved during 2019/20. The latest data, relating to the 12 months to September 2019, shows a rate of 269 per 100,000 10-17 year olds entering the justice system for the first time. This compares with a figure of 357 per 100,000 10-17 year olds in the year to September 2018. The improvement is welcome and further steps are planned for 2020/21.
- 9.3 The other two national indicators relate to reducing reoffending and minimising the use of custodial sentences. The reoffending rate fluctuates, partly because of the current counting rules for this measure. Our local reoffending rate has for the most part remained below the national rate. Local analysis shows that young people who are more likely to reoffend are also more likely to have more complex speech, language and communication needs and to find it hard to access education or training. The Youth Justice Plan sets out some of the actions that have been taken and future plans to address these issues.
- 9.4 Dorset Combined Youth Offending Service has low rates of custodial sentences, below the regional and national averages. This is particularly the case for young people from the Dorset Council area. Young people who are sentenced to custody have often experienced significant trauma in their earlier life, affecting their current behaviour. The Youth Offending Service is currently implementing a plan to become a trauma informed service, using the Youth Justice Board's 'Enhanced Case Management' model.

Footnote: Issues relating to financial, legal, environmental, economic and equalities implications have been considered and any information relevant to the decision is included within the report.

DORSET COMBINED YOUTH OFFENDING SERVICE



Youth Justice Plan

2020/21

Version	Superseded Version(s)	Date	Author	Changes made
V0.2				
V0.1		22.05.20	David Webb	

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Dorset Combined Youth Offending Service Statement of Purpose

Dorset Combined Youth Offending Service works with young people in the local youth justice system. Our purpose is to help those young people to make positive changes, to keep them safe, to keep other people safe, and to repair the harm caused to victims.

This means we can support the national Youth Justice Board Vision that:

‘Every child should live a safe and crime-free life and make a positive contribution to society’.

Who We Are and What We Do

Dorset Combined Youth Offending Service (DCYOS) is a statutory partnership between Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council, Dorset Council, Dorset Police, National Probation Service Dorset and NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group.

We are a multi-disciplinary team which includes youth justice officers, restorative justice specialists, parenting workers, education and employment workers, police officers, probation officers, nurses, speech and language therapists and a psychologist.

More information about the YOS partnership and the members of the YOS team is provided later in this document.

The team works directly with young people who have committed criminal offences to help them make positive changes and to reduce the risks to them and to other people. We also work directly with parents and carers to help them support their children to make changes.

We make contact with all victims of crimes committed by the young people we work with. We offer those victims the chance to take part in restorative justice processes so we can help to repair the harm they have experienced.

The organisations in the YOS partnership also work together to improve the quality of our local youth justice system, and to ensure that young people who work with the YOS can access the specialist support they need for their care, health and education.

The combination of work to improve our local youth justice and children’s services systems, and direct work with young people, parents and victims, enables us to meet the Youth Justice Board’s ‘System Aims’:

- Reduce the number of children in the youth justice system
- Reduce reoffending by children in the youth justice system
- Improve the safety and well-being of children in the youth justice system
- Improve outcomes for children in the youth justice system.

Introduction

This document is the Youth Justice Strategic Plan for the Dorset Combined Youth Offending Service (YOS) for 2020/21. It sets out the key priorities and targets for the service for the next 12 months as required by the Crime & Disorder Act 1998. This Plan has been developed under the direction of the YOS Partnership Board after consultation with YOS staff and taking into account feedback from YOS service users.

The Youth Justice Strategic Plan:

- summarises the YOS structure, governance and partnership arrangements
- outlines the resources available to the YOS
- reviews achievements and developments during 2019/20
- identifies emerging issues and describes the partnership's priorities
- sets out our priorities and actions for improving youth justice outcomes this year.

This document sets out the YOS's strategic plan. A delivery plan underpins this document.

Service Targets

The Dorset Combined YOS target for 2020/21 is to outperform regional and national averages for the three national performance indicators for youth offending which are:

- The number of young people entering the youth justice system for the first time ('First Time Entrants')
- The rate of proven re-offending by young people in the youth justice system
- The use of custodial sentences for young people.

Headline Strategic Priorities for 2020/21

- Reducing first-time entrants into the youth justice system
- Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic over-representation
- Resettlement planning
- Child exploitation and youth violence
- Education, Training and Employment

The reasons for identifying these priorities are explained later in this document and are summarised on page 21, with actions to achieve these priorities outlined on pages 22-23.

Structure and Governance: The

YOS Partnership Board

The work of the Dorset Combined YOS is managed strategically by a Partnership Board. The Partnership Board consists of senior representatives of the statutory partner organisations, together with other relevant local partners.

Membership:

- Dorset Council (current chair)
- Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council (current vice-chair)
- Dorset Police
- Dorset Local Delivery Unit Cluster, National Probation Service
- NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group
- Public Health Dorset
- Dorset Healthcare University Foundation Trust
- Her Majesty's Court and Tribunal service
- Youth Justice Board for England and Wales
- Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
- Ansbury (Connexions Provider)

The Partnership Board oversees the development of the Youth Justice Plan, ensuring its links with other local plans.

The YOS Manager reports quarterly to the Partnership Board on progress against agreed performance targets, leading to clear plans for performance improvement. The Board also requests information in response to specific developments and agendas, and monitors the YOS's compliance with data reporting requirements and grant conditions.

Representation by senior leaders from the key partners enables the YOS Manager to resolve any difficulties in multi-agency working at a senior level, and supports effective links at managerial and operational levels.

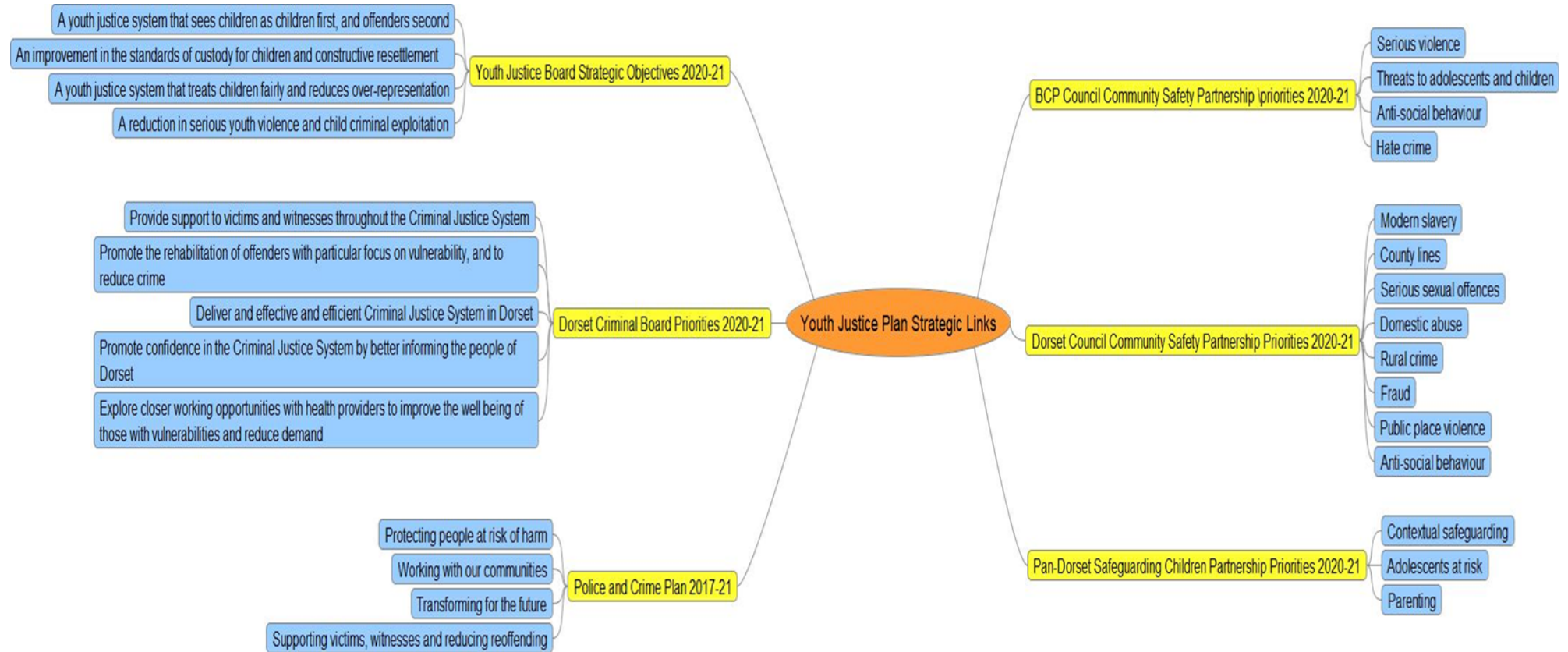
The YOS participates in local multi-agency agreements for information sharing, for safeguarding and for the escalation of concerns.

The Partnership Board oversees activities by partner agencies which contribute to the key youth justice outcomes, particularly in respect of the prevention of offending.

The YOS Partnership Board also provides oversight and governance for local multi-agency protocols in respect of the criminalisation of children in care and the detention of young people in police custody. The YOS Manager chairs multi-agency operational groups for each protocol and reports on progress to the YOS Partnership Board.

The YOS is a statutory partnership working with children and young people in the criminal justice system and the community safety arena. The map on the next page gives an overview of how the YOS fits with other strategic partnerships and plans.

Linking the Youth Justice System to other Plans and Structures



The membership of the YOS Partnership Board enables the work of the Dorset Combined YOS to be integrated into strategic planning for Safeguarding, Public Protection, Criminal Justice, Community Safety and Health & Well-Being. The YOS Manager sits on the Dorset Criminal Justice Board, attends the two Community Safety Partnerships, the MAPPA Strategic Management Board and the Dorset Council Strategic Alliance for Young People.

Partnership Arrangements

The previous section outlined the strategic links between the YOS and the other strategic groups and partnerships. Similar links exist at operational levels, enabling the YOS to integrate and coordinate its work with the work done by partners such as the two local children's social care services, Special Educational Needs services, other criminal justice agencies, and the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services across Dorset.

Safeguarding and Public Protection

As well as participating in Child Protection Conferences and Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) meetings in respect of specific individuals and families, YOS managers also attend MARAC meetings, local Community Safety Partnership operational meetings, local complex needs panel meetings and meetings in respect of early help and Troubled Families activities in the two local authorities.

Child Exploitation

Young people known to the YOS can also be at risk of child exploitation. YOS managers participate actively in the Child Exploitation Tactical Groups for each local authority. The YOS participates in local multi-agency information sharing arrangements and meetings to identify and protect children at risk of exploitation. A seconded YOS Police Officer attends weekly meetings with the Police 'Impact' team to enable effective joint work for children at risk of exploitation.

Reducing Re-Offending

The YOS Manager chairs the pan-Dorset Reducing Reoffending Strategy Group, reporting to the Dorset Criminal Justice Board and the two Community Safety Partnerships. Although the group's main focus is on adult offenders, attention is also paid to the youth perspective, particularly for those young people about to transition to adult services, and for the children of adult offenders.

Risk Assessment Panels

The YOS instigates a Risk Assessment Panel process for young people under YOS supervision who have been identified as being at high risk of causing serious harm to others, or of experiencing significant harm themselves. These meetings are attended by workers and managers from the other agencies who are working with the young person. The aim is to agree the risk assessment and devise, implement and review plans to reduce the risks posed by and to the young person.

Harmful Sexual Behaviour

The YOS works with the two local authorities, and with the Police, to agree the best way to respond to young people who have committed harmful sexual behaviour. Some of these young people are also known to the local authority social care service so it is important that we coordinate our work and, where possible, take a joint approach. The YOS and the local authorities use recognised assessment and intervention approaches for young people who commit harmful sexual behaviour.

Preventing Violent Extremism

All relevant YOS staff have received training in raising awareness of 'Prevent'. A YOS Team Manager has lead responsibility for this area of work and attends the pan-Dorset Prevent Group to ensure that our work is aligned with local initiatives. The YOS has sight of the local assessment of extremism risks. The seconded YOS police officers act as a link to local police processes for sharing intelligence in respect of possible violent extremism.

Young people convicted of extremism related offences will be managed robustly in line with the YOS Risk Policy, with appropriate referral to the local MAPPA process and clear risk management plans, including paired working arrangements and support from the seconded YOS police officers.

Safe Schools and Communities Team

The Safe Schools and Communities Team (SSCT) is a partnership between Dorset Police, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and Dorset Combined YOS. The SSCT plays an important role in preventing offending by young people across Dorset, Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole. The team provide education, awareness and advice to students, schools and parents. The work of the team is reported to the YOS Partnership Board as an important element of the YOS Partnership's work to prevent youth offending. The SSCT's School Incidents Policy is an important part of local work to reduce the number of youths entering the justice system, helping schools to manage incidents without the need for a criminal outcome.

Restorative Justice and Support for Victims

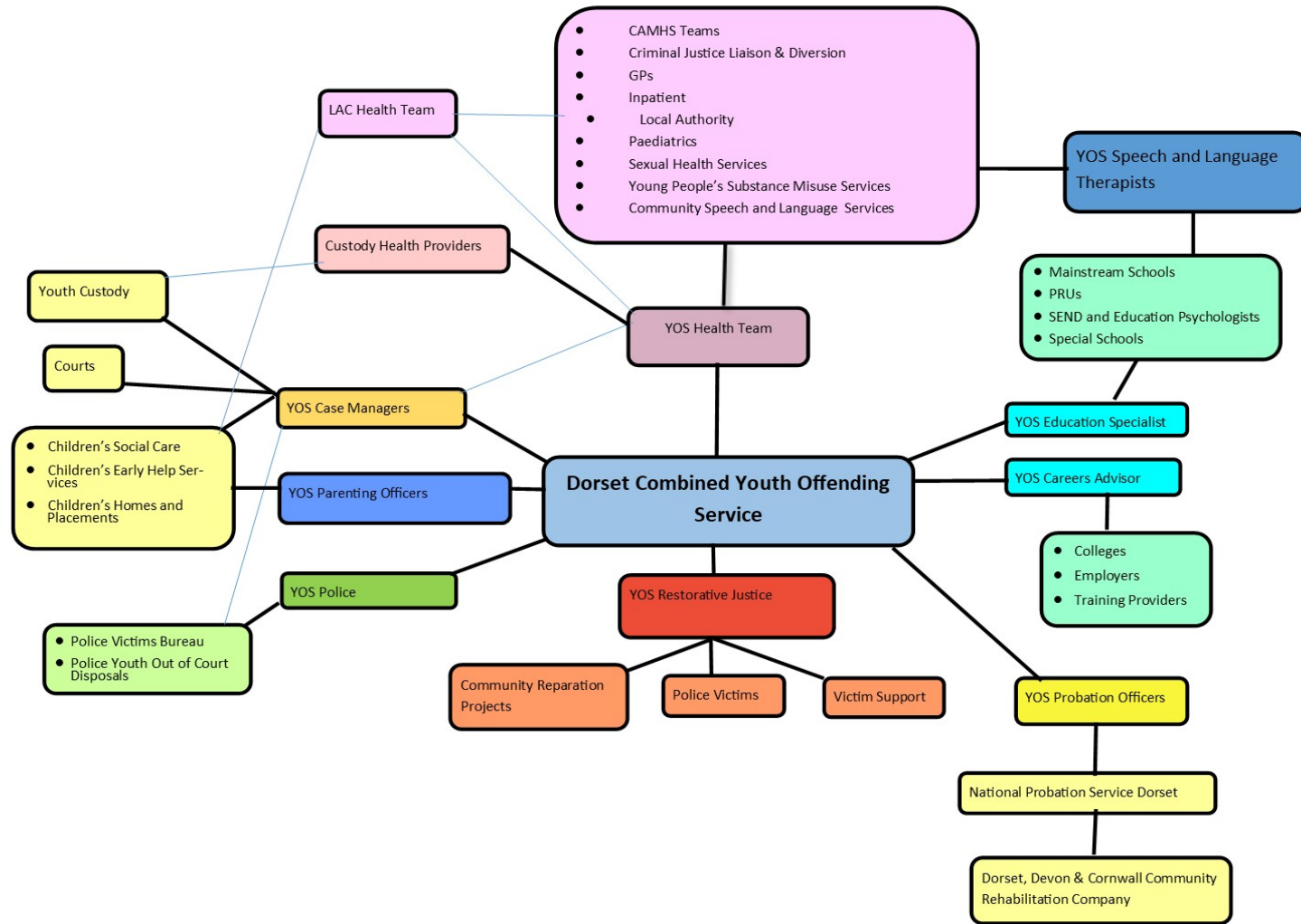
The YOS Restorative Justice Practitioners provide Restorative Justice activities and support for victims of offences committed by young people. The YOS also links with other agencies through the Victims and Witnesses Sub-Group of the Dorset Criminal Justice Board. The YOS plays an important part in delivering the Police and Crime Commissioner's Restorative Justice Strategy for Dorset, taking the lead on offences committed by young people and supporting the development of good practice with other Restorative Justice providers.

Reducing Youth Detentions in Police Custody

The YOS Manager chairs a multi-agency group, reporting to the YOS Partnership Board, which works to ensure that as few young people as possible are detained in police custody and to limit the duration of youth custody detentions.

In addition to the team's involvement in these different partnership groups, there is ongoing daily interaction with other local services. These links are illustrated on the following page:

Operational Links between YOS and Partner Agencies



Resources and value for money

The funding contributions to the YOS partnership budget are listed below. Local authority staff are employed by Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council. Other staff are seconded from Dorset Police, the National Probation Service Dorset and Dorset HealthCare University

NHS Foundation Trust. Like all public services, the YOS operates in a context of reducing resources. Ensuring value for money and making best use of resources is a high priority for the service.

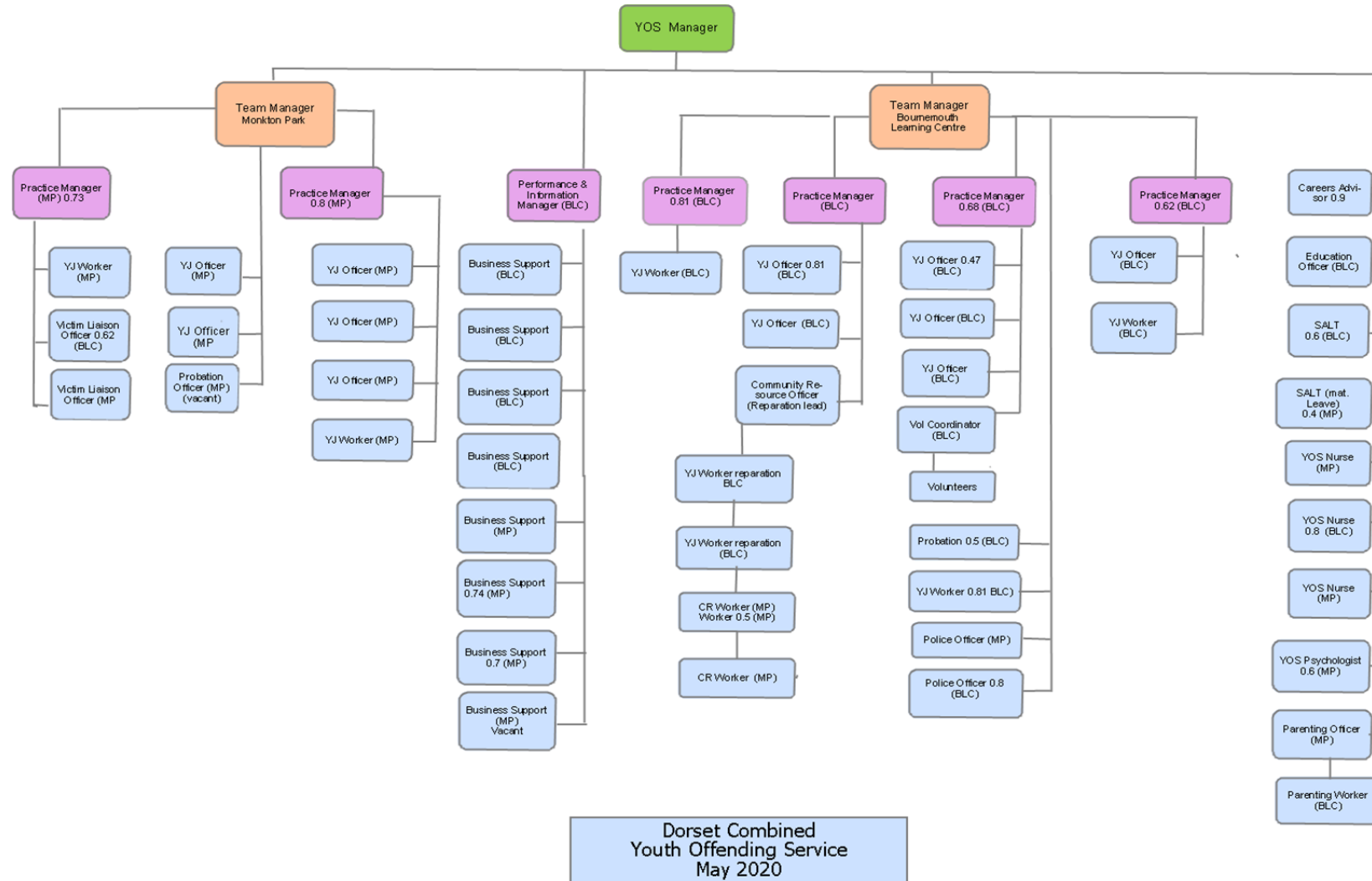
Partner Agency	20/21 Revenue excluding recharges	Movement 14/15 to 20/21 – including disaggregation movements between DC and BCP Councils	Staff
Dorset Council	£492,800	–£39,100	
Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council	£577,700	£26,670	
Police and Crime Commissioner for Dorset	£75,301	–£78,149	2.0 Police Officers. Funding reduction from 14/15 to 15/16 reflects funding of SSCT directly by the OPCC to the Police, no longer via the YOS
National Probation Service Dorset	£5,000	£1,826	1.0 Probation Officer (reduction from 2.6 to March 2015, from 2.0 to March 2018 and from 1.5 to March 2020, with adjusted funding contribution, after national review)
Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group	£22,487	£0	2.8 FTE Nurses, 0.8 Psychologist, 1.0 Speech and Language Therapist
Youth Justice Board Good Practice Grant	£600,482	–£189,932	
Total	£1,766,996	–£285,459	

The YOS has also obtained funding from NHS England for a Speech and Language Therapist for 6 months. This funding will be spread pro rata throughout the year.

NHS England funding was secured for 2019/20 to support DCYOS becoming a 'trauma-informed service'. Some of this funding has been carried over to support implementation of this model.

Staffing information

This chart shows the YOS structure in May 2020. DCYOS meets the minimum staffing requirements of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

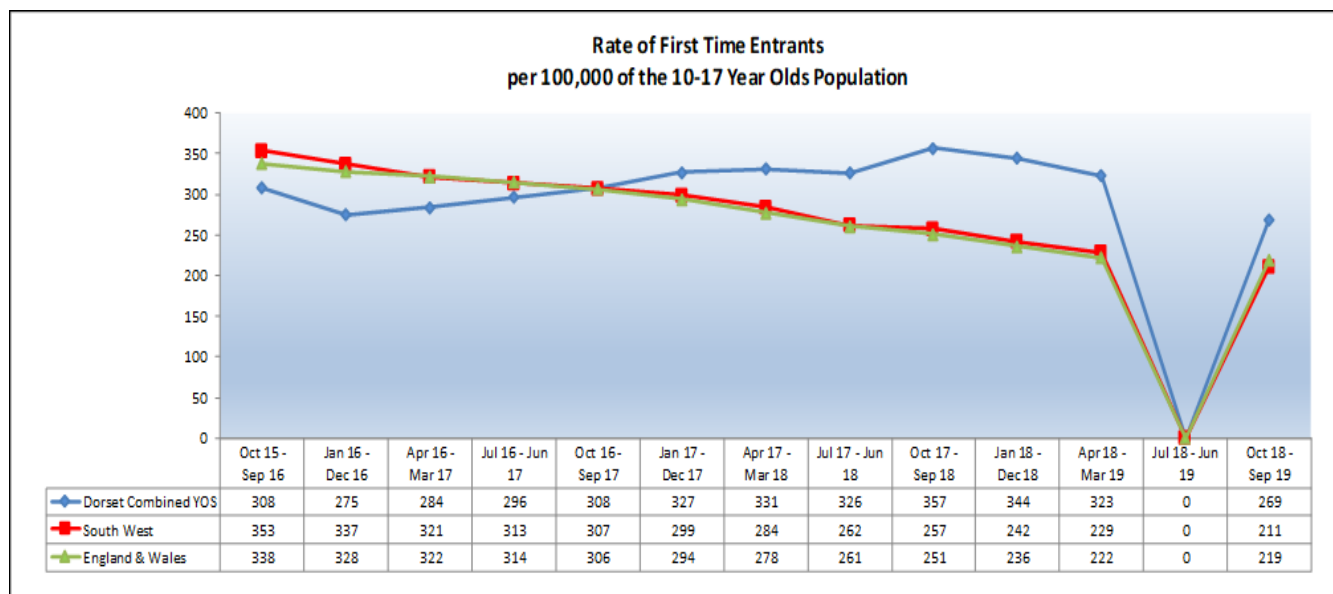


DCYOS Achievements and Performance during 2019/20

Youth Offending Teams continue to be judged against 3 key performance indicators:

- Reducing First Time Entrants into the Youth Justice System;
- Reducing Re-Offending by young people in the Youth Justice System;
- Appropriately Minimising the use of Custodial Sentences.

First Time Entrants into the Youth Justice System



Between late 2016 and late 2018 there was a steady increase in the rate of first time entrants to the youth justice system in Dorset. This coincided with a fall in the regional and national averages for this indicator, meaning that Dorset moved above those benchmark figures. Since late 2018 the rate of first time entrants in Dorset has fallen each quarter. The national and regional averages have continued to decline but the gap is narrowing.

During 2019 the Youth Offending Service and the Police Youth Out of Court Disposals team continued to work together to review all the first time entrants in 2018/19 who had received a Youth Caution. Information was also sought from other youth offending teams and police force areas to seek learning and opportunities for improvement.

The review of Youth Caution decisions in 2018/19 showed a clear and proportionate rationale for each decision. The quality of youth out of court disposal decision-making is consistently upheld by the independent Out of Court Disposals Scrutiny panel which is led by the Police and Crime Commissioner.

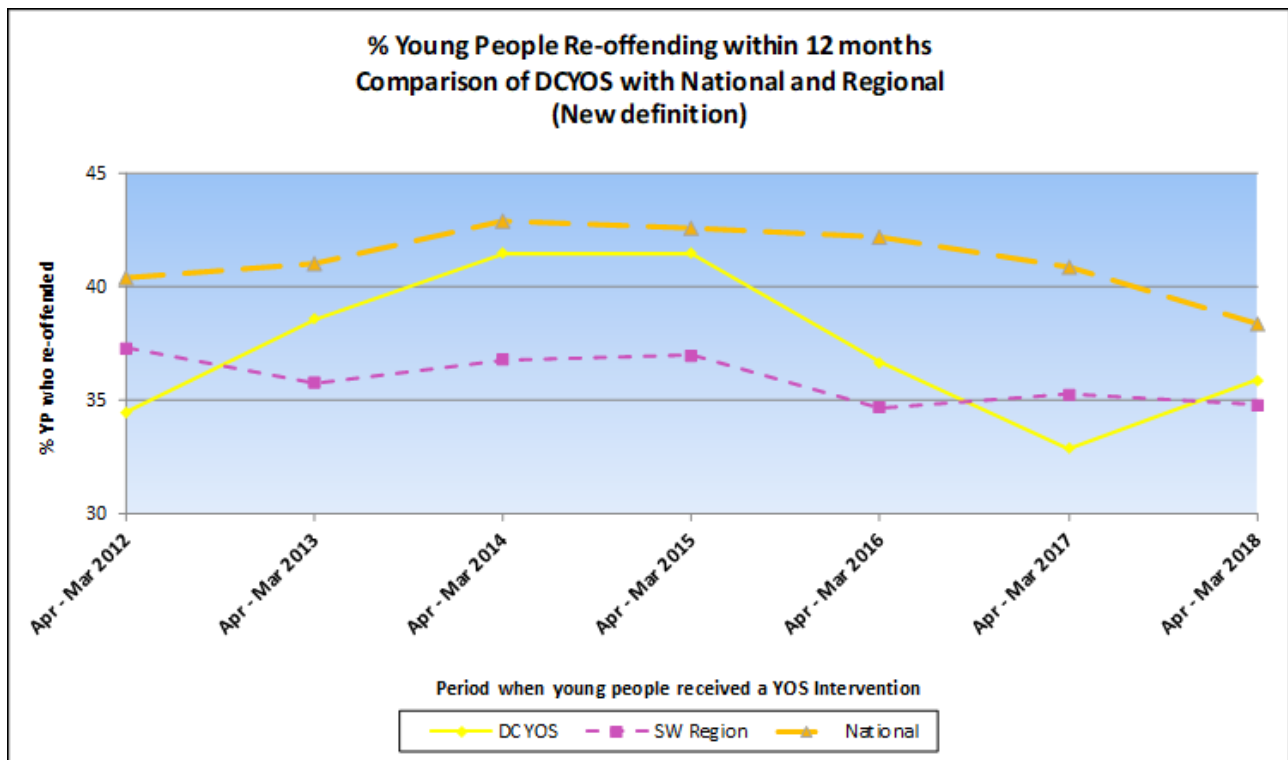
During 2019 the Youth Offending Service and the Police Youth Out of Court Disposals team adjusted their decision-making process to include a weekly meeting to review any cases that needed more scrutiny and to avoid any cases being delayed. The YOS Team Managers gather information from other services, like children's social care and children's early help services, before attending this meeting. Alternatives to a formal youth justice outcome are always considered. About 38% of youth cases are dealt with informally, through a 'Youth Restorative Disposal'.

The following table shows youth justice outcomes over the last two years. Some low level disposals are managed by the Safe Schools and Communities Team (SSCT).

Outcome	2018-19			2018-19 Total	2019-20			2019-20 Total
	SSCT	DCYOS	No intervention		SSCT	DCYOS	No intervention	
Youth Restorative Disposal	230	79		309	193	76		269
Youth Caution	33	134		167	7	111		118
Youth Conditional Caution	1	76		77		50		50
Absolute Discharge			2	2			1	1
Anti Social Behaviour (Criminal) (Crasbo)		1		1				
Community Rehabilitation + Conditions (PO)						1		1
Community Rehabilitation Order (PO)		1		1		1		1
Community Resolution (Non Substantive/Voluntary)		4		4				
Conditional Discharge			51	51			42	42
Criminal Behaviour Order		3		3		2		2
Curfew		1		1		2		2
Curfew + Tag (Electronic Monitoring)						2		2
Detention + Training Order (Custody)		5		5		10		10
Fine			24	24			23	23
O OCD Decision		4		4		2		2
Recall to Custody						2		2
Referral Order		93		93		109		109
Referral Other						1		1
Reparation Order (YOT)		3		3				
Section 91 Order		1		1		2		2
Supervision + Curfew (Other) (So)						1		1
Supervision + Curfew (YOT) (So)						2		2
Youth Rehabilitation Order		60		60		59		59
Youth Rehabilitation Order ISS Extended		1		1				
Youth Rehabilitation Order ISS High Intensity Band 1		2		2				
Youth Rehabilitation Order ISS Requirement		1		1				
Grand Total	264	469	77	810	200	433	66	699

In October 2019 the YOS Partnership Board supported proposals to develop more 'diversion' options for offences involving the possession of cannabis. Repeat offences would previously have led to a Youth Caution. Although this may still happen in some cases, Dorset Police have worked with partner agencies including drug treatment services to develop new protocols for youths who are found in possession of cannabis. These arrangements were due for implementation in April 2020, were delayed by the covid19 lockdown but will go ahead from June 2020.

Reducing Re-Offending



The national re-offending figures relate to the further re-offending of groups of young people in the 12 months after they received a caution or court conviction. Each quarter a different group of young people is tracked; for example, the most recent data relates to those young people who received a justice outcome in the period January to March 2018.

The numbers in each quarterly group of young people are relatively low, meaning that the reoffending rate figures are subject to fluctuation each quarter. The January to March 2018 group was comprised of 75 young people, 33 of whom were convicted of further offences within the next 12 months.

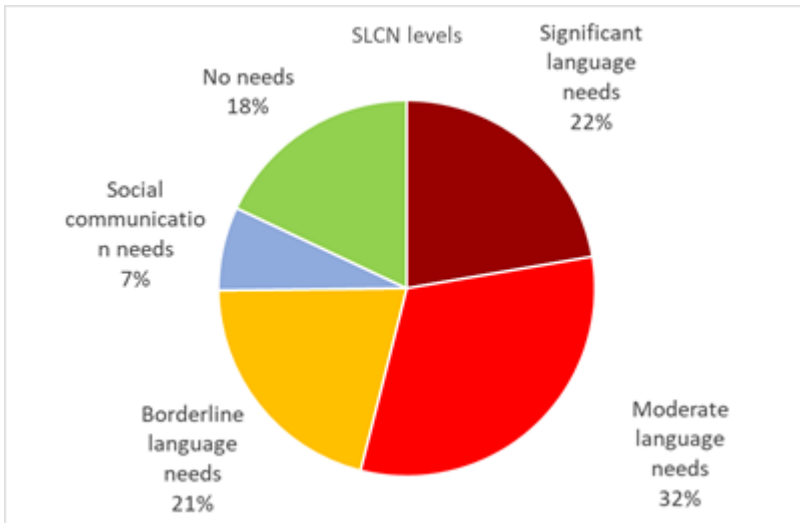
Due to delays in the youth justice system it is possible that the subsequent conviction may actually relate to an offence that was committed before the counting period began.

There is a time lag on the national data, to allow time for reoffending, conviction and police recording, which means that the most recent data relates to young people whose contact with the YOS occurred about 2 years ago.

Like other youth offending teams, DCYOS also analyses local reoffending data to give us more recent and more nuanced information. This data is reported to the YOS Partnership Board to help inform and shape the partnership's strategic plans. An example of this scrutiny process was a request by the Board for more detailed analysis of the female reoffenders from our local reoffending data. This analysis demonstrated that most of these young people had significant speech and language deficits, including developmental language disorder in several cases.

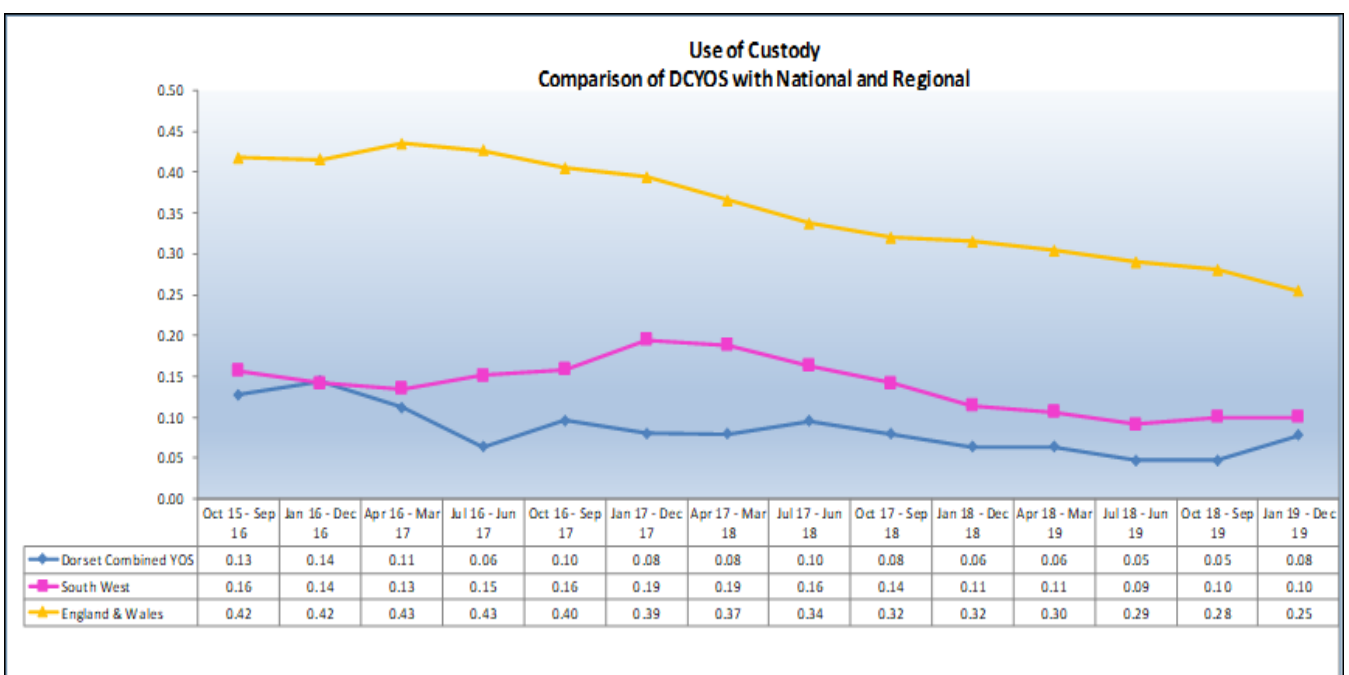
During 2019/20 funding was secured for at least one more year for the YOS Speech and Language Therapist post. The post holder assesses all young people who receive a court order or a second out of court disposal, regardless of whether speech and language difficulties are suspected. The reason for this approach is the evidence from elsewhere, and from our own work since the YOS Speech and Language Therapist joined our team in

March 2018, that most young people in contact with youth justice services have speech, language or communication needs. The following chart demonstrates the speech and language needs of the 138 young people assessed so far by the YOS Speech and Language Therapists:



The prevalence of speech and language needs among the young people we work with and other special educational needs contribute to difficulties in engaging with education, training or employment. Young people known to the YOS tend not to be educated in mainstream schools; those who have left school can find it hard to access college or other post-16 education and training opportunities. In recent years there has been a reduction in the range of education and training provision locally for this group of young people. Our service user feedback showed that ‘education’ was the issue that most young people said the YOS had helped them with. Part of our plan for 2020/21 is to enhance our work with this group through the use of ASDAN short courses and attainment level assessments for Maths and English.

Custodial Sentences



Although there was an increase in custodial sentences in 2019, DCYOS remains below the regional and national averages for the rate of young people receiving a custodial sentence. The data in the table above shows the rate of custodial sentences per 1,000 10-17 year-olds in the local population.

During 2019/20 8 young people in our two local authority areas received a total of 10 custodial sentences. All of these young people were males, 7 of them were from the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council area and 1 was from the Dorset Council. 4 of the 8 young people were Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic (BAME). National data shows that BAME children are more likely to enter custody than other children with around 50% of the youth custody population in England and Wales being from BAME backgrounds.

Although the actual numbers locally are low, and therefore statistical conclusions need caution, it is notable that our rates of BAME young people in custody reflect the national over-representation of this group in custody despite lower proportions of BAME people in our local population. This was also noted in our Youth Justice Plan last year, indicating a lack of progress in improving this issue. The Lammy Review (2017) noted the need for multi-agency responses to address disadvantage across multiple services which leads to over-representation in the justice system. The Lammy Review also called for open decision-making and for leadership if change is to be achieved.

Most of the 8 males who received custodial sentences have been identified as being at significant risk of child exploitation. The seriousness of their offending indicates the level of risk that they pose to others and the level of risk that they themselves face. Some of these young people are children in care. Finding the right accommodation for these children for their release from custody can be difficult; sometimes this is not resolved until very close to their release date.

During 2019/20 DCYOS developed its plans for becoming a trauma-informed service. All YOS practitioner staff attended a 3-day trauma training course in February 2020 to enable the YOS to start operating the 'Enhanced Case Management' model. This model is an evidence-based approach to working with young people who have experienced developmental trauma which is reflected in their risky behaviours. Most of the 8 young people who received custodial sentences in 2019/20 would fit this description.

National Standards Self-Assessment completed in 2019/20

The Ministry of Justice and the Youth Justice Board published a new set of national standards for youth justice which came into effect in April 2019. 'Standards for Children in the Youth Justice System 2019' places more emphasis on achieving suitable outcomes for children, with less prescription about processes to be followed.

The Youth Justice Board required all youth offending teams to assess their compliance with the new Standards by April 2020. The self-assessment process entailed a review of all the 'strategic standards' and an audit of cases for the 'operational standards'. The self-assessment was intended to create a baseline of initial performance and to identify areas for development.

The DCYOS self-assessment identified high levels of compliance with the new Standards. There are some specific aspects of our work which we need to develop in order to enhance our compliance with the Standards. These areas are included in our priorities and plans for 2020-21.

Learning Reviews

The YOS contributed to a multi-agency Serious Case Review undertaken by Waltham Forest Safeguarding Children's Board. The subject of the review, Child C, was a young person who was murdered in Waltham Forest. Three months prior to his murder he had been arrested in Bournemouth, detained in police custody and then returned to London. An Appropriate Adult provided by DCYOS supported the young person for part of his time in police custody in Bournemouth.

This Serious Case Review highlighted the prevalence and seriousness of risks relating to child exploitation. Although Child C was only briefly in our local area, other children in our area and visiting our area continue to be at risk. The Serious Case Review emphasises the importance of coordinated, multi-agency responses to these risks. DCYOS is prioritising trauma-informed responses to adolescent risk in its own work and to promoting more effective multi-agency working with children who are at risk of exploitation.

Service User Feedback

Feedback from the young people working with DCYOS has been mainly positive.

70% said that working with the YOS made things better for me with 19% being neutral on this question.

81% felt their worker thought they would make positive changes in their life (worker optimism is an important factor in positive outcomes).

89% were satisfied or very satisfied that 'my worker listens to me and helps me find my own solutions' (change is more likely if the service user hears themselves making the case for change).

56% would change nothing about the way the YOS works. Other answers suggested changing the length or time of YOS appointments and one respondent wanted to change the duration of YOS work.

The YOS also seeks feedback about specific areas of our work.

Almost all young people we work with undertake some 'reparation' activity. This is a form of unpaid work to make amends for their offence.

85% of respondents to the reparation feedback survey said that they enjoyed their reparation session.

94% of respondents said that they enjoyed working with their reparation worker.

56% said they found their reparation work to be interesting, 41% said it was educational, 22% said they were doing something new, 20% felt proud of what they had done, 11% said it was boring and 2% said it was a waste of time.

Some of the young people in contact with the YOS are referred to our health team for direct support.

100% of young people who provided feedback on their contact with our health team said that the health worker treated them respectfully.

87% found it helpful or very helpful to see their YOS health worker and a further 9% found it quite helpful.

77% said that they had mostly or fully met the goals they agreed with their health worker and a further 21% felt they had partially met their goals.

YOS workers also receive 'spontaneous' feedback from service users and other professionals. In 2020/21 we aim to improve our methods for collecting this feedback.

Summary of local and national issues that inform our priorities for 2020/21

National Context

The Youth Justice Board Strategic Plan 2019-2022 sets out its priorities for the youth justice system:

- Improving Local Practice
- Resettlement and Transitions
- Safety and Education in Custody
- BAME Disproportionality
- Reducing Serious Youth Violence
- Secure Schools

These priorities have been developed in a context of national concerns about serious youth violence, child exploitation, over-representation of minority ethnic groups in the justice system and concerns about the safety and effectiveness of the custodial estate.

The priorities to improve local practice, enhance resettlement and transitions, address BAME disproportionality and reduce youth violence have particular resonance for us locally.

The Youth Justice Board plan to improve local practice includes promotion of trauma-informed practice through the Enhanced Case Management model.

Local Context

DCYOS self-assessment, performance and activities during 2019/20, reported above, shows some key areas of work that we want to focus on in 2020/21:

- Reducing first-time entrants – we need to continue reducing the rate of local young people entering the justice system, building links with the new adolescent services in our two local authorities
- Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic over-representation – we need to work with other agencies locally to reduce the disadvantage experienced by BAME young people
- Resettlement planning – the safety of young people coming out of custody, and the risk of them reoffending and causing harm to others, depends largely on suitable accommodation being identified well in advance of the release date so that effective release plans, including education and health support, can be implemented.
- Child exploitation and youth violence – the YOS will work with partners to improve the identification of and response to children who are at risk of exploitation. This will include implementation of trauma-informed practice through the YJB's 'Enhanced Case Management' model
- Education, Training and Employment – we need to work with young people, local authority colleagues and education providers to increase young people's opportunities to engage in education and training. The YOS will develop its use of ASDAN short courses and attainment level assessments for Maths and English.

Strategic Priorities for 2020-21

The strategic priorities for the Dorset Combined YOS align with:

- our three main performance indicators
- the strategic priorities of other local partnerships (such as the Safeguarding Children's Partnership, Community Safety Partnerships and the Criminal Justice Board)
- relevant local initiatives to reduce offending, protect the public and safeguard young people
- areas identified for YOS improvement, including feedback from YOS staff and service users
- the emerging issues summarised on the previous page.

The following priority areas will be supported by a more detailed action plan used by the YOS team.

Reducing First-Time Entrants

- Dorset Police, DCYOS, local authority children's services and local substance misuse services to implement additional diversion options for specific offence types, starting with possession of cannabis offences
- DCYOS and Dorset Police to agree referral routes into the new adolescent and early help services in our local authorities to enable suitable young people to receive additional support without the need for a youth justice response

Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic over-representation

- Work with partner agencies in our criminal justice system to monitor rates of BAME young people at different stages of the system, using the Lammy principles of 'Explain or Reform' to respond to any identified over-representation
- Review compliance and breach rates within the YOS caseload to identify and respond to any groups that are over-represented
- Work with children's services and criminal justice partners to promote a multi-agency response to Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic children in receipt of local services, extending beyond the justice system

Resettlement Planning

- Develop more detailed reporting to the YOS Partnership Board on the experiences and outcomes of young people who receive custodial sentences
- The YOS Partnership Board to monitor the timeliness of accommodation being identified for children before their release from custody and to take appropriate remedial action if necessary

- YOS specialist workers (health, education, speech and language) to continue to link with colleagues in secure establishments and locally to ensure continuity of health and education planning for children coming out of custody

Child Exploitation and Youth Violence

- Implement the Enhanced Case Management model to embed trauma-informed practice in the YOS and with partner agencies working with the same young people
- Participate actively in Child Exploitation Tactical Groups in our two local authorities to enhance the safety planning for children at risk of exploitation and to play an active role in other local service developments for these young people
- Share assessments and plans by YOS case managers and specialist workers (health, education, speech and language) with other services working with the same young people (subject to relevant information sharing protocols)
- Continue to exchange intelligence with Dorset Police colleagues in the IMPACT, MOSOVO and Neighbourhood Policing Teams in order to safeguard children and to disrupt and pursue the perpetrators of exploitation.

Education, Training and Employment

- Develop our use of ASDAN short courses to help young people improve their chances of accessing education, training and employment
- Register with 'BKSB' so that YOS workers can enable young people to undertake attainment level assessments for Maths and English
- YOS ETE workers to collaborate with local authority colleagues to enable more young people to attend school or post-16 education, training or employment

Covid-19

This plan has been written during the covid-19 'lockdown'. Like all services, DCYOS has radically changed its working arrangements and working practices in response to the lockdown restrictions. These circumstances are likely to shape our work during 2020/21. As we move into the recovery and rebuilding phases, after the lockdown, we will review the changes we have made so that we can identify new ways of working that should be sustained in the longer term.

Approval

Signatures of YOS Board Chair and YOS Manager

Theresa Leavy (YOS Board Chair)
Executive Director People - Children
Dorset Council

Signed:

Date:

David Webb
Dorset Combined Youth Offending Service Manager
Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council

Signed:

Date:

Appendix A – Glossary of Terms

AssetPlus	Nationally Accredited Assessment Tool
BAME	Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic
CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
CJS	Criminal Justice System
CSP	Community Safety Partnership
ETE	Education Training and Employment
FTE	First Time Entrant into the Youth Justice System
ISS	Intensive Supervision and Surveillance
IT	Information Technology
LSCB	Local Safeguarding Children’s Board
MAPPA	Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements
NEET	Not in Education, Employment or Training
OOCD	Out Of Court Disposals
PCC	Police & Crime Commissioner
RJ	Restorative Justice
SEND	Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
SSCT	Safe Schools and Communities Team
VLO	Victim Liaison Officer
YJ	Youth Justice
YJB	Youth Justice Board
YOS/YOT	Youth Offending Service/Team
YRD	Youth Restorative Disposal
YRO	Youth Rehabilitation Order

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Recommendation to Full Council

From Cabinet – 6 October 2020

Children, Young People and Families' Plan 2020-2023

For Decision

Portfolio Holder: Cllr P Wharf, Corporate development and Change

Local Councillor(s): All Councillors

Executive Director: Theresa Leavy, Executive Director for People – Children

Report Status: Public

Recommendation:

That the Children, Young People and Families Plan 2020-23 be adopted.

Reason for Recommendation:

To ensure Dorset Council meets its duties as set out in relevant legislation.

Appendices

Report and appendices to Cabinet – 6 October 2020

Background Papers

No additional background papers

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Cabinet

6 October 2020

Children and Young People and Families' Plan 2020-2023

For Recommendation to Council

Portfolio Holder: Cllr P Wharf, Corporate Development and Change

Local Councillor(s): **All Councillors**

Executive Director: Theresa Leavy, Interim Lead for Children's Services

Report Author: Claire Shiels

Title: Corporate Director for Commissioning, Quality and Partnerships

Tel: 01305 224682

Email: claire.shiels@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Report Status: Public

Recommendation: Cabinet are asked:

1. To recommend the Children, Young People and Families Plan 2020-23 for endorsement and adoption by Full Council.
2. To agree to receive an Annual Report of the Children, Young People and Families' Plan 2020-23.

Reason for Recommendation: The Full Council is required to adopt a Children and Young People's Plan as part of the Council's policy framework by 31 March 2021.

1. Executive Summary

Dorset Council, working with its partners - the Strategic Alliance for Children and Young People, has developed a new 3-year strategic plan to improve long term outcomes for children and young people.

The Strategic Alliance for Children and Young People is a multi-agency partnership which includes partners from police, health, schools and early years settings, voluntary and community sector.

The vision for the partnership is:

“for Dorset to be the best place to be a child, where communities thrive and families are supported to be the best they can be.”

The partnership has agreed six priorities to deliver that vision, focusing on improving outcomes for all children and young people:

- **Best start in life:** focused on: re-imagining how services are delivered to families who are expecting and have pre-school children; ensuring the best possible start in life; and improving school readiness.
- **Young and thriving:** focused on: setting up our young people for success in adulthood; ensuring young people have a strong voice; good emotional wellbeing and mental health; preparation for adulthood; and preventing family breakdown.
- **Good care provision:** focused: on keeping our children close to home; ensuring partners are the best corporate parents; making sure there is sufficient care provision locally (foster care, residential and short breaks); supporting young people at risk of homelessness; and suitable and safe housing for care leavers.
- **Best education for all:** focused on: supporting schools and educational settings to deliver the best education possible; ensuring all children and young people can achieve their full potential; meeting the needs of children with SEND and building inclusive school cultures.
- **Best place to live:** focused on: ensuring our children and young people have accessible things to do and places to go; can get involved and influence decision making; that they experience safe, welcoming and inclusive places; contextual safeguarding; and that we work as a partnership to provide a cleaner, greener environment for our children and young people to grow up in.
- **Delivering locally:** focused on: joining up services in Dorset to become a whole system that strengthens the ability of families to care and sustain their children; embedding the new model of children’s services; identifying opportunities for service integration; and building on community assets.

The priorities in the plan have been identified through needs analysis, an initial workshop with members of the Strategic Alliance and a series of think tanks (attended by over 100 professionals from the partnership).

In July 2020 the Council undertook the ‘I Live in Dorset’ campaign encouraging children and young people from Dorset to tell us about what would make Dorset the best place to grow up. The feedback from children and young people has influenced the development of this plan and resulted in an additional priority, Best Place to Live.

2. Financial Implications

None identified. The transformation priorities within this plan relating to services provided or commissioned by the Council are aligned to Council plans. The partnership has adopted 'Delivering best value for money - spending the Dorset £ in Dorset on the things that get the best outcomes for children and families' as one of its shared values and principles.

3. Climate implications

None identified. The Best Place to Live priority includes work to influence increased cycle lanes and improved public transport and to champion the use of green energy, reduction in waste, recycling and reduction in the use of plastic and work to reduce carbon emissions.

4. Other Implications

This plan will seek to ensure the involvement of voluntary and community organisations in the delivery of a plan to support the wellbeing of children and young people, including meeting our responsibilities as corporate parents.

5. Risk Assessment

Having considered the risks associated with this decision, the level of risk has been identified as:

Current Risk: LOW

Residual Risk: LOW

6. Equalities Impact Assessment

A draft Equalities Impact Assessment has been completed and will be finalised in readiness for Full Council.

7. Appendices

Appendix 1: Children, Young People and Families Plan 2020-23.

8. Background Papers

9. Introduction & Background

9.1 Section 10 of the Children Act 2004 sets out the requirement for the local authority to promote that partners co-operate to improve wellbeing of children and young people. Best practice is for Local Authorities and their partners to produce and deliver a Children and Young People's Plan

- bringing together in one strategic overarching plan the partnership's shared commitment to work together to improve outcomes for children and young people.
- 9.2 In Dorset the Council has maintained its commitment to improve outcomes for children and young people in producing and publishing a Children and Young People's Plan as part of its constitution and formal Policy Framework.
 - 9.3 The current partnership Strategy for Children and Young People in Dorset comes to an end in 2020. During 2019 Dorset Council, with partners of the multi-agency Strategic Alliance for Children and Young People, agreed to undertake the work to develop a new 3-year Children, Young People and Families Plan.
 - 9.4 This work commenced in March 2020, following an analysis of data and a partnership workshop, a set of initial priorities were identified. These priorities were then further developed through a series of 'think tanks' attended by over 100 professionals from across the partnership, and representative parents/carers, children and young people. Employee engagement with children's services staff has also been undertaken.
 - 9.5 Engagement with children and young people has taken place through a creative challenge to support the development of the plan. The 'I Live in Dorset' campaign was shared through social media channels and through schools and colleges throughout July 2020.
 - 9.6 An initial report outlining emerging priorities for the Children, Young People and Families Plan was presented to People Scrutiny Committee on 20th July 2020. The Committee noted their support of the development of the new Children, Young People and Families Plan.
 - 9.7 At its meeting on the 15th September 2020 the Strategic Alliance Board unanimously agreed to approve the plan, which sees the partnership adopt shared values, principles and priorities for children, young people and families in Dorset, a significant milestone for the partnership.

10. Development of the plan

- 10.1 The vision for Dorset Children and Young People agreed by the partnership is:

"for Dorset to be the best place to be a child, where communities thrive, and families are supported to be the best that they can be"

- 10.2 A set of principles, agreed by the partnership, guided the development of the plan these included: optimise the partnership dividend by focusing on the things we can make a real difference to by working together; work on the longer term vision, focusing on the big picture; think the unthinkable; innovate and try new things; be brave; be one system that works to achieve the very best outcomes possible for children; deliver value for money; and wherever possible spend the Dorset pound in Dorset.
- 10.3 Using analysis of data and information already known to the partnership about outcomes and performance gaps, and feedback from consultation, a set of priority areas have been identified:
- (a) **Best start in life:** aims to reimagine how services are delivered to families who are expecting and have pre-school children. This seeks to address low social mobility and improve school readiness; improve outcomes for our youngest children. Priorities in this theme include improving sharing of information and data, better identification of those that might need help early, improved pathways between maternity, health visiting and local authority services and the development of intergenerational Family Hubs.
 - (b) **Young and thriving:** aims to set up our young people for success in adulthood. This seeks to address the issue of poorer outcomes for children who enter care later in their childhood and ensure all young people are prepared for adulthood. Priorities in this theme include ensuring young people have a strong voice; good emotional wellbeing and mental health; preparation for adulthood; and preventing family breakdown through edge of care services and support.
 - (c) **Good care provision:** aims to keep our children close to home and to ensure that partners are the best corporate parents. This seeks to increase the number of children in family based care that are able to be cared for in Dorset and closer to their friends, family and schools; improve the educational and housing outcomes for our children in care and care leavers and improve their health and wellbeing, Priorities in this theme will focus on improving the availability of short breaks; increasing and improving support and accommodation for vulnerable young people at risk of homelessness and care leavers; increase the availability of local residential provision; increase the number of foster carers and work in partnership to improve our offer for children in care and care leavers, including health and wellbeing and education and employment opportunities.
 - (d) **Best education for all:** aims to ensure that our schools and educational settings are supported to deliver the best education possible and that our children achieve their full potential. This seeks to

improve the proportion of schools that are good or outstanding across the county; improve educational progress of children; reduce the number of exclusions from school, improve school attendance and support children that are educated at home. Priorities in this theme will include building the partnership with schools and academies to develop and implement an Education and Inclusion Strategy; improve educational outcomes for more vulnerable children; and further improve our offer to children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

(e) Best place to live: aims to make Dorset the best place to live and grow up and for children and young people to live in thriving communities, where they can safely live, learn, and play and where all voices are valued and respected. Priorities in this theme include focusing on ensuring our children and young people: have accessible things to do and places to go; can get involved and influence decision making; experience safe, welcoming and inclusive places. We will develop our approach to contextual safeguarding including embedding work on improving our approach to child exploitation and county lines; and ensure that we work as a partnership to provide a cleaner, greener environment for our children and young people to grow up in.

(f) Delivering locally: aims to create a whole system that strengthens families' ability to care and sustain. This seeks to address the high proportion of children in care in Dorset, improve the range of early help on offer and address parental issues such as domestic abuse, mental ill health and substance misuse. Priorities in this theme include embedding the new model for children's services; community engagement and asset building; and opportunities for partnership service integration.

10.4 Alongside these Priority areas the partnership has committed to developing a shared culture and approach to working in partnership further through: developing a Joint Commissioning Strategy for children and young people, aligning partnership workforce development, working together and with children and families to co-produce services and making the best use of our collective resources in times of increased demand and a challenging financial situation for all partners.

10.5 Progress against the plan will be monitored by the Strategic Alliance Board at quarterly meetings. An Annual Report will be prepared and published to report on progress made every year throughout the duration of the plan.

10.6 Progress will also be monitored through People and Health Scrutiny Committee.

11. **Recommendation**

11.1 Cabinet Members are asked:

1. To recommend the Children, Young People and Families Plan 2020-23 for endorsement and adoption by the Full Council.

Footnote:

Issues relating to financial, legal, environmental, economic and equalities implications have been considered and any information relevant to the decision is included within the report.

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Dorset Strategic Alliance for Children and Young People

Children, Young People and Families' Plan 2020-23

Version 0.4

FINAL FOR FULL COUNCIL

This plan has been developed in partnership by the Dorset Strategic Alliance for Children and Young People with the input of lots of colleagues who work for the children, young people of Dorset (and their families), and the invaluable feedback from representative parents and carers.

But most importantly, this plan has been developed with the wonderful input of so many children and young people who told us about the things that are most important to them and their lives in Dorset.

The Strategic Alliance Board would like to say a heartfelt thank you everyone who has helped to develop this plan and shape the important priorities.

Meet the Strategic Alliance Board

We are the Dorset Strategic Alliance Board and we have the great privilege of representing our organisations and sectors on this Board. We come together to work on the things that we think can make the biggest difference to the lives of children and young people in Dorset if we work in partnership.

Name	Job title and organisation representing
Councillor Peter Wharf	Deputy Leader of Dorset Council and Chair of the Strategic Alliance, Dorset Council
Theresa Leavy	Executive Director Children's Services, Dorset Council
Rebecca Kirk	Corporate Director Housing, Dorset Council
Jo Wilson	Head of Programmes, Public Health Dorset
Sarah-Jane Smedmoor	Corporate Director Children's Social Care, Dorset Council
Mark Blackman	Corporate Director Education and Inclusion, Dorset Council
Claire Shiels	Corporate Director Commissioning, Quality and Partnerships
Councillor Andrew Parry	Portfolio Holder Children's Services, Dorset Council
Amanda Buttle	Partnership Manager, Department of Work and Pensions
Dave Thompson	Vice Chair and Representative, Dorset 0-25 Voluntary and Community Sector Forum
Seth Why	Head of Prevention, Area Manager, Dorset Fire and Rescue Service
David Webb	Youth Offending Services Manager, Dorset Youth Offending Services
Sally Sandcraft	Director of Primary and Community Care Directorate, Dorset CCG
Julie Fielding	Assistant Chief Constable, Dorset Police
Stewart Dipple	Superintendent, Dorset Police
Caroline Naughton	Superintendent, Dorset Police
Kate Harvey	Service Director Children and Families, Dorset Healthcare
Elaine Okopski	Parent/carer Representative, Dorset Parent Care Council
Helen Horsley	Representative of Local Alliance Groups (Chair)
Philip Jones	Chair of Schools Forum, Schools Forum Representative
Lorraine Clarke	Early Years Representative and Director of Hopscotch Pre-school, Early Years Provider Forum Representative
Karen Wrixon	Primary School Representative and Head Teacher of William Barnes Primary, Dorset Primary School Representative
Councillor Stella Jones	Observer at the Board and Councillor Champion for Participation: Children, Young People, Families, Parents and Carers

This document, our full Children, Young People and Families' Plan, aims to bring together the work the partnership will be undertaking in detail and will help the people who are going to deliver the plan to have a good overview of everything we've committed to do. This will help everyone to understand what each other's roles are and help us to co-ordinate our work effectively.

We will also be producing a summary for Children and Young People and an Easy Read to sit alongside this document.

Foreword

I am delighted to share with you our new Children, Young People and Families' Plan 2020-2023. I have the great honour of being the Chair of the Dorset Strategic Alliance for Children and Young People, the group of very dedicated colleagues from across the partnership who are all working hard to realise our collective vision for children and young people:

We want Dorset to be the best place to be a child; where communities thrive, and families are supported to be the best they can be.

In what has been a truly challenging year for all of us, we have listened carefully to the feedback from our children and young people, and the work of colleagues from across the partnership to help to shape this plan. The plan sets out all the things we commit to do together to achieve better outcomes for our children and young people.

We want our children to have the best start in life, we want our young people to thrive as they grow into independent young adults, where children need our care we want them to have the right support in place and for that to be in Dorset and we want all of our children and young people to experience the best education.

Over the Summer we asked our children and young people to tell us what was important to them, they shared lots of their ideas, many of them agreed with our emerging priorities, but importantly children and young people told us they wanted Dorset to be the best place for children and young people to live – we have listened and this too is a priority within this plan.

So, this is where the important work begins as every one of us - our children, young people, their parents and carers, the people who deliver services and our wider community family, come together to deliver this plan.

On behalf of the Strategic Alliance, I would like to thank everyone who has taken part in helping to shape this plan, especially our children and young people who provided exceptional feedback, to you all – we were truly blown away by your ideas, your creativity, your talent – you should all be very proud of yourselves, we are certainly all very proud of you. We will now work hard to deliver your vision for Dorset – your Dorset, for your future.

Councillor Peter Wharf

Chair of the Strategic Alliance and Deputy Leader of Dorset Council

(photo and signature of Chair to be added to final designed version)

Introduction

We want Dorset to be the best place to be a child; where communities thrive, and families are supported to be the best they can be.

Building on the work of the partnership so far and through the priorities in this plan we intend to deliver that vision. We will focus on improving outcomes for all children and young people through our six priorities:

1. Best Start in Life
2. Young and Thriving
3. Good Care Provision
4. Best Education for All
5. Best Place to Live
6. Delivering Locally

We will shape our services that: help children to have the Best Start in Life; enable our Young People to Thrive; deliver Good Care services and support for children when they need it; work to make sure that in Dorset we provide the Best Education for all of our children and young people; and do all we can to make Dorset the Best Place for children and young people to Live. We will Deliver our services Locally where we can, so they are easy to access and that they focus on the needs of the different communities in Dorset. We want all children and young people to be supported to have equality in outcomes.

As we have worked to shape this plan we have reflected on the partnership we want for the future, so alongside our priorities we have developed a set of values and principles that together we will make sure we 'live' in all we do.

Our shared values and principles:

- *Always putting children and families at the heart of everything we do – including in how we develop and shape services*
- *No child or family left behind – we will strive for equity of outcomes for our children, young people and their families*
- *Focussing on early intervention and prevention aiming to help early in the life of a problem and provide a graduated response to need – the right help, in the right place at the right time*
- *Working restoratively, doing things with families instead of to them, for them or doing nothing*
- *Thinking Family and working together so that children and families receive a joined-up response and good transitions*
- *Focussing on strengths within families and communities, understanding the lived experience of children*
- *Staying with families until outcomes are delivered, embedded and change is sustained*
- *Being inclusive – we want our children and young people to be able to get the help they need in the county that is their home*
- *Empowering young people and families to use the information we give them to make decisions for themselves*
- *Delivering best value for money - spending the Dorset £ in Dorset on the things that get the best outcomes for children and families*

As we develop our shared culture and approach to working in partnership further, we will:

- Bring together our strategic commissioning intentions into one overarching partnership Joint Commissioning Strategy for Children and Young People.

- Work to align our partnership Workforce Development and where it makes sense to do so join up our workforce development activities so that colleagues across the partnership can work more effectively as one system.
- When developing the workforce, we will include parents and carers too – they have told us this is important.
- Work together with each other and children and families to co-produce services that reflect the needs of communities ensuring our activities are co-ordinated and people only have to ‘tell us once’.
- Make the best use of our collective resources in times of increased demand and a challenging financial situation for all partners.

The strategic priorities of our individual organisations have influenced the development of the priorities within this plan and our shared partnership values and principles. The work in this plan contributes to the Dorset Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, in particular: reducing inequalities, Starting Well and Living Well priorities. We want to work as a whole system to get the best outcomes possible for our children and young people.

Taking our learning from Covid-19 and using it to be even better

Recent months have seen our partnership grow from strength to strength, coming together to support children and their families in our communities, the partnership mobilised, responded quickly, demonstrated agility and most importantly lived a one team, one Dorset, approach.

During the pandemic, services have been given greater permission to share information to better identify and support families with needs resulting in new ways of working, increased agility in the workforce and more timely and co-ordinated interventions.

We are taking forward the positive learning from our experience in Covid-19 to help us accelerate our work to deliver the best services for children and young people and to support professionals to work across organisational boundaries in the interests of improving family and child outcomes. Through our Strengthening Services Plan, which sits alongside this plan, we will ensure our services are strengthened and that we are continuously improving how we deliver services that support vulnerable children.

We do not yet know the full extent of the impact of Covid-19 on our children, young people and families, but together as partnership we will make sure we are able to respond effectively and through the work set out in this plan, we will transform the way we work to improve long term outcomes for children and young people.

Outcomes

In delivering our plan there are the 7 outcomes or conditions of wellbeing we want for all our children and young people in Dorset:

All children have the best start in life

All children and young people are safe from harm and have the help they need

All children and young people have a settled and happy education which enables them to achieve their full potential

All children and young people have healthy and active lives

All children and young people are prepared for adult life

All children and young people feel they can have their say and are listened to

All children and young people enjoy growing up in Dorset

How the plan has been developed

This plan has been developed in partnership by the Dorset Strategic Alliance for Children and Young People with the input of lots of colleagues who work for the children, young people (and their families) of Dorset and the invaluable feedback from representative parents and carers.

But most importantly, this plan has been developed with the wonderful input of so many children and young people in Dorset who told us about the things that are most important to them.

Engagement has included:

- Partnership Planning Session - March 2020: To consider performance gaps in outcomes for children and young people in Dorset, where outcomes for children are not yet where we want them to be
- Think Tanks – June 2020: On each of the emerging Children, Young People and Families Plan priorities. At these sessions, colleagues from across the partnership, including representative young people and parents and carers, came together in virtual workshops to talk about each priority
- I Live in Dorset campaign – July 2020: This campaign encouraged children and young people from Dorset to tell us about what would make Dorset the best place to grow up

Our priorities have been built on what we already know and throughout the planning process we have been feeding in what children, young people, parents and carers have told us is important to them through a range of research, consultations and co-production.

Our emerging priorities were shared with a wide range of colleagues from across the partnership, including elected members and the voluntary and community sector through newsletters and presentations.

Thank you to everyone who has provided their feedback and contributed to shaping this plan.

Our County - About Dorset

Dorset is a beautiful coastal County, over half of Dorset is covered by the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty designation and 7% of Dorset is protected as a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

The Dorset rural idyll can conceal hidden deprivation, there are pockets of deprivation, mostly in urban areas. But there is also some rural deprivation due to isolation and difficulty accessing housing, transport and essential services. Crime is generally low in Dorset.

Earnings are below average and house prices are high with affordability issues for many young people and keyworkers. Dorset has no motorway but over 2,500 miles of roads.

Dorset has relatively low birth rates and younger people often move away from the area.

The total population of Dorset is: 378,508 (2019 mid-year estimate), this includes 74,765 children and young people aged 0-19 representing 20% of the total population (89,573 aged 0-24).

We have approximately 2,800 children with Special Educational Needs supported through an Educational, Health and Care Plan.

There are 483 Children in Care in Dorset and 261 Care Leavers.

We have 160 schools in Dorset - 1 All through School, 36 First Schools, 2 Infant Schools, 2 Junior Schools, 10 Middle Schools, 81 Primary Schools, 4 Pupil Referral Units, 15 Secondary Schools, 6 Special Schools and 3 Upper Schools.

There are 33 different languages spoken in Dorset schools (January 2020 school census – children with a language other than English as first language).

9% of school age children are from black and minority ethnic communities (non-white British – January 2020 school census) this compares to 34.6% nationally.

Working together for children, young people and families

Dorset Strategic Alliance for Children and Young People

The Dorset Strategic Alliance for Children and Young People is a multi-agency partnership which brings together senior people from police, health, schools and early years settings, voluntary and community sector to shape and transform services for children and young people that achieve improved outcomes.

Strengthening Services Board for Children and Families

This multi-agency partnership Board also brings together senior people who work with children and young people, their focus is to make sure services for vulnerable children are the best they can be. This group works closely with the Strategic Alliance.

Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership

The Safeguarding Children Partnership makes sure that all practitioners and services that work to safeguard children follow the same policies and procedures, ensure these are implemented effectively and that staff have the training they need to deliver them.

Dorset is a large County and so we have six locality areas that are organised around schools in local areas and bring together partners in Family Partnership Zones. Services delivered at a local level include early help, children's social care, children's centres, Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Services, Educational Psychology, education and inclusion services.

Find our more

To find lots of useful information for children, young people and their families visit our Family Information Service <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/children-families/get-help-for-your-family/family-information-service.aspx>

Dorset Council's Local Offer for children and young people from 0 to 25 years with special educational needs and/or disability (SEND) provides information, advice and support for children and their families. For more information visit <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/children-families/sen-and-disability-local-offer/dorsets-local-offer.aspx>

For information on the Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership visit <https://pdscp.co.uk/>

What is important to our children and young people?

We invited children and young people to have their say on what was important to them. During July 2020 we held a social media campaign which asked our children and young people to tell us: What would make Dorset the best place to grow up? Here's a summary of what they said:

- Getting involved, having a say and making a difference – social action
- Having things to do, activities to go to and being able to play
- Being and feeling safe
- A kind and happy Dorset
- Being healthy - and having access to things that support good physical and emotional health
- Caring for each other and looking after people in the community when they need help
- Looking after the environment
- Places where everyone can get to - accessibility
- Being able to learn skills for the future – technology
- Being proud of our community and celebrating Dorset role models.

We have produced a full report of all the things that children and young people told us and the people who are leading this work are using this information to shape how we deliver the plan.

Governance and oversight

The Dorset Strategic Alliance for Children and Young People will be responsible for the governance and oversight of this plan. Each Priority within the Plan will be led by a Senior partner who will work with colleagues from across the partnership to ensure the commitments within this plan are delivered.

Progress against the plan will be monitored by the Strategic Alliance Board at quarterly meetings, outside of these meetings the Senior partner leading each priority will be responsible for monitoring and driving progress. An Annual Report will be published to report on progress made every year.

Other ways you can help

We have included a section within each Priority in this plan where you will find lots ideas of how we can all help. The ideas are a starting point and we will develop these ideas further over the course of the plan. We will make sure they are available to access through the Dorset Family Information Service.

Best Start in Life

Our aim

Our aim is to support children to have the best possible start in life by supporting good child development, strengthening and changing how families that are expecting a new baby and have pre-school children are supported and improving school readiness.

Why is this important?

The first 1,000 days, the time spanning between conception and a child's second birthday is a unique period of opportunity where the foundations for health, growth, and neurodevelopment across the lifespan are established, but this time can also have potential for increased vulnerability.

How well or how poorly mothers and children are nourished and cared for during this time has a profound impact on a child's outcomes. Smoking, excessive alcohol, poor nutrition, and stress or the absence of a warm loving relationship can have significant short and longer-term negative impacts. The presence of a strong and consistent relationship with a trusted adult is important to support the development of good wellbeing.

Young children and their families have regular contact with a number of different services such as midwifery, health visiting, childcare, early education provision and a range of voluntary and community services. These Universal community services offer a timely opportunity to identify and intervene early, avoiding costly specialist services and improving outcomes for children and their families. When children and their families face challenges and need help, they should be able to easily access the support from their community and from professionals, with clear roles and responsibilities, who are able to respond confidently to deliver effective prevention and early intervention. Family friendly communities support good development and lifelong outcomes and reduce inequalities, providing supportive environments before conception, during pregnancy and following birth. We know that early years settings and other places and people within the community also play an important role in supporting families.

We have a unique opportunity to support families and communities in making most of the potential of our children in the early years. Working together we can lay the foundations, supporting good development for children to be ready for school. We know that there are some unfair and avoidable differences between some children and their peers. This can be seen through gaps in development with children facing more challenges such as poverty, poor housing, neglect or trauma than their peers. One example is in speech and language acquisition, which can have a negative impact not only on academic achievement but also increases risk of behaviour difficulties in schools, mental health problems and unemployment in adulthood. Supporting parents to enjoy talking, playing and reading with their children helps prepare children for school.

Where are we now?

Pregnancy and parenthood are times of great change. It is common for new parents to experience a range of emotions, both positive and negative, and many people find that pregnancy or having a baby is more challenging than they anticipated as they re-adjust to new routines. In Dorset we want parents to feel positive about asking for help, should and when they need it, and recognise opportunities to work together in reducing any stigma parents might feel accessing local support.

Dorset has been an Early Adopter for responding to the challenges highlighted by Better Births. A local transformation plan seeks to improve the safety and experiences of women (and their families) from conception to the early post-natal period. There are strengths in both the programme delivery and engagement of women in shaping services, however, some families have greater challenges, including those known to social care and those that have experienced multiple children removed into care. By working together, we can make this even better by developing co-ordinated wrap

around support, including community assets and specific social, emotional and practical interventions.

The time between 0-5 years of age is the most sensitive time for brain development, more than 90 percent of brain growth occurs during this time. Studies show that children who receive quality childcare enter school with better maths, language, and social skills. These skills give children a good start to succeed in school and in life. In Dorset the take-up of childcare funding for children is high (89% of eligible 2-year olds and 96% of 3/4-year olds) and the proportion of childcare providers that are good or outstanding is also high.

Many children in Dorset develop well and start school healthy, happy, communicative, sociable, curious, active and equipped for the next phase of life and learning, but this is not the case for all children. A key indicator of this is the proportion of children who have a 'a good level of development' at age 5. In Dorset there is a gap in development between children from poorer households that are eligible for Free School Meals and for children from black and minority ethnic groups.

In Dorset, there are some stark differences between where children grow up and the chances they have of doing well in adult life, with Weymouth and Portland ranking one of the lowest areas for social mobility in the whole country. This means that some of our children are less likely to do well at school, find a good job and have a good standard of living than children from other areas.

Children with social workers or who have experienced care can face a range of challenging social and health outcomes, including poorer educational results, higher rates of mental health problems and even higher rates of homelessness and unemployment later in life. In Dorset children aged 0-4 years represent the highest number of new Child Protection and Children in Care cases. There are a small number of families for whom, repeated children are taken into care, where evidence based intensive support programmes could delay and better prepare parents for any subsequent children.

Childhood immunisation is a proxy measure of engagement with routine healthcare in the early years. In Dorset there is significant variation in the uptake of childhood immunisations, specifically MMR dose 2.

We are fortunate in Dorset to have strong support from the Parent Carer Forum and know we have work to do to better support the early identification and support of children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) to better meet their needs early.

There is much to build upon following the incredible community response to Covid-19 including opportunities for communities to support families in a range of different ways to support food security and reducing social isolation. There are significant opportunities for the partnership to develop an asset-based approach to community resilience which wraps around pregnancy and parenthood and to harness and capitalise on the rapid improvement in joint working within community settings.

What are the things we are going to do?

- We will develop a multi-agency agreement on how we provide intensive support to women who have had multiple children removed from their care.
- We will work together to strengthen the local maternity system developments with a community wrap around offer, to support pre-/post birth (preparing for parenthood) and to improve pathways of support between maternity services, health visiting and local authority services.
- We will improve how we share information to better support families within their communities.
- Deliver evidence-based interventions to improve outcomes for 0-5's, with a particular focus on reducing inequality, focusing on:
 - Language development
 - Strong bonds between parents and children

- School readiness
- Community and parent led approaches
- Supporting good home learning environments
- We will focus on putting the needs of children first and ensure processes don't get in the way of providing good support, a graduated response to need – the right help, in the right place at the right time.
- We will champion childhood immunisations and adult health improvement throughout the partnership workforce e.g. workforce development/campaigns.
- Promote the creation of child-friendly spaces and places.
- Work with Early Years settings to ensure there is sufficient childcare available for children in Dorset and promote take up of the early years offer.
- Support childminders and other early years settings to identify and address issues early, drawing on support from a range of local professionals.
- Make sure information and services are accessible in communities across Dorset, integrated and whole family focussed.
- Explore the development of Family Hubs - where people of all ages can get help and support from a range of professionals.

Other ways you can help

- Take a look at the Maternity Matters website for information on becoming a new parent and for support during pregnancy, labour and after the birth <https://maternitymattersdorset.nhs.uk/>
- Sign up to be a Breastfeeding Peer Supporter with <https://www.familiesandbabies.org.uk/>
- Visit the Professional Association of Child Care and Early Years website and online videos for lots of useful information for providers and parents.
 - <https://www.pacey.org.uk/working-in-childcare/spotlight-on/2-year-olds/home-learning-environment/>
 - <https://www.youtube.com/c/PACEYorgUK/videos>
- Think about volunteering for example at your local library and local charitable organisations.
- Read, talk and sing to your children, follow these links for some great ideas and useful information:
 - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people/science-and-facts>
 - <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/tips-and-advice/reading-tips/>
 - <https://www.ican.org.uk/i-cans-talking-point/parents/>
 - <https://www.afasic.org.uk/>
- Visit the Dorset Reading Partners website to see how you can help <https://dorsetreadingpartners.org.uk/>
- Make sure your child is registered with their GP and Dentist, visit the NHS choices website for more information <https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/nhs-services/gps/how-to-register-with-a-gp-practice/>
- Sign up for Change4Life <https://www.nhs.uk/change4life/about-change4life>
- Get involved with Live Well Dorset <https://www.livewelldorset.co.uk/>
- Visit the Dorset Family Information Service and sign up to our newsletter for lots of useful information for families <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/children-families/get-help-for-your-family/family-information-service.aspx>
- If you're a parent or carer and would like to know more about parenting tips, information about long term illnesses or where to go if you feel your child is having problems with their emotions, visit Wessex Healthier Together <https://what0-18.nhs.uk/>
- If you have questions about your child's development, visit <https://www.dorsethealthcare.nhs.uk/healthvisiting> or speak to your local health visiting team via the contact details above

Young and Thriving

Our aim

Our aim is to set our young people up for success in adulthood for them to have good emotional wellbeing and mental health; to be able to be cared for by their families; and that they will be supported to stay out of the youth justice system.

Why is this important?

Young people are concerned about how prepared they are for work and wider adult life. Information from successive Young Researcher reports indicate that young people want access to work experience and good careers advice, as well as wider personal development opportunities.

The numbers of young people in care have risen significantly over the last ten years in Dorset and there has been a trend of young people coming into care for the first time during adolescence. This is both expensive to the public sector and does not lead to better outcomes for young people.

Preparing young people for adulthood has been a consistent theme of engagement with young people including feedback from Dorset Youth Council, Dorset Young Researchers and our care leavers. As a corporate parent we want to ensure that we have done all we can to ensure that those leaving our care have the best possible start in life. Our young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) do less well than their peers and are less likely to be able to access employment opportunities. Parents and carers of children with SEND have told us that transition to adults' services is a worrying time for them and that we could do more together to prepare our young people for a settled adulthood.

Feedback from young people has consistently highlighted the concerns they have about access to support around their emotional well-being. Significant work has already been undertaken to understand the offer to young people in its widest context, but there is still more to do to co-ordinate this wide range of activity and ensure young people can access help and support in a timely way.

We know that the numbers of young people in Dorset who become involved with the criminal justice system is relatively low and has fallen over the last year. Nonetheless, for those that do, the impact on their lives can be significant. It is important that we remain focused on different strands of this work, including prevention at scale, focused intervention with those on the periphery of crime and, effective interventions with those engaging in criminal activity, including those leaving custody.

Where are we now?

We know that there are a small proportion of young people that struggle as they progress through adolescence. This may be around their emotional well-being, poor behaviour in school, Anti-Social Behaviour, poor attendance and substance misuse. Many of these young people go on to become NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training). For many young people a positive adult in their life can be a significant protective factor in preventing these issues from escalating into a bigger concern. It is important we have a range of interventions available to support this cohort of young people.

The rate of Children in Care per 10,000 in Dorset is significantly above both the national rate and that of our statistical neighbours. We know that outcomes for children who enter care during adolescence are not always good and not enough young people are supported to return home to their families. We have an increasing number of Care Leavers and are one of eight authorities to participate in the national New Belongings programme which seeks to improve our support to Care Leavers. We already know that a small number of young people have issues accessing suitable accommodation and that only 50% of Care Leavers are in Education, Employment or Training.

We know that many young people struggle to access support for emotional wellbeing and mental health. Our NHS Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services only has sufficient resources for

approximately 25% of young people with a mental health condition. This disproportionately affects vulnerable young people. Plans are in place to increase access in line with the NHS Long Term Plan and Dorset has two areas (North Dorset and Chesil) which are pilot areas for Targeted Mental Health in Schools. In addition, there are a broad range of other support services which contribute to young people's well-being, which includes some provision which is commissioned by Children's Services. However, there is work to do to ensure that these services join up to provide the right help at the right time. In addition, we know there is a specific issue of young people transferring from CAMHS to Adult Mental Health services.

The Dorset Youth Offending Service has made significant progress in supporting young people entering the youth justice system. In the Dorset Council area, there has been a 26.4% reduction in the number of Dorset young people who received a substantive outcome and a 22% reduction in the number of offences in the twelve months to 30 June 2020. In the same period, Dorset young people received fewer substantive Out of Court Disposals (OOCs), with Youth Cautions reduced by half and Youth Conditional Cautions by a third. We want to maintain this momentum and remain focused on preventing young people from coming into the Youth Justice System for the first time and prevent those that do from re-entering.

What are the things we are going to do?

- Ensure young people receiving our services will be involved in decisions about how we help them, where professionals listen to them and understand their needs.
- Create and publish a range of personal development opportunities through developing community-based volunteering opportunities; peer support and peer mentoring programmes; Youth Hubs for 16-24 year olds who are unemployed or at risk of unemployment/redundancy and work with employers and businesses to improve their offer.
- We will support the provision of a wide range of positive activities for young people, including access to youth work such as open access youth clubs, detached youth work, one-to-one and virtual/ online youth work and targeted issue based group work programmes to support vulnerable young people whose needs might otherwise escalate and we will work with partners to deliver these programmes locally, in line with the other priorities within this plan.
- We will support young people at risk of coming into care (and their family) to remain in their family home through the development of edge of care services and we will improve our support for adolescents to return home following time in care.
- We will support young people that have been in care to be ready for adulthood, by planning early and having a clear offer for Care Leavers. Partners will offer care leavers work experience and apprenticeship opportunities.
- We will prepare young people with SEND for settled adulthood through developing a range of employment options and support young people to develop the skills required for employment and independent living.
- We will work to reduce the inequalities in physical and mental health for young people with SEND and focus on improving transitions between services for all young people entering adulthood working together with adults' social care and health services to deliver a new Conception to Settled Adulthood Strategy.
- We will make sure young people have access to a wide range of support to promote their emotional well-being and address their mental health concerns. We will implement the NHS Long Term plan ambitions for increased access to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services and implement the evidence based Thrive Framework for a system wide approach to emotional wellbeing and mental health developed by the Anna Freud Centre and the Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust.
- We will evaluate the Targeted Mental Health Service in schools with a view to expanding it to other areas of Dorset. We will also improve transitions between children's and adult mental health services.
- We will support young people to avoid entering the youth justice system and to prevent re-entry through restorative and creative approaches to low level offending; avoiding the criminalisation of young people that are being exploited; developing a diversionary offer for young people vulnerable to exploitation; increasing uptake of substance use services.

Other ways you can help

- Make young people feel welcome in communities
- Create opportunities for young people to get involved
- Take a look at our current information for young people:
<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/children-families/youth-link/advice-and-guidance/advice-and-support-for-young-people.aspx>
- Promote the range of information regarding emotional health and wellbeing support for young people:
 - Kooth - <https://www.kooth.com/>
 - Chat health <https://www.publichealthdorset.org.uk/your-health/children-and-families/chat-health.aspx>
 - Discovery Project Dorset <https://www.dorsethealthcare.nhs.uk/patients-and-visitors/our-services-hospitals/mental-health/discovery-project>
 - Mental Health Support Teams in Schools Dorset <https://camhsdorset.org/about-camhs/mental-health-support-teams-mhsts>
 - CAMHS <https://camhsdorset.org/>
- If you are an employer offer work experience or apprenticeships for young people – prioritising children in care and children with SEND
- Visit these useful webpages regarding support to work:
 - Dorset Skills for Young People <https://cswgroup.co.uk/dorset-skills-for-young-people/>
 - Information Advice and Guidance <https://www.ansbury.co.uk/>
 - National Careers Service <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/>
 - Skills and Learning Dorset <https://www.skillsandlearningdorset.com/apprenticeships/>
 - Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership <https://www.dorsetlep.co.uk/apprenticeships>
 - Flying Start Dorset <https://www.sunoutreach.org/resource-category/flying-start-dorset-wide/>

Good Care Provision

Our aim

Our aim is to keep our children close to home and to be the best corporate parents that we can be. Where we can, we want to support families to stay together, but where children and young people do need care, we want to make sure this is in family-based care where possible. We want to make sure that we have the right educational and housing options for our children in care and care leavers, and that we improve their health and wellbeing. In addition, we want to make sure that there are a range of short breaks available to support families with children with SEND to be able to continue to care for their children.

Why is this important?

Currently too many of our children and young people who need care are in placements that are outside of Dorset.

We know that being in a placement that is in a family environment is a good option for lots of children and young people. We know that we have more to do to develop the right provision for our children and young people locally so that they are able to stay close to their friends, family, communities and schools when they need help.

When a child or young person needs care, if they are closer to their home and community the people and services they already know will be able to continue to help them, this helps to ensure better outcomes for young people.

We know that supporting families in different ways in the community can help them to continue caring for their children and prevent children coming into care.

External placements for children in care have significant financial implications as they are often high-cost placements and out of county.

Where are we now?

We have seen our children in care figures gradually rise and we know we have more to do to support families and their networks. Children who come into care in an emergency or in an unplanned way face poorer outcomes and placement choice. Most children who come into care in this way in Dorset are already known to us, so these situations are avoidable.

We don't have enough residential provision in Dorset to meet the needs of our children, and we have insufficient numbers of in-house foster carers. We also know we do not have enough availability of specialist residential provision.

Currently 69% of children in care live with foster carers, we would like that to be much higher. Not as many of our young people stay with their foster families as they become care leavers as we would like.

Too many of our children in care are living more than 20 miles from home. Around 40% of children in care are living outside the county of Dorset, away from family and friends.

Placing children outside of Dorset most importantly impacts on children and young people. We also know that this does not provide value for money as it is often costly and does not always achieve the best outcomes for children and young people. Out of County placements are resulting in substantial budget pressures that are not sustainable.

There is more to do to support children in care with their emotional health and wellbeing with access to services, capacity and flexibility.

Our partnership is developing all the time, but we know there are many more opportunities to look at how we join up our resources for better outcomes for children and young people.

Foster carers are sometimes unable to continue to care for children and young people because they do not have the experience and skills to support the most vulnerable.

What are the things we are going to do?

- Undertake better planning for children in need to ensure that they do not enter care in an unplanned way.
- Strengthen fostering services ensuring we meet sufficiency needs and provide a robust service for the most vulnerable teenagers and children that avoids breakdown and escalation.
- Establish a service using the learning from the No Wrong Door model to support young people in the care system to have more stable placements and to remain or return to foster care where it is appropriate to do so.
- Establish a new children's home as part of our overall residential strategy.
- Review our residential provision and identify a model of practice and delivery which better meets the needs of the most vulnerable young people.
- Review our young people's supported housing and ensure there is sufficient and good quality supported accommodation in the right location to support the most vulnerable young people in their transition to adulthood and independent living.
- Embed our joint protocol between children's services and housing to ensure that young people who are at risk of homelessness receive a robust response that is focussed on the best outcomes for young people.
- Establish a new service that enables for children in care proceedings or subject to a child protection plan to have quality family time and contact.
- Develop the therapeutic offer in Dorset so that children and young people who have experienced trauma get the help they need, when they need it.
- Develop market capacity and both commission and facilitate a comprehensive Short Break Offer which supports families and prevents escalation to care or inpatient status.
- Ensure that all people that work with and are involved in the lives of children in care and care leavers can play a proactive part in Corporate Parenting and doing everything they can to help children and young people to have great outcomes.
- Explore the use of Family Group Conferences as a restorative and preventive service so that they take place earlier in the family journey.

Other ways you can help

- Talk to us about becoming a Fostering Friendly employer – we'll be developing information to support this as part of this plan and will post on our Fostering website.
- Consider becoming a foster carer with Dorset Council, follow this link for more information <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/children-families/childrens-social-care/fostering/fostering.aspx>
- Offer supported lodgings for a young person. Follow this link to find out more <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/children-families/childrens-social-care/children-in-care/local-offer-for-care-leavers/become-a-supported-lodgings-provider.aspx>

Best Education for All

Our aim

We want to be an education community that delivers the best outcomes for our children and young people, together.

We want to make sure that our schools and educational settings are supported to deliver the best education possible and that our children achieve their full potential.

We want to improve the proportion of schools that are good or outstanding across the county; improve educational progress of children; reduce the number of exclusions from school, improve school attendance and support children that are educated at home.

Why is this important?

We want our children and young people in Dorset to have the best education in good or outstanding schools.

We want our schools to be inclusive settings for all of our children and young people and that our children who are vulnerable and those that have special educational needs and disabilities have the right support at the right time and are enabled to have a stable and settled education.

We want our children and young people to be able to achieve their goals so that they are prepared for adult life and go on to successful futures.

Education settings provide the ideal environment to deliver support to children and young people outside of healthcare settings, as they are flexible places in which a diverse range of interventions can be offered and are safe spaces where children are more likely to engage in new initiatives. We know that by optimising opportunities to work together as a wider partnership we will support our children and young people to have better outcomes.

Our education community has never worked more closely together. Through a period of crisis, schools, education settings, community partners, health partners, children, young people and their families with the Council have generated innovative solutions to challenges faced during Covid-19.

As we move forward, the need to focus on the development and learning experience of our children and young people, as a whole system is more important than ever.

Where are we now?

Pupil achievement in Dorset is at or around the national average in the early years, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5. At Key Stage 2 Dorset is some way below National, the South West, and Dorset Statistical Neighbours.

At the earlier end of primary stage, Dorset pupils achieve at a rate similar to the national average; the percentage of reception pupils who achieve a 'Good Level of Development' is the same as the national figure, whilst the Year 1 Phonics results are 1% below the national. Children who receive Free School Meals (FSM) are broadly in line but SEND pupils below national averages.

At Key Stage 1 attainment has improved is now broadly in line at the expected standard. SEND pupils (with EHC) attain above their South West counterparts, but FSM pupils achieve their below National and South west peers. In 2019 Dorset Key Stage 2 subject attainment at the expected standard moved out of the bottom 20% of LAs for the first time in some years, although the combined RWM (reading, writing, maths) is still in the bottom 20%. In most cases attainment is still below National and South West. This overall picture of low Key Stage 2 achievement is mirrored for most groups of vulnerable pupils. Whilst progress between KS1 and KS2 is slowly improving, Dorset remains in the bottom 20% for all subjects.

Progress in Primary schools, except for Mathematics, is now broadly in line with the national average, however this is not the case with Dorset Middle Schools who make up around a third of year 6 pupils.

Attainment at Key Stage 4 is broadly in line or above National. Pupils taking languages also tend to achieve below their national counterparts. Progress between Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4 is in line with the National, except languages.

Dorset has an academic emphasis on Post 16 provision, with over half of provision delivered in 6th forms. Attainment at Key Stage 5 is broadly in line with National and South West, although the participation of 16 and 17-year olds in learning has dropped.

75% of Schools in Dorset have Good or Outstanding Ofsted outcomes (as at May 2020). This compares to 83% in the South West and 86% nationally. Dorset ranks 147th out of 150 LAs for this measure.

We have high numbers of fixed period exclusions and permanent exclusions in Dorset. There are increasing numbers of children Electively Home Educated. Historically our persistent absence has been above national average. Overall Pupil Absence in Dorset is higher than national and other comparators – Secondary is higher, primary slightly lower. Exclusions have been rising since 2016, most notably in the primary sector.

Our Special Educational Needs (SEN) Support and EHCP (Educational, Health and Care Plan) cohort perform in line with national averages. We have approximately 2,800 children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities supported through an Educational, Health and Care Plan.

There is no doubt that Covid-19 will have impacted on the learning of our children and young people, and we do not yet know the full extent of this. We know that some of our children have thrived using online learning in a home environment.

What are the things we are going to do?

- Every child is different and unique - we will take a person-centred approach that emphasises the importance of working with our education community to enable children, young people and their families to enhance their learning. Person-centred planning will become a cornerstone of our joint working approach and will enable us to work with children and their families to coproduce solutions that make a real difference.
- Every child and young person has a different life experience and we need to think flexibly to support them in different ways and intervene early when things are not working. We will ensure that children and young people can be supported within a school setting through a graduated response and in an inclusive way that creates safe, engaging and exciting learning environments where they thrive.
- We will strengthen our education system from early years through to Post-16 provision and strong transitions will be key to ensuring every child receives the best possible education. We will work together as an education community to ensure that every child receives a positive learning experience and makes progress.
- Where children require an Education, Health and Care Plan we will ensure this is of high quality, person centred and co-produced with children and their families.
- We will work as a whole system, our education community will strengthen our leadership through collaboration by sharing exemplary practice, business intelligence and creating opportunities to innovate, to ensure our education provision can achieve the best possible outcomes.
- We will strengthen our multi-agency working in our education community. Collaboration across our education community through a mutually supportive culture will be key to our success. The sharing of information and working together on strategies across our community has helped us target need to our most vulnerable children, in particular at a time of crisis, we want to build on this.

- We will identify the need for support for children and young people early using a multi-agency approach will allow the right support to be delivered, at the right time. We know that bringing together the important networks in a child or young person's life with partner agencies and our schools working together can achieve outstanding outcomes.
- Through our multi-agency approach, together we will ensure that our education community continuously improves to remove the barriers and enable us to act responsively. This will mean better coordination of support and stronger communication focussed on the child, young person and their family at the centre.
- Building on our partnership work so far, we will develop and implement an Education and Inclusion Strategy focused on improving educational outcomes for all children and young people including vulnerable children and improving our offer to children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.
- We will promote Free School Meals to families and encourage those who are entitled to take up the offer.
- We will continue to support the development and delivery of more vocational education courses including T levels to provide more options for young people. We will work with employers through our Post16 Skill Plan to support the Post 16 curriculum.

Other ways you can help

- Follow this link to find lots of useful information about schools in Dorset:
<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/education-and-training/schools-and-learning/schools-and-learning.aspx>
- Consider becoming a School Governor – school governors play a key role in leading, supporting and improving schools <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/education-and-training/schools-and-learning/become-a-school-governor.aspx>
- For more information on school governance visit the Inspiring Governance website <https://www.inspiringgovernance.org/>
- Ask your local school how you can help and volunteer for example joining the Parent Teacher Association.
- Promote the Dorset Council's Local Offer for children and young people from 0 to 25 years with special educational needs and/or disability (SEND) that provides information, advice and support for children and their families. For more information visit <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/children-families/sen-and-disability-local-offer/dorsets-local-offer.aspx>

Best Place to Live

Our aim

Our aim is to make Dorset the best place to live and grow up. Our children and young people will live in thriving communities, where they can safely live, learn, and play and where all voices are valued and respected. Our young people want to be able to get to and participate in positive activities and for us to work together to actively protect the natural environment.

Why is this important?

Our children and young people provided us with feedback on the issues that are important to them and we are committed as a partnership to responding to these. They have told us that they aspire to live, learn and grow in places where people are kind, honest and accountable and where they feel safe (Dorset Youth Voice; Children in Care Action Plan; Young People's Manifesto).

Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child sets out the right of children to be listened to in decisions which affect them. Young people have told us they want to be involved and we know that they both benefit individually from being involved but make extremely valuable contributions. They want to have opportunities to contribute to communities and make a difference on issues that are important to them.

Our children and young people want to have opportunities to get involved in positive activities in their schools and in their communities. We know that this will enrich their lives, build friendships and develop interests and skills for the future. There is strong evidence that children and young people that grow up in places that meet their needs are better equipped to deal with any issues that come their way and to succeed in adult life. As one of our young people has said 'Happy children make better learners and save money in the long run'.

They want access to play opportunities, outside spaces and outdoor learning. They want to be able to safely travel around independently to activities and work using accessible footpaths, cycle-paths and public transport.

Our young people have told us that it is really important that the place they live is inclusive in all senses, where all young people are treated fairly regardless of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender, identity or disability. They want to have equality of opportunity and outcome.

Dorset, along with many other counties has seen a rise contextual-safeguarding concerns. We know that there are several active 'County Lines' into Dorset and, at a lower level, concern from communities about young people becoming involved in anti-social behaviour. Feedback from our Young Researchers programme indicates that feeling safe is a high priority for young people.

Our children and young people are passionate about protecting the natural environment of Dorset and addressing climate change. They want to see more initiatives to address climate change and for adults to do as much as they can to make a difference. There is clear scientific evidence to show that climate change is happening and is due to human activity. This includes global warming and greater risk of flooding, droughts and heat waves.

Where are we now?

There are a range of opportunities for young people to express their voice such as a School Councils, Dorset Youth Council, Young Inspectors, Young Researchers, Children in Care Council and the Care Leavers Forum, however we know that we need to do more to ensure greater representation and true co-production across all our services. Partners within the Strategic Alliance for Children and Young People have made considerable commitment to co-production and in some cases have Co-Production policies in place, we want to build on this and do more to identify where input from young people has influenced decision making and make sure young people are aware of how getting involved in co-production is making a difference.

There are a wide range of positive activities available for our young people, but for some they are too difficult to get to or are not affordable. Our 'Summer in Dorset' programme, provided a range of fun activities for children and young people during the Summer of 2020 and we want to build on this participation. There are some opportunities for volunteering and getting involved in communities, but this is not as wide reaching as it could be and it can often be difficult for young people to know where to find out more.

Our young people do not always experience kindness or feel included in their communities. Their successes and contributions are not always celebrated, and, in some cases, they can be portrayed as problems rather than as valued members. Some of our young people have told us that they have experienced bullying, discrimination or racism and we know that some young people from particular places experience poorer outcomes or have fewer opportunities than their peers living in other parts of the county.

Young people with physical disabilities have told us that they can miss out on accessing Dorset's countryside and beaches and can find it difficult to get around. Our young people in rural areas can sometimes feel isolated as public transport options are limited. We know that having an accessible Dorset is important to all our children and young people.

Although Dorset is a relatively safe area with low levels of crime, we know that not all young people feel safe in the area where they live, and we want to be able to improve this. We are also worried for small groups of young people that may be vulnerable to being exploited, sometimes because they have been excluded from school or because they have been targeted by organised criminal gangs through County Lines. We need to do more to promote community safety and staying safe online and help communities and professionals be aware of and respond to risks early. We need to work together to adopt a contextual safeguarding approach that helps support the development of safe communities.

Our young people are a huge asset to Dorset and are very committed to making Dorset a great place to live.

What are the things we are going to do?

- Create and publish more opportunities for children and young people to get involved in their communities and to develop the skills to create change on issues that are important to them.
- We will ensure that information on activities and opportunities for children and young people is easily accessible and promoted to young people, including the use of social media.
- Work together and with wider partners so that there are a range of different places to go and things to do for children and young people including play spaces; arts, music and sports activities; leisure and outdoor learning; physical activity; environmental and youth activities – making the most of schools and community spaces such as community gardens and allotments.
- Provide a range of opportunities for young people to influence our strategic decision making including a Youth Council, a Children in Care Council, a Care Leavers Forum and children and young people with learning disabilities groups. We will also involve young people in our recruitment and selection and commissioning arrangements.
- Work together to ensure that communities, services, and businesses are welcoming and inclusive places, where young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities are able to make friends and be included in community life.
- Promote the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and ways of creating schools and communities that respect these rights.
- Promote anti-discriminatory and anti-racist education and practices, listening carefully to and acting on the experiences of children and young people from Black and other minority communities in Dorset.
- Work together to create safe communities.
- Adopt a contextual safeguarding approach to keeping our children and young people safe, recognising the importance of the different relationships that young people form in their neighbourhoods, schools and online and how these can impact on their safety and wellbeing.

- Advocate for ensuring that children and young people's education, wellbeing and leisure needs are considered in any building and future housing developments.
- Work with our colleagues to improve accessibility in the countryside and local beaches; increase cycle lanes and improve public transport.
- Champion the use of green energy, reduction in waste, recycling and reduction in the use of plastic and work to reduce carbon emissions from all our organisations.

Other ways you can help

- Actively seek out books that have wider representation
- Create work experience and/or volunteering opportunities for children and young people
- Take your litter home
- Reduce your carbon footprint through using more green energy, walking and cycling.
- If you lead a school setting visit the Sustainable Schools web pages for lots of useful ideas on how to get involved <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/countryside-coast-parks/countryside-management/sustainable-schools/sustainable-schools.aspx>
- Follow the link for useful information and safety advice on cycling to school <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/sport-leisure/cycling/cycling-and-walking-to-school.aspx>

FINAL DRAFT

Delivering Locally

Our aim

Our aim is to join up services in Dorset to become a whole system that strengthens families' ability to care and sustain their children through embedding the new model of children's services, identifying opportunities for service integration and building on community assets that already exist.

Why is this important?

There is significant evidence that place-based approaches lead to positive outcomes for children by enabling people to come together to address complex health, social and economic issues, which no one individual or agency can solve alone. We know that many organisations and professionals carry out similar activities in the same locations contributing to duplication and waste.

Many children are living in difficult family circumstances. Without early help difficulties can get worse and children can be more at risk of suffering serious harm. There is strong evidence that systemic approaches to prevention and early help that focus on supporting the whole family, can do more to meet needs and reduce abuse and neglect than reactive services and this is most effective when local partners share accountability and coordinate services together.

Communities have many areas of strength and building on these is important for improving outcomes for children and families. There is strong evidence that working with families and communities on issues that are important to them can improve engagement, ownership and outcomes. This type of approach enables relationships to grow and form, between children, families and communities and with service providers and professionals working in the area and help develop solutions that are most likely to be effective in particular areas.

Our children and young people have told us that the environment is really important to them, therefore we want to play our part in reducing carbon emissions by reducing travel and basing our staff in local areas, close to where children are.

Where are we now?

The new integrated model for Children's Services delivery, Dorset Children Thrive, has started to become a reality. We have a range of colleagues such as social workers, early help and education professionals all working together in locality areas to provide more holistic care and support to our children and families. There is strong commitment to the delivery of care closer to home through the NHS Long Term Plan and our Primary Care Networks – groups of GP practices working together to focus on local care are developing well. Groups of local schools are working together and there is a real opportunity to build on this and integrate our work further.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, services have been given greater permission to share information to better identify and support families with needs. This has resulted in new ways of working, increased agility in the workforce and more timely and co-ordinated interventions. There is a real opportunity to build on this to support professionals to work together across traditional organisational boundaries to better meet needs. Children, young people and families have repeatedly told us that they want to receive services from professionals that work together in a coordinated way.

We are worried about the fact that we have too many children coming into care, in many cases this is because we are not sufficiently focused on helping families to remain together and providing the type of high quality early help that addresses the need of the whole family, preventing problems from getting worse. We have collectively invested in early help and need to make sure that this is able to demonstrate impact and focused on where it is needed most. Many of our professionals have adopted a whole family approach and are confident in undertaking early help assessments, we will continue to build on this and improve the quality of our offer and make sure that it is easy for children, families and young people to know how to get help and help themselves.

We have some examples of good partnership working that builds on the strengths of communities but too often we do not engage with people living in communities and involve them in co-production or service design and delivery.

What are the things we are going to do?

- Make our services easy to access by being based locally in communities and explore virtual and digital service offers to complement face-to-face support.
- Work together in multi-professional teams to wrap the right support around children and families – taking a whole family approach.
- Seek opportunities to co-locate or integrate our services where this could improve child and family outcomes and value for money.
- Coordinate our work through six Local Alliance Groups that bring together local partners to understand local needs and develop local plans that make the most of collective resources and address issues that are important to local communities.
- Update our partnership Early Help Strategy and Plan.
- Focus on providing more early help by making sure that all practitioners have the tools they need to initiate and provide early help.
- Define and publish the early help offer of all partners and make sure that it is easy to access for children, young people, families and professionals.
- Develop mechanisms for understanding the amount of early help delivered by all partnership organisations and its impact.
- Embed whole family approaches, with a particular focus on addressing the needs of children living with parental substance use, mental ill-health or domestic abuse.
- Map the existing assets and resources (e.g. people, places, community groups, buildings, schools, organisations) in local communities that we can build on to meet the needs of children and families and work with communities to address gaps.
- Explore investment in capacity building for communities and staff to be able to work in different ways.

Other ways you can help

- Visit our Family Information Service webpages and sign up to our newsletter <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/children-families/get-help-for-your-family/family-information-service.aspx>
- Visit the webpages of Dorset Council's Local Offer for children and young people from 0 to 25 years with special educational needs and/or disability (SEND) providing information, advice and support for children and their families. <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/children-families/sen-and-disability-local-offer/dorsets-local-offer.aspx>

How we will know we've made a difference

We will use a range of indicators and measures to monitor the impact of our plan on improving outcomes for children and young people. These indicators will form the basis of the Performance Framework setting out baselines and targets, that we will develop to support this plan and our progress reporting. Below are some of the key indicators:

1. Number of children in care
2. Number of children and young people with child protection plans
3. % of children in care placed more than 20 miles from Dorset
4. % of children in care in placements out of County
5. % of care leavers in Staying Put arrangements
6. Smoking at time of delivery rates
7. Uptake of under 2's funded childcare
8. Number of children accessing their entitlement to early education at age two, three and four
9. Ages and stages questionnaire results (ASQ)
10. School Readiness: % of children achieving a Good Level of Development at EYFS
11. National Child Measurement Programme - Reception and year 6
12. Rate of conceptions per 1,000 females aged 15-17
13. % of 10-17year olds offending
14. Numbers of children entering the criminal justice system (including vulnerable groups)
15. Rates of under 18s alcohol related hospital admissions
16. Children and young people's views and satisfaction on emotional health and wellbeing and mental health services
17. % of Dorset schools that are Good or better
18. % with good achievement at the end of Primary School
19. % gaining 5 good GCSEs including English and maths
20. Achievement gaps at 5, 11, 16 and 19
21. Level 3 qualifications at 19
22. Number of exclusions from school (permanent and fixed)
23. % Total Absence by phase of education
24. % of young people NEET/not known
25. Destinations of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities and care leavers
26. Proportion of 16-17year olds participating in education, employment or training
27. Number of children in Independent Specialist Placements (ISPs)
28. Children and young people's views on growing up in Dorset

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Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)

Before completing this EqIA please ensure you have read the guidance on the intranet.

Initial Information

Name:	Claire Shiels
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Members of the assessment team:	Claire Shiels, Carol Hosking
Date assessment started:	1 st June 2020
Date of completion:	30/9/2020
Version Number:	0.4

Part 1: Background Information

Is this (please tick or expand the box to explain)

Existing	
Changing, updating or revision	
New or proposed	✓
Other	

Is this (please tick or expand the box to explain)

Internal (employees only)	
External (residents, communities, partners)	✓
Both of the above	

What is the name of your policy, strategy, project or service being assessed?

Children, Young People and Families Plan 2020-23

What is the policy, strategy, project or service designed to do? (include the aims, purpose and intended outcomes of the policy)

The Children, Young People and Families' Plan 2020-23 is the overarching strategic plan for the Dorset Strategic Alliance for Children and Young People, a partnership of statutory, education and voluntary sector agencies (full list is available in the plan) and sets out how the partnership will work together to improve outcomes for children and young people.

The Children, Young People and Families Plan 2020-23 delivers the partnership's vision of: *'We want Dorset to be the best place to be a child; where communities thrive, and families are supported to be the best they can be'*.

The plan focuses on improving outcomes for all children and young people through six priorities:

1. Best Start in Life
2. Young and Thriving
3. Good Care Provision

4. Best Education for All
5. Best Place to Live
6. Delivering Locally

- **Best start in life:** focused on: re-imagining how services are delivered to families who are expecting and have pre-school children; ensuring the best possible start in life; and improving school readiness.
- **Young and thriving:** focused on: setting up our young people for success in adulthood; ensuring young people have a strong voice; good emotional wellbeing and mental health; preparation for adulthood; and preventing family breakdown.
- **Good care provision:** focused: on keeping our children close to home; ensuring partners are the best corporate parents; making sure there is sufficient care provision locally (foster care, residential and short breaks); supporting young people at risk of homelessness; and suitable and safe housing for care leavers.
- **Best education for all:** focused on: supporting schools and educational settings to deliver the best education possible; ensuring all children and young people can achieve their full potential; meeting the needs of children with SEND and building inclusive school cultures.
- **Best place to live:** focused on: ensuring our children and young people have accessible things to do and places to go; can get involved and influence decision making; that they experience safe, welcoming and inclusive places; contextual safeguarding; and that we work as a partnership to provide a cleaner, greener environment for our children and young people to grow up in.
- **Delivering locally:** focused on: joining up services in Dorset to become a whole system that strengthens the ability of families to care and sustain their children; embedding the new model of children's services; identifying opportunities for service integration; and building on community assets.

There are 7 outcomes or conditions of wellbeing that the partnership wants for all children and young people in Dorset:

- All children have the best start in life
- All children and young people are safe from harm and have the help they need
- All children and young people have a settled and happy education which enables them to achieve their full potential
- All children and young people have healthy and active lives
- All children and young people are prepared for adult life
- All children and young people feel they can have their say and are listened to
- All children and young people enjoy growing up in Dorset.

We anticipate that this policy will have a positive impact for all children and young people in the Dorset area. We are ambitious for all our children and young people, what these look like for individual children and young people will be very personal to them. It is a strategic plan and delivery plans will be developed to define how the priorities in this plan are delivered.

What is the background or context to the proposal?

Section 10 of the Children Act 2004 sets out the requirement for the local authority to promote that partners co-operate to improve wellbeing of children and young people. Best practice is for Local Authorities and their partners to produce and deliver a Children and

Young People's Plan bringing together in one strategic overarching plan the partnership's shared commitment to work together to improve outcomes for children and young people.

In Dorset the Council has maintained its commitment to improve outcomes for children and young people in producing and publishing a Children and Young People's Plan as part of its constitution and formal Policy Framework.

The current partnership Strategy for Children and Young People in Dorset comes to an end in 2020. During 2019 Dorset Council, with partners of the multi-agency Strategic Alliance for Children and Young People, agreed to undertake the work to develop a new 3-year Children, Young People and Families Plan.

Part 2: Gathering information

What sources of data, information, evidence and research was used to inform you about the people your proposal will have an impact on?

Information regarding who is affected by this plan is contained within the 'Our County' and the 'Why is this important?' sections within the Children, Young People and Families Plan itself.

- Partnership Planning Session - March 2020: To consider performance gaps in outcomes for children and young people in Dorset, where outcomes for children are not yet where we want them to be.
- Think Tanks – June 2020 (attended by over 100 professionals from the partnership): On each of the emerging Children, Young People and Families Plan priorities. At these sessions, colleagues from across the partnership, including representative young people and parents and carers, came together in virtual workshops to talk about each priority.
- Diagonal Slice employee engagement – July 2020: Interactive sessions that provided the opportunity for staff to input and shape the plan.
- I Live in Dorset campaign – July 2020: This social media campaign encouraged children and young people from Dorset to tell us about what would make Dorset the best place to grow up.
- Each priority within the Children, Young People and Families Plan 2020-23 has a summary of: Why is this important? and Where are we now? – these sections contain the drivers (policy, local and national information) for each of the priorities.

What did this data, information, evidence and research tell you?

Dorset is a beautiful coastal county, over half of Dorset is covered by the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty designation and 7% of Dorset is protected as a Site of Special Scientific Interest. The Dorset rural idyll can conceal hidden deprivation, there are pockets of deprivation, mostly in urban areas. But there is also some rural deprivation due to isolation and difficulty accessing housing, transport and essential services. Crime is generally low in Dorset.

Earnings are below average and house prices are high with affordability issues for many young people and keyworkers. Dorset has no motorway but over 2,500 miles of roads. Dorset has relatively low birth rates and younger people often move away from the area.

The total population of Dorset is: 378,508 (2019 mid-year estimate), this includes 74,765 children and young people aged 0-19 representing 20% of the total population and there are 89,573 aged 0-24, representing 24% of the population.

We have approximately 2,800 children with Special Educational Needs supported through an Educational, Health and Care Plan. There are 483 Children in Care in Dorset and 261 Care Leavers. We have 160 schools in Dorset - 1 All through School, 36 First Schools, 2 Infant Schools, 2 Junior Schools, 10 Middle Schools, 81 Primary Schools, 4 Pupil Referral Units, 15 Secondary Schools, 6 Special Schools and 3 Upper Schools.

There are 33 different languages spoken in Dorset schools (January 2020 school census – children with a language other than English as first language).

9% of school age children are from black and minority ethnic communities (non-white British – January 2020 school census).

- As above - each priority within the Children, Young People and Families Plan 2020-23 has a summary of: Why is this important? and Where are we now? – these sections contain the drivers (policy, local and national information) for each of the priorities.
- Feedback from children and young people on what would make Dorset the best place to grow up (I Live in Dorset campaign) is summarised below:
 - Getting involved, having a say and making a difference – social action
 - Having things to do, activities to go to and being able to play
 - Being and feeling safe
 - A kind and happy Dorset
 - Being healthy - and having access to things that support good physical and emotional health
 - Caring for each other and looking after people in the community when they need help
 - Looking after the environment
 - Places where everyone can get to - accessibility
 - Being able to learn skills for the future – technology
 - Being proud of our community and celebrating Dorset role models.

The feedback from children and young people has influenced the development of the plan and resulted in an additional priority, Best Place to Live.

Is further information needed to help inform this proposal?

No

Part 3: Engagement and Consultation

What engagement or consultation has taken place as part of this proposal?

- Strategic Alliance workshops and meetings (multi-agency partnership including senior people from police, health, schools and early years settings, voluntary and community sector)
- Think Tank sessions
- Social Media campaigns for Children and Young People
- Promoting the development of the Children, Young People and Families Plan through the Family Information Service

- Inviting feedback and contributions from staff and partners throughout the development of the plan.

How will the outcome of consultation be fed back to those who you consulted with?

A summary of key themes identified by children and young people is contained within the plan itself. A summary version of the plan for children and young people is to be prepared and published and this will explain how feedback has influenced the plan.

A thank you to those who provided feedback is being planned for in communications that will support the launch of the plan (following endorsement and adoption of the plan by Full Council).

Please refer to the Equality Impact Assessment Guidance before completing this section.

Not every proposal will require an EqlA. If you decide that your proposal does **not** require an EqlA, it is important to show that you have given this adequate consideration. The data and research that you have used to inform you about the people who will be affected by the policy should enable you to make this decision and whether you need to continue with the EqlA.

Please tick the appropriate option:

An EqlA is required (please continue to Part 4 of this document)	✓
An EqlA is not required (please complete the box below)	

This policy, strategy, project or service does not require an EqlA because:

Name: Claire Shiels
 Job Title: Corporate Director, Commissioning, Quality and Partnerships
 Date: 23rd September 2020

Please send a copy of this document to [Diversity & Inclusion Officer](#)

Next Steps:

- The EqlA will be reviewed by Business Intelligence & Communications and if in agreement, your EqlA will be signed off.
- If not, we will get in touch to chat further about the EqlA, to get a better understanding.

Part 4: Analysing the impact

Who does the service, strategy, policy, project or change impact?

- If your strategy, policy, project or service contains options you may wish to consider providing an assessment for each option. Please cut and paste the template accordingly.

For each protected characteristic please choose from the following options:

- Please note in some cases more than one impact may apply – in this case please state all relevant options and explain in the ‘Please provide details’ box.

Positive Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the proposal eliminates discrimination, advances equality of opportunity and/or fosters good relations with protected groups.
Negative Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protected characteristic group(s) could be disadvantaged or discriminated against
Neutral Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No change/ no assessed significant impact of protected characteristic groups
Unclear	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not enough data/evidence has been collected to make an informed decision.

Age:	<i>Positive impact</i>
What age bracket does this affect?	Children and young people up to the age of 25 years and their families.
Please provide details:	<p>The plan seeks to improve outcomes for children, young people and their families through 6 key priority areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Best Start in Life 2. Young and Thriving 3. Good Care Provision 4. Best Education for All 5. Best Place to Live 6. Delivering Locally

Disability: (including physical, mental, sensory and progressive conditions)	<i>Positive impact</i>
Does this affect a specific disability group?	Children and young people with special educational needs & disabilities (SEND).
Please provide details:	<p>The plan seeks to better support the early identification and support of children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) to better meet their needs early.</p> <p>It will help to better prepare our young people with SEND for a settled adulthood including developing the skills required for employment and independent living and focus on improving transitions between services.</p> <p>Building on our partnership work so far, the plan will develop and implement an Education and Inclusion Strategy focused on improving educational outcomes for</p>

	<p>all children and young people including vulnerable children and improving our offer to children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.</p> <p>The plan promotes working together to ensure that communities, services, and businesses are welcoming and inclusive places, where young people with Special Educational Needs Disabilities are able to make friends and be included in community life.</p> <p>Furthermore, the plan seeks to review our residential provision and identify a model of practice and delivery which better meets the needs of the most vulnerable young people.</p> <p>Additionally, the plan will make sure that there are a range of short breaks available to support families with children with SEND to be able to continue to care for their children.</p> <p>Through the Best place to live priority the plan will see partners work with colleagues to improve accessibility in the countryside and local beaches.</p> <p>Through the Young and Thriving priority we intend to make sure young people have access to a wide range of support to promote their emotional well-being and address their mental health concerns. We will implement the NHS Long Term plan ambitions for increased access to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services and implement the evidence based Thrive Framework for a system wide approach to emotional wellbeing and mental health developed by the Anna Freud Centre and the Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust.</p> <p>We intend to evaluate the Targeted Mental Health Service in schools with a view to expanding it to other areas of Dorset and improve transitions between children's and adult mental health services.</p> <p>We expect that young people having access to the support they need, when they need it and experiencing improved transitions between children's and adults' services will result in positive impacts.</p>
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Gender Reassignment & Gender Identity:	<i>Unclear impact</i>
Please provide details:	At this stage we are unclear of the specific impacts however we expect work to strengthen young people's

	access to emotional health and wellbeing services will be a positive step.
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Pregnancy and maternity:	<i>Positive impact</i>
Please provide details:	<p>The plan aims to provide supportive environments before conception, during pregnancy and following birth.</p> <p>Significant opportunities have been identified for the partnership to develop an asset-based approach to community resilience which wraps around pregnancy and parenthood and to harness and capitalise on the rapid improvement in joint working within community settings. For instance, the plan includes working together to strengthen the local maternity system developments with a community wrap around offer, to support pre-/post birth (preparing for parenthood) and to improve pathways of support between maternity services, health visiting and local authority services.</p>

Race and Ethnicity:	<i>Positive impact</i>
Please provide details:	<p>The plan promotes anti-discriminatory and anti-racist education and practices by seeking to listen carefully to and acting on the experiences of children and young people from Black and other minority communities in Dorset.</p> <p>As referred to at the beginning of this EqIA, how this action is progressed will be defined by the Best Place to Live delivery plan.</p>

Religion or belief:	<i>Neutral impact</i>
Please provide details:	No specific impacts identified

Sexual orientation:	<i>Unclear impact</i>
Please provide details:	<p>At this stage the impacts are unclear, however there are a range of actions within the plan that we expect to have a positive impact as they are developed in more detail. For example:</p> <p>We will ensure young people receiving our services will be involved in decisions about how we help them, where professionals listen to them and understand their needs.</p> <p>We will support the provision of a wide range of positive activities for young people, including access to youth</p>

	<p>work such as open access youth clubs, detached youth work, one-to-one and virtual/ online youth work and targeted issue based group work programmes to support vulnerable young people whose needs might otherwise escalate and we will work with partners to deliver these programmes locally, in line with the other priorities within the plan.</p> <p>We will make sure young people have access to a wide range of support to promote their emotional well-being and address their mental health concerns.</p> <p>We intend to create and publish more opportunities for children and young people to get involved in their communities and to develop the skills to create change on issues that are important to them.</p> <p>We will also be promoting that through the plan partners work together to ensure that communities, services, and businesses are welcoming and inclusive places.</p>
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Sex (consider both men and women):	<i>Positive impact</i>
Please provide details:	<p>Through the Best Start in Life priority we intend to provide intensive support for women who have had multiple children removed from their care.</p> <p>Work to support expectant parents as they prepare for parenthood will also take place.</p> <p>Family Hubs, early help and edge of care services will provide support to parents and carers.</p> <p>Through our Delivering Locally priority we intend embed whole family approaches, with a particular focus on addressing the needs of children living with parental substance use, mental ill-health or domestic abuse.</p>

Marriage or civil partnership:	<i>Neutral impact</i>
Please provide details:	No specific impacts identified

Carers:	<i>Positive impact</i>
Please provide details:	The plan recognises the importance of carers and when developing the workforce, we will include parents and carers too – they have told us this is important.

	<p>The plan includes actions to strengthen fostering services which will include ensuring a robust service for the most vulnerable teenagers and children that avoids breakdown and escalation.</p> <p>Foster carers will be considered as the new service is developed to support young people in the care system to have more stable placements and to remain or return to foster care where it is appropriate to do so.</p> <p>A key action within the plan is to develop market capacity and both commission and facilitate a comprehensive Short Break Offer which supports families and prevents escalation to care or inpatient status.</p>
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Rural isolation:	<i>Positive impact</i>
Please provide details:	<p>The plan seeks to work with colleagues to improve accessibility in the countryside and local beaches; increase cycle lanes and improve public transport.</p> <p>The plan also aims to coordinate work through six Local Alliance Groups that bring together local partners to understand local needs and develop local plans that make the most of collective resources and address issues that important to local communities.</p>

Single parent families:	Unclear
Please provide details:	No specific impacts identified – however we anticipate that better identification of individuals that may need support.

Social & economic deprivation:	<i>Positive impact</i>
Please provide details:	<p>The plan aims for partners to address low social mobility and work together to develop co-ordinated wrap around support, including community assets and specific social, emotional and practical interventions. For instance, in Dorset, there are some stark differences between where children grow up and the chances they have of doing well in adult life, with Weymouth and Portland ranking one of the lowest areas for social mobility in the whole country.</p> <p>There is significant evidence that place-based approaches lead to positive outcomes for children by enabling people to come together to address complex health, social and economic issues, which no one individual or agency can solve alone.</p>

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Armed Forces communities	Unclear
Please provide details:	No specific impacts identified

Part 5: Action Plan

Provide actions for **positive**, **negative** and **unclear** impacts.

If you have identified any **negative** or **unclear** impacts, describe what adjustments will be made to remove or reduce the impacts, or if this is not possible provide justification for continuing with the proposal.

Issue	Action to be taken	Person(s) responsible	Date to be completed by
	All positive impacts are related to actions within the Children, Young People and Families Plan.	<p>Progress against the plan will be monitored by the partnership’s Strategic Alliance Board at quarterly meetings.</p> <p>An Annual Report will be prepared and published to report on progress made every year throughout the duration of the plan.</p>	Actions within the Children, Young People and Families Plan will be delivered by 2023.
	This EQIA will continue to be reviewed, as all impacts are unclear at this stage. As work to develop the detailed delivery plans for each priority within the Children, Young People and Families Plan the impacts will become clearer and monitoring of the impacts will be implemented across the life-course of the implementation of the plan.	Progress against the plan will be monitored by the partnership’s Strategic Alliance Board at quarterly meetings.	Actions within the Children, Young People and Families Plan will be delivered by 2023.

EqIA Sign Off

Officer completing this EqIA:	Claire Shiels	Date:	23 rd September 2020
Equality Lead:	Susan Ward-Rice	Date:	30 th September 2020
Equality & Diversity Action Group Chair:	David Bonner	Date:	30 th September 2020

Next Steps:

- Please send this draft EqIA to: [Diversity & inclusion Officer](#)
- The report author will be invited to an Equality & Diversity Action Group (these are held monthly - dates are available on the intranet)
- The Equality & Diversity Action Group will review the EqIA and you may be asked to make some alterations
- EqIAs are signed off and published
- The report author is responsible for ensuring any actions in the action plan are implemented.

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Dorset Council 15 October 2020 Climate Change Motions

For Decision

Portfolio Holder: Cllr R Bryan, Highways, Travel and Environment

Local Councillor(s): County Wide

Executive Director: John Sellgren, Executive Director of Place

Report Author: Ken Buchan

Title: Head of Environment and Well-Being

Tel: 01305 225132

Email: ken.buchan@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Report Status: Public

Recommendation:

To note the response of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Executive Advisory Panel (EAP) in the publication of the draft Dorset Council Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy addressing the Climate Change Notices of Motion tabled by Cllr Daryl Turner and Cllr Kelvin Clayton at Dorset Council on 18th July 2019.

Reason for Recommendation:

The Climate and Ecological Emergency EAP considered the Notices of Motion presented by Councillors Turner and Clayton. The culmination of work by the EAP and technical officers has been the publication of a draft Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy and delivery plan which addresses the points presented in the Motions. The Strategy will go out to public consultation this month having been agreed by Cabinet.

1. Executive Summary

Dorset Council declared a Climate and Ecological Emergency in 2019 and established an Executive Advisory Panel to strategically guide the Councils response. Two similar climate change motions were presented at Dorset Council

on 18th July 2019. The decision made by Full Council at the time was that the Notices of Motion be referred to the Climate Change Executive Advisory Panel for consideration and reported back to Full Council. Following discussions at the Executive Advisory Panel, engagement with the public and work by officers across the Authority a draft Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy has been produced which presents eight key areas for action to ensure that Dorset Council becomes Carbon Neutral by 2040 and the Dorset Council Area by 2050. The draft Strategy was approved by the EAP, Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet 28th July 2020. The Strategy and accompanying delivery plan have been thoroughly researched and costed and set out how all the issues raised in the Notices of Motion will be addressed.

2. Financial Implications

Draft costs have been identified for 187 actions within the delivery plan. Of these 100 have been identified as achievable through 'Business as Usual' (BAU) within existing budgets. However, alone these will not achieve the significant shift required to deliver on the strategy commitments and additional funding will be required. Overall, this figure is estimated in the region of £127million.

The delivery of the strategy is a long-term commitment over a 20 to 30 year period and current costs assigned within the delivery plan are best estimates at this time. In addition, there will be many other factors which will affect the final delivery costs over the coming years to include, Dorset Councils approach to its own assets; national policy, incentives and support; wider external funding opportunities; and importantly technological advancement. However, tackling the climate emergency will require immediate action to keep within carbon budgets and achieve carbon neutrality.

3. Climate implications

The overall principle behind the strategy is to set out key areas where Dorset Council will need to take action to directly reduce carbon emissions from its own operations to become a carbon neutral Council by 2040 and by working in partnership to help Dorset residents and organisations achieve a wider carbon neutral Dorset County by 2050.

4. Risk Assessment

Having considered the risks associated with this report, the level of risk has been identified as:

Current Risk: Low

Residual Risk: Low

5. Equalities Impact Assessment

There are no equalities implications arising from this report.

6. Appendices

Appendix 1: Climate Change Motions Strategy and Delivery Plan Response Table

7. Background Papers

- a) Draft Dorset Council Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy
[Draft Dorset Council Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy](#)
- b) Climate change delivery plan
[Climate change delivery plan](#)
- c) Motion proposed by Councillor Kelvin Clayton
[Motion proposed by Councillor Kelvin Clayton](#)
- d) Motion proposed by Councillor Daryl Turner
[Motion proposed by Councillor Daryl Turner](#)

8. Background

- 8.1 Dorset Council declared a Climate and Ecological Emergency at its inaugural meeting in May 2019. Following this meeting a cross party Climate Change Executive Advisory Panel (EAP) was established to help steer Dorset Council's response to the Climate and Ecological Emergency.
- 8.2 At the Dorset Council meeting on 18th July 2019 two Notices of Motion were presented by Councillors Clayton and Turner where a decision was made to refer these motions to the Climate Change EAP for consideration and subsequent reporting back to Full Council.
- 8.3 The EAP discussed the content of the Motions and through their work, and that of supporting technical officers have developed a draft Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy for public consultation which addresses the proposals put forward in each motion.
- 8.4 Target dates for Dorset Council and the County being carbon neutral have been set at 2040 and 2050 respectively. This is based on current

knowledge and detailed delivery planning and has been determined as realistic delivery targets. However technological advances over the coming years and a stronger financial position may result in an earlier delivery of these targets.

- 8.5 Climate and Ecological Emergency strategy was approved by Cabinet on 28th July and sets out 8 key areas for action. Critically this also sets a carbon budget detailing the necessary reductions in carbon emissions against key target dates to meet the 2040 target.
- 8.6 A combination of factors including the corona virus pandemic have delayed a response to the motions coming back to Dorset Council. Over the intervening period the development of the strategy has superseded the Notices of Motion submitted last year.
- 8.7 The draft Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy covers the points made in the motions in detail, and this has been summarised in Appendix 1.

Appendix 1: Climate Change Motions Strategy and Delivery Plan Response

No.	Motion	Who	Response	Strategy Section or Delivery Plan Theme
1	Declare a 'Climate Emergency' that requires urgent action	Cllr. Turner	Declared May 2019	
2	Make the Council's activities net-zero carbon by 2040 or earlier. Make the Council's activities net-zero carbon by 2030;	Cllr. Turner Cllr. Clayton	Committed to achieving a carbon-neutral Council by 2040 and helping facilitate the whole of Dorset becoming carbon neutral by 2050. Having considered timeframes in detailed delivery planning, currently available technology and financial constraints for the foreseeable future 2030 was considered unrealistic as a delivery date. We are aiming to achieve carbon neutrality as soon as possible and prior to 2040 should circumstances allow.	Carbon Budgets – Pathways and Trajectories – page 22
3	Achieve 100% clean energy across the Council's full range of functions by 2040 or earlier.	Cllr. Turner	Proposed action in delivery plan – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> By 2035 we would look to be generating enough of our own renewable energy to meet the Council's energy demands 	Renewable Energy
4	Ensure that all strategic decisions, budgets and approaches to planning decisions are in line with a shift to zero carbon by 2040 or earlier Ensure that our net-zero carbon by 2030 ambition is reflected in ALL strategies and plans, that all policy papers include a Climate Impact Assessment;	Cllr. Turner Cllr. Clayton	Steps taken to implement requirement in committee report development to report on implications for climate change. Proposed action in delivery plan – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop tools to undertake robust impact and policy appraisal to ensure climate change priorities and targets are considered in all key corporate projects, programmes, and strategies, and will utilise whole-life costing when assessing all Ensure climate change and resilience are embedded in our key strategies and plans, such as the developing Dorset Local Plan and our asset management plans. 	Making it Happen

No.	Motion	Who	Response	Strategy Section or Delivery Plan Theme
5	Dorset Council Scrutiny Panels will consider the impact of climate change and the environment when reviewing Council policies and strategies;	Cllr. Turner	<p>All Committee Reports include a section on Climate Change implications so this can be considered in the decision-making process.</p> <p>Proposed action in delivery plan –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop tools to undertake robust impact and policy appraisal to ensure climate change priorities and targets are considered in all key corporate projects, programmes, and strategies, and will utilise whole-life costing when assessing all 	Making it Happen
6	<p>Support and work with all other relevant agencies towards making the entire area zero carbon within the same timescale; Suggested interim targets are:</p> <p>30% by 2025, 60% by 2030 and 85% by 2035, these figures have been selected because it is the last few % that are hardest to eradicate from the system. Having these targets dates will concentrate minds.</p>	<p>Cllr. Turner</p> <p>Cllr. Clayton</p>	<p>Proposed action in delivery plan –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate the development of a Dorset-wide partnership with other key public, private, and third sector partners in order to develop a partnership approach to driving forward some of the fundamental changes that will be required to deliver a Carbon Neutral County. <p>Proposed target dates for carbon reduction in draft strategy -</p> <p>BY 2025 – (1,396,000 tCO₂e) - 20% reduction BY 2030 – (872, 500 tCO₂e) - 50% reduction BY 2040 – (349,000 tCO₂e) - 80% reduction BY 2050 – (Zero tCO₂e) - 100% reduction</p>	<p>Making it Happen</p> <p>Carbon Budgets – Pathways and Trajectories – page 22</p>
7	Work with, influence and inspire partners across the district, county and region to help deliver this goal through all relevant strategies, plans and shared resources by developing a series of meetings, events and partner workshops;	Cllr. Turner	<p>Proposed action in the delivery plan -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organise targeted briefings and training sessions for officers, members, and decision makers on the benefits and opportunities of tackling climate change, highlighting this contribution to other Council priorities. Support Town and Parish Councils to develop and implement their organisation and area wide climate action plans. This is as well as 	Making it Happen

No.	Motion	Who	Response	Strategy Section or Delivery Plan Theme
	Work with partners and stakeholders to achieve the same across the whole of the Council area;	Cllr. Clayton	<p>helping them engage with residents to encourage community action and drive change at a grassroots community level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build support from stakeholders and the wider public by informing and educating on the benefits and opportunities of acting on climate change and creating, maintaining, and developing partnership working on all aspects of climate change action • Facilitate the development of a Dorset-wide partnership with other key public, private, and third sector partners in order to develop a partnership approach to driving forward some of the fundamental changes that will be required to deliver a Carbon Neutral County. • Help to facilitate and support new and existing community-led projects and community organisations active in this area and work with these groups to sign post and communicate shared messages. 	
8	Ensure that political and chief officer leadership teams embed this work in all areas and take responsibility for reducing, as rapidly as possible, the carbon emissions resulting from the Council's activities, ensuring that any recommendations are fully costed and that the Executive and Scrutiny functions review council activities taking account of production and consumption emissions and produce an action plan within 12 months, together with	Cllr. Turner	<p>Proposed action in the delivery plan -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop tools to undertake robust impact and policy appraisal to ensure climate change priorities and targets are considered in all key corporate projects, programmes, and strategies, and will utilise whole-life costing when assessing all capital projects. • Review governance structures to ensure successful delivery of the Climate Strategy and ensure key decision-makers have a clear mandate for action. • Organise targeted briefings and training sessions for officers, members, and decision makers on the benefits and opportunities of 	Making it Happen

No.	Motion	Who	Response	Strategy Section or Delivery Plan Theme
	budget actions and a measured baseline;		<p>tackling climate change, highlighting this contribution to other Council priorities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure climate change and resilience are embedded in our key strategies and plans, such as the developing Dorset Local Plan and our asset management plans. • Ensure all staff are aware of their responsibilities in the delivery of actions, and that departments are linked at a strategic level (e.g. waste and planning). • Identify funding mechanisms to ensure delivery of the strategy explore options to raise additional funds through borrowing, council tax, developer contributions, and business rates. Opportunity – invest-to-save schemes, transformation fund, capital receipts through asset rationalisation, and building into our capital programme. • Establish a robust baseline for Council and County carbon emissions and ecology, developing in-house data collection systems to draw data from all the former Councils now forming Dorset Council. 	
9	And that Dorset Council and partners take steps to proactively include young people in the process, ensuring that they have a voice in shaping the future; Take steps to proactively consult and include the opinions of residents, particularly young people, in all of the above, and consider setting up citizens' assemblies;	Cllr. Turner	<p>Climate Change EAP promoted a public 'call for ideas' which resulted in 700+ responses from the public including young people. 35 people/organisations were invited to present their ideas to the EAP.</p> <p>A session was held specifically for young people to gather their views on the Climate and Ecological Emergency.</p> <p>Proposed actions in the delivery plan -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide more accessible and digestible information on climate change and ecology and the actions we can all take through a range of channels. These will include upgrading our climate change website, developing an online information hub for sharing 	Making it Happen

No.	Motion	Who	Response	Strategy Section or Delivery Plan Theme
			<p>information, and best practice. This is as well as directing information to residents through Council literature and encouraging an open and ongoing dialogue between the Council and Dorset residents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help to facilitate and support new and existing community-led projects and community organisations active in this area and work with these groups to sign post and communicate shared messages. • Consult with residents and organisations on this strategy and plans as they develop, using existing and new consultation processes 	
10	<p>Report on the level of investment in the fossil fuel industry that our pensions plan and other investments have, and review the Council's investment strategy to give due consideration to climate change impacts in the investment portfolio; End any investment by the Dorset Local Government Pension Fund in the fossil fuel industry or other activities that have an impact on climate change;</p>	<p>Cllr. Turner Cllr. Clayton</p>	<p>Proposed action in the delivery plan -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate decarbonising Dorset Council pension 	<p>Making it Happen</p>
11	<p>Ensure that all reports in preparation for the 2020/21 budget cycle and investment strategy will take into account</p>	<p>Cllr. Turner</p>	<p>Delivery plan budget requirements for 2020-21 currently being considered.</p> <p>Proposed action in the delivery plan -</p>	

No.	Motion	Who	Response	Strategy Section or Delivery Plan Theme
	the actions the council will be required to take to address this emergency;		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify funding mechanisms to ensure delivery of the strategy explore options to raise additional funds through borrowing, council tax, developer contributions, and business rates. Opportunity - invest-to-save schemes, transformation fund, capital receipts through asset rationalisation, and building into our capital programme. 	Making it Happen
12	Call on the UK Government to provide the powers, resources and help with funding to make this possible, and ask local MPs to do likewise;	Cllr. Turner Cllr. Clayton	<p>Proposed action in the delivery plan -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lobby government for additional resources and the national policy framework to support climate action in Dorset. Actively input into national forums and consultations to encourage policy development to tackle climate emergency 	Making it Happen
13	Consider other actions that could be implemented, including (but not restricted to): renewable energy generation and storage, providing electric vehicle infrastructure and encouraging alternatives to private car use, increasing the efficiency of buildings, in particular to address fuel poverty; proactively using local planning powers to accelerate the delivery of net carbon new developments and communities, coordinating a series of information and training events to raise	Cllr. Turner	<p>All of these actions appear in the delivery plan some examples are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximise opportunities for Solar PV on DC buildings Work with renewable energy developers in Dorset to secure new renewable energy generation to meet (and exceed) needs of the Council Investigate potential in Dorset for large-scale 'blue' hydrogen generation with carbon capture and storage Encourage decarbonisation of road transport through development of public EV charging network & promotion of ultra low emissions vehicles, and including on-going management Set true net zero carbon homes standards through the Local Plan in partnership with other southwest local authorities 	Examples across all themes in the Delivery Plan

No.	Motion	Who	Response	Strategy Section or Delivery Plan Theme
	awareness and share good practice.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educate residential and non-residential sectors on low carbon technologies, energy efficiency, and sources of funding to encourage behaviour change & greater uptake of low-carbon technology 	
14	Develop a Dorset wide transport strategy that discourages car use, encourages walking and cycling, and drastically improves rail and bus services;	Cllr. Clayton	<p>Proposed action in the delivery plan -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lobby government e.g. for Rail improvements Reinforce low carbon transport policies through statutory planning documents including refreshed LTP and new Local Plan Ensure access to sustainable transport is considered in planning applications Through the Local plan ensure as far as possible that developments provide high quality spaces, routes and facilities, or contributions towards facilities, for pedestrians, cycles and other car-free modes, EV charging and cycle parking. Encourage decarbonisation of road transport through development of public EV charging network & promotion of ultra-low emissions vehicles, and including on-going management 	Transport
15	Develop an energy strategy that provides local renewable energy generation and storage, increases the efficiency of buildings and addresses fuel poverty;	Cllr. Clayton	<p>County Wider strategies exist but need updating to reflect climate emergency. LEP energy strategy also in place covering whole SW area (completed 2019).</p> <p>Proposed action in the delivery plan -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access new funding to assist residents to decarbonise heating (delivered through Healthy Homes Dorset Scheme) 	Buildings

No.	Motion	Who	Response	Strategy Section or Delivery Plan Theme
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work in partnership (e.g. with RSLs, other councils and partners) to deliver programmes to improve energy efficiency of housing stock & hard to treat properties • Enforce minimum energy efficiency standards in the private rental sector (focus on EPC certificates E & F without exemptions) • Ensure the relevant housing Strategies/policies incorporate the reduction of carbon emissions and increased risk to climate impacts. 	
16	Develop a new Dorset Local Plan that ensures all planning decisions are consistent with a shift to net-zero carbon by 2030	Cllr. Clayton	<p>Proposed action in the delivery plan -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure climate change and resilience are embedded in our key strategies and plans, such as the developing Dorset Local Plan and our asset management plans. • Reinforce low carbon transport policies through statutory planning documents including refreshed LTP and new Local Plan • Through the Local plan ensure as far as possible that developments provide high quality spaces, routes and facilities, or contributions towards facilities, for pedestrians, cycles and other car-free modes, EV charging and cycle parking. • Through the Local Plan ensure as far as possible that developments are located in sustainable locations where key services are nearby and the need to travel by car is reduced 	<p>Making it Happen</p> <p>Transport</p>
17	Require the cross-party climate change panel to report back to Council, within nine months, to provide a time table	Cllr. Clayton	The Climate Change EAP is a cross party panel and have worked towards the draft Strategy and Delivery Plan.	

No.	Motion	Who	Response	Strategy Section or Delivery Plan Theme
	and action plan detailing how all the above can be achieved			

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