



# Dorset Health and Wellbeing Board

**Date:** Wednesday, 22 September 2021

**Time:** 2.00 pm

**Venue:** A link to the meeting can be found on the front page of the agenda.

## Membership: (Quorum 5)

Rebecca Knox (Chairman), Forbes Watson (Vice-Chairman), Vivienne Broadhurst, Sam Crowe, Dani Farrell, Spencer Flower, Tim Goodson, Margaret Guy, Marc House, Martin Longley, Theresa Leavy, Laura Miller, Patricia Miller, John Sellgren, Scott Chilton, Simon Wraw and Simone Yule

**Chief Executive:** Matt Prosser, County Hall, Colliton Park, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1XJ  
(Sat Nav DT1 1XJ)

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Due to the current coronavirus pandemic the Council has reviewed its approach to holding committee meetings. Members of the public are welcome to attend this meeting and listen to the debate either online by using the following link:-

<https://youtu.be/yF25Lip1nQE>

Members of the public wishing to view the meeting from an iphone, ipad or android phone will need to download 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. Dorset Council is committed to being open and transparent in the way it carries out its business whenever possible. A recording of the meeting will be available on the council's website after the event

# A G E N D A

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## 1 APOLOGIES

To receive any apologies for absence.

## 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To disclose any pecuniary, other registrable or non-registrable interest as set out in the adopted Code of Conduct. In making their disclosure councillors are asked to state the agenda item, the nature of the interest and any action they propose to take as part of their declaration.

If required, further advice should be sought from the Monitoring Officer in advance of the meeting.

## 3 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

To receive questions or statements on the business of the committee from town and parish councils and members of the public.

Members of the public who live, work or represent an organisation within the Dorset Council area, may submit up to two questions or a statement of up to a maximum of 450 words. All submissions must be sent electronically to [fiona.king@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:fiona.king@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk) by the deadline set out below. When submitting a question please indicate who the question is for and include your name, address and contact details. Questions and statements received in line with the council's rules for public participation will be published as a supplement to the agenda.

Questions will be read out by an officer of the council and a response given by the appropriate Portfolio Holder or officer at the meeting. All questions, statements and responses will be published in full within the minutes of the meeting.

**The deadline for submission of the full text of a question or statement is 8.30am on Friday 17 September 2021.**

Please refer to the [guide to public participation](#) at committee meetings for more information about speaking at meetings.

## 4 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

To receive any questions from members in accordance with procedure rule 13. The deadline for receipt of questions is **Friday 17 September**

**2021.**

**5 LOCAL OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT PLAN**

To receive an update from the Director for Public Health.

**6 INTEGRATED CARE SYSTEM (ICS) FEEDBACK FROM DEVELOPMENT SESSION**

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To receive an update from the Director for Public Health.

**7 ANCHOR INSTITUTIONS AND ICS HEALTH INEQUALITIES AGENDA**

To receive a verbal update from the Consultant, Public Health.

**8 JOINT STRATEGIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT - UPDATE**

To receive a presentation from the Senior Analyst, Public Health Dorset.

**9 PHARMACEUTICAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT (PNA)**

7 - 10

To consider a report from the Director for Public Health.

**10 HOSPITAL DISCHARGE FUNDING**

11 - 14

To consider a report from the Interim Executive Director for People, Adults.

**11 CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES PLAN 2020-23**

15 - 88

To consider a report from the Executive Director for People, Children.

**12 FORWARD PLAN**

89 - 94

To consider the Forward Plan for the Board.

**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 Health and Wellbeing Board Development Session – 11 August 2021

### Key themes

#### What's exciting

- Communication between partners, communities and local leaders has improved
- Co-producing services with communities and working 'on-the-ground' (e.g. work with rough sleepers)
- Potential for greater public involvement and social responsibility amongst communities
- Collective ambition to do things differently and make sure the right voices are heard
- Showing the difference we are making to residents
- Removing silos and working together
- Integrating and a cohesive approach to delivering services for residents
- Revisiting ambitions and making sure we are spending money in the right places, not just doing what we have always done
- Small and local can be really impactful and we can build from there

#### Concerns

- Getting the language right: are we doing this to, for or with residents?
- Don't be overwhelmed by the scale of the job or the bureaucracy, focus on the outcomes
- When talking about numbers, don't lose sight of individuals with identities
- Need to improve data sharing to make sure we have the full picture
- Speed of change could be a concern and we need to keep people with us on the journey
- Keeping it light and agile
- Need to be conscious of pressure and capacity amongst workforce following COVID
- Suitable resourcing – have we got the time and capacity to do this well?
- Difference between Partnership Board and Integrated Care Board – no single 'important' one, needs to be a balance
- The focus should be less NHS and more population
- Systemic change and statutory process can be difficult or clunky
- Tension needs to be managed between urgent and important

#### Best possible version of the HWB

- We are clear and deliver our vision and mission
- We support each other
- Reduce processes to get to a solution
- The public feel they can influence decisions
- Best use of public purse – not individual organisational budgets
- Don't measure monthly but look at the impact of long-term change
- Focus on 'place' will reduce silos

#### How do you see the HWB playing a role in the ICS?

- Seeing things on the ground and acting as an ambassador
- Balance between planning and supporting
- Making a difference on prevention at scale and ensure staff understand what this is
- Making decisions and seeing them through to ensure things happen

- Mini HWBs for localities
- Dorset and BCP HWBs working together on key areas – although they have differences as well as similarities so little desire for one HWB
- Moving away from geography and focusing on what's important to a community or the demography
- Adapting to change – looking for new groups to engage with
- HWBs into ICS partnership board and add key people like operational leads
- Engaging with staff and managers to contribute to the board
- Tension between the NHS board and the wider partnership – avoid conflicting priorities/funding
- Distributed leadership – responsibility and accountability
- Is it an assurance or delivery role? Difficult to see where an assurance role sits currently in the system
- Neighbourhoods and localities sit beneath the board – more local action on the ground
- Defining and recognising the importance of place

## Dorset Health and Wellbeing 22 September 2021 Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA)

### For Decision

**Portfolio Holder:** Cllr L Miller, Adult Social Care and Health

**Local Councillor(s):** Cllr

**Executive Director:** S Crowe, Director of Public Health

Report Author: Jane Horne  
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**Report Status:** Public

#### **Recommendation:**

That the Board approve the:

- i. development of a single Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) that covers both the Dorset and Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Health and Wellbeing Boards
- ii. use of Primary Care Networks as the basic framework for the PNA
- iii. delegation of authority to the Director of Public Health to agree final content for publication by October 2022, following statutory consultation.

#### **Reason for Recommendation:**

The Dorset Health and Wellbeing Board and the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Health and Wellbeing Board are the bodies responsible for publication of PNAs. Previous PNAs have been developed and published for the whole of Dorset aligned with NHS Dorset CCG and the Dorset Integrated Care System.

Previous PNAs used 13 localities, aligned to the Dorset CCG localities, as the basic framework to discuss pharmaceutical services. Since then localities have been superseded by 18 Primary Care Networks. Views from the virtual PNA steering group are strongly in favour of using these Primary Care Networks as the basic framework in the next PNA.

The Board are required to publish the next PNA by October 2022, and to comply with regulations around consultation, ahead of publication. In view of timings of Health and Wellbeing Board meetings it is proposed that Health and Wellbeing members are involved virtually ahead of formal consultation as well as invited to respond as part of the formal consultation.

Delegated authority for sign-off to the Director of Public Health is proposed so that final content can be approved without the need for a further meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board. Individual members will have already been consulted, and the Director would consult the Chairmen of both Boards on the proposed final content.

## **1. Executive Summary**

- 1.1 The NHS (Pharmaceutical and Local Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 2013 came into effect in April 2013 in line with changes in the NHS at that time. Commissioning for community pharmacies shifted to NHS England, whilst responsibility for developing, updating and publishing local PNAs shifted to Health and Wellbeing Boards in local authorities.
- 1.2 The Regulations require PNAs to be reviewed and published every three years, however due to COVID pandemic this was extended so that local authorities now have until October 2022 for publication of their next PNA. The current Dorset PNA, published April 2018, is available at [Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment \(PNA\) - Public Health Dorset](#).
- 1.3 Section 198 of the Health and Social Care Act allows two or more Health and Wellbeing Boards to make joint arrangements in how they discharge their functions. Both PNAs published since 2013 were developed as a single PNA to cover the Dorset Health and Wellbeing Board and the Bournemouth & Poole Health and Wellbeing Board areas (prior to the establishment of Dorset Council and BCP council).
- 1.4 The PNA provides an overview of local pharmaceutical needs and services and outlines any gaps in provision. It is used by NHS England to support commissioning intentions for pharmaceutical services and forms the basis for their decisions to:
  - grant applications for new pharmacies
  - grant applications to change the premises from which a listed pharmacy business is allowed to provide pharmaceutical services
  - change the pharmaceutical services that a listed pharmacy business provides.
- 1.5 The PNA can also be used to support local commissioning intentions for community pharmacies. Both the CCG and Public Health Dorset currently commission 'locally commissioned services' from pharmacies. These services are subject to different commissioning frameworks than are required by NHSE and there is no legal requirement to use the PNA.

- 1.6 There may be changes in local commissioning arrangements for services as Integrated Care Systems become statutory bodies, and we may therefore wish to use the PNA to signal these.
- 1.7 The Regulations set out a Schedule of Information that should be contained within the PNA, and a requirement for a minimum 60-day consultation with a specified range of consultees as part of the development process.
- 1.8 In order to ensure publication by October 2022 a virtual Steering Group is being set up to lead this work, with representatives from Public Health Dorset, Dorset CCG, Dorset LPC and NHSE. Board members are asked to consider whether there are other stakeholders that should be part of the Steering Group. As before, it is proposed that there should be a single PNA to cover both the BCP and Dorset council Health and Wellbeing Board areas.
- 1.9 Indicative milestones for delivery of the PNA are:
  - Set up virtual Steering Group- August 2021
  - Dorset Health and Wellbeing Board approval of plan – 22 September 2021
  - BCP Health and Wellbeing Board approval of plan – 14 October 2021
  - First stage discovery work and data gathering Sep 2021 to March 2022
  - Initial draft complete – April 2022
  - Formal consultation May to July 2022
  - Further data or discovery arising from consultation – June to August 2022
  - Final draft complete August 2022
  - Dorset Health and Wellbeing Board see final PNA – September 2021
  - BCP Health and Wellbeing Board see final PNA – September/October 2021

## **2. Financial Implications**

Development of the PNA has no direct financial implications other than staff time. NHS England will take account of the PNA in making future commissioning decisions with potential budget implications in the future. Other local commissioners including the local authority and the CCG may also use the information within the PNA to help in informing commissioning and budgetary decisions in the future.

## **3. Well-being and Health Implications**

Community pharmacies are a vital community asset supporting health and wellbeing in a local place, as they see high footfall in places convenient to the local population.

Key conclusions from the 2018 PNA were that there were no gaps at that time in essential pharmaceutical services, that if all 149 community pharmacies remained open there would be no future gaps, and that there was a reasonable choice of pharmacies at that time and looking ahead three years.

Since the 2018 PNA was published three pharmacies have closed, two as the result of consolidation with another pharmacy close-by. Developing the PNA will provide the

opportunity to understand what impact this may have on access to pharmaceutical services, with consequent implications for health and wellbeing.

#### **4. Climate implications**

Maintaining good access to pharmaceutical services within local communities will minimise the need for travel to access services.

#### **5. Other Implications**

Community pharmacies in high streets and town centres can play a part in maintaining footfall within these areas.

#### **6. Risk Assessment**

Risk is likely to fall principally on NHS England, in that if the PNA is not sufficiently robust there is a risk of challenge to their decision making.

Having considered the risks associated with this decision using Dorset County Council's risk management methodology, the level of risk has been identified as:

Current Risk: **LOW**

Residual Risk: **LOW**

#### **7. Equalities Impact Assessment**

The PNA development work will include an Equality Impact Assessment.

#### **8. Appendices**

None

#### **9. Background Papers**

[Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment \(PNA\) 2018](#)

[The NHS \(Pharmaceutical and Local Pharmaceutical Services\) Regulations 2013](#)

#### **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 Health and Wellbeing Board 22 September 2021 Hospital Discharge Funding

### For Review and Consultation

**Portfolio Holder:** Cllr L Miller, Adult Social Care and Health

**Local Councillor(s):** All

**Executive Director:** V Broadhurst, Interim Executive Director of People - Adults

Report Author: Lesley Hutchinson and Steve Veevers

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**Report Status:** Public

#### **Recommendation:**

That the delegation previously granted by the Board at its meeting on 23rd June 2021 be extended to enable the Portfolio Holder for Adult Care and Health, after consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board, to agree Dorset Integrated Care System funding for the additional Hospital Discharge Programme (HDP).

#### **Reason for Recommendation:**

As stated in the report to the Board in June 2021 national funding has been made available to support the Hospital Discharge Programme during 2020/21 and has been extended (albeit with revised criteria) for the period April to September 2021. National guidance was issued that requested Health and Well-Being Boards be involved in making decisions on local budgets for this programme. Spend against funding has yet to be reconciled as we are not at the

end of the period consequently the final position in relation to local budgets is yet to be confirmed. It is expected this reconciliation will be completed by October 2021.

## **1. Executive Summary**

At the Health and Wellbeing Board meeting in June 2021 the Council and CCG committed to bring a full report on HDP funding to the next Board – the timescale for the Dorset Board is earlier than originally thought and different to that of BCPs Health and Wellbeing Board who meet in October 2021. The reconciliation of the funding is not available until the end of quarter two and therefore can not be shared at this meeting.

On 6<sup>th</sup> September the Government confirmed via press release its extension of the HDP funding for a further six months (October 2021 to March 2022) and committed an additional £478 million to be shared nationally. As yet the details for the application of this and the amount for Dorset are not provided. This funding is part of an extra £5.4 billion the Government has committed over the next six months to support the response to Covid-19 and tackle waiting lists.

[Additional £5.4 billion for NHS COVID-19 response over next 6 months - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/additional-54-billion-for-nhs-covid-19-response-over-next-6-months)

The Pan Dorset Home First Board continues to review options and service models to help best meet the significant challenge it faces in supporting people with a swift and safe discharge from hospital. There remains significant financial concerns and workforce pressures despite the additional funding being made available. The Board have engaged Impower as a strategic provider to help make the changes needed to improve our position.

## **2. Financial Implications**

We await the reconciliation of 2021/22 funding in order to present the Board with the financial position in relation to the £8.4 million Government funding - £4.2million of which is for activity in Dorset Council area.

Confirmation of additional funding for October 2021 to March 2022 has been given however we await the value of this.

## **3. Well-being and Health Implications**

Dorset reports a similar picture to many other areas in the South West and nationally in relation to the challenges facing people with health and social care needs and the availability of provision to support the needs. Some South West authorities are on high alert and have Government help in place to support the management of Covid-19 numbers and service response.

One of the highest risks in Dorset is the challenge brought about by lack of available home care and therapy. The lack of availability of these two services reduces our ability to discharge people swiftly and to help optimise their ability to become more independent. Dorset like other areas has a challenged workforce with staff shortages which are brought about for a variety of reasons.

#### **4. Climate implications**

All partner agencies are mindful in their strategic and operational planning of the commitments, which they have taken on to address the impact of climate change.

#### **5. Other Implications**

Increasing Covid-19 numbers are further impacting on the available workforce, in Dorset we are starting to see a further increase in the number of providers (primarily care homes) closed to admissions due to outbreaks. This is also impacting the capacity to discharge people from hospital safely and in a timely way.

#### **6. Risk Assessment**

As stated in the previous report the Hospital Discharge Programme was initiated in March 2020 – its purpose was to respond to high demand for care and particularly hospital discharges. Dorset is significantly challenged in meeting the current demand; when comparing the number of people discharged from hospital over the age of 65 requiring a Care Act assessments in 2019/20 to 2020/21 we saw a 224% rise and this trend has continued into 2021/22.

The risk is therefore not only financial but also to the wellbeing of individuals. Dorset Council rate this as high risk and like health partners are reporting into fortnightly system resilience meetings on the lack of availability of care and people waiting for services and the risk associated with this.

As stated above Impower have been engaged to help work through plans to better manage our position.

#### **7. Equalities Impact Assessment**

It is important that all partners ensure that the individual needs and rights of every person receiving treatment, care and support are respected, including people with protected characteristics so the requirements of the Equalities Act 2010 are met by all partners.

**8. Appendices**

**N/A**

**9. Background Papers**

See report to Health and Wellbeing Board in June 2021 ([Report](#))

## **Health and Wellbeing Board 22 September 2021 CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES PLAN 2020-23**

### **For Review and Consultation**

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

**Local Councillor(s):** All

**Executive Director:** T Leavy, Executive Director of People - Children

Report Author: Richard Belcher

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**Report Status:** Public

**Recommendation:** Members of the Health and Wellbeing Board are asked to:

1. Review the progress made in delivering the Children, Young People and Families' Plan 2020-23 as set out in the Annual Report 2020-21, including partner and priority area updates.
2. Note the progress made by the Dorset Strengthening Services Programme to strengthen services for vulnerable children and young people through partnership working.

**Reason for Recommendation:** To enable the Health and Wellbeing Board to have line of sight to the work being undertaken by partners to improve health and wellbeing outcomes for children and young people in Dorset.

## 1. Executive Summary

Dorset Council, working with its partners, the Strategic Alliance for Children and Young People, has produced its first Annual Report on progress against the partnership's three-year Children, Young People and Families' Plan 2020-2023. The Plan focuses on improving long term outcomes for children, young people and families. The Strategic Alliance 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 Children, Young People and Families' Plan priorities align to the Health and Wellbeing Strategy aims:

- Make sure that all children and young people have opportunities to have the best start in life
- Make sure all partners and communities work effectively together to improve health and wellbeing, especially for those most disadvantaged and make best use of our resources.

The Annual Report, approved by the Strategic Alliance Board in June 2021, identifies progress made over the first year of the Plan. It reflects on the work partnership has undertaken to co-produce delivery plans and work with young people during Dorset's "Takeover Challenge", where young people from across Dorset took the lead in delivering many activities and meetings.

The Annual Report shares feedback from partnership representatives and the contributions individual and collective partners have made in improving outcomes for our children, young people, and families.

The Annual Report identifies the progress and impact in each of the six priority areas of the Plan, as well as identifying some of the key achievements over the year and key next steps.

To support the longer-term vision in the Children, Young People and Families' Plan, the partnership is strengthening services for children and families in Dorset. The partnership continues to deliver its Strengthening Services Programme with the aim of this work to drive forward short and medium-term work to strengthen

and improve services for vulnerable children. A Strengthening Services Plan brings together partnership short and medium-term actions into one plan.

## **2. Financial Implications**

None identified. The transformation priorities within the Children, Young People and Families' Plan relate 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. Well-being and Health Implications**

The priorities within the Children, Young People and Families' Plan seek to improve health and wellbeing outcomes for children and young people in Dorset.

## **4. Climate implications**

None identified. The Best Place to Live within the Children, Young People and Families' Plan 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.

## **5. Other Implications**

None identified at this stage. The Strategic Alliance aims to have the involvement of voluntary and community organisations in supporting the wellbeing of children and young people.

## **6. Risk Assessment**

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

Current Risk: Low

Residual Risk: Low

## **7. Equalities Impact Assessment**

An equalities impact assessment was completed as part of the development of the Children, Young People and Families Plan and published on Dorset Council's Website. Officers reviewed and updated the equalities impact assessment as part of the annual review of the Plan in the summer of 2021. Further reviews and updates will be undertaken at least once per year.

## **8. Appendices**

**Appendix 1)** Dorset Strategic Alliance for Children and Young People Annual Report 2020-21

**Appendix 2)** Children, Young People and Families' Plan 2020-2023

## **9. Introduction and Background**

- 9.1 The Children, Young People and Families' Plan has previously been presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board, including how the Plan was developed and created. The six priority areas are:
- Best start in life
  - Young and thriving
  - Good care provision
  - Best education for all
  - Best place to live
  - Delivering locally
- 9.2. Over the first year of the Plan, Steering Groups across the six priority areas have worked across in partnership to develop and deliver actions plans that impact and progress the aspirations and commitments made in the Plan.
- 9.3 Progress against the Plan, in each of the six priority areas, has been reported at quarterly Strategic Alliance Board meetings. Additional "Spotlight" reviews have taken place to further identify and progress impact against the Plan's commitments.
- 9.4 The first Annual Report was created and presented to the Strategic Alliance Board in June 2021. The Strategic Alliance also held its Annual Conference, bringing together partners and external experts, in the fields of Mental Health and Restorative Practice, to share and celebrate our success to date and set the vision for the next 2-years of the Plan.

## **10. Health and Wellbeing Strategy Alignment**

- 10.1 The Children, Young People and Families Plan aims to ensure that all children and young people have opportunities to have the best start in life; and that all partners and communities work effectively together to improve health and wellbeing, especially for those most disadvantaged and make best use of our resources.
- 10.2 The priorities within the Health and Wellbeing Strategy align to Children, Young People and Families' Plan as follows:

<b>Children, Young People and Families Plan Priority</b>	<b>Dorset Health and Wellbeing Strategy Priorities</b>
Best Start in Life	Promoting healthy lives and support and challenge
Young and Thriving	Support and challenge
Good Care Provision	Support and challenge
Best Education for All	Support and challenge
Best Place to Live	Empowering communities
Delivering Locally	Empowering communities

## **11. Key messages from the Annual Report**

Although Covid-19 restrictions have changed the way in which partners can work together, the Strategic Alliance Board has continued to meet, in a virtual media every quarter. Partners leading priorities and actions have worked together developing and delivering plans and reporting progress to the Strategic Alliance Board throughout the year.

Local Alliance Groups established in each of Dorset's six locality areas have continued to work together during the year. Local Alliance Groups are supporting the delivery of the Children, Young People and Families Plan at a local level with each locality using locality data, alongside their community knowledge to shape action plans that respond to the needs of their respective communities.

11.1 The partnership has made good progress in the first year of the plan which is reported in more detail in the Annual Report. Below are examples of progress made:

### **11.2 Best Start in Life**

Achievements include:

- Multi-agency partners are developing a shared workforce development plan with an initial focus on working in the antenatal period.
- Teams from across the partnership are reviewing school readiness information with professionals and parent with a view to supporting transitions.

- Another important focus of this priority is the project to develop intensive support for women who have had multiple children removed from their care. This project will progress to the implementation stage in the next year of the Children, Young People and Families Plan.

### 11.3 Young and Thriving

Achievements include:

- Detached and outreach youth work is being delivered in all six Localities. This is being co-ordinated through Youth at Risk Meetings which have been established to identify and support young people at risk of exploitation. Each locality is different, but in each Locality, Targeted Youth Workers are working in partnership with voluntary and community sector organisations, with support and liaison with Dorset Police.
  - The Dorset Care Leaver offer has been significantly enhanced including a clear framework for Care Leaver finance and the allocation at the age of 16 of a Personal Advisor for children in care. There has been a significant reduction in the number of Care Leavers in Unsuitable Accommodation and additional support to support Care Leavers to enter employment, education and training.

### 11.4 Good Care Provision

Achievements include:

- The Harbour has been implemented and is now operational and supporting our most vulnerable young people. This is a multi-agency approach with key partners signed up and two police officers working in the team. There is a clear model of support and intervention and plans for the residential element of the project are well advanced.
- In addition to The Harbour, as part of the Sufficiency of Placements Strategy, work to expand care placements in Dorset continues with additional provision expected to be available during 2021/22.

## 11.5 Best Education for All

Achievements include:

- Work has continued to improve services for children and young people with special educational needs with the Department for Education formally recognising these improvements in the spring of 2021. The adherence to the timescales for Education, Health and Care Plan work during the pandemic was good and remained consistently above the national average.
- A bold and ambitious programme to create a “Centre of Excellence” at the former St. Mary’s School in Shaftesbury has progressed. Dorset Council have bought the old school with a view to create an innovative and sector leading provision, catering for the needs of children and young people with special educational, health and care needs. The Council is looking to develop the provision to offer a wider range of services to support our children, young people and families such as short breaks, care leaver services, outdoor education and many other valuable services over the coming years.
- School attendance in Dorset was strong throughout the pandemic period with Dorset often ranking in the top 25 of all councils nationally. The tracking of vulnerable students continues and the locality response to supporting students has meant that where students are not attending when required there is rapid and productive contact made.

## 11.6 Best place to live

Achievements include:

- Takeover Challenge - we are particularly pleased that 23 young people aged 13-21 engaged with a month of activities in the “Takeover Challenge” running meetings, workshops and helping to progress our delivery plans. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, Takeover Challenge became virtual this year. Instead of face-to-face, young people joined Decision Makers on their Microsoft Teams calls. Before young people started attending meetings with decision makers, they were invited to attend a Confidence Building Workshop to help them identify the skills they would need to get the most out of Takeover Challenge. Young people provided some strong feedback on how best to deliver key aspects of the Children, Young People and Families Plan.
- Dorset Wildlife Trust’s engagement with children, young people and families and Public Health in coproducing a series of events. These included Stepping into Nature, a Mental Health Awareness Week (10-16 May) which promoted the importance of “getting out in nature” as well as

establishing a young journalist programme providing experience and skills in producing podcasts, blogs and social media posting

#### 11.7 Delivering Locally

Achievements include:

- Over the first year of the Children, Young People and Families' Plan the Dorset Children Thrive, children's services place-based locality model of delivering multi-disciplinary services, has embedded.
- To support the Dorset Children Thrive model, a Performance Management Framework has been developed.
- The partnership has developed and published a new Early Help Strategy. The strategy provides the vision and strategic direction for embedding a culture of early help in Dorset. It both unites agencies and underpins the successful delivery of the Dorset Children, Young People and Families Plan 2020 – 23.

### 12. Strengthening Services Programme

- 12.1 The aim of the Strengthening Services Programme is to drive forward the work to strengthen and improve services for vulnerable children in Dorset. Strategic accountability of the programme is through the multi-agency Strengthening Services for Children and Families in Dorset Board, comprised of executive level senior leaders across the partnership including Elected Members.

The Strengthening Services Board is the place-based delivery arm of the Pan Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership.

The work of the Strengthening Services Board sits alongside the work to deliver good longer-term outcomes for children and young people in Dorset through the Children, Young People and Families Plan 2020-2023. The partnership is working together at a strategic and operational level to strengthen the shared 'system' of services with the aim of achieving the very best outcomes possible for children and families in Dorset.

The partnership continues to make good progress in delivering the actions in the Strengthening Services Plan and as at September 2021 88% of the actions are either complete or embedding.

### **13. Next Steps**

- a) The Strategic Alliance will continue to drive forward delivery plans impacting on the priorities in the Children, Young People and Families' Plan and continue to monitor progress at its quarterly meetings and reporting into the Health and Wellbeing Board.  
Progress and impact on year-2 (2021-22) activities will be reported in the second Annual Report in the summer of 2022. The second Annual Report will be provided to the Health and Wellbeing Board.
- b) The Strengthening Services Board will continue to drive forward their work to strengthen services for vulnerable children and young people in Dorset.

### **14. Recommendation:** Members of the Health and Wellbeing Board are asked to:

1. Review the progress made in delivering the Children, Young People and Families' Plan 2020-23 as set out in the Annual Report 2020-21, including partner and priority area updates.
2. Note the progress made by the Dorset Strengthening Services Programme to strengthen services for vulnerable children and young people through partnership working.

#### **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



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
Andrew Billany	Interim 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
Richard Bell	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

## Meet the Strategic Alliance Board

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 version 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

# 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 .....**Page 14
- 2 Young and Thriving .....**Page 19
- 3 Good Care Provision .....**Page 24
- 4 Best Education for All .....**Page 28
- 5 Best Place to Live .....**Page 33
- 6 Delivering Locally .....**Page 39

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. ►



## Introduction

### 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 do 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



# Introduction

## **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. ►

# Introduction

## Outcomes

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

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

## 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.

# About Dorset

Dorset is a beautiful coastal county.

Over half of Dorset is covered by the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) designation and 7% of Dorset is protected as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

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.

Affordability issues for many young people and keyworkers.

Earnings are below average and house prices are high

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.

Total population of Dorset:  
**378,508** (2019 mid-year estimate)

## About Dorset

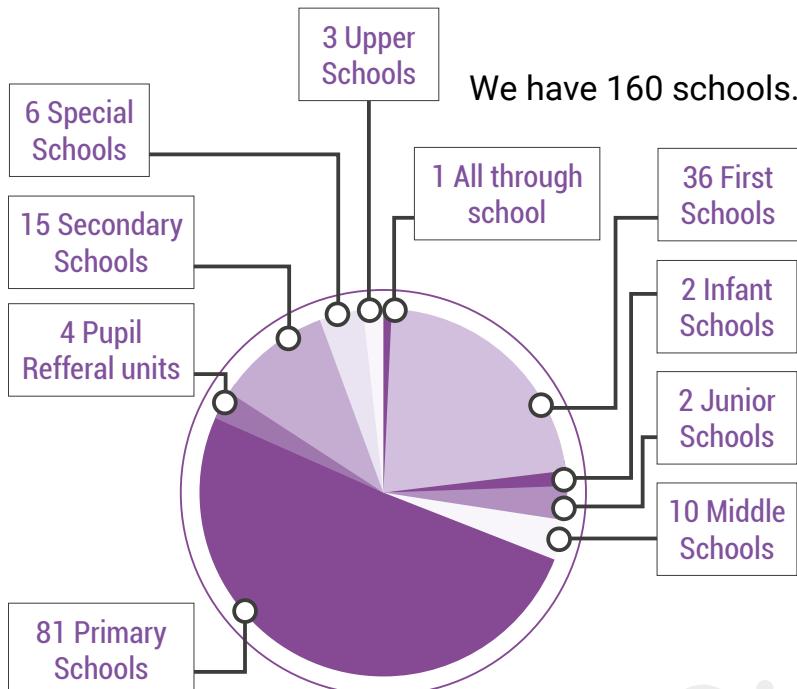


**Black and minority ethnic communities**  
(non-white British – January 2020 school census).

34.6% nationally



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



483 children in care  
and 261 care leavers.

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

Welcome Salut bienvenido  
bien ati venit yokoso Privet

# Working together

## 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 out more

To find lots of useful information for children, young people and their families visit our Family Information Service at [dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/family-information-service](http://dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/family-information-service)

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 [dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/local-offer](http://dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/local-offer)

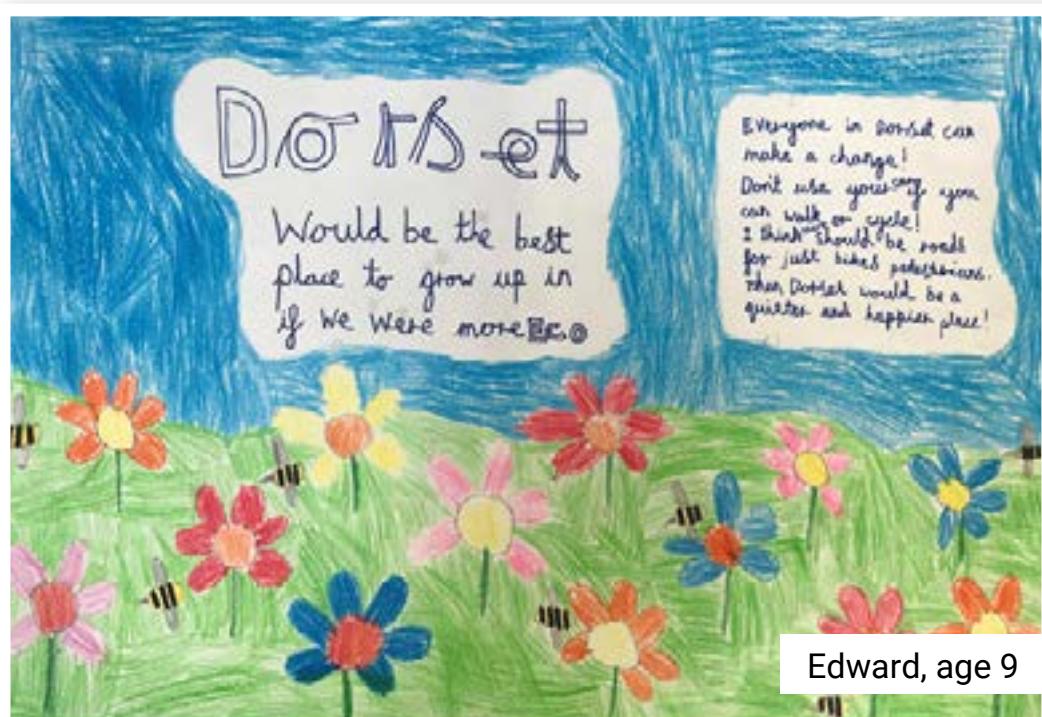
For information on the Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership visit [pdscp.co.uk](http://pdscp.co.uk)

# What's important?

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 of 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. ►

## Best Start in Life



### 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. ►

## Best Start in Life

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. ►



## Best Start in Life

### 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 focused.
- Explore the development of Family Hubs - where people of all ages can get help and support from a range of professionals.

## Best Start in Life

### 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

↗ [maternitymattersdorset.nhs.uk](http://maternitymattersdorset.nhs.uk)

Sign up to be a Breastfeeding Peer Supporter with ↗ [familiesandbabies.org.uk](http://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.

↗ [pacey.org.uk/working-in-childcare/spotlight-on/2-year-olds/home-learning-environment](http://pacey.org.uk/working-in-childcare/spotlight-on/2-year-olds/home-learning-environment) and ↗ [youtube.com/c/PACEYorgUK/videos](http://youtube.com/c/PACEYorgUK/videos)

Volunteer 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: ↗ [bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people/science-and-facts](http://bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people/science-and-facts)

↗ [booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/tips-and-advice/reading-tips](http://booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/tips-and-advice/reading-tips)

↗ [ican.org.uk/i-cans-talking-point/parents](http://ican.org.uk/i-cans-talking-point/parents)

↗ [afasic.org.uk](http://afasic.org.uk)

Visit the Dorset Reading Partners website to see how you can help

↗ [dorsetreadingpartners.org.uk](http://dorsetreadingpartners.org.uk)

Make sure your child is registered with their GP and Dentist, visit the NHS choices website for more information ↗ [nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/nhs-services/gps/how-to-register-with-a-gp-practice](http://nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/nhs-services/gps/how-to-register-with-a-gp-practice)

Sign up for Change4Life ↗ [nhs.uk/change4life/about-change4life](http://nhs.uk/change4life/about-change4life)

Get involved with Live Well Dorset ↗ [livewell dorset.co.uk](http://livewell dorset.co.uk)

Visit the Dorset Family Information Service and sign up to our newsletter for lots of useful information for families ↗ [dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/family-information-service](http://dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/family-information-service)

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 ↗ [what0-18.nhs.uk](http://what0-18.nhs.uk)

If you have questions about your child's development, visit ↗ [dorsethealthcare.nhs.uk/healthvisiting](http://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. ►



## Young and Thriving

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. ►



## Young and Thriving

### 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 (OOCDS), 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. ►

## Young and Thriving

### 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. ►

## Young and Thriving

- 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 [dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/children-families/youth-link](http://dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/children-families/youth-link)

Promote the range of information regarding emotional health and wellbeing:

Kooth [kooth.com](http://kooth.com)

Chat health [publichealthdorset.org.uk/your-health/children-and-families/chat-health.aspx](http://publichealthdorset.org.uk/your-health/children-and-families/chat-health.aspx)

Discovery Project Dorset [dorsethealthcare.nhs.uk/patients-and-visitors/our-services-hospitals/mental-health/discovery-project](http://dorsethealthcare.nhs.uk/patients-and-visitors/our-services-hospitals/mental-health/discovery-project)

Mental Health Support Teams in Schools Dorset [camhsdorset.org/about-camhs/mental-health-support-teams-mhsts](http://camhsdorset.org/about-camhs/mental-health-support-teams-mhsts)

CAMHS [camhsdorset.org](http://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 [cswgroup.co.uk/dorset-skills-for-young-people](http://cswgroup.co.uk/dorset-skills-for-young-people)

Information Advice and Guidance [ansbury.co.uk](http://ansbury.co.uk)

National Careers Service [nationalcareers.service.gov.uk](http://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk)

Skills and Learning Dorset [skillsandlearningace.com/apprenticeships](http://skillsandlearningace.com/apprenticeships)

Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership [dorsetlep.co.uk/apprenticeships](http://dorsetlep.co.uk/apprenticeships)

Flying Start Dorset [sunoutreach.org/resource-category/flying-start-dorset-wide](http://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. ►



## Good Care Provision

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. ►



## Good Care Provision

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 focused 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. ►

## Good Care Provision

- 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 [dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/fostering](http://dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/fostering)

Offer supported lodgings for a young person. Follow this link to find out more  
[dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/become-a-supported-lodgings-carer](http://dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/become-a-supported-lodgings-carer)



## 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. ►



## Best Education for All



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. ►

## Best Education for All

At Key Stage 1 attainment has improved and is now broadly in line at the expected standard. SEND pupils (with EHC) attain above their South West counterparts, but FSM pupils achieve below their 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. ►

## Best Education for All

### 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 which 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 focused on the child, young person and their family at the centre. ►

## Best Education for All

- 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 Post 16 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

↗ [dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/schools-and-learning](https://dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/schools-and-learning)

Become a School Governor - school governors play a key role in leading, supporting and improving schools ↗ [dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/school-governors](https://dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/school-governors)

For more information on school governance visit the Inspiring Governance website  
↗ [inspiringgovernance.org](https://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 ↗ [dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/local-offer](https://dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/local-offer)

# 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'. ►



Oliver, age 7

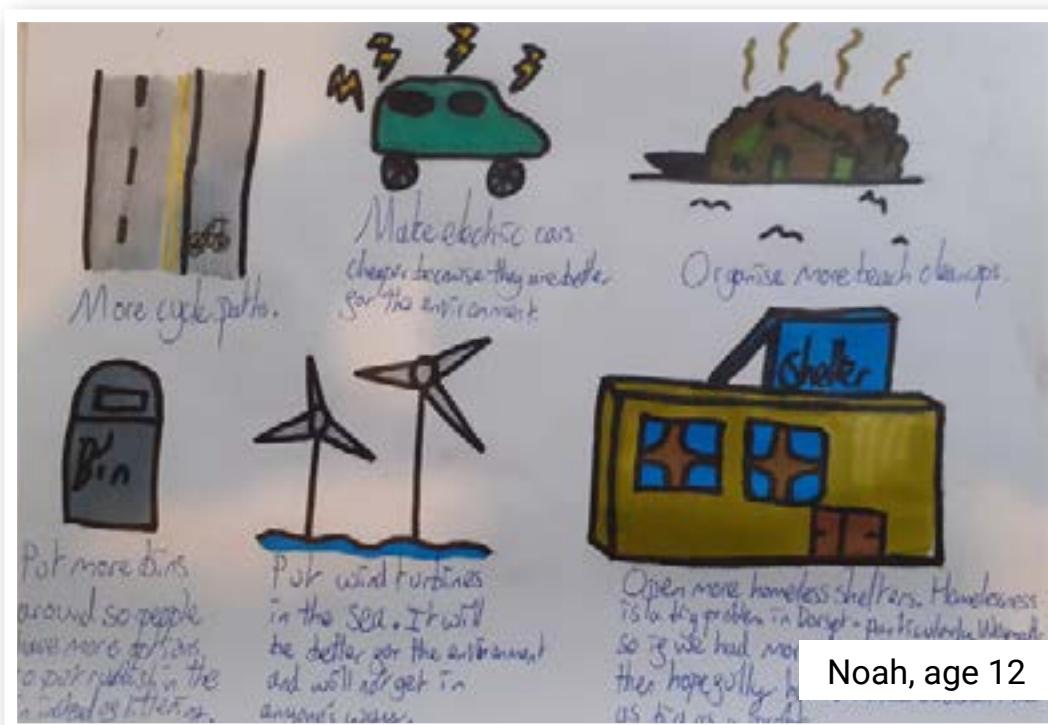
## Best Place to Live

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 in **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. ▶



## Best Place to Live

### Where are we now?

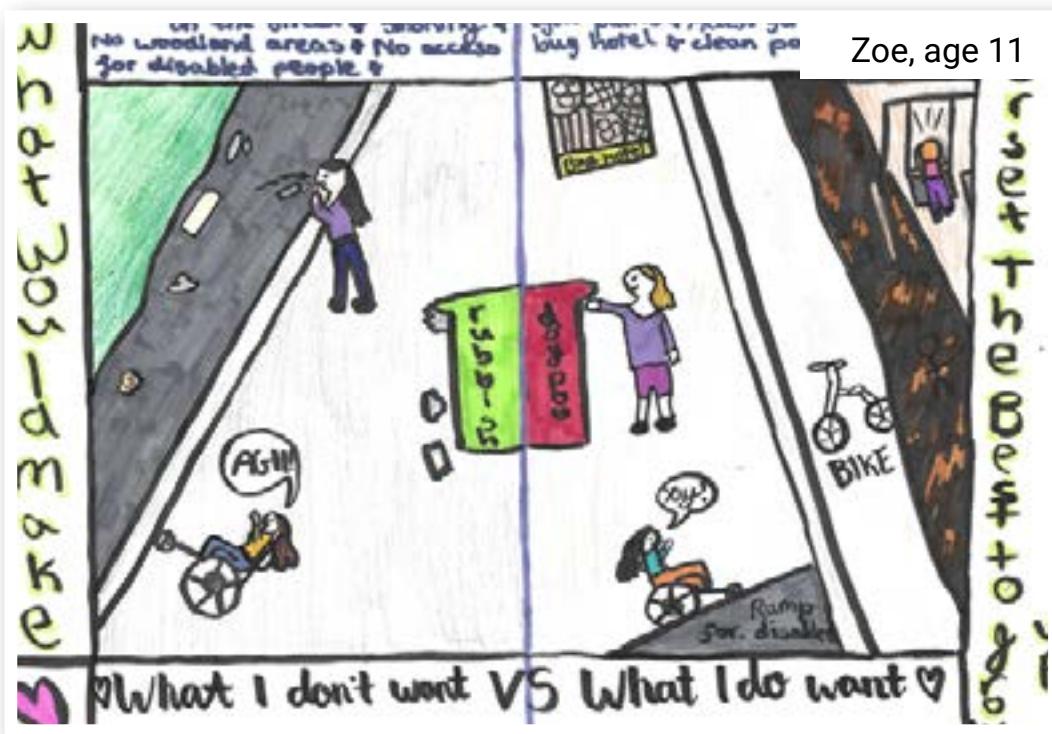
There are a range of opportunities for young people to express their voice such as a School Councils, Dorset Youth Council, Young Inspectors, Young Researchers, Children in Care Council and the Care Leavers Forum, however we know that we need to do more to ensure greater representation and true co-production 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. ►



## Best Place to Live



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. ►

## Best 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.

## Best Place to Live

### 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 [dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/sustainable-schools](https://dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/sustainable-schools)

Follow the link for useful information and safety advice on cycling to school

[dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/cycling-and-walking-to-school](https://dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/cycling-and-walking-to-school)



# 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. ☺



## Delivering Locally

### 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. ►



## Delivering Locally

### 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

[dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/children-families/get-help-for-your-family/family-information-service.aspx](http://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

[dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/local-offer](http://dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/local-offer)

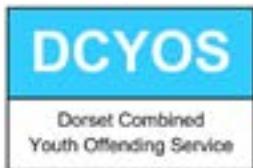
# How will we know we've made a difference?

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.

## Some of the key indicators:

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

# Partners



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# Dorset Strategic Alliance for Children and Young People

Annual Report 2020-21

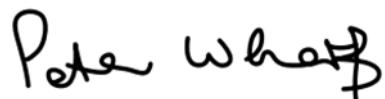


## Foreword - Councillor Wharf

Welcome to the first annual report for our Children, Young People and Families' Plan 2020-2023. It is fair to say that our Plan was created and launched in an unprecedented time in all of our lives, a time that will be remembered through history.

In creating our Plan we set out to make Dorset the best place to be a child, where communities thrive, and families are supported the best they can be.

Establishing the Strategic Alliance Partnership & working with children, young people, families and partners across Dorset during the Covid-19 pandemic to co-produce our plan is an achievement in itself. However, the fantastic work to drive the plan forwards in making Dorset the best place to live for our children, young people & families has continued at pace. I am proud to share our progress & impact over the first year of the plan and identify our challenges & plans for the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Wharf". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Peter" on the top line and "Wharf" on the bottom line.

**Councillor Peter Wharf**

Chair of the Strategic Alliance and  
Deputy Leader of Dorset Council

# Introduction - Executive Director Children's Services

## Theresa Leavy

In this, the first annual report for our Children, Young People and Families' Plan 2020-2023, we must recognise the amazing efforts and contribution our cherished children, young people & families have made during a very tough year.

We are delighted that children, young people and families have continued to thrive but recognise we must always be ambitious in our plans to close the gaps in inequalities of outcomes. Over the past year, our partnership has worked together to improve the quality of services we provide through our Strengthening Services Plan.

Partners from across Dorset have come together to drive forwards our vision in the Plan, living our shared values. We continue to share and celebrate these messages every week in our Partner communications.

I am proud of what we've achieved in this difficult year and look forward with hope and ambition that we'll grow our partnership even further, improving the communities where our children and young people live in across Dorset.



# Overview

This is our first Joint Annual Report on Dorset's Children, Young People and Families' Plan 2020-23 and covers the period September 2020 to May 2021. The aim of this report is to demonstrate how well the Partnership has progressed our priorities and look ahead to the future to further develop our services for children, young people and families over the length of the Plan.

Our partnership has taken an evidence and strength-based approach to delivering our Plan with a focus on our underlying priorities of the plan which include.

- 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'll report on our impact against these later in the document.

In delivering our Plan, we remain committed to our shared values,

- 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

Our Children, Young People and Families' Plan is ambitious. This report highlights what we have already achieved, and sets out what we still need to do.

## Our Board

Although Covid-19 restrictions have changed the way in which partners can work together, we have continued to meet online every quarter reviewing the progress of the priority areas, impacting on achieving the outcomes of the Plan.

We have also worked across our partnership to improve our services for children, young people and families through our “Strengthening Services” and Pan-Dorset Health and Wellbeing Boards, ensuring that our children and young people remain safe through our partnership working in the Safeguarding Board.

In July 2021, representatives from across our partnership and leading figures from mental health and restorative practice organisations gathered at Dorset’s bold and ambitious “Centre of Excellence” to celebrate our progress and share our vision for the future at our Annual Conference.

Over the first year of our Plans we have further embedded our “Thrive” model of locality working. We have developed services delivered in and for the people of the locality they are in. To support our Thrive model, we’ve implemented a performance Management Framework to help partners monitor progress.

We’ve also published our Early Help Strategy [Early Help Strategy](#). The Early Help Strategy provides the vision and strategic direction for embedding a culture of early help in Dorset. It unites agencies and underpins the successful delivery of the Dorset Children, Young People and Families Plan 2020 - 23.

## Bold and ambitions plans/Impact

We've continued to improve our services for children and young people with special educational needs with the Department for Education formally recognising these improvements in the spring of 2021. We have commenced a bold and ambitious programme to create a Centre of Excellence for children and young people with special educational, health and care needs at the former St. Mary's School in Shaftesbury. This will offer a wide range of services to offer a wider range of services to support our children, young people and families such as short breaks, care leaver services, outdoor education and many other valuable services over the coming years.

Through the Holiday Activity Fund, we have supported over 1,500 families supplying and delivering food parcels over Easter.

Attendance rates at schools has remained high with early years, schools and further educational settings offering a safe, stable place for our children and young people to continue their education. Our focus on inclusion remains a key focus in ensuring that every child and young person has the best start in life and best education for all. We're celebrating our success to date and sharing our vision for an inclusive future at our Education and Inclusion Conference on 9<sup>th</sup> July at St. Mary's Shaftesbury. We'll bring leaders, local, regional and national stakeholders together, along with representatives from children and young people to plan and co-produce how we promote inclusion for all and champion equality and diversity.

# Voice of Children and Young People

During the development and delivery of the priority plans, we've continued to engage with children and young people who have co-produced some elements of the plans. We are particularly pleased that 23 young people aged 13-21 engaged with a month of activities in the "Takeover Challenge" participating and running meetings, workshops and helping to improve our delivery plans.

Due to COVID - 19 restrictions, Takeover Challenge became an online event this year. Instead of face-to-face, young people joined Decision Makers on their Microsoft Teams calls. Before young people started attending meetings with decision makers, they were invited to attend a Confidence Building Workshop to help them identify the skills they would need to get the most out of Takeover Challenge. They were also given a starter kit which gave them tips to take with them to their meetings. After Takeover Challenge we had a fun and interactive evaluation workshop with decision makers.



## My voice

"Decision makers listened and took my ideas on board."



## Impact

"I actually made a difference at the meetings."



## Cameras on

"Loved seeing young peoples faces and engaging with them."



## Reflection

"Decision makers realising there needs to be more meeting with young people to get their insight."



## Support

"Feeling welcomed and supported by the decision makers."



## Confidence

"The remarkable way in which young people managed a room of decision makers."



## Partner updates

### Dorset Police

Dorset Police are proud of the strong partnership that has seen excellent development in the first year of the Children, Young People and Families' Plan.

The last 12 months in a pandemic has been challenging for us all and the strong partnership ethos has allowed us to help deliver improved service to the people of Dorset. We are particularly proud of some of the excellent initiatives which have taken place over the last year including:

Operation Encompass - Worked with Schools and embedding to provide support to children and young people at risk of exposure to domestic abuse.

Working closely with the Strengthening Services Board to drive forward improvements to Dorset's Children's Services.

Police are an active participant at the Safeguarding Board, ensuring children and young people are safe and protected from harm.

The delivery of a new operating model meaning closer alignment of resources with partners to deliver service to the community.

Over the next 12 months we anticipate new and emerging threats resulting from the pandemic such as online exploitation and abuse. The Strategic Alliance and the Children, Young People and Families' Plan gives us a strong foundation to build on and collectively meet the challenges.

### Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Services

Dorset and Wiltshire FRS provides a range of community safety, education, and engagement activities across Dorset. Working in partnership through the Dorset Strategic Alliance is a priority for the service, as we recognise the importance of linking services across a range of organisations to help ensure we give young people the best start in life.

Our Service aims to support communities by helping to make safer and healthier places to live. The Children, Young People and Families' Plan has helped us to work in partnership to shape, deliver, and improve the services available to young people across Dorset.

We believe safety begins at home and perform thousands of free 'Safe and Well' visits a year, fitting free smoke alarms and making families aware of the potential risks to their health and well-being. The Service also works closely with partners to improve safety on our roads. We co-ordinate the Safe Drive Stay Alive Roadshow which is delivered to over 5,000 young people across Dorset each year.

We also deliver a range of education and intervention programmes designed to support children, young adults, and families. This helps them to live safe and healthy lives and achieve their full potential. Our school's education programme targets children of all ages with practical lessons on fire, water, and road safety. In addition, we also offer programmes that encourage young people into further training, education, and employment. The courses aim to support vulnerable young people through education and positive experiences, inspiring them to make good choices.

Over the next year it is more important than ever that organisations link their services to support young people and families. The true cost of the pandemic is still unknown, but we will continue to support the Alliance to ensure we are there to support our partners, the communities we serve, and be there when people need us most.

# Partner updates

## Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group

A key objective of NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) is to ensure that services across Dorset deliver sustainable health services for children and young people that are closer to home and are part of integrated pathways bringing services together with communities across physical and emotional health.

A few of the key highlights for 20/21 include the ongoing commitment of NHS Dorset CCG to develop a culture of co-production and partnership to strive to improve outcomes for Children Young People, their families, and carers by developing joint commissioning pathways for our children and young people who have multi layered needs that would benefit from a partnership approach. We have also:

- Collaborated on the All-Age Autism Care Pathway review project to deliver a care pathway that results in service improvements.
- Focussed on the Speech, Language and Communication Transformation Project, a system level project that has progressed with clear next steps for action including recovery and reset post COVID-19.
- Ensured that services commissioned for Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) meet statutory requirements and the needs of the local area by delivering an effective, high quality integrated pathway. This has included partnership involvement in Statutory inspections and a financial commitment from the CCG towards the development of the Information and Advice Service for SEND
- Worked in partnership within the Covid-19 pandemic to ensure ongoing accessibility to health services and offer a range of options for CYP, their families and carers such as virtual assessments and face to face contacts for those in crisis or in urgent need.
- Completed a Child and Adolescent Mental Health Needs Assessment
- Agreed a Children and Young Person's Mental Health Strategy with a business case under development
- Developed the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Gateway Service with the intention to deliver this Pan Dorset.
- Developed the Mental Health Support Teams in schools with an opportunity to increase the coverage up to approximately 50% of schools having access to the service.

Following the publication of Working Together to Safeguard Children, 2018, all three statutory partners, Local Authority, Health and Police have a shared responsibility for the safeguarding of children and young people. Throughout 2021/22, the three statutory partners have worked closely together across all levels from strategic to frontline to ensure the safety of the most vulnerable in the population.

A joint agency communications group was established to ensure consistent and relevant messages were shared with children and young people on how they could still contact safeguarding staff whilst in lock-down at home. Social media campaigns were established regarding on-line abuse, grooming, sexual abuse, alcohol and parenting and the prevention of childhood accidents including safe sleeping advice.

In addition, the partners have collaborated in the development of a contextual safeguarding toolkit, a domestic abuse toolkit and pathways for young people with complex physical and mental health wellbeing needs.

The Designated Nurse for Children in Care has worked closely with Local Authority staff to improve notification of children coming into care and obtaining consent, which has improved significantly, and work is ongoing to sustain this. Safeguarding staff have also contributed to The Harbour Project (No Wrong Door).

## Partner updates

Work has commenced in 20/21 in developing a multiagency inequalities dashboard linked to safeguarding, although this work is evolving there is already indicators of how this will support a population health-based model in tackling inequalities and managing safeguarding practice.

During 2021/22 NHS Dorset CCG will commit to have an ongoing pledge to partnership and system thinking with a spotlight on the Children, Young People and Families plan 2020-2023 and the commitments set out in the NHS Long term plan to:

- Integrate services for children and young people.
- Improve the quality of care for Children and Young People with long term conditions, specifically obesity and asthma.
- Include Children and Young People in developments to ensure that services are designed to meet the needs of Children and Young People
- Identify and deliver local system level priorities based upon a population health needs view.

Addressing health inequalities in Children and Young People will underpin these priorities.

## Public Health

The Covid-19 Pandemic has had a significant impact on many families, children and young people and the professionals and services who support them. The year presented new and emerging needs, but services responded commendably, working more closely in partnership to ensure families could still access support they needed.

- Frontline Public Health services (including; Drugs and Alcohol; Sexual Health, Community Health Improvement and children and young people's Public Health) adapted quickly to the challenge and embraced opportunities to deliver services differently and safely in communities and included new digital models at scale. Close working relationships particularly between maternity, health visiting, and early help practitioners provided a strong foundation for timely information sharing within our localities which ensured the most vulnerable families were prioritised for face to face, home visits and/or targeted support.
- The Public Health Response team worked in collaboration with school leaders and staff, to manage infection prevention and control, and local outbreaks. By taking a proactive and risk based local approach, attendance at school remained high. In January the team supported schools with the national roll out of Lateral Flow Device testing in schools and latterly home testing. Strong relationships have been built across the health and education sectors, which remain and offer opportunities for more collaboration on public health outcomes.
- Mental Health through the pandemic has been a key focus and the Children and Young People's Service provided support to parents and young people. For Peri-natal mental health the Service signed up additional PNMH champions, provided ParentTalk sessions including with Dads; and additional practitioners were trained to offer Video Interaction Guidance, all with demonstrable improvements for participants, particularly in improving attachment. For middle and secondary age young people, the Chat Health web-based text offer responded to over 2,770 contacts, predominantly providing advice and support on emotional health and wellbeing concerns.

For the future, Public Health remain committed to continuing to work with our partners through the Strengthening Services Board, Strategic Alliance and Local Safeguarding arrangements, including the Quality Assurance Group, to ensure the positive lessons learned and improved ways of working, informs our future delivery of services and best meets the needs of our local populations; especially our children, young people and families.

## Partner updates

### Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service

One of our priorities in the last year has been to see the young people we work with as children rather than as offenders, in line with the Youth Justice Board's 'child first' principle and in keeping with Dorset's commitment to prioritising the voice, views and experience of our children. Linked to this, we changed our service name from being a 'youth offending service' to Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service (YJS).

Our focus on the child is also reflected in our practice priorities of understanding communication needs and the impact of their past experiences. All children who receive a court order or second youth caution receive a speech, language and communication assessment which helps us adapt how we work with the child. Last year we completed whole service training in trauma-informed practice. Our Psychologist leads multi-agency formulation meetings for children with particularly complex needs and risks and our YJS Nurses provide trauma-informed case consultations and assessments for other children engaging with our service. The role of our seconded health staff and the way we share information with partner agencies illustrates the importance and strength of partnership working in Dorset.

The Covid pandemic required significant changes to how we work, such as remote or virtual contacts with children, by video or phone, and our court officers participating in court hearings by video link. Some of these innovations can continue in future but only alongside sufficient in-person contacts with children and in settings like court and the police station to build relationships and meet the rights and communication needs of the children we work with.

The Youth Justice Service is overseen by a strong multi-agency Partnership Board, chaired by Theresa Leavy and attended by senior leaders from Dorset Council, BCP Council, Dorset Police, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, National Probation Service Dorset, Dorset NHS CCG, Dorset HealthCare and HM Courts and Tribunals Service. This also gives us strong links with other local boards to make sure that our priorities and practices are aligned. A good example of this alignment is our successful work with Dorset Police to reduce the number of children entering the justice system for the first time. This work integrates with the wider commitment to provide effective early interventions which help children reach their potential and reduce their involvement with statutory services.

### Schools Forums

The first year of the plan has made excellent progress and there is now a far reaching and comprehensive strategy in place that puts the child at the very heart of all we do.

The last year has been a difficult one for schools and their students, but by working together, and supporting each other, Dorset schools have ensured that 'lost learning' has been kept to a minimum and that our students have stayed safe.

The education sector has learnt a lot from remote learning and the challenge now is to harness and utilise the very best elements to ensure that we emerge from the pandemic with even better pedagogy. A task I know that schools are ready for.

## Partner updates

### Local Alliance Groups

The first year of the new Children, Young People and Families' plan has helped the Local Alliance Groups (LAGs) to refocus the way we work what we are achieving and how we support the Plan.

The LAGs moved with relative ease to virtual meetings and for some, this way of working together has made attending meetings easier as they no longer had to fit travel time in. The improved and refocused LAGs started with the Chairs of the different localities coming together agreeing the Terms of Reference. They collectively showed a real commitment for the groups to become more than a talking shop but a proactive group that will help to improve their locality for the benefit of the children, young people and families living there, linking with the plan's objectives. To ensure that the right people were part of the group the membership was also reviewed making sure the relevant sectors and supporting agencies had a voice.

The 0-25 VCS forum identified representatives to sit on each of the localities to enable communication between the different sectors. The commitment to children, young people and families was reinforced through the development or a pledge which is signed by the individual LAG members.

Each locality receives specific data to support the area they are working and to help prioritise local needs. This data is then supported by the members being able to reflect on their own experiences and evidence of working in the local community. This has led to individualised locality priorities and actions plans to start to be produced. Each priority has a named lead from the membership who is supported by others from the group who have particular focus or strengths in that area enabling true ownership of the work at a local level.

As we move forward into the next year the LAG's will continue to develop the action plans and begin to see the actions implemented. Membership of the groups will be reviewed and adjusted as trends and needs are identified.

### Dorset Parent Carer Council

We have been reflecting on the first year of the Children and Young People and Families' Plan and what has been achieved to date. We are proud to represent families with children and young people who have additional needs or a disability at the Strategic Alliance Board and the Strengthening Services Board, working with the wider partnership to drive forward improvements for all children and young people in Dorset.

Our key highlights this year has been involvement with partners to shape future specialist education provision and to work with health on the All Age Autism Review project.

As we enter the second year of our Plan, we look forward to working with partners on a number of key priorities like reducing health inequalities for people with a learning disability, avoiding hospital admissions and ensuring Dorset young people are prepared well for adult life.

# Children, Young People & Families' Plan Priority Area Updates

In our Children, Young People and Families' Plan 2020-23 we identified 6 key priorities:

Best Start in Life, Young and Thriving, Good Care Provision, Best Education for All, Best Place to Live and Delivering Locally.

The following section identifies some of the activity and progress we've made and celebrates the impact these plans have had for our children, young people and families. We also look ahead to our second year of our Plan and improving outcomes for our communities in a year of hope as we come out of a national lockdown.

## The Best Start in Life

### Introduction

Getting a good start in life and throughout childhood, building resilience and getting maximum benefit from education are important markers for good health and wellbeing throughout life. Children living in households in the lowest socio-economic groups have significantly worse health outcomes than other children. Strengthening our local services is vital to tackling health and educational inequalities, some of which have been exacerbated by the pandemic

### What have we done?

- Developing intensive support for women who have had multiple children removed from their care.
- Developing the local maternity system through place-based work and prevention offers including immunisations.
- Sharing learning and feedback from families.
- Developed skills and approaches needed to work effectively with families, including the graduated response for children with special educational needs and support for children moving into nursery or school.

### Achievements

- Steering Group has been formed, with meetings developing the next steps in our three-year plan.
- Partners are developing a shared workforce development plan, with an initial focussed on skills required when working in the antenatal period.
- Teams from across the partnership are reviewing school readiness information with professionals and parents.

### Next steps for 2021/22

- Strengthen the Peri-Natal Mental Health pathways and implement workforce development plans.
- Deliver evidence-based interventions to improve speech, language and communication, and School Readiness.
- Implementation of the Removal of Care Support project pilot.
- Explore the opportunities and development of Family Hubs, where people of all ages can get help and support from a range of professionals.

# Young and Thriving

## Achievements so far

- Delivery of a reconfigured ‘Takeover’ event during February with multiple workshops to engage young people and leaders from across the partnership with some strong feedback on how best to deliver key aspects of the Children and Young People’s Plan.
- National Citizen Service programme will go ahead in Dorset over the summer with good sign up from our schools and support from Locality teams.
- Changes to the financial support provided to voluntary and community sector organisations and a new grant scheme which has already benefited 15 organisations to a total value of more than £70k.
- Targeted Youth Work offer written and published. [Targeted Youth Work Offer](#)
- Detached and outreach youth work is being delivered in all six of our Localities and co-ordinated through the Youth at Risk Meetings which have been established to identify and support young people at risk of exploitation. In each Locality, Targeted Youth Workers are working together with voluntary and community sector organisations, with support and liaison with Dorset Police.
- The Harbour Project is operational, supporting our most vulnerable young people. Key partners are signed up including two police officers working in the team. There is a model of intervention and plans for the residential dimension are well advanced.
- Our Care Leaver offer has been significantly enhanced including a clear framework for Care Leaver finance and the allocation at the age of 16 of a Personal Advisor for children in care. We’ve seen a significant reduction in the number of Care Leavers in Unsuitable Accommodation and additional support to support Care Leavers to enter employment, education and training.
- Purchase of St Mary’s in Shaftesbury, with significant planning for a better offer for supporting young people with SEND.
- Significant work to align different programmes to support the emotional health and well-being of young people.
- Mechanism in place for Dorset Police, the Police and Crime Commissioner, Locality Teams and the Youth Justice Service to work collaboratively to support young people on the periphery of crime through Youth Justice orders and a range of diversionary programmes.

## Impact so far for children and families

- A report on the impact and next steps of our “Takeover Challenge” has been presented to the Strategic Alliance Board with recommendations to embed the learning in the development of our Delivery Plans.
- Increase in the number of Care Leavers in Employment, Education and Training from 50% in July 2020 to 56% in April 2021
- 40 young people are currently being supported by the Harbour with good feedback for young people, families and professionals -K (young person) ‘ Excellent - these sessions have built mine and my mum’s relationship up’; Professional ‘Excellent work began immediately, enabled family to remain stable’; Family ‘Excellent - very helpful and understanding - have a very good relationship’. Significant reduction in the number of missing episodes for those that are being supported.
- Youth Justice Service have continued to reduce the number of young people entering the Youth Justice system for the first time, even from a very low base in the previous year

## Young and Thriving

### Next steps for 2021/22

- Develop and embed a new model for young people's voice, including those from Children in Care, Care Leavers, Young Carers and those at risk of exploitation. This work will also include how young people co-produce services with us.
- Development of the Youth Grant Scheme to the value of £100k in 2021-22 and strengthening of the links between Targeted Youth Work and voluntary youth and community organisations. This will sort alongside work to enhance our digital offer to young people.
- Establish a new Care Leavers Delivery Group reporting to the Corporate Parenting Board to take forward our ambition to implement the Care Leaver Covenant. This will expand our offer to Care Leavers beyond our statutory responsibility and involve partners and the community in supporting care leavers with access to better housing, work and training prospects and sports, leisure and culture opportunities. Alongside this, we will recruit a Care Leaver as an apprentice within the Care Leaver team.
- Evaluate the Targeted Mental Health Offer in schools and expand this into all areas of Dorset to provide early intervention to support young people's emotional well-being.
- More work is planned to support our children in care and Care Leavers with their mental health and emotional well-being.
- Implement the early intervention programme led by the Safer Schools and Communities Team in Dorset Police to support young people on the periphery of crime.



# Good Care Provision

## Achievements so far

- Harbour (Children's Home) brings together a team of professionals from different agencies to support young people who are on the edge of care (this means they're in and out of care) and those where young people need additional help to support placement stability
- First new Dorset Council children's home registered
- Exit strategy completed for unregistered provision with new provider seeking registration
- New organisational structure in place for services for children in care and care leavers
- Fostering improvement plan launched
- Fostering recruitment brought in house
- Foster Carers Association established
- Improvements in line of sight and decision making by managers
- Family Group Conference provision retendered
- Stronger links between leaving care team and housing colleagues - housing officer embedded in team.
- Model established for new Keeping In touch service and change process started
- Corporate parenting training offer rolled out for members, officers, and partners.

## Impact so far for children and families

- Reduction in the number of children in care living in unregistered or unregulated placements
- Reduction in the number of care leavers living in unsuitable accommodation
- Increase in the percentage of children in care who achieve permanence
- Improvement in timeliness of initial health assessments
- Improvement in timeliness of Personal Education Plans

## Next steps for 2021/22

- Soft launch of Harbour and registration of additional children's homes
- Development of Mockingbird model in Dorset (Fostering model)
- Tendering of supported accommodation and development of care leaver accommodation at Kirtleton Avenue
- Develop care leaver employment opportunities
- Launch Keep in Touch service and wider offer
- Develop the preventive offer through the use of family group conferences

# Best Education For All

## What have we done?

- Developed and published the Dorset graduated approach policy. Graduated approach is a 4 stage cycle that helps the school learn more about the pupil and what helps them make good progress
- Regular contact with headteachers through our locality hubs.
- Embedding the quality assurance process of Education, Health and Care Plans.
- Completing and analysing the results of a SEND survey to our Dorset families.
- Holding our first Educational and Inclusion Conference.
- Developing an updated Outreach model for Dorset educational settings.
- Creating the Dorset Centre of Excellence and new SEND school as part our sufficiency plans.
- COVID response and support to our educational settings and Dorset families.

## Achievements

- The steering group has been formed, with representation from educational settings, parents and health colleagues. Meetings have been held and we have an agreement of the next steps in our three-year plan.
- Question and answer sessions have been held with Dorset SEND families to involve them in future SEND plans. These have been well received and more are planned.
- Dorset Council has invested £40k to support the need for more SEND provision to meet the needs of the existing cohort. We have identified sites for expansion, creation of future provision and purchased St Mary's School in Shaftesbury. The Dorset Centre of Excellence has been registered and the creation of the new SEND school is underway with an established commissioning group, a Chief Operating Officer is in post, two internal Directors have been appointed and recruitment of key staff is underway. The facilities on this site will be developed over the next three years.
- Throughout COVID the Corporate Director for Education and Learning led weekly touch-downs with headteachers alongside HR and Public Health colleagues to support the education sector in the response to emerging issues during the pandemic. These were more regular around the time that schools were asked to open testing stations. The council supported schools with managing the DFE provision of laptops to students and coordinated supplies of PPE to schools as this became available. Co-ordinated transport to school remained in place throughout term time, with reduced student numbers. This included SEND transport. Additional grants were provided by the DFT to support enhanced levels of school transport when students returned to school full time so that no school populations were mixing on buses.
- Our Early years settings were able to remain open during the summer and winter periods. There were challenges during lockdown periods with staffing availability. During the winter and early spring there were a number of settings where finances became difficult and some uncertainty over national funding formulas being applied on the basis of reduced numbers. However, Dorset Council were able to support settings with emergency funding and no setting permanently closed.
- Dorset schools were able to remain open to students and continue education for all children during the autumn and spring terms. Whilst there were periods when the number of students physically attending was restricted the majority of schools had a successful transition to remote education for those students who were not able to attend.

# Best Education For All

- School attendance in Dorset was strong throughout the pandemic period with Dorset ranking in the top 25 of all councils nationally. The tracking of vulnerable students continues and the locality response to supporting students has meant that where students are not attending when required there is rapid and productive contact made.
- Statutory school admissions and SEND planning work continued throughout the pandemic. High levels of first preference admission to school were sustained by the admissions team. Adherence to the timescales for SEND work during the pandemic was good and remained consistently above the national average. Improvements in plan quality were seen and revised systems and process were implemented. A higher number of complaints were received during the times when people were working from home and this has meant an increased number of tribunals.
- Relationships between the council and schools and wider education providers in early years and FE have strengthened over the last 12 months.
- Schools and Early Years settings in Dorset have now returned to a business as usual operating model, with some adaptations remaining in place to support operating a Covid-19 secure site.

## Next steps for 2021/22

- Build on the relationships with our educational partners to encourage and support them to embed inclusive practice across all Dorset educational settings. Reduce the need for alternative provision, out of county placements and reduce the costs to the high needs block.
- Deliver our sufficiency plans for the best education for children and young people to ensure local provision.
- Develop in collaboration with our commissioning team, educational settings and engagement with current Alternative Provision colleagues a robust Alternative Provision framework and policy aligned to ensure quality, effective, impactful, short term intervention.
- Working with our health colleagues to enable opportunities to strengthen pathways and reduce barriers for our families to access health care provision such as ASD and Speech and Language therapies.
- Review and develop our Post-16 offer with our further education settings and Adult Services.
- Address the causes of inequality and deprivation to improve educational outcomes using business intelligence tools, provide support for eligible families to register for Free School Meals and ensure equitable access to education through a digital offer.
- Strengthen the localities delivery model to recognise local community rights, needs, difficulties, challenges and our partner relationships.
- Strengthen communication and working together enabling the success of our children and young people by updating professional meeting processes to ensure they are timely, owned and effective and using the Local Offer to communicate our plans.
- To continue to work with our Dorset SEND families to ensure that children and young people with additional needs achieve their outcomes.

# Best Place To Live

Dorset's Best Place to Live Priority was the area of the Plan identified by children, young people and families as part of the Summer in Dorset programme in 2020. Best Place to Live co-ordinate a range of services, activities, plans and strategies across Dorset Council and its partners 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.

## Achievements so far

- Public consultation and publication of our Climate Emergency Strategy [climate-and-ecological-emergency-strategy.pdf](#)
- Waste and recycling improvements
- Things to do, places to go - County Park Ranger Activities
- Commitment to a Pilot Programme promoting Rights of children and young people in Bridport ahead of a wider roll-out. [www.realisingrights.org.uk](http://www.realisingrights.org.uk)
- Dorset Wildlife Trust's engagement with children, young people and families and Public Health in co-producing a series of events. These included Stepping into Nature, a Mental Health Awareness Week (10th-16th May) which promoted the importance of "getting out in nature" as well as establishing a young journalist programme providing experience and skills in producing podcasts, blogs and social media posting.

## Next steps for 2021/22

- Expand on the Realising Rights Pilot
- Co-produce a range of activities for children, young people and families publishing them in an accessible media.
- Expand and integrate nature activities and social prescription.
- Continue to secure improvements in recycling rates.
- Reduce the level of plastic and pollution in Dorset.



# Delivering Locally

## Achievements so far

- Steering groups established and included a “takeover” day with Young People leading session.
- The locality model for Dorset Council staff has been in place since September 2020 and our teams report they can access a range of expertise more swiftly, in order to meet a child’s needs.
- Partners also report finding the new model more helpful
- A wider range of partners have accessed Early Help training including police, secondary schools, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), foster carers, primary schools and early years providers
- Local Alliance Groups have been re-established and strengthened with a revised approach to meetings, Terms of Reference and Member Promises
- Each Local Alliance Group has an independent chair and membership across partners has been increased to include Department for Work and Pensions, voluntary and community membership in each alliance
- Priorities are being agreed by each alliance for this year
- An [Early Help Strategy](#) has been published.

## Impact so far for children and families (e.g. outcome data, feedback)

- There was an increase in early help involvement requests: April 2020 - 317, requests peaked in September 2020 at 455 and for March 2021 there were 364. This means more people are seeking support for children at an earlier point.
- Example of feedback; Early help training in March 2021: participants reported finding it useful, inspiring, thought-provoking and informative. 100% said it met the objectives and outcomes; all participants reported that their knowledge and confidence had improved; comments included: “fab advice”. This means these practitioners are more likely to initiate early help or support to initiate early help for children and families.

## Next steps for 2021/22

- Continue to deliver and develop plan through steering group.
- Continue to strengthen local alliances.
- Develop more local alliance groups to represent smaller geographical areas.
- Ensure effort is not duplicated but complemented so that families reap the benefits of a range of services that are accessible from where they live, work and learn.
- Continue to strengthen partner and families positive experiences of the locality model. There is more to do with partner and parent confidence in the model supporting children with SEND.
- Develop locality information and performance data to measure impact in all areas for children, young people and families at locality level.

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## Summer in Dorset



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## Health and Wellbeing Board – Forward Plan

Title	Description	Date of Committee Meeting	Agenda item time	Report Author	Portfolio Holder/s	Other Meetings (CLT, SLT, Cabinet etc)
<b>Local Outbreak Management Plan</b>	To provide an update on the current position and ensure the Board is able to fulfil its role in accordance with the Plan.	<b>10 November 2021</b>	5 minutes	Sam Crowe, Director for Public Health	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health	
<b>Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report</b>	Statutory requirement for the Annual Report to be presented to the H&WB Board	<b>10 November 2021</b>	15 minutes	Karen Maher, DSAB Business Manager	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health	
<b>How Communities want to work with the Dorset Integrated Care System</b>	To present findings from an external analysis to the Board to help shape future conversations with communities.	<b>10 November 2021</b>	15 minutes	Kirsty Hillier Public Health Comms	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health	
<b>Local Plan Presentation</b>	The Health and Wellbeing Board is an important audience and should have a key interest in the local plan development because of the potential positive impacts that it can have on the determinants of our community's health – decent housing; education; infrastructure etc.	<b>10 November 2021</b>	40 minutes	Mike Garrity, Head of Planning	Cabinet Member for Planning	
<b>Physical Activity Strategy</b>	An update on the strategy with the	<b>10 November 2021</b>	20 minutes	Rupert Lloyd, Senior Health Programme Adviser	Cabinet Member for Adult Social	

Title	Description	Date of Committee Meeting	Agenda item time	Report Author	Portfolio Holder/s	Other Meetings (CLT, SLT, Cabinet etc)
	inclusion of links to Planning.				Care and Health	
<b>Safer School Review</b>	Update from 230621	<b>10 November 2021</b>	15 minutes	Lindsay Dudfield, Caroline Naughton, Dorset Police	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health	
<b>Carers Report</b>		<b>10 November 2021</b>	10 minutes	Diana Balsom, Strategic Commissioning Lead	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health	
<b>CYP- Collaboration across the Health and Education systems with a wide range of partners</b>	To share with members the outcomes from the summer programmes for children and young people held this year and seek support for building sustainable offers for next year.	<b>10 November 2021</b>	10 minutes	Jo Wilson, Head of Programmes	Cabinet Member for Children, Education, Skills and Early Help	
<b>Local Outbreak Management Plan</b>	To provide an update on the current position and ensure the Board is able to fulfil its role in accordance with the Plan.	<b>30 March 2022</b>		Sam Crowe, Director for Public Health	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health	
<b>Pharmaceutical Needs assessment (PNA) (might be June)</b>	Consultation	<b>30 March 2022</b>		Jane Horne, Consultant Public Health	Cabinet Member for Adult Social	

<b>Title</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date of Committee Meeting</b>	<b>Agenda item time</b>	<b>Report Author</b>	<b>Portfolio Holder/s</b>	<b>Other Meetings (CLT, SLT, Cabinet etc)</b>
					Care and Health	
<b>Project Weymouth</b>	Update – link to H&WB Strategy	<b>30 March 2022</b>		Diane Evans, Project and Policy Officer Amanda Davis, Head of Locality and Strategy – Chesil	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health	
<b>Anchor Institutions update</b>	Brief update for Board members.	<b>30 March 2022</b>		Paul Iggulden, Consultant Public Health	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health	
<b>HWB Strategy action plan</b>		<b>30 March 2022</b>		Paul Iggulden, Consultant Public Health	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health	
<b>ICS Safe and Legal</b>		<b>30 March 2022</b>		Sam Crowe, Director for Public Health	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health	
<b>Local Outbreak Management Plan</b>	To provide an update on the current position and ensure the Board is able to fulfil its role in accordance with the Plan.	<b>22 June 2022</b>		Sam Crowe, Director for Public Health	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health	
<b>Review of health in all policies</b>		<b>22 June 2022</b>		Sam Crowe, Director for Public Health	Cabinet Member for Adult Social	

Title	Description	Date of Committee Meeting	Agenda item time	Report Author	Portfolio Holder/s	Other Meetings (CLT, SLT, Cabinet etc)
					Care and Health	
<b>Health and Care Partnership Forum Action Plan</b>		<b>22 June 2022</b>		Sam Crowe, Director for Public Health	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health	
<b>Physical Activity Strategy Update</b>	Update on the Strategy.	<b>22 June 2022</b>		Rupert Lloyd, Senior Health Programme Adviser	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health	
<b>Local Outbreak Management Plan</b>	To provide an update on the current position and ensure the Board is able to fulfil its role in accordance with the Plan.	<b>14 September 2022</b>		Sam Crowe, Director for Public Health	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health	
<b>Anchor Institutions update</b>	Brief update for Board members.	<b>14 September 2022</b>		Pail Iggleston, Consultant Public Health	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health	
<b>Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA)</b>	Decision	<b>14 September 2022</b>		Jane Horne, Consultant Public Health	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health	

Title	Description	Date of Committee Meeting	Agenda item time	Report Author	Portfolio Holder/s	Other Meetings (CLT, SLT, Cabinet etc)
		9 November 2022				

**Areas for consideration in order to achieve a more targeted approach to meet the requirements of the HWB Strategy:-**

Children's Services  
 Home First  
 Building Better Lives  
 Sustainable Transport  
 Social Prescribing  
 Cultural Strategy (in relation to H&WB outcomes)

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