



## Cabinet

**Date:** Tuesday, 6 September 2022  
**Time:** 10.00 am  
**Venue:** Council Chamber, County Hall, Dorchester, DT1 1XJ

**Membership: (Quorum 3)**

Spencer Flower (Chairman), Peter Wharf (Vice-Chairman), Graham Carr-Jones, Ray Bryan, Tony Ferrari, Laura Beddow, Andrew Parry, Gary Suttle, Jill Haynes and David Walsh

**Cabinet Lead Members (6)** (are not members of the Cabinet but are appointed to work alongside Portfolio Holders)

Simon Gibson, Andrew Kerby, Nocturin Lacey-Clarke, Byron Quayle and Jane Somper

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

For more information about this agenda please contact Democratic Services Meeting Contact 01305 252234 - [kate.critchell@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:kate.critchell@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)

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## Agenda

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**1. APOLOGIES**

To receive any apologies for absence.

**2. MINUTES**

5 - 22

To confirm the minutes of the last meeting.

**3. 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.

#### **4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Representatives of town or parish councils and members of the public who live, work, or represent an organisation within the Dorset Council area are welcome to submit up to two questions or two statements for each meeting. Alternatively, you could submit one question and one statement for each meeting.

All submissions must be emailed in full to [kate.critchell@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:kate.critchell@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk) by 8.30am on Thursday 1 September 2022.

When submitting your question(s) and/or statement(s) please note that:

- no more than three minutes will be allowed for any one question or statement to be asked/read
- a question may include a short pre-amble to set the context and this will be included within the three-minute period
- please note that sub divided questions count towards your total of two
- when submitting a question please indicate who the question is for (e.g. the name of the committee or Portfolio Holder)
- Include your name, address and contact details. Only your name will be published but we may need your other details to contact you about your question or statement in advance of the meeting.
- questions and statements received in line with the council's rules for public participation will be published as a supplement to the agenda
- all questions, statements and responses will be published in full within the minutes of the meeting.

[Dorset Council Constitution](#) Procedure Rule 9.

#### **5. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS**

To receive questions submitted by councillors.

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

The submissions must be emailed in full to

[kate.critchell@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:kate.critchell@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk) 8.30am on Thursday 1 September 2022.

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

- |            |                                                                                                     |           |
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| <b>6.</b>  | <b>FORWARD PLAN</b>                                                                                 | 23 - 34   |
|            | To consider the Cabinet Forward Plan.                                                               |           |
|            | <b>Items Identified from the Cabinet's Forward Plan</b>                                             |           |
| <b>7.</b>  | <b>ADDITIONAL PROCUREMENT FORWARD PLAN REPORT - OVER £500K (2022 - 2023)</b>                        | 35 - 42   |
|            | To consider a report of the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Commercial and Capital Strategy.          |           |
| <b>8.</b>  | <b>STRATEGIC COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL) EXPENDITURE - 2022</b>                             | 43 - 60   |
|            | To consider a report of the Portfolio Holder for Planning.                                          |           |
| <b>9.</b>  | <b>PAN-DORSET SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP</b>                                                 | 61 - 106  |
|            | To consider a report of the Independent Chair of the Partnership.                                   |           |
| <b>10.</b> | <b>SEND CAPITAL STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN</b>                                                    | 107 - 118 |
|            | To consider a report of the Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth, Assets and Property.              |           |
|            | <b>Recommendations from Committees</b>                                                              |           |
| <b>11.</b> | <b>REDLANDS COMMUNITY SPORTS HUB LEASE AND MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS</b>                              | 119 - 142 |
|            | To consider the recommendation from the Place and Resources Overview Committee of 28 July 2022.     |           |
| <b>12.</b> | <b>AMATEUR ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK AND METAL DETECTING ON DORSET COUNCIL LAND POLICY</b>           |           |
|            | To consider a recommendation of the Place and Resources Committee of 28 July 2022.                  |           |
| <b>13.</b> | <b>Dorset Council Plan Priorities<br/>DORSET COUNCIL PLAN PRIORITIES UPDATE: LIBRARIES STRATEGY</b> |           |
|            | To receive a verbal update from the Portfolio Holder for Culture, Communities & Customer Services.  |           |

**14. PORTFOLIO HOLDER/LEAD MEMBER(S) UPDATE INCLUDING ANY POLICY REFERRALS TO REPORT**

Cabinet Portfolio Holder(s) and Lead Members to report.

**15. 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.

**16. 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.

There was no exempt business to report.

- 17. SEND Capital Strategy Implementation Plan** 143 - 174  
*Para 3*  
Exempt appendices associated with the report on "SEND Capital Strategy Implementation Plan".
- 18. Redlands Community Sports Hub Lease and Management Arrangements** 175 - 180  
*Para 3*  
Exempt appendices associated with "Redlands Community Sports Hub Lease and Management Arrangements".



## CABINET

### MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 26 JULY 2022

**Present:** Cllrs Spencer Flower (Chairman), Peter Wharf (Vice-Chairman), Graham Carr-Jones, Ray Bryan, Tony Ferrari, Laura Beddow, Andrew Parry, Gary Suttle, Jill Haynes and David Walsh

**Apologies:** Cllrs

**Also present:** Cllr Tony Alford, Cllr Jon Andrews, Cllr Shane Bartlett, Cllr David Gray, Cllr Rob Hughes, Cllr Carole Jones, Cllr Molly Rennie and Cllr Bill Trite

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

Matt Prosser (Chief Executive), Aidan Dunn (Executive Director - Corporate Development S151), Jonathan Mair (Director of Legal and Democratic and Monitoring Officer), John Sellgren (Executive Director, Place), Kate Critchel (Senior Democratic Services Officer), Vivienne Broadhurst (Executive Director - People Adults), Theresa Leavy (Executive Director of People - Children), Andrew Billany (Corporate Director of Housing, Dorset Council), Anna Eastgate (Corporate Director - Place Services), Grace Evans (Head of Legal Services and Deputy Monitoring Officer), Jonathan Price (Interim Corporate Director for Commissioning), Deborah Smart (Corporate Director – Transformation, Innovation and Digital), Steve Veevers (Corporate Director Operations, Adult Care) and Vik Verma (Interim Director of Education and Learning)

29. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 June 2022 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

30. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest to report.

31. **Public Participation**

The Chairman advised that there had been 1 public question from the Head teacher at The Swanage School. Unfortunately, the Head teacher was unable to attend but the Portfolio Holder confirmed that a written response would be sent to the school and a copy would be attached in Appendix 1 to these minutes.

32. **Questions from Councillors**

There were 2 questions received from Councillor B Heatley; these along with the responses are set out in Appendix 2 to these minutes.

In response to a supplementary question, the Executive Director for Corporate Development advised that the agreement with the Department of Education (DfE) on the safety valve, had a target overspend for this financial year of 10.4 million pounds and it was expected that this would be exceeded.

The DfE monitors the agreement on a quarterly bases and releases the funds accordingly. However, several Councils, including Dorset were reporting their concerns, due to inflation pressures and that the number of children with special educational needs was increasing. This was an ongoing conversation with the DfE to continue the negotiations in these areas.

### 33. **Forward Plan**

The draft Cabinet Forward Plan for September was received and noted. The Chairman advised that the SEND Capital Strategy Implementation Plan would be coming forward to the next Cabinet meeting in September.

### 34. **Quarter 1 2022/23 Financial Monitoring Report**

The Portfolio Holder for Finance, Capital and Commercial Strategy set out the report with the information about the Council's projected financial performance for the full 2022/2023 financial year, as at the end of quarter 1. As part of his presentation the Portfolio Holder proposed the recommendations as set out in the report. Cllr R Bryan seconded the motion.

In response to questions regarding re-budgeting and the potential need to address the deficit issue mid-budget, the Portfolio Holder confirmed that if this were required, these discussions and decisions would need to take place after quarter 2.

In respect of the Environment and Wellbeing budgets that have a forecast adverse variance of almost £700k, the Executive Director for Corporate Development confirmed that even with moving budgets around, the financial pressure would remain in these areas.

The Executive Director for Corporate Development also responded to questions regarding the financial arrangements of the Dorset Centre of Excellence (DCOE), its Business Plan and working capital loan.

#### **Decision**

- (a) That the Senior Leadership Team's forecast of the full year's outturn for the Council, made at the end of Quarter 1, including progress of the transformational and tactical savings incorporated into the budget, be noted.
- (b) That the capital programme for 2022/23 including the slippage from previous years, and the work taking place to review this before the capital strategy for 2023/24 is developed, be noted.

- (c) That the opening position for the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) refresh and the budget timetable headlines be noted.
- (d) That the budget movements (virements) set out in the report to Cabinet of 26 July 2022, be agreed.

### **Reason for the decision**

The Council has responsibilities to deliver within its corporate plan and it must do this within the resources made available through the revenue and capital budgets for 2022/23. The report summarised the Council's forecast financial performance for the year at the end of the first quarter.

## **35. Council Plan Refresh 2022-24**

The Portfolio Holder for Corporate Development and Transformation presented the refreshed Council Plan for 2022 – 2024 and proposed the report's recommendations. Members were advised that the draft plan had been considered and supported by both the council's Overview Committee's.

The Portfolio Holder further advised that the delivery plan was still a work in progress and Key Performance Indicators were also being reviewed to ensure they were outcome focused. Cllr L Beddow seconded the motion.

### **Recommendation to Full Council**

That the refreshed Council Plan 2022 – 2024 and the new strategic delivery plan be approved.

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

The review and refresh of the Dorset Council Plan should be approved by all Dorset Councillors at a full council meeting.

## **36. Establishment of a Shareholder Committee for Care Dorset**

The Leader of the Council presented the report and proposed the recommendations, these were seconded by Cllr P Wharf.

In response to a question regarding the membership of the committee, the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health indicated that as the Council was the shareholder of the Company and Shareholding was an Executive function of the Council, it was necessary to set up the committee as an executive committee in accordance with the procedure rules. However, he further advised that as the Chairman of Overview Committee, Cllr Parkes had been asked to monitor progress of the company and involve other members who may be interested.

### **Decision**

- (a) That an Executive Committee be established, to be known as 'The Shareholder Committee for Care Dorset Holdings Limited'.
- (b) That 5 members of the Executive be appointed to the Shareholder Committee.
- (c) That the Terms of Reference for the Shareholder Committee be approved.
- (d) That delegated authority be given to the Shareholder Committee within the scope of its terms of reference, including strategic oversight and Reserved Matter decisions.

### **Reason for the decision**

To establish formal governance arrangements for the performance of the Council's shareholder function for Care Dorset Holdings Limited.

### **37. Local Government & Social Care Ombudsman - Investigation into a complaint in connection with Special Education Needs Provision**

The Portfolio Holder for Children, Education, Skills, and Early Help presented a formal report by the Monitoring Officer that was issued under Section 5A of the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman that Dorset Council was at fault by not adequately meeting a child's educational and special educational needs from 2020 until it identified and placed that child at a special needs school the following year (2021). It was also found that there had been issues in relation to maintaining good communication and dealing properly with complaints that had been made.

Those failings had been found by the Ombudsman to amount to fault which caused injustice and therefore the Ombudsman had made recommendations for the Council to specifically address the injustice suffered by the child and their family, and to ensure that similar faults did not occur in the future.

The Portfolio Holder proposed the recommendations as set out in the report. The motion was seconded by Cllr T Ferrari and unanimously agreed.

### **Decision**

- (a) That the eight recommendations of the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman, as set out below in Section 3.1 of the report to Cabinet of 26 July 2022, be accepted.
- (b) Adopt as actions to be taken by the Council the further recommendations made by the Ombudsman, as set out and commented upon in Section 3.3 of the report.



- (c) The action taken since receipt of the Ombudsman's report be noted, and agree that the Children's Services Strengthening Services Board (Chaired by the Chief Executive) should:
- (i) Oversee implementation of the actions referred to in the second recommendation; and,
  - (ii) Review the Ombudsman's focus report "Out of school, out of sight" and implement any necessary learning from that report.
- (d) That People and Health Scrutiny Committee be invited to:
- (i) add the Council's ongoing performance in addressing the Ombudsman's criticisms and concerns to the Committee's forward work programme, and
  - (ii) commission the South West Audit Partnership to undertake focused work to provide assurance that the actions being taken in response to the Ombudsman's report are embedded in procedure and in practice.
- (e) Send the minutes of this meeting to all Councillors as the Cabinet's response to the Monitoring Officer's report.

#### **Reason for the decision**

The purpose of a section 5A Monitoring Officer report was to ensure that the findings of the Ombudsman were brought to the attention of Cabinet and acted upon. There were also legal requirements that the report be sent to all other Dorset Council councillors and that notices of the Ombudsman's findings be published in a local newspaper.

These transparency requirements reflect the seriousness of a formal finding of maladministration and injustice and are to ensure that the Cabinet and the

Council as whole is satisfied that an appropriate action plan is put in place so that:

- Wider systemic issues identified by the Ombudsman are addressed and
- There is no repetition of the failings identified by the Ombudsman.

#### **38. Modern Slavery Transparency Statement**

The Portfolio Holder for Corporate Development and Transformation presented the Modern Slavery Transparency Statement. This had also been considered by Place and Resources Overview Committee on 7 June 2022.

In proposing the Statement, the Portfolio Holder confirmed that once approved it would be published and there after a Modern Slavery Transparency Statement would be published on an annual basis. The motion was seconded by Cllr D Walsh.

## **Decision**

That the Modern Slavery Transparency Statement for the financial year 2021-22 be published.

## **Reason for the decision**

A forthcoming legislative change to the Modern Slavery Act, section 54, will result in a mandatory requirement for any local authority with a budget of £36m, and above, to publish a Modern Slavery Transparency Statement on an annual basis.

### **39. Dorset Council School Transport Policies 2022-2023**

The Portfolio Holder for Children, Education, Skills, and Early Help presented the report and the recommendation from the People & Health Overview Committee of 28 June 2022. The motion was seconded by Cllr R Bryan.

## **Decision**

- (a) The Home to School Transport Assistance Eligibility Policy for Children and Young People attending School 2022-2023 be approved and adopted, which includes a rise in the surplus seat price from £800 to £825.
- (b) The Dorset Post 16 Transport Support Policy for 2022-2023 which includes a rise in the surplus seat price from £800 to £825 be approved and adopted.
- (c) A schedule of increase of the Surplus Seat Cost in line with the prevailing Retail Price Index is implemented each year without the need to reconsult.
- (d) The Home to School Transport Assistance Eligibility Policy for Children and Young People attending School and Post 16 Transport Support Policy are re-consulted on only either when there is a significant change to the eligibility criteria; or where there are changes to the statutory guidance that would require significant change to either policy; or in October 2026 for the 2027-2028 policy – whichever is the earliest.
- (e) The Home to School and Post 16 Transport Policies be rewritten in plain English.

## **Reason for the decision**

Dorset Council has a duty to provide Home to School Transport services to eligible pupils and to assist in supporting pupils attending Post 16 provision.

40. **Dorset Council Plan Priorities Update: Local Plan**

The Portfolio Holder for Planning gave a progress report on the preparations for a new local plan for Dorset. A copy of the detailed report is set out in Appendix 3 of the minutes.

41. **Portfolio Holder /Lead Member(s) Update including any Policy referrals to report**

The Portfolio Holder for Culture, Communities and Customer Services presented the report on her portfolio area including: -

- Work with cultural partners, including the Arts Development Company
- B-side festival
- Weymouth's Sculpture Trail and Pop-up Museum
- Welcomed the embedding of Culture in the refreshed Council Plan
- Waste and recycling services
- Attended Scout, Rainbow, and Brownie groups to discuss recycling
- Attended Annual Community – Managed Libraries meeting.

42. **Urgent items**

There were no urgent items considered at the meeting.

43. **Exempt Business**

It was proposed by Cllr G Carr-Jones and agreed

**Decision**

That the press and the public be excluded for the following item in view of the likely disclosure of exempt information within the meaning of paragraph 4 of schedule 12 A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

44. **Adult Social Care - Future Services**

The Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health presented the confidential report and proposed the recommendations, Cllr T Ferrari seconded the motion.

**Decision**

That the detailed recommendations set out within the exempt report, and as amended by Cabinet of 26 July 2022, be approved.

**Reason for the decision**

To approve a delivery approach for this project.

**Appendix 1 - Public Participation Q&A**  
**Appendix 2 Councillor Q&A's**  
**Appendix 3 Dorset Council Plan Priorities Update: Local Plan**

**Duration of meeting:** 10.00 - 11.43 am

**Chairman**

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## Question to Cabinet 26 July 2022

### 1. Question from Jenny Maraspin – Head teacher at The Swanage School

#### Home to School Policy 2022-23

The Swanage School is an excellent example of how the free school programme has been exceptionally successful. The school is truly an asset for the children and parents of Swanage and rural Dorset. It is therefore puzzling that the Dorset Council Home to School Transport policy continues to discriminate against it.

In summary - The key points we are raising are as follows:

- **Climate Change** - Every year, Dorset Council spends a significant amount of money transporting students who live in Swanage, which has its own established and successful secondary school, to a school which is not their nearest secondary school. Contrary to all established national practice and policy. This has a huge detrimental impact on the environment and is an unnecessary, unethical financial burden on the local transport budget, which is only going to get more costly given the huge inflation in fuel costs.
- **Parent Concern** - Parents who live outside Swanage whose children attend The Swanage School are not given the same deal and have to pay for their transport. They correctly argue this is discriminatory. Some have appealed and have been awarded bus passes on these grounds. This is the biggest concern raised in the School's parent survey each year.
- **Discriminates** - The proposed Dorset transport policy has a 'special clause', 1.1.3 which explicitly discriminates against The Swanage School, disregards its catchment area and is completely contrary to national and local school transport policy. The council explained it was implemented to give Swanage parents a choice, a commitment dating back to 2011. Surely 10 years is long enough!
- **Treating All Equally & Fair** – Dorset Council abide by this phrase, yet in this case fail to do so!

Just before the pandemic broke I had a meeting with Mark Blackman who assured her that moving forward Dorset Council would be addressing this issue on the principle that Dorset Council should only be providing free transport to the nearest school and recognised that the current practice was a very costly luxury that they could no longer afford to fund or continue to try and justify. But then the pandemic broke out and we all had bigger things to worry about.

The current transport policy consultation has brought this issue to the forefront again.

The Swanage School asks for a common-sense approach to this longstanding issue, but also feels the time has come to take legal action if the matter is not resolved in the current policy review process.

Question:

**Given the above facts, how can the chamber reconcile the hypocrisy?**

**Response from the Portfolio Holder for Children, Education, Skills and Early Help**

Dorset Council maintains its position that the Swanage School was set up to give the families of Swanage a choice of provision once the 3 tier system was abolished. It was designed to provide a local secondary school to families who did not wish to travel to the larger Purbeck School in Wareham.

On this basis, the Council continues to use the Purbeck catchment area for transport entitlement purposes to that school, while at the same time acknowledging a transport entitlement area for The Swanage School, assisting those families to access that school.

The unilateral extension of The Swanage School catchment area does not require an extension of eligibility to all families in Purbeck to transport to the Swanage School – the free school was set up for Swanage residents as an alternative to the Purbeck School. The Swanage School has raised expectations of families by this action, as well as through their website, suggesting to parents that they should be entitled to transport as the schools 'catchment area' extends across the Purbeck Area.

A removal of transport eligibility would disadvantage families on FSM/PP. They are unlikely to be able to access their own means to transport to Purbeck, and those who can, would make individual car journeys in order to access their preferred school.

## Councillor Questions for Cabinet 26 July 2022

### Question 1 from Cllr B Heatley

The forecast overspend for the current year, excluding the Dedicated Schools Grant, is £6.6m (para 18.1, Quarter 1 Financial Management Report 2022/23). Para 9.3 reports that CPI inflation has now reached 9.1% as the report was written (but now 9.4%). What assumptions about monthly inflation for the rest of the year and the local government pay settlement underlie the £6.6m forecast?

### Response from the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Commercial and Capital Strategy

The Council has already done a significant amount of work with its supply chain to mitigate the impacts of inflation. This includes re-establishing the Commercial Board which reviews specific areas of the business where inflation is putting pressure on budgets and which makes recommendations to SLT about use of the £8.7m contingency budget.

As contracts are renewed or renegotiated, we are building price increases into our forecasts. Finance Business Partners and their teams are also working continuously with managers across all services to model inflationary pressures as we become aware of them and again include them in forecasts – but this doesn't amount to a single inflation number across all the Council's spend, it is at a granular level. In total we have identified non-pay inflation pressures of £2.9m with a further £3m being earmarked in contingency against pay.

Beyond this, the Commercial and Procurement Team continues to provide support to managers to strengthen the commercial nature of contract negotiations with our suppliers. It is true that inflation is hitting businesses and residents across the Council area – and indeed nationally and globally – but it is also impacting on the Council itself, and it *is not* and *cannot* only be Dorset Council's problem to solve. Our budgets are effectively cash limited and suppliers who are in business with us know that there is risk involved in what is essentially a commercial relationship.

We are keen to work over the long-term with as many local businesses as possible, to deliver sustainable jobs, investment in high quality skills and training, secure employment and a vibrant and growing local economy, but this must be done alongside financial responsibility and the need to balance our budget as part of the Council's own affordability and sustainability agenda.

### Question 2 from Cllr B Heatley

A further £14.9m overspend is predicted for the Dedicated Schools Block (para 10.9, Quarter 1 Financial Management Report 2022/23). Where will this money come from?

## **Response from the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Commercial and Capital Strategy**

As part of the *safety valve* agreement signed with the DfE, Dorset Council will receive £42.5m of support towards what was estimated to be a total High Needs Block deficit of £79.5m. As part of this, the model estimated an overspend in 2022/23 of £10.4m. The Qtr1 forecast regrettably estimates that this will actually be nearer £14.9m.

Current Regulations mean that overspends against the Dedicated Schools Grant are ring-fenced and treated as negative reserves that are unusable by the Council. However, these Regulations are scheduled to fall away on 1 April 2023 at which point deficits are anticipated to fall to councils to fund.

This Council has demonstrated its commitment to increasing sufficiency of SEND provision and to recover the HNB financial position as part of this. A further paper on SEND capital spend is coming to Cabinet in September and a further update on the position on the HNB will be provided in the Qtr2 finance report in November. Between now and then, officers will continue to work towards delivering the provision that Dorset Children and their families need within the funding provided.



## Cabinet - 26 July 2022

### Dorset Local Plan:

### Update from the Portfolio Holder for Planning

#### Introduction

Dorset Council is one of the largest local planning authorities in the country, issuing over 500 planning decisions every month. This puts us in the top 2% of authorities in England. As Dorset is a young authority, the statutory planning context for decision-making is currently a complex one, with six 'legacy authority' adopted local plans covering the area, together with three minerals and waste local plans (nine in total), and adoption dates ranging from 2012 to 2019. For these reasons, preparation of a new Local Plan that is right for Dorset is a top priority for the Council.

#### Progress to date

Dorset Council is preparing a new local plan for Dorset to ensure we have an up-to-date plan which will provide a consistent basis for decision-making across the entire administrative area. Local Plan options consultation took place between January and March 2021. The draft plan has indicated a need for 30,500 dwellings (just under 1,800 dwellings per annum), based upon the current national housing methodology, and at least 131 hectares of employment land, between 2021 and 2038. The draft plan contains options which, if delivered, would ensure sufficient sites to deliver this whilst also allowing for some flexibility in case some sites fail to come forward, having regard to the current requirement to consider unmet needs from neighbouring authorities under the Duty to Co-operate. The draft plan also states that *'Dorset Council is working to examine the scope for new or significantly expanded settlements to help deliver the longer-term growth needs of Dorset having regard for the need to promote sustainable patterns of development'*.

Work has since been taking place to review all responses and refine/update the evidence base as necessary. The plan itself needs to be the subject of a public examination which will be conducted by an independent inspector.

## **Current Timeline for local plan preparation**

The Council's current Local Development Scheme indicates that submission of the plan to the Secretary of State (the point at which the independent examination process is triggered) will occur towards the end of 2022, with examination and adoption following in 2023. However, this needs to be revised to take account of specific evidence requirements that are required before the publication and submission of the plan can take place. This includes:

- Weymouth Town Centre flood risk assessment - a crucial piece of evidence that will not be finalised until the autumn
- Dorset is within 5 separate catchment areas for internationally protected wetland habitats, all of which have been the subject of recent advice on the need to achieve nutrient neutrality. This has potentially significant implications for housing development, and further work is needed to assess both the risk and scope for mitigation.

## **National changes to the planning system**

The Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill was published in May 2022 and this proposes some significant changes to the planning system. These include:

- A genuinely plan-led system, with a move away from the 5-year housing land delivery test for authorities with an up-to-date plan, changes to how housing need is calculated, and removal of the duty to co-operate;
- Creation of a national suite of generic development management policies which would remove the need for each local plan to duplicate national policies
- Creation of a new 'infrastructure levy';
- An intention to digitise and simplify the planning system to ensure it is consistent and transparent, with associated efficiency benefits.

## **A plan that is fit for the future**

There is an opportunity for Dorset's local plan to be at the forefront of expected changes to the planning system which have been set out in the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill. Having a plan that is embedded in the improved planning system can ensure Dorset is able to benefit from a genuinely plan-led system, new digital

powers, streamlined processes, and an expected national suite of development management policies. This will strengthen our ability to address some critical challenges for our area, including the following:

1. **Climate and ecological emergency:** we want to plan for future sustainable settlements at a scale that can deliver the dual commitments of net zero development and biodiversity net gain while also building in climate adaptation and resilience into our settlements.
2. **Sustainable Settlements and Infrastructure:** due to the large geographical area we cover, combined with the scattering of market towns and smaller settlements, a high proportion of our development has historically taken the form of smaller sites that are not always capable of being fully supported by an uplift in infrastructure provision. We have an opportunity to look at a strategy that identifies longer-term opportunities for strategic development options that can strike an optimum balance of scale and infrastructure provision and the creation of prosperous and inclusive communities.
3. **Environment:** Dorset is planning ambitious growth while also having to manage a unique combination of environmental responsibilities, including 5 catchment areas for protected wetlands where nutrient neutrality is required.

### **Implications for timescales**

Taking account of the evidence requirements, the need to test options, and the importance of building in effective community engagement, officers have estimated that adoption of the new local plan could be achieved by 2026, subject to consultation stages and examination timelines. This will allow us to develop a vision for Dorset that delivers sustainable growth in the longer term and secures the effective stewardship of our unique environment. The Local Development Scheme will need to be revised to reflect the additional work required.

Stage	Existing Milestones in adopted LDS	Proposed Milestones
Further evidence and review <sup>1</sup>	-	Through to Q2 2024
Cabinet	-	Q2 2024
Council	-	Q3 2024
Publication (pre-submission consultation) <sup>2</sup>	Q2 2022	Q4 2024
Submission to Secretary of State	Q4 2022	Q2 2025
Examination	Q2 2023	Q3 2025
Adoption	Q4 2023	Q2 2026

## Risks

At present, the presumption in favour of sustainable development that is set out in the National Planning Policy Framework facilitates ad hoc windfall housing development if local authorities have out-of-date local plans and are unable to demonstrate a 5-year housing land supply of deliverable sites. This leaves Dorset exposed to the threat of unplanned development which, in the long term, is likely to undermine its vision for sustainable development. Whilst changes to the National Planning Policy Framework are anticipated, these may only offer relief from the 5-year housing land requirement for authorities with an up-to-date local plan, which will leave Dorset at threat of unplanned growth until its new plan is adopted in 2026.

## The Leader's ask from Government

Paragraph 223 of the National Planning Policy Framework confirms that the Government will explore potential planning freedoms and flexibilities, for example *'where this would facilitate an increase in the amount of housing that can be delivered'*. Such freedoms and flexibilities would need to be considered by the

<sup>1</sup> Weymouth Town Centre Flood Risk Assessment; Nutrient Neutrality implications; Implications of Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill (revised draft NPPD expected later this year)

<sup>2</sup> Milestones based upon no further round of pre-submission consultation. If we have to consult on significant changes, there is potential for the timetable to be extended.

Government on a case-by-case basis. Securing such flexibility around the housing 5-year housing delivery requirements will provide Dorset with some protection against unplanned growth that potentially could undermine the emerging plan, and would provide us with the assurances needed to deliver a fit-for-purpose plan by 2026. With this in mind, the Leader has written to Greg Clark, the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Communities and Housing, requesting a reduction of the 5-year housing delivery requirement down to 3 years until the end of 2026, giving us the time needed to advance our local plan without fear of ad hoc development that is contrary to existing or emerging local plan policies.

## **Conclusion**

Dorset is ideally placed to be at the forefront of the new planning system once it becomes enshrined in a revised NPPF and supporting legislation. This will provide us with a great opportunity to take advantage of a genuinely plan-led system and put in place a strategy that provides a long-term framework for sustainable development in Dorset. It is anticipated that we should be able to get a plan in place by 2026, subject to progress on evidence gathering, community engagement stages and the smooth running of the examination process. However, it is recognised that, without the additional flexibilities that have been sought, there would be some risk in terms of unplanned housing growth if we are unable to demonstrate a 5-year housing land supply.

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**The Cabinet Forward Plan - September to December 2022  
For the period 1 SEPTEMBER 2022 to 31 DECEMBER 2022  
(Publication date – 6 SEPTEMBER 2022)**

**Explanatory Note:**

This Forward Plan contains future items to be considered by the Cabinet and Council. It is published 28 days before the next meeting of the Committee. The plan includes items for the meeting including key decisions. Each item shows if it is 'open' to the public or to be considered in a private part of the meeting.

**Definition of Key Decisions**

Key decisions are defined in Dorset Council's Constitution as decisions of the Cabinet which are likely to -

- (a) to result in the relevant local authority incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the relevant local authority's budget for the service or function to which the decision relates (**Thresholds - £500k**); or
- (b) to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards or electoral divisions in the area of the relevant local authority."

In determining the meaning of "*significant*" for these purposes the Council will have regard to any guidance issued by the Secretary of State in accordance with section 9Q of the Local Government Act 2000 Act. Officers will consult with lead members to determine significance and sensitivity.

**Cabinet Portfolio Holders 2021/22**

<b>Spencer Flower</b>	Leader / Governance, Performance and Communications
<b>Peter Wharf</b>	Deputy Leader / Adult Social Care and Health
<b>Gary Suttle</b>	Finance, Commercial and Capital Strategy
<b>Ray Bryan</b>	Highways, Travel and Environment
<b>Graham Carr-Jones</b>	Housing and Community Safety
<b>Jill Haynes</b>	Corporate Development and Transformation
<b>Laura Beddow</b>	Culture, Communities and Customer Services
<b>Andrew Parry</b>	Children, Education, Skills and Early Help
<b>Tony Ferrari</b>	Economic Growth, Assets & Property
<b>David Walsh</b>	Planning

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
<b>September</b>					
<p><b>Additional Procurement Forward Plan Report - over £500k (2022 - 2023)</b></p> <p><b>Key Decision</b> - Yes <b>Public Access</b> - Open</p> <p>The Cabinet is asked to consider the contents of this report in respect of proposed contracts to be procured 2022-2023 which are in addition to those on the procurement forward plan approved by Cabinet on 1 March 2022.</p>	<p><b>Decision Maker</b> Cabinet</p>	<p><b>Decision Date</b> 6 Sep 2022</p>		<p>Portfolio Holder for Finance, Commercial and Capital Strategy</p>	<p><i>Dawn Adams, Service Manager for Commercial and Procurement</i> <i>dawn.adams@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, Corporate Development - Section 151 Officer (Aidan Dunn)</i></p>
<p><b>Amateur Archaeological Fieldwork and Metal Detecting on Dorset Council Land Policy</b></p> <p><b>Key Decision</b> - Yes <b>Public Access</b> - Open</p> <p>Seeking adoption of a new policy as an update to an earlier policy (1996) which relates to permissions required for metal detecting on DC county farms.</p>	<p><b>Decision Maker</b> Cabinet</p>	<p><b>Decision Date</b> 6 Sep 2022</p>	<p>Place and Resources Overview Committee 28 Jul 2022</p>	<p>Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth, Assets and Property, Portfolio Holder for Culture, Communities and Customer Services</p>	<p><i>Jacqueline Halewood, Principal Archivist</i> <i>Jacqueline.halewood@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, Place (John Sellgren)</i></p>



Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
<p><b>Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership</b></p> <p><b>Key Decision</b> - Yes <b>Public Access</b> - Open</p> <p>To receive the annual safeguarding report from James Vaughan as Independent Chair of the Partnership.</p>	<p><b>Decision Maker Cabinet</b></p>	<p><b>Decision Date 6 Sep 2022</b></p>		<p>Portfolio Holder for Children, Education, Skills and Early Help</p>	<p><i>Executive Director, People - Children (Theresa Leavy)</i></p>
<p><b>Strategic Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Expenditure - 2022</b></p> <p><b>Key Decision</b> - Yes <b>Public Access</b> - Open</p> <p>To consider and approve recommendations for the expenditure of Strategic Community Infrastructure Levy funding on infrastructure to support the needs of development.</p>	<p><b>Decision Maker Cabinet</b></p>	<p><b>Decision Date 6 Sep 2022</b></p>		<p>Portfolio Holder for Planning</p>	<p><i>Andrew Galpin, Infrastructure &amp; Delivery Planning Manager andrew.galpin@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, Place (John Sellgren)</i></p>
<p><b>SEND Capital Strategy Implementation Plan</b></p> <p><b>Key Decision</b> - Yes <b>Public Access</b> - Open</p> <p>The SEND Capital Strategy Implementation Plan seeks approval for a number of projects that address the condition, capacity and suitability of provisions to meet SEND need in Dorset.</p>	<p><b>Decision Maker Cabinet</b></p>	<p><b>Decision Date 6 Sep 2022</b></p>		<p>Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth, Assets and Property</p>	<p><i>Peter Hopkins, Corporate Director - Assets and Property peter.hopkins@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, Place (John Sellgren)</i></p>

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
<p><b>Dorset Council Plan Priorities Update: Libraries Strategy</b></p> <p><b>Key Decision</b> - No <b>Public Access</b> - Open</p> <p>To receive an update on the Libraries Review.</p>	<p><b>Decision Maker Cabinet</b></p>	<p><b>Decision Date 6 Sep 2022</b></p>		<p>Portfolio Holder for Culture, Communities and Customer Services</p>	<p><i>Lisa Cotton, Head of Customer Services, Libraries &amp; Archives</i>  <i>lisa.cotton@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i>  <i>Executive Director, Place (John Sellgren)</i></p>
<p><b>Redlands Community Sports Hub Lease and Management Arrangements</b></p> <p><b>Key Decision</b> - Yes <b>Public Access</b> - Part exempt</p> <p>The report will set out the ongoing management arrangements at Redlands.</p>	<p><b>Decision Maker Cabinet</b></p>	<p><b>Decision Date 6 Sep 2022</b></p>	<p>Place and Resources Overview Committee 28 Jul 2022</p>	<p>Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth, Assets and Property</p>	<p><i>Peter Hopkins, Corporate Director - Assets and Property</i>  <i>peter.hopkins@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i>, <i>Paul Rutter, Service Manager for Leisure Services</i>  <i>paul.rutter@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i>  <i>Executive Director, Place (John Sellgren)</i></p>
<p><b>October</b></p>					

<p><b>Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) and budget strategy</b></p> <p><b>Key Decision</b> - Yes <b>Public Access</b> - Open</p> <p>To receive a budget update for 2023/24.</p>	<p><b>Decision Maker Cabinet</b></p>	<p><b>Decision Date 4 Oct 2022</b></p>		<p>Portfolio Holder for Finance, Commercial and Capital Strategy</p>	<p><i>Jim McManus, Corporate Director - Finance and Commercial</i>  <i>J.McManus@dorsetcc.gov.uk</i>  <i>Executive Director, Corporate Development - Section 151 Officer (Aidan Dunn)</i></p>
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Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
<p><b>Adult Social Care Market Sustainability Plan</b></p> <p><b>Key Decision</b> - Yes <b>Public Access</b> - Open</p> <p>The Council must submit a Market Sustainability Plan to the Department for Health &amp; Social Care by 14 October 2022. This plan will establish Dorset's approach to ensuring the sustainability of the local market in older people's residential and nursing care, and of domiciliary care for all adults.</p>	<p><b>Decision Maker Cabinet</b></p>	<p><b>Decision Date 4 Oct 2022</b></p>	<p>People and Health Overview Committee 8 Sep 2022</p>	<p>Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health</p>	<p><i>Jonathan Price, Interim Corporate Director for Commissioning jonathan.price@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, People - Adults</i></p>
<p><b>Local Development Scheme Update</b></p> <p><b>Key Decision</b> - Yes <b>Public Access</b> - Open</p> <p>To agree a revised Local Development Scheme, setting out the proposed programme for the next stages of preparing the Dorset Council Local Plan.</p>	<p><b>Decision Maker Cabinet</b></p>	<p><b>Decision Date 4 Oct 2022</b></p>		<p>Portfolio Holder for Planning</p>	<p><i>Hilary Jordan, Service Manager for Spatial Planning hilary.jordan@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, Place (John Sellgren)</i></p>
<p><b>Dorset Council Plan Priorities Update: Children's Services</b></p> <p><b>Key Decision</b> - No <b>Public Access</b> - Open</p> <p>To receive an update from the Portfolio Holder for Children, education, Skills and Early Help.</p>	<p><b>Decision Maker Cabinet</b></p>	<p><b>Decision Date 4 Oct 2022</b></p>		<p>Portfolio Holder for Children, Education, Skills and Early Help</p>	<p><i>Executive Director, People - Children (Theresa Leavy)</i></p>

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
<b>November</b>					
<p><b>Quarter 2 2022/23 Financial Monitoring Report</b></p> <p><b>Key Decision - No</b> <b>Public Access – Open</b></p> <p>To consider the Quarter 2 Financial Monitoring Report for 2022/23.</p>	<p><b>Decision Maker</b> <b>Cabinet</b></p>	<p><b>Decision Date</b> <b>1 Nov 2022</b></p>		<p>Portfolio Holder for Finance, Commercial and Capital Strategy</p>	<p><i>Jim McManus, Corporate Director - Finance and Commercial</i> <i>J.McManus@dorsetcc.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, Corporate Development - Section 151 Officer (Aidan Dunn)</i></p>
<p><b>Dorset Council 20mph speed limit process and Guidance</b></p> <p><b>Key Decision - Yes</b> <b>Public Access - Open</b></p> <p>A report setting out the council's approach to 20mph speed limits.</p>	<p><b>Decision Maker</b> <b>Cabinet</b></p>	<p><b>Decision Date</b> <b>1 Nov 2022</b></p>	<p>Place and Resources Overview Committee 6 Oct 2022</p>	<p>Portfolio Holder for Highways, Travel and Environment</p>	<p><i>Wayne Sayers, Transport Planning Manager</i> <i>wayne.sayers@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, Place (John Sellgren)</i></p>
<p><b>Dorset Council Plan Priorities Update: Adult Social Care</b></p> <p><b>Key Decision - No</b> <b>Public Access - Open</b></p> <p>To receive a report from the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care &amp; Health.</p>	<p><b>Decision Maker</b> <b>Cabinet</b></p>	<p><b>Decision Date</b> <b>1 Nov 2022</b></p>		<p>Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health</p>	<p><i>Executive Director, People - Adults</i></p>
<p><b>Air Quality Action Plan for Chideock</b></p> <p><b>Key Decision - No</b> <b>Public Access - Open</b></p> <p>The 2022 Air Quality Action Plan for Chideock has now received approval by Defra. The council is seeking a decision to formally adopt the plan.</p>	<p><b>Decision Maker</b> <b>Cabinet</b></p>	<p><b>Decision Date</b> <b>4 Oct 2022</b></p>		<p>Portfolio Holder for Culture, Communities and Customer Services</p>	<p><i>Janet Moore, Service Manager Environmental Protection</i> <i>Janet.Moore@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, Place (John Sellgren)</i></p>

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
<p><b>New Household Recycling Centre for the Eastern Area of Dorset</b></p> <p><b>Key Decision</b> - Yes <b>Public Access</b> - Fully exempt</p> <p>Selection of the preferred location for the new Household recycling Centre to serve the eastern area of Dorset.</p>	<p><b>Decision Maker Cabinet</b></p>	<p><b>Decision Date 1 Nov 2022</b></p>	<p>Place and Resources Overview Committee 6 Oct 2022</p>	<p>Portfolio Holder for Culture, Communities and Customer Services</p>	<p><i>Gemma Clinton, Head of Commercial Waste and Strategy gemma.clinton@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, Place (John Sellgren)</i></p>
<p><b>December</b></p>					
<p><b>Dorset Council Plan Priorities Update: Climate and Ecology, Assets and Property</b></p> <p><b>Key Decision</b> - No <b>Public Access</b> - Open</p> <p>To receive an update from the Portfolio Holders for Highways, Travel and Environment and Economic Growth, Assets and Property.</p>	<p><b>Decision Maker Cabinet</b></p>	<p><b>Decision Date 6 Dec 2022</b></p>		<p>Portfolio Holder for Highways, Travel and Environment, Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth, Assets and Property</p>	<p><i>Executive Director, Place (John Sellgren)</i></p>
<p><b>January 2023</b></p>					
<p><b>Quarter 3 2022/23 Financial Monitoring Report</b></p> <p><b>Key Decision</b> - Yes <b>Public Access</b> - Open</p> <p>To consider the Quarter 3 Financial Monitoring Report for 2022/23.</p>	<p><b>Decision Maker Cabinet</b></p>	<p><b>Decision Date 17 Jan 2023</b></p>		<p>Portfolio Holder for Finance, Commercial and Capital Strategy</p>	<p><i>Jim McManus, Corporate Director - Finance and Commercial J.McManus@dorsetcc.gov.uk Executive Director, Corporate Development - Section 151 Officer (Aidan Dunn)</i></p>

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
<p><b>Medium Term Financial (MTFP) and Budget Strategy Report</b></p> <p><b>Key Decision</b> - Yes <b>Public Access</b> - Open</p> <p>The Council is required to set a balanced revenue budget, and to approve a level of council tax as an integral part of this.</p>	<p><b>Decision Maker</b> <b>Dorset Council</b></p>	<p><b>Decision Date</b> <b>14 Feb 2023</b></p>	<p>Cabinet People and Health Scrutiny Committee Place and Resources Scrutiny Committee 17 Jan 2023 9 Dec 2022 12 Dec 2022</p>	<p>Portfolio Holder for Finance, Commercial and Capital Strategy</p>	<p><i>Jim McManus, Corporate Director - Finance and Commercial</i> <i>J.McManus@dorsetcc.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, Corporate Development - Section 151 Officer (Aidan Dunn)</i></p>
<p><b>Commissioning Strategies for Adult Social Care</b></p> <p><b>Key Decision</b> - Yes <b>Public Access</b> - Open</p> <p>To adopt final versions of the suite of commissioning strategies to form the basis of the Council's priorities under the portfolio for the coming five years.</p>	<p><b>Decision Maker</b> <b>Cabinet</b></p>	<p><b>Decision Date</b> <b>17 Jan 2023</b></p>	<p>People and Health Overview Committee 16 Dec 2022</p>	<p>Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health</p>	<p><i>Jonathan Price, Interim Corporate Director for Commissioning</i> <i>jonathan.price@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, People - Adults</i></p>
<p><b>Dorset Council Plan Priorities: One Customer Account and Digital Innovation</b></p> <p><b>Key Decision</b> - Yes <b>Public Access</b> - Open</p> <p>To receive a report from the Portfolio Holders for Corporate Development and Transformation and for Culture, Communities and Customer Services.</p>	<p><b>Decision Maker</b> <b>Cabinet</b></p>	<p><b>Decision Date</b> <b>17 Jan 2023</b></p>		<p>Portfolio Holder for Corporate Development and Transformation, Portfolio Holder for Culture, Communities and Customer Services</p>	<p><i>Executive Director, Place (John Sellgren)</i></p>

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
<b>February</b>					
<p><b>Dorset Council Plan Priorities: Update: County Deals/Community Safety</b></p> <p><b>Key Decision</b> - No <b>Public Access</b> - Open</p> <p>To receive a report from the Portfolio Holders for Economic Growth, Assets and Property and Housing and Community Safety.</p>	<p><b>Decision Maker</b> Cabinet</p>	<p><b>Decision Date</b> 28 Feb 2023</p>		<p>Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth, Assets and Property, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Community Safety</p>	<p><i>Andrew Billany, Corporate Director of Housing, Dorset Council andrew.billany@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, People - Adults</i></p>
<b>March</b>					
<p><b>Dorset Council Plan Priorities Update: Housing for Local People</b></p> <p><b>Key Decision</b> - No <b>Public Access</b> - Open</p> <p>To receive a report of the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Community Safety.</p>	<p><b>Decision Maker</b> Cabinet</p>	<p><b>Decision Date</b> 28 Mar 2023</p>		<p>Portfolio Holder for Housing and Community Safety</p>	<p><i>Andrew Billany, Corporate Director of Housing, Dorset Council andrew.billany@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, Place (John Sellgren)</i></p>
<p><b>Climate and ecological strategy - refresh</b></p> <p><b>Key Decision</b> - Yes <b>Public Access</b> - Open</p> <p>A refresh of the Climate and ecological strategy.</p>	<p><b>Decision Maker</b> Cabinet</p>	<p><b>Decision Date</b> 28 Mar 2023</p>	<p>Place and Resources Scrutiny Committee</p>	<p>Portfolio Holder for Highways, Travel and Environment</p>	<p><i>Steven Ford, Corporate Director for Climate and Ecological Sustainability Executive Director, Place (John Sellgren)</i></p>

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
<p><b>Council decision making building in climate and ecological considerations</b></p> <p><b>Key Decision</b> - Yes <b>Public Access</b> - Open</p> <p>A new decision making tool to embed climate and ecological considerations.</p>	<p><b>Decision Maker Cabinet</b></p>	<p><b>Decision Date 28 Mar 2023</b></p>	<p>Audit and Governance Committee 16 Jan 2023</p>	<p>Portfolio Holder for Highways, Travel and Environment</p>	<p><i>Steven Ford, Corporate Director for Climate and Ecological Sustainability Executive Director, Place (John Sellgren)</i></p>
<p><b>April</b></p>					
<p><b>Dorset Council Plan Priorities Update: Working with the Integrated Care System</b></p> <p><b>Key Decision</b> - No <b>Public Access</b> - Open</p> <p>To receive a report of the Portfolio Holder for Social Care and Health.</p>	<p><b>Decision Maker Cabinet</b></p>	<p><b>Decision Date 25 Apr 2023</b></p>		<p>Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health</p>	<p><i>Executive Director, People - Adults</i></p>
<p><b>May</b></p>					
<p><b>Dorset Council Plan Priorities Update: Value for Money (Unitary Council Benefits)</b></p> <p><b>Key Decision</b> - No <b>Public Access</b> - Open</p> <p>To receive a report of the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Commercial and Capital Strategy.</p>	<p><b>Decision Maker Cabinet</b></p>	<p><b>Decision Date</b></p>		<p>Portfolio Holder for Finance, Commercial and Capital Strategy</p>	<p><i>Executive Director, Corporate Development - Section 151 Officer (Aidan Dunn)</i></p>



<b>Subject / Decision</b>	<b>Decision Maker</b>	<b>Date the Decision is Due</b>	<b>Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)</b>	<b>Portfolio Holder</b>	<b>Officer Contact</b>
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### **Private/Exempt Items for Decision**

Each item in the plan above marked as 'private' will refer to one of the following paragraphs.

1. Information relating to any individual.
2. Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual.
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).
4. Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under, the authority.
5. Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.
6. Information which reveals that the shadow council proposes:-
  - (a) to give under any enactment a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person; or
  - (b) to make an order or direction under any enactment.
7. Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.

## Cabinet

**6 September 2022**

## **Additional Procurement Forward Plan Report – over £500k (2022-2023)**

### **For Decision**

**Portfolio Holder:** Cllr G Suttle, Finance, Commercial & Capital Strategy

**Local Councillor(s):** All

**Executive Director:** A Dunn, Executive Director, Corporate Development

Report Author: Dawn Adams  
Title: Service Manager Commercial & Procurement  
Tel: 01305 221271  
Email: dawn.adams@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

**Report Status:** Public

### **Brief Summary:**

The Council defines key decision as those with a financial consequence of £500k or more.

Commercial & Procurement have collaborated with colleagues across Directorates to review the contracts database and establish a procurement plan for 2022-23. The procurement forward plan report was approved by Cabinet on 1 March 2022. As stated in the said report, as service and transformation plans are developed it may be necessary to bring further approval requests to Cabinet.

Additional procurement activity, within the 2022-23 procurement programme, which are known/likely to secure contracts exceeding the £500k thresholds are set out in Appendix 1 or Cabinet's consideration. The information shown includes the maximum terms of the proposed contracts and estimated total value over the contract term.

**Recommendation:**

The Cabinet is asked to consider the contents of this report in respect of proposed contracts as set out in Appendix 1 which are in addition to those on the forward plan approved by Cabinet on 1 March 2022 and that Cabinet agree:

1. To begin each procurement processes listed in Appendix 1 to this report.
2. That in each instance the further step of making any contract award should be delegated to the relevant Cabinet portfolio holder, after consultation with the relevant Executive Director.

### **Reason for Recommendation:**

Cabinet is required to approve all key decisions with financial consequences of £500k or more. It is also good governance to provide Cabinet with a summary of all proposed procurement prior to them formally commencing.

Planning procurements ensures:

- effective stakeholder management
- efficient commissioning and sourcing
- compliance with regulations and contract procedure rules
- there is consideration on how contract price is to be managed in contract and what contract price model will be used
- that best value for money is clearly defined including how contract management will ensure that the Council attains best value during the life of a contract

### **1. Report**

- 1.1 This report provides for Cabinet consideration, in Appendix 1, additional procurement activity within the 2022-23 procurement programme, which are known/likely to secure contracts exceeding the £500k thresholds
- 1.2 It refers to procurement activity that is in addition to those already agreed by Cabinet on 1 March 2022.
- 1.3 Whilst this report is in respect of 2022/23 procurement activity, the approach of Commercial & Procurement is to review potential future activity by forward looking over a 5-year period of contracts that may have break points or due to expire, and any potential know new needs. This is part of commissioning, planning and pre-procurement process between Commercial & Procurement and colleagues across the Directorates.

### **2. Commissioning and Procurement**

- 2.1 The Council's Commercial Strategy – Commissioning and Procurement, as approved by Cabinet on 8 November 2021, underpins all the Council's

commissioning and procurement activities. It provides the mechanism to ensure that such activity takes place in accordance with the Council's strategic aims, that it is effective and delivers best value to residents.

- 2.2 Having effective commissioning and procure is crucial to the Council in the light of ever challenging budget reductions and having to work with suppliers amid one of the hardest inflationary environments that supply markets have seen for decades. Consideration will be given as part of commissioning, pre-procurement, on how contract price is to be managed in contract and what contract price model will be used; both selected on what will secure best value to the Council but equally one that is viable to the supplier.

It is therefore a requirement to set out in any pre-commissioning / pre-procurement project plans the following:

- the proposed contract pricing model
- support rationale on the approach
- considerations in respect of any inflationary impacts
- whether there will be a contract price adjustment in the contract terms and conditions
- the proposed contract price adjustment clause (if one is to be applied)

in accordance with the Council's Guiding Principles to Managing Contract Price.

- 2.3 In this context, delivery of the Council's ambitions requires resourcefulness, being more commercially minded and more business-like in the approach. Contract award decisions need to take account, as appropriate, of quality, social value and all the costs that will be incurred by the council throughout the life of a contract period, or asset, not simply the initial price.
- 2.4 A proactive and consistent approach to supplier relationship and contract management shall ensure that any identified efficiencies, savings, and service quality improvements are achieved. As such, contract management must be robust and effective, in accordance with the Council's Contract Management Procedure Guide and Guide to Managing Contract Criticality, to ensure what has been attained at point of procurement is delivered in contract and represents value for money.

### 3. **Urgent Decisions**

- 3.1 There may be occasion where the Council must take urgent action in response to a situation where there is not sufficient time to seek formal approval at a Cabinet meeting (which must be call on at notice) of a key decision, prior to spending over £500k.
- 3.2 Such occasions are usually rare, but as seen in the pandemic, the Council at times needs to respond at scale and pace to critical situations, national priorities, and funding initiatives.
- 3.3 Where there is an urgency, the Scheme of Delegation within the Council's Constitution allows for such decisions to be made which can be executive or non-executive in nature, depending on the delegation given.
- 3.4 Part 3 of the Scheme of Delegation specifies the Chief Officers responsibilities. Paragraph 32 explains the circumstances in which the delegation can be used:

*“In any cases which s/he considers to be urgent, to discharge any function and deliver any service within the Chief Officers responsibility, other than those functions which can only be discharged by the Council or a specific Committee. This delegation is subject to the following conditions:*

- a) prior consultation with the Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer;*
- b) consultation with the appropriate Executive Member or the Chairman of the appropriate Committee; and,*
- c) to the extent it will incur expenditure from working balances and/or reserves, the prior approval of the s151 Officer “*

- 3.5 Where urgency means that it is not possible to convene a Cabinet meeting on notice then to ensure transparency a decision notice is prepared giving details of the decision made and the reasons for it and the notice is published on the Council's website. Call-in does not apply to an urgent decision but the relevant Chief Officer can be called to account for their decision at a meeting of the relevant scrutiny committee.

#### **4. Financial Implications**

- 4.1 Service budgets do incorporate funding required for the procurements set out in this report.
- 4.2 The following to be considered by the appropriate project team as part of the business case and rationale for each procurement:
  - how best value from the procurement / contract will be achieved

- how the contract and supplier(s) will be effectively managed to deliver saving target that are incorporated into the MTP
- whether full funding is available in the budget provision, after savings have been accounted for
- the intended best approach to assess the contract performance and supplier relationship to manage expectations in respect of annual price increase amid a higher level of inflation that has not been experienced for many years

## 5. **Climate Implications**

- 5.1 To be considered by the appropriate project team as part of the business case and rationale for each procurement.

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

- 6.1 To be considered by the appropriate project team as part of the business case and rationale for each procurement.

## 7. **Other Implications**

- 7.1 **Social Value:** In accordance with the Council's Commercial Strategy, where relevant and proportionate, procurement activity shall include social value evaluation criteria that reflects a minimum of 5% weighting.
- 7.2 **Modern Slavery:** In accordance with the Council's 2021/22 Modern Slavery Transparency Statement (as agreed by Cabinet on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2022) the appropriate project team of each procurement shall assess whether modern slavery risk is relevant to the subject matter of the contract. Knowing the risk of modern slavery guides the approach to contract management and how to work with suppliers to identify and mitigate risk.
- 7.3 **Procurement Bill:** The Bill was introduced to Parliament on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2022 and repeals over 350 individual regulations derived from EU Directives contained in what are four existing statutory instruments and replaces them with a single new procurement regime. It proposes significant major reforms to the rules governing public sector procurement.

The expectation is that the process of taking the Bill through Parliament will take about 9 months to Royal Assent (May 2022 to January 2023). Cabinet Office has then promised a 6-month implementation period (February 2023 to August 2023). This timeline therefore suggests that the new rules will apply to new procurement as soon as August 2023. This

however will be dependent on timelines for what will be secondary legislation and Cabinet Office issuing statutory guidance.

## 8. **Risk Assessment**

8.1 **HAVING CONSIDERED:** the risks associated with this decision; the level of risk has been identified as:

Current Risk:       LOW

Residual Risk:     LOW

8.2 Level of risk per procurement to be considered by the appropriate project team as part of the rationale for each procurement.

8.3 Notwithstanding the low risk of the decision, inflation remains a risk to the Council's budgets. All decisions and recommendations must therefore be mindful of the actual and potential impact of inflation, especially when committing future funding.

## 9. **Equalities Impact Assessment**

9.1 To be considered by the appropriate project team as part of the business case and rationale for each procurement.

## 10. **Appendices**

10.1 **Appendix 1** – Additional procurement forward plan where the contract value is expected to exceed £500k

## 11. **Background Papers**

11.1 None





**Appendix 1** – Additional procurement forward plan where the contract value is expected to exceed £500k

<b>Contract Description</b>	<b>Directorate / Portfolio Lead</b>	<b>Executive Director</b>	<b>Contract Term (max)</b>	<b>DC Total Spend over Contract Term</b>	<b>Sourcing Strategy</b>	<b>Risk Category</b>
Mechanical Sweepers	Place / Cllr Ray Bryan	John Sellgren	6 years	£4,000,000	Call off from framework	Medium
Pay & Display Machines	Place / Cllr Ray Bryan	John Sellgren	5 years	£1,500,000	Call off from framework	Medium
Microsoft Licences 2023 - 2026	Corporate / Cllr Jill Haynes	Aidan Dunn	3 years	£4,500,000	Call off from framework	Low
Multi-Functional Devices (MFDs)	Corporate / Cllr Jill Haynes	Aidan Dunn	5 years	£960,000	Call off from framework	Medium
Audio Visual and IT Related Equipment	Corporate / Cllr Jill Haynes	Aidan Dunn	1 year	£500,000	Call off from framework	Medium
Inpatient Detoxification (ID) and Residential Rehabilitation (RR)	People - Adults / Cllr Peter Wharf	Sam Crowe	9 years	£1,466,093	Tender	Medium
E-Brokerage and E-Market Place Platform	People - Adults / Cllr Peter Wharf	Vivienne Broadhurst	5 years	£558,000	Call off from framework	Low
	People - Children's / Cllr Andrew Parry	Theresa Levy				

## Cabinet

6 September 2022

## Strategic Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Expenditure - 2022

### For Decision

**Portfolio Holder:** Cllr D Walsh, Planning

**Local Councillor(s):** All

**Executive Director:** J Sellgren, Executive Director of Place

Report Author: Andrew Galpin  
Title: Infrastructure & Delivery Planning Manager  
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**Report Status:** Public

**Brief Summary:** Dorset Council collects Community Infrastructure Levy to help contribute towards the provision of infrastructure to support the needs of new development. Governance arrangements established by Dorset Council in 2020 enable expressions of interest to be made to access funding across a wide variety of infrastructure types. Following a period of assessment, this report sets out projects which have been recommended for CIL funding approval.

### Recommendation:

To agree expenditure of Strategic Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Funding toward the projects recommended for approval in this report and accompanying appendices.

### Reason for Recommendation:

To ensure the delivery of important infrastructure to support growth and development.

#### 1. Report

- 1.1 Dorset Council has governance arrangements in place to assist with the delivery of infrastructure funded by Community Infrastructure Levy

(CIL). These arrangements enable expressions of interest to be made for Strategic Community Infrastructure Levy funding.

- 1.2 Strategic CIL is the proportion of CIL retained by Dorset Council once it has transferred the neighbourhood proportion to the town or parish where development takes place. A small percentage of each CIL payment is recovered to support the cost of administering the levy. This strategic proportion accounts for 80% of the amount paid where there is no adopted neighbourhood plan and 70% where there is.
- 1.3 Taking over responsibility for collecting CIL, from predecessor councils, Dorset Council has effectively been collecting CIL for many years. The only predecessor Council not to operate CIL was North Dorset District Council. This will continue to be the case until Dorset Council adopts a single charging schedule alongside the emerging Dorset Council Local Plan.
- 1.4 The governance arrangements recognised the infrastructure priorities of the predecessor councils and have ensured that these priorities would be delivered through future spending opportunities. The priorities are defined by infrastructure category, with the range of categories varying due to the presence of pre-existing commitments such as habitat protection.
- 1.5 A first round of Strategic CIL expenditure took place in November 2020 with recommendations passing to Cabinet in January 2021. Approximately £3m of Strategic CIL was approved to help deliver 37 different infrastructure project proposals. Appendix 1 provides a schedule showing progress with the delivery of projects recommended for funding through round one. In summary:
  - c.£1.52m of Round One CIL funded projects are underway or complete
  - c.£1.4m of Round One CIL funded projects are not started, of which c.£100k no longer required funding and these funds are therefore available for Round Two.
  - c.£1.55m was unclaimed in Round One.
- 1.6 A member-led post-decision review of CIL expenditure then followed in 2021 to ensure that the information about CIL was being communicated appropriately and infrastructure delivered in the right place at the right time. Key changes and actions from the review included the need for further upfront engagement with town and parish councils, and for Dorset Council members to raise general awareness of the process and spending opportunities.

- 1.7 In March 2022, a dedicated developer contribution training session saw over thirty Dorset Council Members attend via MS Teams. Content for the session was shaped by the results of an online survey shared with all members during January to establish the level of knowledge and understanding around the subject area. As a result, the session covered a wide range of areas with focus placed on upfront engagement opportunities, monitoring and the reporting of performance.
- 1.8 A programme of Dorset Association of Parish and Town Council (DAPTC) facilitated briefings followed shortly after. These briefings shared similar content to the Dorset Council member sessions and were held via MS Teams on the following dates:
- 19th April (West Dorset / Weymouth & Portland Charging Areas)
  - 21st April (North Dorset – non-CIL)
  - 26th April (East Dorset / Purbeck Charging Areas)
- 1.9 Participants were informed in advance of the second strategic CIL spend opportunity which took place between the 16th May and 10th June 2022. Town and Parish Councils were encouraged to collaborate with Dorset Council Service Areas on the development and submission of expressions of interest for funds available by category. All Dorset Council members, service managers and previous participants were informed of this further spend opportunity with approximately 4 weeks' notice given before the 'window' opened. The values of CIL funds available by category are shown in the table below; note that there are no funds from the Purbeck Charging Schedule in-scope following significant expenditure in Round One.

Infrastructure Category	Opening round two balance		
	West	W&P	East
Education (including schools, educational establishments)	£484,116.48	£303,707.21	£238,397.53
Transport (including highways, walking, cycling, passenger transport)	£0	£741.44	£394.43
Green Infrastructure & Recreation (including open spaces, sports pitches, play)	£4,719.08	£48,741.44	-

Waste Management (including waste processing, waste transfer and waste recycling)	£27,429.50	£4,282.99	-
Public Realm (including public space improvements)	£0	£9,370.72	-
Culture, Leisure, Community Facilities (including arts, community, sports venues etc.)	£282,401.28	£68,812.88	-
Utilities (including broadband)	£343.04	£370.72	-
Healthcare (including health and wellbeing, clinical care)	£6,343.04	£60,741.44	-
Emergency Services	£80,686.08	£30,370.72	-
	<b>£886,038.50</b>	<b>£527,139.56</b>	<b>£238,791.96</b>

## 2. Round Two Findings

- 2.1 34 expressions of interest were received. Each submission has since been assessed and scored by members of the CIL Team using an approved scoring matrix.
- 2.2 Appendix 2 provides a full breakdown of all expressions of interest received along with assessment scores and the reasons behind each recommendation. Some categories of infrastructure, for example Green Infrastructure & Recreation, were well-oversubscribed, meaning that some recommendations for refusal have been made simply on the basis that projects did not fall within the budget available, particularly if the proposal couldn't be delivered with an amount of CIL of lesser value to that sought. Where possible, recommendations seek to maximise the potential of funding, even if the assessment scoring is sub optimal.
- 2.3 Three expressions of interest were received from Town Councils. As explained in paragraph 1.2 of this report, town and parish councils automatically receive a proportion of CIL receipts when chargeable development takes place in their area. Dorset Council updates a published record of [neighbourhood CIL monies passed to Town & Parish Councils](#) every 6 months. Town and Parish Councils have greater discretion over how to spend their share of CIL and are required to monitor and report on progress with CIL funded infrastructure delivery.
- 2.4 Where town councils have made expressions of interest, their published accounts were checked to establish the availability of neighbourhood CIL. In the case of the expressions made by

Weymouth Town Council (CIL/GR2/011 – Melcombe Regis Play Area Enhancement, and CIL/GR2/016 Marsh Outdoor Gym Equipment) and Portland Town Council (CIL/GR2/013 – Victoria Gardens Public Toilets), this check established that there were sufficient unallocated neighbourhood CIL funds held by those town councils to cover the full cost of their respective project proposals. As such these Eols have been recommended for refusal. Dorchester Town Council have already spent/committed their neighbourhood CIL and are seeking additional strategic CIL funding through their expression of interest (CIL/GRS/022 – Corn Exchange) to add further value to a project which has already benefitted from s106 investment: this proposal has been recommended for approval.

2.5 In summary,

- 17 expressions of interest are recommended for approval including proposals for school improvement serving Ferndown and SEND across the Weymouth & Portland and West Dorset areas. These expressions for schools alone represent nearly £1m.
- 15 expressions of interest totalling £400,000 are recommended for refusal;
- 2 expressions of interest have potential to be funded entirely by other forms of developer contribution funding.

2.6 All recommendations have been presented to Capital Strategy Asset Management Group (CSAMG) who help oversee the implementation of the CIL governance process. The group met in July to review outputs and to recommend them for consideration by Cabinet.

### 3. **Financial Implications**

3.1 Funds collected through the Community Infrastructure Levy are paid by persons deemed as the liable party for that development. This is typically the landowner or developer who receives planning consent for CIL liable development. What constitutes CIL liable development varies across the Dorset Council area.

3.2 Appendix 3 provides further financial information about the recommendations contained in this report including opening balances for Round 2, the total value of expressions of interest submitted by category, the value of those recommended for approval and any residual balance. Should the recommendations in this report be accepted in full, a residual balance of c.£260,000 will become available for a third round of CIL expenditure.

- 3.3 The first and second round of CIL expenditure focused on CIL receipts which had been demanded (invoiced), up until the 31st of August 2019. The funds have been used to support infrastructure identified in infrastructure lists (Regulation 123) by the predecessor councils. These lists largely contained infrastructure categories as opposed to specific projects, driving an element of choice in the final destination of CIL funding.
- 3.4 It is proposed that future funding rounds manage the spend of monies collected subsequently.
- 3.5 Some recommendations made in this report identify the opportunity for other developer contribution funded sources, namely s106, to contribute towards the project cost.
- 3.6 Dorset Council recovers 5% of each CIL receipt to cover the cost of administering the levy.

#### 4. **Climate Implications**

Some of the projects recommended for funding approval have a positive effect on climate change whether that be through encouraging greater use of walking and cycling on improved Rights of Way surfaces, or education initiatives to deal with litter and the impact on climate change. The majority of projects however are regarded to have a neutral effect on climate change.

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

Projects within the green infrastructure and recreation category such as the improvement of artificial sports pitch surfacing will have a positive impact on health and wellbeing due to increased playing pitch capacity. Projects directly related to clinical health include the fit-out of 1<sup>st</sup> floor accommodation at Puddletown Surgery and upgraded clinical flooring at The Bridges Surgery in Weymouth. The project relating to Redlands Community Café and Soft Play will have a strong positive impact on mental health and wellbeing. All the projects recommended for approval are regarded to have a positive or neutral impact.

#### 6. **Other Implications**

A number of the recommendations will have a positive impact on Council property and assets such as the improvement of household recycling centres, sports and community facilities and educational establishments. Investment from CIL will reduce the impact of increased demand on these facilities, enabling them to operate in a more efficient way.



## **Voluntary organisations**

A number of the recommendations will have a positive effect on community and voluntary organisations. The recommended improvements to Redlands Community Sports Hub would benefit existing community groups and may encourage greater take-up by other groups. The recommendation to upgrade the playing pitch surface at Portland Utd FC will have a direct positive benefit for the club by allowing greater community usage of the pitch and associated facilities.

## **Community safety**

The project proposals by Dorset Police which include ANPR cameras and a Public Engagement Van will have a positive impact on community safety.

## **Safeguarding**

The independent travel training project will contribute positively to safeguarding by enabling young people with special educational needs to travel independently on public transport.

## **7. Risk Assessment**

7.1 HAVING CONSIDERED: the risks associated with this decision; the level of risk has been identified as:

Current Risk: Low

Residual Risk: Low

## **8. Equalities Impact Assessment**

An Equalities Impact Screening has been completed. This has identified several positive impacts from the recommendations on protected characteristics relating to age, disability, pregnancy and maternity, people with caring responsibility, rural isolation and socio-economic deprivation. Many of the positive impacts have also been identified through the implications section of this report.

Governance arrangements for CIL have previously been subject to EqIA.

## **9. Appendices**

Appendix 1 - CIL Round 1 Expenditure Update

Appendix 2 - CIL Round 2 Submitted Project Details and Recommendations

Appendix 3 – CIL Round 2 Financial Position Summary

10. **Background Papers**

CIL Governance Arrangements [Agenda for Cabinet on Tuesday, 28th July, 2020, 10.00 am - Dorset Council](#)

## Appendix 1 – CIL Round 1 Expenditure Update

### Successful projects complete and/or underway

Reference	Project Name	Proposal	Expenditure	Notes	Delivery Status
CIL/GR1/002	Bytheway Field – 5 year SANG maintenance contribution	Maintenance of strategic SANG.	£74,500	Transferred to Natural Environment Team budget for long-term management	Underway - Ongoing
CIL/GR1/003	Woolslope 5 year SANG maintenance contribution	Maintenance of strategic SANG.	£82,500	Transferred to Natural Environment Team budget for long-term management	Underway - Ongoing
CIL/GR1/004	Slop Bog Emergency Access	Update from Jade	£43,000	Capital works completed and follow-up monitoring scheduled with Urban Heaths Partnership.	Complete
CIL/GR1/005	Installation of EV charging points in former East Dorset	EV charging points in former East Dorset	£29,028	Project started January 2022. Expenditure relates to phase 2. Remainder of £65k budget for Phase 3.	Underway - Phase 2 complete in Summer 2022
CIL/GR1/007	South East Dorset Dockless Bike Sharing Scheme	Dockless Bike Sharing Scheme	£211,170.27	Project started January 2022. Currently undergoing member engagement.	Underway - Project remains on track to deliver.
CIL/GR1/009	Bere Heath	Purchase of land for change in land management leading to reduction in nitrate input to Poole Harbour.	£331,500	Site purchased March 2021	Complete
CIL/GR1/010	Purbeck Visitor Network Project	Various capital works including creation of new and upgraded shared routes.	£240,600	Linked to capital projects	Underway
CIL/GR1/011	Purbeck Heaths Visitor Management Project		£56,720.87	Project started May 2021. Ground works, signage and engagement now complete.	Complete

CIL/GR1/012	Purbeck Sports Centre	New gym equipment	£146,000	Payment made June 2021	Complete
CIL/GR1/016	Rodwell Trail Benches	Installation of three public benches along the Rodwell Trail	£1,925	Payment made September 2021, works complete	Complete
CIL/GR1/017	Rodwell Trail Signage	New signage along the Rodwell Trail	£745	Payment made September 2021, works complete	Complete
CIL/GR1/018	S1/34 Footway Improvement	Supply and install stone to path 585m long by 1.5m	£5,420	Payment made November 2021, works complete	Complete
CIL/GR1/025	Weymouth Household Recycling	Welfare facilities	£26,087.73	Payment made X 2021	Complete
CIL/GR1/026	Weymouth Station Gateway Lighting Project	Lighting scheme	£13,880	Payment made April 2022 for costs incurred.	Underway
CIL/GR1/031	Weymouth Avenue – Dorchester Footway Enhancements		£40,000	Started in April 2022	Underway
CIL/GR1/032	Dorset County Hospital	Contribution to reconfiguration of Dermatology Department	£34,000	Payment made March 2021	Complete
CIL/GR1/036	Maiden Newton to West Bay Old Railway Line shared surface	Shared surfacing	£75,967	Payment made October 2021	Complete
CIL/GR1/037	Sherborne Household Recycling	Enclosure for re-use area	£2,854	Payment made October 2021	Complete
CIL/GR1/038	Dorchester Household Recycling	Enclosure for re-use area and associated office	£32,429.50	Payment made September 2021	Complete
CIL/GR1/041	Ridgeway Footway Construction	Reconstruct slabbed footway	£74,401.28	Payment made July 2021, works complete	Complete
			£1,522,728.65		

## CIL Round 1 Expenditure - Successful projects not started

Reference	Project Name	Value	Delivery Status
CIL/GR1/001	Fibre Hubs Connectivity in Rural Dorset	£70,000	Likely to be replaced by alternative project to instal fibre in libraries.
CIL/GR1/006	East Dorset Rights of Way Network Enhancement	£100,000	Long-term project. Funds aligned to Transforming Cities Fund delivery programme.
CIL/GR1/008	Independent Travel Training for young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)	£131,000	Covid-19 has delayed the project. Due to restart in September 2022.
CIL/GR1/015	Huntick Road footway/cycleway	£150,000	Working through preliminary design stages. Working with Transport Consultant WSP.
CIL/GR1/019	Weymouth s1/75 surface	£4,500.00	Resubmitted for Round 2 consideration due to increased cost estimate.
CIL/GR1/020	Weymouth s1/76 new surface	£6,000.00	No longer deliverable. Award recycled for Round 2.
CIL/GR1/021	Weymouth s1/112 surface and widening	£12,000.00	Resubmitted for Round 2 consideration due to increased cost estimate.
CIL/GR1/022	Weymouth s1/133 new surface	£3,000.00	Resubmitted for Round 2 consideration due to increased cost estimate.
CIL/GR1/023	Weymouth s1/135 surface	£5,140.00	Resubmitted for Round 2 consideration due to increased cost estimate.
CIL/GR1/024	Weymouth s1/157 steps	£3,000.00	Resubmitted for Round 2 consideration due to increased cost estimate.
CIL/GR1/027	Refurbishment of external changing rooms and pavilion	£50,000.00	Take-up subject to clarity on Redlands ownership and operation.
CIL/GR1/029	Weymouth Harbour & Esplanade Flood & Coastal Risk Management Scheme Phase 1	£485,931.53	To be transferred to Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Team (long-term delivery)
CIL/GR1/030	Park Street Connection Project	£60,000.00	To be tied into the delivery of works around Weymouth Station.
CIL/GR1/034	CT1 Changing Room Installation	£50,000	No longer necessary. Funds recycled and available in Round 2.
CIL/GR1/035	Bridport: improvement to access from the Morrisons turn-off from South St to South Mill Lane	£168,000	Delay due to land ownership negotiations.

CIL/GR1/039	Improvement to Bridport Household Recycling Centre reuse area	£5,000.00	Project involves a local artist, delayed.
CIL/GR1/040	Lyme Regis Environmental Improvement (LREI) Scheme Phase 5 – The Cobb	£80,686.08	April 2022 – Outline Business Case approved. To incorporate CIL award and s106 funds specific to coastal protection in Lyme Regis and Charmouth area.
		£1,384,257.61	

Appendix 2 – CIL Round 2 Submitted Project Details and Recommendations

Reference	Project Name	Proposal	Request	Recommendation	Recommended Award Value	Score / 60	Commentary
CIL/GR2/001	Public Right of Way - Bridleway repair	N18/20 and N18/22 Leigh - repair of two public byways	£51,025.00	Reject	-	40	100% reliant on CIL, no match funding and cannot be delivered with lesser award. Difficult to justify that the project supports the needs of development. Minimal development in very rural area with low population density.
CIL/GR2/002	Public Right of Way - new tarmac surface	S1/60 - resurface with tarmac	£4,500.00	Reject	-	40	100% reliant on CIL, no match funding and cannot be delivered with lesser award. Difficult to justify that the project supports the needs of development.
CIL/GR2/003	Public Right of Way - stone pathway	S1/75 - supply and install stone path	£2,709.72	Reject	-	38	100% reliant on CIL, no match funding and cannot be delivered with lesser award.
CIL/GR2/004	Public Right of Way - stone pathway	S1/112 - supply and install stone path	£16,058.25	Potential for alternative developer contribution funding source.	-	38	100% reliant on CIL, no match funding and cannot be delivered with lesser award. Proposal straddles former LA boundaries. Has potential to support the needs of nearby major development. Potential for funding through other developer contribution sources – s106.
CIL/GR2/005	Public Right of Way - new tarmac surface	S1/133 - supply and install tarmac surface	£10,800.00	Reject	-	40	100% reliant on CIL, no match funding and cannot be delivered with lesser award. Provides a walking route to Radipole School. With improvement this could support allocated development south of Nottingham Lane.
CIL/GR2/006	Public Right of Way - stone pathway	S1/135 - supply and install stone path	£6,720.00	Reject	-	35	100% reliant on CIL, no match funding and cannot be delivered with lesser award.
CIL/GR2/007	Public Right of Way - resurfacing	S2/26 - resurface	£4,212.00	Support	£4,212.00	35	
CIL/GR2/008	Public Right of Way - resurfacing	S52/7 - new bridleway surface	£9,828.00	Reject	-	55	100% reliant on CIL, no match funding and cannot be delivered with lesser award. Appears to have limited benefit to development.
CIL/GR2/009	Public Right of Way - new pathway	Weymouth seafront skatepark path	£8,895.00	Reject	-	40	100% reliant on CIL, no match funding and cannot be delivered with lesser award.
CIL/GR2/010	Public Right of Way - steps	Weymouth s1/157 - supply & install steps	£5,750.00	Reject	-	30	100% reliant on CIL, no match funding and cannot be delivered with lesser award.
CIL/GR2/011	Play Area Enhancement	Melcombe Regis Play Area Enhancement	£45,500.00	Reject	-	45	Weymouth Town Council accounts demonstrate over £200k of neighbourhood awarded CIL currently uncommitted. Weymouth Town Council should look to using their Neighbourhood share to support this project.
CIL/GR2/012	Household Recycling Centre resurfacing	Sherborne Household Recycling Centre - new surface	£27,429.50	Support	£9,094.61	51	Balance of £18,334.39 could be met from s106 contributions from nearby Barton Farm development.
CIL/GR2/013	Public Toilets	Portland - Victoria Park - 2 new toilets	£66,000.00	Reject	-	34	Portland Town Council accounts demonstrate over £30k of neighbourhood awarded CIL currently uncommitted. Portland Town Council should look to using their Neighbourhood share to support this project.
CIL/GR2/014	Public Right of Way - new surface	Bradpole - Happy Island Community Link - footpath	£25,000.00	Reject	-	53	100% reliant on CIL, no match funding and cannot be delivered with lesser award.
CIL/GR2/015	Public Right of Way - resurfacing	Bradpole Link - path maintenance & new ramp	£8,000.00	Potential for alternative developer	-	55	100% reliant on CIL, no match funding and cannot be delivered with lesser award. Potential for support from s106.

				contribution funding source.			
CIL/GR2/016	Outdoor gym equipment	Weymouth - The Marsh Outdoor Gym Equipment	£34,866.00	Reject	-	44	Weymouth Town Council accounts demonstrate over £200k of neighbourhood awarded CIL currently uncommitted. Weymouth Town Council should look to using their Neighbourhood share to support this project.
CIL/GR2/017	Installation of benches	Blackdown Nature Reserve - install seating	£4,000.00	Support (in-part)	£507.08	43	
CIL/GR2/018	Weymouth Pleasure Pier improvements	Weymouth Pleasure Pier facilities	£24,880.50	Support	£9,370.72	54	Scores well. Uses all funding within Public Realm category. Simply not enough scope to support full award with funds from other relevant infrastructure categories.
CIL/GR2/019	Osprey Leisure Centre - energy efficiency	Portland - Osprey Leisure Centre - energy savings	£6,607.00	Reject	-	45	Question whether this is infrastructure that meet the needs of development.
CIL/GR2/020	Litter reduction school programme	Secondary School Litter Project - Spring 2023	£4,282.99	Support	£4,282.99	51	
CIL/GR2/021	Greenspace linkage	Kings Road/Lubbecke Way River Walk	£75,000.00	Reject	-	41	Concerns over achievability of project.
CIL/GR2/022	Corn Exchange Front of House	The Corn Exchange - Front of House - Internal Alterations	£100,000.00	Support	£100,000.00	43	
CIL/GR2/023	Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) Cameras x 8	Installation of ANPR cameras along key traffic routes in West Dorset	£48,000.00	Support	£48,000.00	41	Acknowledged that it will support the needs of increased traffic in key growth areas.
CIL/GR2/024	Public Engagement Van/Mobile Police Office Van	Mobile police / community engagement vehicle for use across Dorset	£49,486.00	Support	£49,486.00	41	Sharing contributions from both West Dorset and Weymouth & Portland Emergency Services CIL budgets.
CIL/GR2/025	Installation of floodlit 3G pitch	Installation of floodlit 3G artificial pitch at Portland Utd.	£48,741.00	Support	£48,741	56	Potential to lever in significant match funding.
CIL/GR2/026	Weymouth - Redlands Community Sports Hub - new 3G turf pitches	Replacement of existing artificial 3G and installation of additional full size 3G pitch.	£48,741.00	Reject	-	56	Requested on the basis that other match funding secured through s106 at Redlands can be renegotiated. Position on that unclear in the short term.
CIL/GR2/027	Weymouth - Redlands Community Sports Hub - Community cafe & soft play	Redlands Community Cafe & Soft Play Facility	£68,812.00	Support	£68,812.00	59	
CIL/GR2/028	Puddletown Surgery - clinical enhancements	Fit-out of Puddletown Surgery Top Floor to create additional clinical space	£6,343.04	Support	£6,343.04	43	Provides additional clinical infrastructure to support the demands of new development and increased patient numbers.
CIL/GR2/029	The Bridges Surgery - clinical flooring upgrade	Upgrade of clinical flooring to deliver services from fit-for-purpose premises	£15,000.00	Support	£15,000.00	35	Provides additional clinical infrastructure to support the demands of new development and increased patient numbers.
CIL/GR2/030	SEND Independent Travel Training Project	Independent Travel Training - request to top up funds awarded in CIL Round 1.	£394.43	Support	£394.43	52	
CIL/GR2/031	Renovation of bus shelter	Renovation of bus shelter, Westwey Road, Weymouth	£741.44	Support	£741.44	47	
CIL/GR2/032	Ferndown Upper School Improvements	Contribution towards additional accommodation to allow 'T' level provision	£238,397.53	Support	£238,397.53	30	Low scoring reflects early stages of project development.



CIL/GR2/033	Special Educational Needs and Disability in Weymouth & Portland	Investment in Special Educational Needs and Disability education across the former Weymouth & Portland area	£303,707.21	Support	£303,707.21	25	Low scoring reflects early stages of project/option development.
CIL/GR2/034	Special Educational Needs and Disability in West Dorset	Investment in Special Educational Needs and Disability education across the former West Dorset area	£484,116.48	Support	£484,116.48	25	Low scoring reflects early stages of project/option development.

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### Appendix 3 – CIL Round 2 Financial Position Summary

<b>West Area Category</b>	<b>Opening round two CIL balance</b>	<b>Total Value of Submitted Eols</b>	<b>Value of Eols Recommended for Approval</b>	<b>Balance after approved Eol</b>
Education (including schools, educational establishments)	£484,116.48	£484,116.48	484,116.48	£-
Green Infrastructure & Recreation (including open spaces, sports pitches, play)	£4,719.08	£173,572.08	£4,719.08	£-
Waste Management (including waste processing, waste transfer and waste recycling)	£27,429.50	£9,094.61	£9,094.61	£18,334.89
Culture, Leisure, Community Facilities (including arts, community, sports venues etc.)	£282,401.28	£100,000.00	£100,000.00	£182,401.28
Utilities (including broadband)	£343.04	£-	£-	£343.04
Healthcare (including health and wellbeing, clinical care)	£6,343.04	£6,343.04	£6,343.04	£-
Emergency Services	£80,686.08	£48,000.00	£67,115.28	£13,570.80

<b>W&amp;P Area Category</b>	<b>Opening round two CIL balance</b>	<b>Total Value of Submitted Eols</b>	<b>Value of Eols Recommended for Approval</b>	<b>Balance after approved Eol</b>
Education (including schools, educational establishments)	£303,707.21	£303,707.21	£303,707.21	£-

Transport (including highways, walking, cycling, passenger transport)	£741.44	£741.44	£741.44	£-
Green Infrastructure & Recreation (including open spaces, sports pitches, play)	£48,741.44	£283,222.72	£48,741.44	£-
Waste Management (including waste processing, waste transfer and waste recycling)	£4,282.99	£4,282.99	£4,282.99	£-
Public Realm (including public space improvements)	£9,370.72	£9,370.72	£9,370.72	£-
Culture, Leisure, Community Facilities (including arts, community, sports venues etc.)	£68,812.88	£75,419.00	£68,812.88	£-
Utilities (including broadband)	£370.72	£-	£-	£370.72
Healthcare (including health and wellbeing, clinical care)	£60,741.44	£15,000.00	£15,000.00	£45,741.44
Emergency Services	£30,370.72	£30,370.72	£30,370.72	£-

<b>East Area Category</b>	<b>Opening round two CIL balance</b>	<b>Total Value of Submitted Eols</b>	<b>Value of Eols Recommended for Approval</b>	<b>Balance after approved Eol</b>
Education (schools, educational establishments)	£238,397.53	£238,397.53	£238,397.53	£-
Transport (highways, walking, cycling, passenger transport)	£394.43	£394.43	£394.43	£-

## Cabinet

**6 September 2022**

## **PDSCP Annual Report 2021-22**

### **For Decision**

**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: James Vaughan

Title: Independent Chair and Scrutineer of the pan-Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership

Tel: 01305 221196

Email: [pan-dorsetscp@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:pan-dorsetscp@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)

**Report Status:** Public

#### **Brief Summary:**

The pan-Dorset Safeguarding Children's Partnership (PDSCP) is the statutory body which oversees multi-agency safeguarding services which covers the local Dorset and BCP council areas. This report contains the annual report of the PDSCP setting out...

This Report updates Cabinet on the Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership (PDSCP) Annual Report 2021-22.

#### **Recommendation:**

That the Cabinet note the overall report, suggesting any further changes.

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

The production of an annual report is a statutory responsibility and therefore the endorsement of the four statutory partners (Dorset Council, BCP Council, NHS Dorset, Dorset Police) of the safeguarding partnership is required

#### **1. Report**

1.1 The Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership (PDSCP) is the statutory body which oversees multi-agency child safeguarding services which cover the Dorset Council and Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council (BCP) footprints.

1.2 These arrangements are working well in Dorset already and this is changing the Pan-Dorset partnership's role and work to be more of a strategic oversight of child safeguarding in Dorset as a whole.

## 2. Financial Implications

Safeguarding partners are required to provide equitable and proportionate funding to cover all elements of their multi-agency child safeguarding arrangements ([Working Together 2018](#)).

<b>SAFEGUARDING PARTNER</b>	<b>CONTRIBUTION</b>	<b>%</b>
BCP COUNCIL	£79,605	29%
DORSET COUNCIL	£72,359	26%
DORSET POLICE	£48,846	18%
DORSET CCG	£75,393	27%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>276,203</b>	

## 3. Climate Implications

None arising, as child safeguarding work has to be carried out face to face with children, young people and their families and there is little scope to carry this out through remote platforms or telephone consultation. Where it is appropriate to do so this is implemented.

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

The Partnership's work is designed to impact positively on the well-being and health of Dorset's children and young people, by keeping them safe, by reducing the risk of harm and through raising awareness of child safeguarding issues so that all those who support children and young people are aware of their rights

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

None

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

6.1 The level of risk has been identified as:

Current Risk: Low

Residual Risk: Low

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

The Partnership's core business is to reduce the impact of inequalities, both on individual children and young people and on groups, cohorts of children and young people.

#### 8. **Appendices**

PDSCP Annual Report 2021-22

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

Cabinet Paper September 2021:

<https://modern.gov.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/documents/g5133/Public%20reports%20pack%2007th-Sep-2021%2010.00%20Cabinet.pdf?T=10>

Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership Website:

[Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership - Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership \(pdscp.co.uk\)](https://www.pdscp.co.uk/)

Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Reports (Historic):

[Annual Reports - Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership \(pdscp.co.uk\)](https://www.pdscp.co.uk/annual-reports/)





**Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership**



# PAN DORSET SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP

## ANNUAL REPORT 2021/2022

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## GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS

BCP	Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole
CAROLE	Children at Risk of or Linked to Exploitation Group
CCG/ICB	Clinic Commissioning Group/Integrated Children's Board
CDOP	Child Death Overview Panel
CE	Criminal Exploitation
CIC	Children in Care
CSPR	Criminal exploitation
DSL	Designated Safeguarding Lead
ETAC	Exploitation Team Around the Child
ILACS	Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services
LADO	Local Authority Designated Officer (for allegations made against staff)
HMIC	Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary
MAQPAG	Multi-agency Quality and Performance Assurance Group
MASH	Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub
PDSCP	Pan Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership
PPN	Police Protection Notification
SEND	Special educational needs and disability
UASC	Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children

## WELCOME

Dear colleagues, partners, and members of the public we are proud to publish the second Pan Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report which covers 2021/2022.

We welcome James Vaughan, Independent Chairperson and Scrutineer, Cathi Hadley, Director of Children's Services, Bournemouth, Christchurch, and Poole Council and Assistant Chief Constable, Rachel Farrell, Dorset Police, as the most recent members to join the Partnership during the year.

We would like to extend our thanks to the previous Chairperson, Anthony Douglas CBE and BCP's Director Elaine Redding for their dedication and commitment to the Partnership from its inception in 2019 to 2021.

### Current Executive Board Members

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Cathi Hadley, Corporate Director, Children's Services, BCP Council



Theresa Leavy, Executive Director, People - Children Dorset Council



Vanessa Read, Director of Nursing and Quality, Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group\*



Rachel Farrell, Assistant Chief Constable, Dorset Police



James Vaughan, PDSCP Independent Chairperson

\* The Clinical Commissioning Group became Dorset Integrated Care Board on 01 July 2022. Reference to activity in this report refers to the Clinical Commissioning Group.

**PART ONE**

**1. PARTNERSHIP STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE**

**PDSCP - Structure**

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## 2. REFLECTIONS ON 2021/2022

In 2019 the Pan Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership ('The Partnership') was implemented with governance from Dorset Council and Bournemouth, Christchurch, and Poole (BCP) Council. The aim was to provide a strong, productive, and valuable partnership that drives best outcomes for children and young people. Two years on the Partnership has continued to develop and reflect on what works well and where changes need to be made to improve its effectiveness.

The Partnership is pleased to share its progress during 2021/2022 despite the continuing challenges posed by the Covid-19 virus and its impact on children, families, and the workforce. Effective joint working continued during the year, building upon the strong working relationships developed throughout 2020/2021.

The Partnership maintains oversight and responsibility for the Partnership's statutory functions and seeks assurance about the effectiveness of the wider safeguarding system that supports children and families through receiving regular reporting from the two delivery arms.

The Partnership has continued to be agile, adaptable, and uses communication platforms for the delivery of its business as this model works well; it will develop face to face events such as an annual conference and how it engages with children and young people in 2022/2023.

The place-based, operational delivery arms of the two local authority areas have created the opportunity to tailor multi-agency safeguarding delivery in a more bespoke way to better reflect demographics and shape service provision according to local need. The Place-based arrangements also enable a timely response and enhanced focus on local area safeguarding priorities, stronger alignment with other local partnerships (e.g., SEND, MASH, Community Safety, Health and Wellbeing and Safeguarding Adult Board) and increased opportunities to develop a more inclusive approach with the wider safeguarding network, including schools, parent and young people participation forums and voluntary/community sector organisations.

The Executive Team ensure that whilst different approaches may be used at a place-based level, opportunities for alignment are maximised e.g., strategic sign off and publication of local Children Safeguarding Practice Reviews. The Partnership acknowledges it is often difficult for both Health and the Police to resource the growing demand for partnership working across both BCP and Dorset and will support its partners to manage any tensions or resource issues.

In September 2021 the Partnership appointed a new independent chairperson adding 'scrutineer' to the title. The role will act as a 'critical friend' to provide independent scrutiny and challenge on the effectiveness of the Partnership's multi-agency child safeguarding arrangements. The remit and potential impact of this role is yet to be fully developed and realised. However, to date scrutiny has focused on local Child

Safeguarding Practice Reviews, strategic risk management and Section 11 safeguarding audit and scrutiny for both statutory and non-statutory partners. In addition, an external review of the effectiveness and efficiency of the Business Management Team for the partnership was undertaken at the start of the year.

### Strategic priorities 2022/2024

In February 2022, the Partnership held a strategic planning session to determine and sharpen priorities for the 2022/2024, review how the Partnership business had evolved during the year and to agree a vision going forward.

These priorities were informed by an understanding of need across each of the partners’ areas of responsibility, utilising internal data sets, self-evaluations, strategic assessments, and inspection findings.

Chairs of the Safeguarding Adults Boards, Community Safety Partnerships and the Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership have begun to meet regularly to ensure that strategic priorities are aligned and there is a clear understanding of which partnership is leading and delivering which key work streams.

The agreed strategic priorities set out below will be translated into a Partnership strategic delivery plan in 2022 and reflected in individual organisation service plans.

Following the independent review of the business management arrangements early in the year, the Partnership agreed to move to a single Business Manager across pan-Dorset. This will allow smoother and more joined up strategic delivery and more flexibility to ensure place-based support. At the time of publishing our report, we are pleased to say that we are in the late stages of recruitment for this key role. The review findings also demonstrated that the Dorset business management model compared well to national comparators on both efficiency and effectiveness. It also enabled the partnership to devise a plan to balance the financial contributions across the statutory agencies.

How we work as a Partnership		Our current challenges
Voice of Child Whole Family Working	How risk is identified at multi-agency level	
	How we ensure early multi-agency support	
	How we scrutinise as a Partnership	
<b>OUTCOME FOCUSED</b> How will we know we have made a difference?		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tackling Child Exploitation, early intervention, effective disruption resulting from collaborative decision making</li> <li>• Sexual Abuse – intrafamilial, link to violence against women and girls and sexual abuse in schools - peer on peer</li> <li>• Recognising and responding to the impact of domestic abuse involving children and young people (including under 1’s and unborn safety and wellbeing)</li> <li>• Supporting children to maintain positive mental health and emotional wellbeing, understanding the longer-term impact of Covid-19. Access to services at all levels (e.g. Tier 4 beds locally, CAMHS demand</li> </ul>

## The voice of children and young people

This section provides examples of how both BCP and Dorset have sought to engage and involve children and young people, parents, and the wider community in its learning and in improving its multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.

In BCP area work was undertaken to engage the voice of children, young people, and their families, this includes;

One Thematic Learning Review (Child M) involved substantial engagement with the parents, wider family, and the wider community to raise awareness of child exploitation.

BCP have two forums for Children in Care and Care Experienced Young people, they are an invaluable source of the truth, both take an active part in the Corporate Parenting Board and young people co-chair. Young people are also represented on our Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee with equal voice as members. They have been involved in developing services, contributing to the Childrens Services Improvement Plan, improving the collection of young people views prior to review, review of Health Passports.

Through Members of Youth Parliament POP (Pack of Positivity) cards have been developed by Young People and launched in all schools to support young people and staff in understanding and responding to mental health needs

In BCP young people are encouraged to chair their reviews or as a minimum take an active part through attendance and participation, some 'take over' and lead whilst other contribute and attend for parts.

Children and Young people in BCP are celebrated through annual Celebration Events and fun activities, for example Easter event in April 2022, Fun Day during the summer and a Jubilee Event.

Care Experienced Young people were involved in our Practice Week giving valuable feedback of their lived experience and offering suggestions and solutions as to how the service and support can be improved. Practice Weeks are held on a quarterly basis and children and young people are part of the team.

Care Experienced Young people have produced and launched the new Care Leavers Offer and been part of the Care Leaver Hub development team, designing the building and developing the offer in their exciting new 333 Hub. The 333 Hub has its own dedicated steering group of Young People to ensure the work of the Hub is relevant and accessible.

The Childrens Rights and Participation team worked with 6 children and young people aged between 10 yrs and 18yrs to understand their lived experience of being a child or young person within the CIN, CP, or Children in Care, they told us what good practice looks like to them, what they wanted their workers to consider and how we can become better at working with them. Colleagues met with the young people every two



weeks for a six-month period so they could get 'live' up to date feedback from the volunteers. There is a lived experience example in our Improvement Board on a regular basis for members to hear directly from young people their experiences.

Young people took part in Visioning activity to support the Vision setting through our Improvement Plan and they have informed the developing Youth Service Strategy.

Developing Services – A young people led panel supported with the recruitment and retention of BCP new Senior Leadership Team. They are involved in all Childrens Services recruitment, developing the new policy on their involvement. The senior leadership team have offered shadowing opportunities to young people where they have been involved in service development. Young People take part in our training offer and deliver workshops to staff to develop the understanding of their lived experience.

Dorset Council have reintegrated Dorset Youth Voice into its Children's Services including two young people on work experience placements, who were able to contribute to service development.

The Dorset Youth Voice Team have now hosted two whole fostering family days to get alongside and listen in to younger children in care. There are a further 4 events planned for the rest of this year.

What Dorset have heard from the younger children so far, has helped us to further improve the Dorset Foster Carers Handbook and the guide that children receive when they come into our care. The Dorset Children in Care Council is growing organically through these events and the team are taking the time to 'catch up' with these children to nurture the relationship.

The team are mindful of the trauma many of our children and young people have experienced and listen sensitively and skilfully. The approach to co-production must be done in a trauma-informed way.

Dorset Care leavers were involved in two workshops during National Care Leavers Week in October 2021, and they helped to co-produce how they want their achievements and successes to be recognised. They also worked on shaping improvements to the council's web pages which host their Dorset care leaver local offer.

Care leavers have also been involved in two interview panels for the recruitment of senior management positions and their feedback was an incredibly helpful part of the process.

Dorset Care leavers have worked with the Youth Council to co-produce a 'what's in it for me' chart for participation activities and to give their thoughts and views on the new branding for the team.

14 Dorset care leavers have been working with the Youth Voice Team in a variety of ways since August 2021. Twenty care leavers contributed their digital voice in January on an activity about foster care and 24 were involved last month, on the New Belongings project with Coram Voice.

Dorset took part in the Takeover Challenge, a national programme of engagement, which took place from the 14 June to 8 July 2022.

This included children and young people who are:

- in our care
- leaving our care
- young carers
- children and young people with SEND
- members of our current youth council

The final week of Takeover Challenge included the Summer Conferences. Young people led and delivered several workshops at the event with partners pledging to make real changes to service design and delivery. There will be a follow up event in November 2022, in line with the national event.

### **Learning from practice**

Evidence from our local case reviews and audits indicate that Covid has affected the emotional health and well-being of our children and young people through missing school and social isolation. The challenges of Covid on the workforce, their families and their own sickness has been significant, however the Partnership remains vigilant to the potential for 'hidden' harm.

In the first 'lockdown' in 2020 there appeared to be higher levels of lower-level domestic abuse incidents, which reflected the stress some families were under. Findings this year indicate that domestic abuse continues to be a significant factor in safeguarding, bearing in mind the detrimental impact of domestic abuse on children and young people. In response conversations continue to be held to further strengthen communication and joint working across safeguarding and the Community Safety Partnerships.

Findings from child practice reviews and multi-agency case audits indicate the importance of face-to-face contact with a trusted consistent practitioner. There is recognition of the need to better engage with children and young people to hear more about their views and 'lived' experience to help us to continuously improve what we do; this is a key objective in the 2022/2023 PDSCP strategic plan.

Additionally, our learning has highlighted the importance of professional curiosity and challenge when cases are considered by partners to be closed too early; we are ensuring that the escalation policy is understood and implemented by all partners.

Across both BCP and Dorset the importance of a 'whole family' approach is acknowledged across the Partnership although this has progressed further with some partners than others. Learning has included a need to listen to the young person and the family and the need to undertake robust holistic family assessments. By doing this action plans will be more specific to the individual child or young person as they reflect how the young person sees themselves and with outcomes that can be monitored. Such engagement with the family will enable a more proactive approach to safeguarding. From more than one case review the importance of professionals seeing the young person on their own was highlighted. Also highlighted was the need to follow up with curiosity where a child who has made an allegation subsequently states that the abuse did not happen.

The BCP Child Safeguarding Practice Review Group developed a questionnaire to give to families engaged in child protection processes, where neglect was the main concern and where there appeared to be no improvement over a prolonged period. The purpose of this was to give parents an opportunity to share their views and experiences of the intervention they had received so that practice improvements could be identified. The evaluation is ongoing.

Dorset Council engaged the voice of users in several initiatives including the Harbour Project and with Children in Care to better understand their views and identify ways in which agencies can work more effectively with them. This work has informed service redesign for children in care including the appointment of emotional health and well-being practitioners and a Care Leaver nurse. The Harbour project has also been hugely successful in supporting those young people on the edge of care.

Gaining an understanding of the family within the context of the whole eco-system including community, school, extended family, different cultures and the importance of not seeing each separate referral to children's social care as a 'new' event was highlighted. In addition, work has been completed on refreshing the non-mobile infant protocol and the unborn child pathway as well as the development of practitioner toolkits covering neglect, domestic abuse, and child sexual abuse.

Intrafamilial child sexual abuse was a theme in two local CSPRs and emphasised the need to improve recognition and understanding of this topic among colleagues. In response, PDSCP has planned a conference this year to focus on this topic. Self-harm and understanding suicide and suicidal ideation were also themes identified in our reviews and work is being undertaken with mental health commissioners to take this forward, to include bespoke training.

Feedback from the independent case review authors in Dorset and BCP has shown how well the practitioners have fully engaged in the case review process. Comments have included how well agencies worked together and how pro-active practitioners were in protecting children and young people from harm. In CSPR panel meetings, representatives from User Groups including SPACE Youth project have provided subject expertise.

Across the Dorset and BCP areas the quality assurance and learning cycles are beginning to become embedded; this means that in future recommendations from reviews can be more readily implemented, there will be continuous practice improvement and outcomes will be more clearly understood and reported. Measuring the impact of learning will support the experience of children and families when accessing services.

All local CSPRs are published on the PDSCP website along with practitioner briefings <https://pdscp.co.uk/working-with-children/serious-case-reviews/> (unless anonymity is required); they will also be published on the NSPCC website.

### **Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)**

The Pan Dorset and Somerset CDOP convened six times during the year 2021/2022. This consisted of two neonatal panels and four main panels, reviewing 27 Dorset cases during this time. There were 23 new deaths of children which is 9 fewer deaths than the previous year of 32. Of the 23 deaths, 7 were neonatal and 16 were children.

Of the 27 reviews carried out, key learning and impact of the last year were as follows:

- a) In November 2021, the panel reviewed a Sudden Unexplained Death Infant cohort and recommended that the safe sleeping message needs to be reinforced and updated, to include the message of always needing 'clear, safe space around the baby'. The panel wrote to the PDSCP (Dorset) Multi-agency Quality and Performance Group recommending that multi agency work should be undertaken. Evidence indicates that families are aware of the advice but choose not to follow it. Further work is needed to understand the barriers to following the advice and how to overcome them. Public Health Dorset have just launched their summer safer sleeping campaign. Key messages included on PDSCP site on pages for parents/carers and practitioners. The out of routine report is referenced on the practitioner page [Out of Routine](#). There is now [Safer Sleeping Guidance for Parents/Carers with Babies and Infants - Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership \(pdscp.co.uk\)](#) as well as a [practitioners' page](#). The PDSCP will repeat the planned a Safe Sleeping campaign over the course of 2021/22 which will also include links to the Invisible Men report.
- b) The panel reviewed some cases where mothers were diabetic. As a result of this, the Designated Doctor met with the diabetes Consultant to discuss and review management during pregnancy. The maternity pathway for diabetic women has been amended and the diabetes specialists now provide a weekly clinic rather than fortnightly. A recent review of another infant death where diabetes was a factor noted that the new arrangements had been very successful in substantially improving the mother's diabetes control.

The Pan Dorset CDOP has collected information in this area beyond the statutory requirement, including information on mothers' raised BMI. It recently audited its data to explore a possible link between this and delivery at premature gestation. It concluded that its sample was too small to either indicate a trend or dismiss it. We have raised this nationally and as a result, the national forms have been amended to include this data field so that this can be reviewed on a country-wide scale.

The panel presented a learning event on the 4 November 2021 which was well received. Feedback was positive with requests for future learning events. There are plans for another event later in the Year.

The panel reflected on the impact of remote panel meetings initiated in response to the Covid 19 pandemic, given the nature of the content discussed; this has since been overcome as meetings are now face to face again.

### Multi agency training

The pan-Dorset training function offers a central training offer for the multi-agency workforce, the administration and co-ordination of which is self-funding. The offer is accessed by a wide range of agencies and seen as a trusted and reliable source to ensure that organisations meet their safeguarding training requirements. Most courses are commissioned through the Dorset Council commissioning framework, which provides the function with quality control and contract compliance measures.

The menu of training includes:

- ❖ Multi-agency Working Together in Safeguarding Children Initial and Update (former Level 3)
- ❖ Managing Allegations
- ❖ Safer Recruitment and Safer Recruitment Update,
- ❖ Supervision for Safeguarding,
- ❖ Criminal Exploitation Basic Awareness, Missing, Exploited and Trafficked Children (former L3 CE),
- ❖ Neglect, Safeguarding Children with SEND,
- ❖ Annual Online Safety Champions Update,
- ❖ Foundation in Safeguarding Children and Recognising and Responding to CSA.

The PDSCP also offered free sessions on the newly developed Dorset place-based Domestic Abuse toolkit.

All training remained virtual throughout 2021-22. In general, the delegates expressed their preference for attending virtual sessions with the main reasons (apart from Covid) being saving on commuting, parking time, petrol costs and environmental impact.

Over the past business year 132 courses were delivered and attended by 2,527 multi-agency practitioners. Occupancy rates for these courses averaged 90% of capacity. Day rates for courses have not changed from the previous year priced around £75/£80 with half days costed at £50. Small charities or voluntary sector organisations can apply for a free place to ensure we are inclusive.

Local authorities, schools and early years providers continue to make up the biggest cohort of staff attending courses. In response to requests, training has also been offered on Saturday mornings and twilight sessions to fit in with working patterns of some practitioners e.g., voluntary sector and early years staff.

Where partner agencies have a lower rate of engagement in multi-agency safeguarding training, we have challenged this. Our aim is to offer a fully multiagency experience to attendees and the opportunity to get to know each other's roles and build contact networks. This is balanced with the single agency training offer and the demands caused by continued Covid 19 pressures into this year.

During the year training has been offered to sports and activity clubs reinforcing statutory requirements and good practice in relation to adults in 'positions of trust'. As soon as any changes in legislation or statutory guidance become law relating to extending the 'position of trust' this is included in all relevant training and communication to relevant partner agencies or groups.

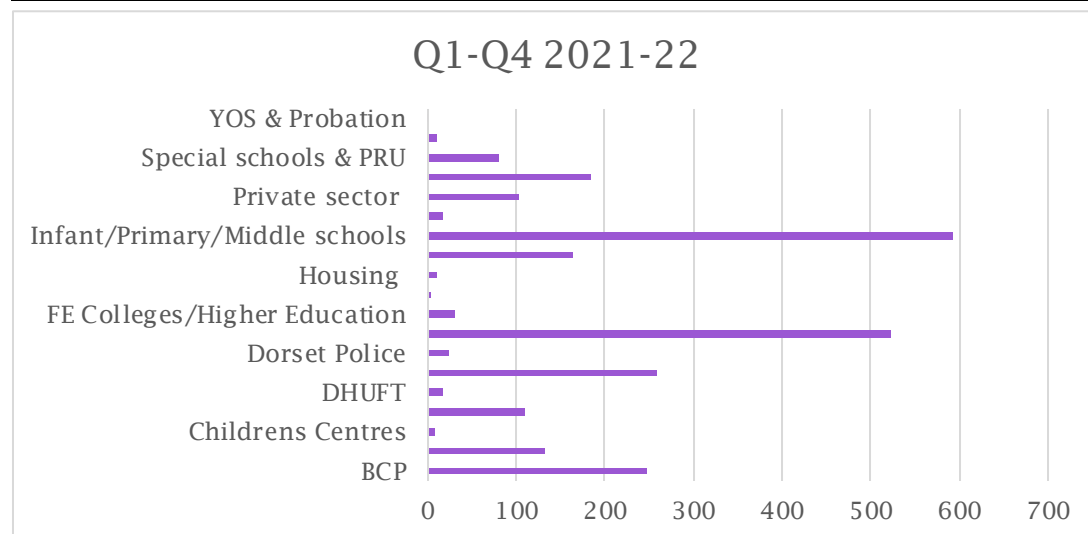
There is a high degree of synergy between the PDSCP Training offer and learning from the Pan-Dorset Learning Hub activity, Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews, case and thematic audits and service developments. Surplus in the budget in 2021-22 has enabled a programme of free training on specific topics identified in these ways for 2022-23:

- Safeguarding Supervision bespoke for schools
- Trauma-informed practice / Strength based restorative practice
- Supporting families where parental conflict is a feature
- Gender identity/Transgender/LGBTQ+
- Travelling Community – cultural competence
- Working with children and young people who describe suicidal thoughts or who self-harm
- Covid 19 impact on Young People's mental health

Qualitative data from evaluation feedback demonstrates that practitioners are using their learning when they return to the workplace. Courses are quality assured through the Learning Hub groups from Dorset and BCP which review feedback, impact, performance of providers and course design and planning.

## Training delivery and participation

Financial Quarters	No of courses	Total spaces	Total bookings	Total attendance	Booking %	% Booking rate change compared to previous Q	Occupancy rate %	% Occupancy rate change compared to previous Q	Feedback received	Feedback %
Totals for Q4	41	879	846	750	96	-2	89	6	529	71
Totals for Q3	32	689	678	564	98	-1	83	-8	382	68
Totals for Q2	26	628	619	565	99	2	91	0	348	62
Totals for Q1 Apr-June 2021	33	731	708	648	97	-1	91	2	377	58



### 3. OBJECTIVES 2022/2023

The Partnership will review its multi-agency safeguarding children arrangements published in 2019 and will strengthen its governance with other partnerships e.g., Safeguarding Adults Boards, and how it can more effectively communicate with the public and practitioners in both areas.

It will appoint one Business Manager to co-ordinate and manage the day to business of the PDSCP across both Dorset and BCP areas. Place-based local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements, based on the agreed PDSCP priorities, will be managed by local area business support officers/co-ordinator.

The Partnership will strengthen its quality assurance, learning, and scrutiny functions and will demonstrate better outcomes for children and young people, in accordance with its agreed priorities.

It will strengthen how it uses performance data to inform and drive its priorities and objectives and will consider how it implements learning from local and national Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews, including the national reviews into the deaths of Star Hobson and Arthur Labinjo Hughes, the National Independent Review of Children's Social Care and other local and national safeguarding issues as they arise.

The Partnership will strengthen the voice of children, young people, parents, and practitioners in its business through the role of the Independent Scrutineer and other means, such as participatory groups and engagement activity.

Dorset Police will lead an annual review of the effectiveness of Operation Encompass in schools.

There will be a focus on strengthening the transition between children's and adult services.



## PART TWO

### 4. INDIVIDUAL PARTNER CONTRIBUTIONS

This section of the report provides an overview of individual partner organisations achievements during the year for safeguarding children and young people and how they intend to continue to improve their practice and systems.



The MASH Operational and Strategic Boards are split to align with the two Local Authority areas. The Operational Boards are working well to identify actions, risks, and development themes at the operational level. The Strategic Board enables appropriate oversight by strategic leaders across the partnership however causes duplication of Governance across what remains a Pan Dorset MASH. The membership and leadership of all boards has improved significantly throughout 2021/22 to broaden agencies representations.

The strategic intent during the year was to provide a collaborative approach to child safeguarding through information sharing, risk assessment, decision making and shared learning. A significant change programme has been implemented across the police MASH environment to improve services and embed these changes.

There has been a considerable investment in training 1200 staff to upskill their understanding of the importance of capturing the voice of the child; vulnerability 3 training, an internal communication campaign and 'power hour training' has resulted in officers having a greater understanding of the child's perspective and lived experience. The increased recording has identified contextual risk which has in turn been shared with partners.

Numerous frontline staff and child protection specialists have attended pan-Dorset child safeguarding training events during the year with positive feedback received.

Practitioners have been directly engaged in the force response to the HMICFRS<sup>11</sup> inspection and the development of safeguarding hubs and the missing persons teams across the organisation, to ensure the strategic direction is informed by the practitioner opinion. Dorset Police will

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<sup>11</sup> Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services

embed local safeguarding hubs in both Local Policing Areas in 2023 to ensure place based earlier intervention to reduce the harm suffered in our communities.

As part of the Dorset Police monthly Tactical CAROLE<sup>2</sup> Group meeting there is a dip sample of the two of the children from the most at-risk list group. This is designed to scrutinise the multiagency response to the child, enable each agency present to consider their flagging of the child and to ensure that there is appropriate attendance and suitable safety planning at MACE meetings. The BCP CAROLE Group focuses more broadly on the themes to improve the safeguarding of Exploited Children.

The Multi-agency Child Exploitation Chairs toolkit was developed with oversight from the CAROLE Group. The direction and work of the CAROLE Group will be dependent on the updated Child Exploitation Strategy. It is anticipated the once the areas for improvement are identified a task and finish group will be convened in pursuit of the aims.

Information is shared by the Dorset Police IMPACT team in respect of the pursue work completed for child exploitation. This includes an update on the current County Lines operating in Dorset and intelligence requirements from partners.

During 2021/22 Dorset Police underwent two HMIC Child Protection Inspections. The first of which in April 2021 identified eight areas of development for the Force and prompted an inspection in April 2022. On reinspection it was noted the Forces leadership have demonstrated a strong commitment and resourcing to making widespread improvements in child protection. There remains work to improve the response at a tactical level around investigative standards but on the whole children are being made safer.

**DORSET CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUP**   
**Dorset**  
*Clinical Commissioning Group*

Health have continued to work alongside colleagues in Dorset and BCP Councils and Dorset Police to undertake our statutory duties to safeguard children and young people.

Within health we have developed a revised quality assurance framework to ensure that learning from statutory reviews is embedded and outcomes are achieved. In General Practice, a quality framework for assurance has now been in place for two years and significant improvements have been made to safeguarding reports by Primary Care. The new quality assurance framework across health will provide the

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<sup>2</sup> CAROLE - Children at Risk of or Linked to Exploitation (CAROLE) tactical group

evidence that learning has been embedded and how outcomes are being met. The framework is cyclical allowing opportunity to reflect on the findings and amend as necessary.

Agreed processes are in place to escalate any concerns regarding the safeguarding system, which is shared to all Partners and has improved working practice. The Dorset Insight and Intelligence Service are working with all Partners to develop a population-based safeguarding dashboard across pan-Dorset.

The Children in Care Team engage with children and young people regularly attending a variety of forums to ensure their voices are heard. All health settings are required to distribute feedback forms to all users to provide opportunity to share their views and make changes to improve services. Health supported the BCP questionnaire for families attending Child Protection Reviews regarding neglect.

Health partners have been active participants in practitioner events and have received positive feedback for their contribution. They have also fed back how positive the experience has been for them in reflecting on practice and challenging their thoughts and views.

The number of statutory discussions has increased over the last year which has impacted on the workforce and how work is prioritised. Helpful multi-agency discussions have taken place to clarify processes and procedures.

There have been significant demands on mental health and well-being services throughout Covid with the impact of social isolation affecting some children more than others. The increase in domestic abuse incidents also impacted on workload, some universal services were unable to provide face-to-face contact throughout the pandemic and the impact of this has yet to be fully understood.

The place-based arrangements provide the opportunity to respond to population health need across pan-Dorset, this will inevitably provide a more focused service for those requiring services.

Health continues to support Dorset and BCP Councils in response to the two ILACS inspections this year. As the Clinical Commissioning Group (Integrated Children's Board from July 2022) move into 2022/2023 the quality assurance of GP Reports will be undertaken in partnership with both Councils monthly.

## BOURNEMOUTH, CHRISTCHURCH, AND POOLE COUNCIL



### Children's Social Care

Since the ILACS inspection in December 2021, where BCP Children's Services was judged inadequate, further commitment has been made against the Statutory Direction from the Secretary of State, as has the Corporate Management Board to the improvement journey. Improvement Board has been put in place and membership extends to all partners and members of the Children's Senior Leadership Team. The Improvement Board is chaired by a new DfE Advisor, John Coughlan, and the improvement work is supported by Hampshire County Council with a wider Partners in Practice remit. A permanent Director of Children's Services, Cathi Hadley was appointed in February 2022.

At an operational level there are several developments to improve multi-agency working. Multi-agency governance of the MASH is undertaken through operational and strategic boards, which review data and analysis to assess performance. Multi-agency, weekly collaborative auditing has now been developed to provide a more qualitative understanding of practice. The MASH Operating Manual is currently being reviewed, to avoid and reduce unnecessary delay and drift in progressing contacts within 24 hours.

The Pan-Dorset Child Protection protocol is also now in place which confirms the commitment of health colleagues to the CP process, agrees a quality assurance process of compliance and quality of GP reports to conferences.

Complex Safeguarding teams and the wider service use the Exploitation Team Around the Child (ETAC) model for the assessment, planning and review of multi-agency intervention and disruption. A missing tracker is reviewed monthly to identify frequent and persistent missing children, together with performance in the timely completion of return home interviews.

Return Home Interviews are monitored by a Missing Co-ordinator, who assesses both quality and engagement. The service now has a Gold and Silver Command structure between the CST and Dorset Police, and has embedded the 3Ps model: Prosecution, Protection and Prevention.

BCP is committed to hear and respond to the voice of children, young people, and families. BCP Children's Services commissioned CORAM to run a Bright Spots survey with children in care aged 4 to 18-years-old between February and May 2021 to seek views on their well-being. 168 children responded which represents 44% of looked after population. An action plan has been completed and the 'You said We Did' progress is now being shared with and monitored by young people.

There is an engagement and participation offer for children in care and care leavers (aged 11 to 24-years-old). Children participate in the recruitment and retention of key management and social worker posts, recently including the permanent Director of Education, Director of Quality, Performance Improvement and Governance and Director of Safeguarding and Early Help.

Two key forums UNITE (Children in Care Council) and INSIGHT (Care Leavers) are an invaluable source of feedback and learning. Officers and managers alike consult and find the feedback to be mature and grounding.

The Corporate Parenting Board is co-chaired by members from UNITE and INSIGHT who directly support the Board in measuring and monitoring the effectiveness and quality of Corporate Parenting in BCP. Children and young people have been influential in developing formal and informal meetings to ensure their voices are heard listened to and acted upon, an example being the development of the Care Leavers Hub.

Children and young people requiring an advocate are supported to access this. Children report good relationships with their advocate who effectively represent children's views clearly at meetings. There have been no complaints regarding any advocate practice.

Feedback from a recent consultation of children and young people report an overall positive experience. All the young people reported good relations with their social worker. A parent also commented in respect of social workers, "Some have built good working relationships with the children and that has always been worth it -the children appear to have benefited from this". The impact of the turnover of social workers has had a negative impact on some children and young people, "When I was 14 there were so many different SWs it was annoying having to keep telling your story". Some feedback evidence positive impact: "the current social worker makes our family happy we love it when she visits everyone is happy".

Further activity is taking place to help raise young people's awareness of the health offer available to them. A Children's Services newsletter is dedicating one edition to 'Know Your Rights about Health'.

Children's Services is working hard to build confidence within the workforce and engage with frontline staff. The Progress (staff) Forum has been in place for 12 months and feedback is to focus on caseloads, more supervision, less paperwork, converting agency staff to permanent, work flexibility, stabilise the management team, increase communication, and give greater clarity on the vision and values. The Progress

Forum is an inclusive platform where staff can choose to participate as and when they need to, whether it's attending a workshop or completing the surveys. The Progress Forum is currently producing its first annual report and the results from the five surveys.

The latest corporate staff engagement survey took place in December 2021. Comments from the survey heavily centred around the desire of staff to return to the workplace to have face to face contact with colleagues and teams. BCP Council has a Return-to-Work plan, and the first phase has recently opened the new BCP Civic Centre with a Children's Services dedicated hot-desking space and local office spaces spread around the conurbation for Children's Services staff.

Towards the end of the year, a new governance structure for governance, improvement, quality assurance and partnerships were put in place with the focus on improving quality assurance of social care. This will be widened out across Children's Services once embedded. As well as assisting with understanding the quality of the service for children, young people and their families, this will strengthen the learning from CSPR, local reviews and other partnership quality assurance.

The priorities for BCP Children's Services in 2022/2023 is to stabilise the workforce, which is being achieved through the workforce development strategy and improving the impact and outcomes for young people through quality assurance and practice improvement.

### **Early Years Services**

The Early Years Quality Improvement Specialist for Safeguarding ensures the development of multiagency working with wider partners within BCP, across Dorset and the Southwest continues. The Quality Improvement Specialist and Early Years team are responsible for continually raising awareness of the early years sector and the significant role they play in safeguarding children.

Regular links with the Pan Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership are maintained, including being a part of campaigns and awareness-raising, and contributions to multi-agency audits and questionnaires.

The Early Years Quality Improvement Specialist for Safeguarding and the Early Years and Childcare Advisors provide support to all BCP early years providers: nurseries, pre-schools, childminders and out of school provision.

Intensive and focused safeguarding support for settings with 'inadequate' and 'requires improvement' Ofsted inspection outcomes is provided. Some examples of this includes a detailed improvement plan put in place, which will include the identified Ofsted actions, other agreed areas of improvement, regular visits to the provision, observations of practice, clear understanding of when they have been achieved and what that looks like in practice, and a signed agreement to complete the actions by all the stakeholders in the provision.

The impact of the above is timely and effective action to safeguard children, and the development of skills and knowledge and safeguarding compliance by the early years' providers. Examples of this include increases in effective information sharing and multi-agency working, effective and timely referrals, attendance and inclusion at Early Years meetings and conferences, a growing range of early support for children, families, and professionals, and a growing number of opportunities for Early Years services to be represented in future campaigns plans and actions.

The Early Years' service provides a range of safeguarding training courses for providers including foundation safeguarding, neglect, and effective recording and the roles and responsibilities of Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL). which included during 2021/2022 neglect and effective safeguarding recording. The impact of training is observed through practice and evaluations, which are completed after each training session and the feedback used when reviewing the content and delivery of the courses.

The BCP Early Years team supports early years providers to ensure the voice of the child and their families are heard and supported through supporting providers to provide effective timely safeguarding practice. Examples of this are through identifying concerns, discussions about their concerns, and using the PDSCP escalation policy.

Practitioner engagement and feedback is regularly encouraged through DSL forums and discussion groups take place regularly with early years providers. Engagement and feedback are actively encouraged through discussions, during visits, phone call and emails. Practitioner engagement provides the opportunity for providers to link with other professionals and provisions to share ideas and examples of good practice. This continuous engagement provides the opportunity for open dialogue to ensure providers can share issues they face and feel their voices can be heard.

BCP Early Years has safeguarding webpages on the BCP website, and a regular newsletter is sent to providers on a fortnightly basis with a section dedicated to safeguarding; special edition newsletters are also sent out to be able to share information as and when needed. Examples include updates to statutory guidance, legislation and/or BCP guidance documents, changes to key professionals and teams, and awareness of key issues, including dog safety, water safety and safer sleeping guidance.

Learning from local and national case reviews is shared with early years providers and the Early Years team. We recently shared the National review into the murders of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes and Star Hobson and gave recommendations for areas of practice to review.

An Annual Safeguarding and inclusion self-assessment tool are provided to all BCP early years providers. This enables them to review their safeguarding arrangements on a regular basis and supports them to meet their safeguarding duties and responsibilities. Once completed they are reviewed by the Early Years team and any areas of identified development are discussed with the provider and support provided by the

Early Years team. This may include observations of practice, telephone calls to gain further clarification about information provided and signposting.

The Early Years team and early years providers quickly adapted practice to reduce the impacts from Covid. Providers continue to make regular contact with families who were not able to attend and keep close links with professionals. Challenges faced by our providers included maintaining contact with families and finding ways to manage staffing issues and barriers to accessing services. Virtual meetings and virtual training also provided some challenges at times. Regular contact continued with providers and during lockdowns this increased to a minimum of weekly to ensure providers were supported virtually and face to face where appropriate.

The Early years team and early years providers continue to work to address the impacts from Covid for children and their families. This includes identifying any delays in child development, financial difficulties, health, social and safeguarding issues.

Early years providers are inspected by Ofsted. (The figures below do not include out of school provision) Currently 100% of BCP providers are graded effective for safeguarding and over 96% are graded good or outstanding.

The plans and priorities for the Early Years team for the year ahead (2022/2023) include:

- Supporting practice development as required for Early Years providers, providing training, the continual review of practice and provision of bespoke support
- Continue to develop the support packages for out of school provisions
- Continue to work with the PDSCP and BCP Committee on agreed priorities
- Continue to grow the links with partners and the Early Years team to support effective safeguarding practice and to raise awareness of the significant role the Early Years team have in safeguarding

Training packages currently being developed for delivery in 2022/2023 include effective referrals, reintroduction of supervision for early years, safeguarding induction, PPN and MARAC workshops and chronology workshops.

### **Safeguarding in Education**

BCP has two Education Safeguarding Advisors (advisors) who work in close working partnership with all education settings and all multi-agency partners. The advisors are members of many multi-agency working groups, such as School Watch, Operation Encompass, Prevent, Complex Safeguarding, Harmful Sexual Behaviour Working Party, School Monitoring Group, and Early Help Management Group Resources. The advisors represent the views of schools and the local college and share areas of strength, good practice, issues, and concerns from education settings with partners for discussion. Minutes and discussion outcomes are disseminated to education settings by the advisors, via



forums and newsletters. The advisors also work in close partnership with Dorset Police for the 'School Watch' procedures and with colleagues from across BCP, such as the LADO, Early Years Safeguarding Lead, Education Officer in the MASH, BCP SEND team and Pan-Dorset Partnership Business Manager. This includes promoting effective working relationships between settings and other agencies, such as Social Care, promoting the use of the escalation policy and increasing awareness and understanding of the roles and responsibilities of all agencies and liaison with Early Help partners and the MASH/Assessment team to support the development of services (e.g., the BCP Navigator scheme) 11 BCP schools have received an external Ofsted inspection visit with 10 school graded as 'Good' (April 21 – March 22). DSLs share their experiences of Ofsted inspections with their colleagues at the DSL forums. Ofsted also provides an avenue for parents to raise a complaint about a school. 20 Ofsted complaints were received between April 2021 and March 2022 relating to BCP Schools. (13 different schools, with some repeat complaints from the same person). All Ofsted complaints received by BCP Council are acted upon and in accordance with the level of consent. Any trends or themes are noted and are used to direct attention to the area for reflection and development in the settings and where possible at the forums as a learning opportunity for all DSLs. The advisors have seen an increase in the number of Ofsted complaints where there has been a 'consent to share'. This has led to challenge and review by BCP Council, items as key learning opportunities and offers of support from other teams at BCP (e.g., behaviour, anti-bullying support, exclusion issues).

Some good examples of the work of the BCP advisors includes:

- Annual up-dates to and promoting of local guidance documents, local audit tool in line with Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSiE); available on the PDSCP website
- Further development of our safeguarding leaflet into different languages, (this year into Ukrainian and Afghanistan languages) to respond to new cultural groups joining our schools
- Promoting developments from other teams during the DSL forums e.g., navigator role, school mental health support
- Audit discussions and outcomes ensure involvement of children and parents (e.g., safeguarding questionnaires, school council agenda, school governor involvement, parent workshops, parent forums, training offers)
- 2 online forums for DSLs held each term
- Anti-bullying Forums are held termly linking to the Anti bullying Alliance national United against bullying project
- Governor training and annual briefing provided by the ESAs
- A Questionnaire to all DSLs regarding harmful sexual behaviour in schools. Included feedback on requirements for further development of services. Data analysed by BCP senior team.
- Operation Encompass processes to move forward to PRONTO where reports should be received by the school before the child attends school
- MARAC – reviewing how schools are more directly involved in this process in knowing the outcomes for their children



Dorset Council continues to ensure the lives of our residents are as good as they can be. With this in mind, we continually improve the services we deliver and commission to improve outcomes and ensure that every child and young person in Dorset has the best childhood possible. Dorset has worked with partners to develop and deliver a Children, Young People and Families' Plan 2020-23 which improves outcomes for our children, young people and families in Dorset. The Plan has clear governance arrangements reporting into strategic boards and member committees to ensure transparency and oversight, celebrating the success of positive impact where this is made.

Following our full ILACS inspection in September and October of 2021, we've progressed our partnership improvement plans, working through our Strengthening Services Board, which is the local delivery function of the PDSCP. Ofsted rated Dorset as "Good" with "Outstanding" leadership in its [published Report in November 2021](#). The Strengthening Services Board is the local delivery arm for the Dorset area in the Pan-Dorset partnership, chaired by the Chief Executive of Dorset Council with representatives at executive level across the partners. The Board meet every 6-weeks to ensure progress and impact on the actions in the Plan are translating into improved outcomes for children and young people. The Highlight Report from each Board is shared with the PDSCP Executive Team every month to enable strategic oversight.

In 2021 we embedded our fully integrated locality approach which is showing positive impact in school inclusion, Early Help and Social Work practice.

We have opened new Children's Homes, enabling us to keep our children and young people in Dorset, closer to their homes, families and friends. We have also delivered a grow-your-own approach to developing social workers and future leaders.

All of this has had a real impact on improving outcomes for our children and young people.

### **Context for Dorset**

Dorset Council area population is 379,791 - 28% of whom are aged 65 and older (national 18%) with 74,305 children and young people aged 0-24 representing 20% of the total population. We have low birth rates and historically many working age young people have left the area.

The beautiful landscapes of Dorset can conceal hidden challenges: there are some significant areas of deprivation, mostly in urban areas (mainly Weymouth and Portland). Ten areas in Dorset are within the top 20% nationally for high levels of multiple deprivation, nine of these within Weymouth and Portland.

There is also rural deprivation due to isolation and difficulty accessing housing, transport and essential services. The Children's Society estimates that approximately 23% of Dorset Children are living in poverty.

There are 47,946 children from Reception to Year 14 in Dorset. The population is predominantly white British, with 4.4% of our residents from black and minority ethnic groups, rising to 8% for children of school age. We have 159 Schools, Academies, Maintained and Free. 77% of our children are educated in schools that are judged good or better by Ofsted – 83% of children with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) are educated in schools that are judged good or better by Ofsted.

Crime is generally low in Dorset as are first time entrants into the Youth Justice System and this is an improving picture. Employment is high but earnings are below average and house prices are high with affordability issues for many young people and keyworkers.

### Early Help

Dorset has published an Early Help Strategy, which is commended in Ofsted's Inspection Report, "Children receive the help that they need at the right time. Families benefit from a broad range of Early Help services, tailored to their needs and in the places where they live. Partnership working is well developed, offering a range of options that build on family's strengths and which can be provided without delay."

Early Help is the total support that improves a family's resilience and outcomes or reduces the chance of a problem getting worse. We understand the importance of high-quality universal services as an important foundation of early help, building children, young people and family resilience. We are committed to providing help and support in communities, so that we are embedded in the places where families live, learn and thrive and alongside partners who want the best for our children. We recognise that an effective early help system is entirely reliant on strong relationships across the whole system as well as with our children, young people and families.

Our vision for Early Help is that we want our children to thrive. We believe that early help is an approach as much as it is a set of services and an offer for our families. To be effective, early help needs to be embedded in thinking and action across the system so that our children and families can say, "I got the help I needed, when I needed it". In Dorset, we have a strong commitment to early help across our partnership. We want our communities that wrap around children and families and provide opportunities for help and support, from conception to career. We believe we all have a role to play in helping families with the right support at the right time and that we can build and draw on existing community assets to create a system that helps our children to thrive.

## Safeguarding in Education Offer to Schools

Within the Quality Assurance and Partnerships Team in Dorset Council we have created additional capacity to provide the strategic leadership and oversight of the education safeguarding offer by building in an additional Service Manager Post to our structure. In addition to this we employ Safeguarding and Standards Advisors who have discreet specialisms. These consist of:

- Safeguarding and Standards Advisor - Designated Officers (LADO), who provides support, advice and guidance to schools (along with other partners) when allegations have been made against adults working with children who are either employed by or who provide services on a voluntary basis for the school.
- Safeguarding and Standards Advisor – Schools, who provide dedicated support to education settings regarding safeguarding.
- Safeguarding and Standards Advisor – SEND, who focusses on the development of Quality Assurance of SEND

The Safeguarding and Standards Advisors - Schools and LADO are qualified social workers with extensive safeguarding and child protection experience who have access to a wide range of professional expertise and professional relationships with other agencies.

### Managing allegations

When allegations are made against adults working with children who are either employed by, or who provide services on a voluntary basis for education settings, the LADO will support them through the management of allegations process offering support and guidance. The Safeguarding and Standards Advisor - Schools will be invited to the allegations meeting by the LADO so that the education settings can be supported with their safety planning and pick up on any recurrent trends or themes relating to schools.

### Closing the loop – Learning from audits and reviews

There is a strong link with the Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership (PDSCP) and where actions or learnings are identified for specific education settings through a Child Safeguarding Practice Review (CSPR), or other multi-agency audits, the Safeguarding and Standards Advisor - Schools will support the education setting with the development of an action plan which is tracked and monitored through the PDSCP CSPR group.

The Safeguarding and Standards Advisor will also support schools with other Safeguarding Partnership developments or projects such as Operation Encompass, which is a police and education early information safeguarding partnership enabling schools to offer immediate support to children experiencing domestic abuse.

Where learning or recurrent themes are identified relating to safeguarding more generally across education settings, this will either be incorporated into the current training courses offered, or bespoke training may be developed if required working closely with the PDSCP.

The 175/157 audit is an annual safeguarding audit that the team sends to all schools in Dorset in September to gain assurance that schools are discharging their statutory safeguarding duties compliantly and to highlight where this may need strengthening.

The Safeguarding and Standards Advisor – Schools, provide feedback to the schools on their audit, highlighting any specific safeguarding issues, supporting with completion of an action plan, then monitoring and tracking progress until completion of all actions, which may include a follow up visit. This work will in turn provide the education setting with assurance that they are fulfilling their statutory duties through this external validation, which also supports schools to demonstrate robust safeguarding procedures to Ofsted.

### Safeguarding Complaints about education settings

All safeguarding complaints about education settings reported to Children’s Services, which include by Ofsted, or the Department for Education are investigated by the Safeguarding and Standards Advisor - Schools. Where actions are identified, they support the education setting with the completion of an action plan to address any areas for improvement.

Where schools have received a ‘Requires Improvement’ or an ‘Inadequate’ judgement from Ofsted in relation to safeguarding, they will be offered support from the Safeguarding and Standards Advisor - Schools which will take the form of a visit to support completion of an action plan to address the areas for improvement identified.

### School Watch

A ‘School Watch’ is in place within the localities, this is when the police may wish to highlight an urgent safeguarding risk that they feel relevant education settings need to be aware of. This is a system of mechanised telephone calls between schools, each receiving information and passing to the next, culminating in the last school on the list advising the team when they receive confirmation of receipt of the information. This provides a speedy cascade of information sharing to education settings that may be affected by safeguarding concerns in their community that the police have identified.

Work is due to commence with mainstream schools (as commissioners of alternative provision) and providers of alternative provision, to enhance staff knowledge in recognising and responding to safeguarding concerns, this will include development of risk assessments supporting decision making for individual children. This will also include the development of a safeguarding self-assessment, with an external quality assurance approach for alternative provision, with a focus on the risks associated with children experiencing extra-familial harm and how this is recognised and responded to.

The Safeguarding Advisor and the Education Challenge Leads in the Localities work together liaising when there are safeguarding issues that relate to their schools. We will be strengthening these links to ensure that the Safeguarding Advisor has a far broader understanding across Dorset of safeguarding themes and patterns for schools that will better inform their offer of support and training available to schools across Dorset.

## Training offer

Training has been developed in addition to the training provided by the Partnership and all materials and training content is reviewed and updated by the Safeguarding and Standards Advisor - Schools in line with any updates in legislation or statutory guidance such as Keeping Children Safe in Education or Working Together to Safeguard Children with further oversight regarding quality of training and materials by the Dorset Council Practice, Policy and Procedure Group.

## **Quality Assurance**

To ensure that social work in the Dorset area delivers the impact required. Quality Assurance teams have continued to monitor the quality of social work practice, policies and procedures in place. Regular, monthly reporting to senior managers and leadership across the council is embedded and enables rapid changes to policy, practice and procedures where required.

A local Multi-Agency Quality of Practice and Action Group (MAQPAG) brings partners across the system together to ensure joined-up and clear actions are delivered across the partnership, feeding into embedded governance reporting.

A series of toolkits has been developed and cascaded to the workforce to enable efficient and effective practice. Regular weekly communications are shared across the partnership with team meetings and supervision monitoring review of updated information, advice and guidance for policy, procedure and practice.

Quality Assurance embraces all activity that contributes to quality of practice and service improvement and helps us to understand how effectively services are being delivered to keep children safe. This is evidenced through:

- Audits
- Dip Samples
- Practice week
- Feedback from children and families
- Observations of practice
- Multi agency audits
- Themed Reviews
- Closing the learning loop



Quality Assurance also collates feedback from children, young people and families and progresses changes to policy, process, and practice through Dorset's local area arrangements. This function is being strengthened through the development of Family Hubs and the Family Advisory Group work.

## **5. DORSET AND BOURNEMOUTH, CHRISTCHURCH, AND POOLE SUBGROUP CONTRIBUTIONS**

### **BCP SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN COMMITTEE**

The BCP Safeguarding Children Committee is the BCP delivery arm of the PDSCP. It meets every six weeks and is responsible for promoting outstanding practice in the way that agencies work together to protect children and young people within the BCP area. The first meeting of the Committee was held in June 2021 and work during the year has focused on developing robust terms of reference, a standing agenda, strengthening governance and reporting from BCP subgroups, all of which drive the work of the Committee.

Plans for 2022/2023 are to develop a BCP area safeguarding children delivery plan informed by local data and learning and linked to the PDSCP priorities and challenges.

### **PDSCP CHALLENGE AND SCRUTINY TASK AND FINISH GROUP**

At its meeting in March 2022 the PDSCP agreed for there to be individual area-based quality assurance groups, recognising that this would better meet the needs of the diverse populations of both areas, and allow for a better understanding of local context. These separate arrangements will be kept under review and standardised as much as possible across the two areas.

The PDCSP Challenge and Scrutiny Task and Finish Group were reformed as the BCP area-based Quality Assurance Group and Dorset area-based Quality Assurance Group.

The area-based groups are accountable to the local BCP Safeguarding Committee and the local Dorset Strengthening Services for Children and Families Board. They are established to provide assurance that appropriate and effective quality assurance mechanisms are in place and effective.

## **BCP AREA-BASED QUALITY ASSURANCE GROUP**

In the year ahead the BCP Quality Assurance Group will develop its work plan for 2022/2023 and propose a program of work to the BCP Child Safeguarding Committee based on agreed priorities.

The Group will review and amend its terms of reference and membership to reflect the changes in local operational delivery and will develop a quality assurance framework and review its area-based data set and performance scorecard.

## **BCP AND DORSET CHILD SAFEGUARDING PRACTICE REVIEW GROUPS (CSPR)**

During 2021 there was a shift from a Pan Dorset approach for managing child safeguarding practice reviews to place-based arrangements in the two Local Authority areas. Both groups have the same chairperson which provides consistency across the two areas and has provided the opportunity for multi-agency partners to review the terms of reference and membership of each group. Group members are all experienced safeguarding practitioners who hold each other to account and challenge where appropriate.

There were three CSPR's initiated in Dorset Council and one in Bournemouth, Christchurch, and Poole Council (BCP), and a thematic learning review in both Dorset and BCP, where there was significant engagement with the family, community, Dorset Police and BCP Council.

CSPR Reports can be found here: <https://pdscp.co.uk/working-with-children/serious-case-reviews/>

A further case was considered and agreed to be managed through the Child Death Overview Panel and one case is currently sitting within the criminal arena.

In addition, Dorset CSPR Group has been involved in two out of area cases; a young girl who appeared to have taken her own life and a sudden and unexpected infant death, in which neglect was a feature.

Of interest though has been national learning from other areas.

Detail about the learning from multi-agency case reviews is in the Reflection section – learning from Practice (page x).



## **DORSET AREA-BASED MULTI-AGENCY QUALITY AND PERFORMANCE ACTION GROUP (MAQPAG)**

MAQPAG is Dorset's place-based quality assurance group. This has enabled a focus on the key partnership arrangements for children in Dorset and to support place-based focus of audit and improvements to the quality of practice. One of the key areas identified from this work was our response to families where domestic abuse is a factor, where risks were seen to be heightened by Covid-enforced isolation. The Domestic Abuse toolkit is a Dorset Multi agency toolkit for all front-line practitioners and the take up and use of this was evidenced in the children's services Ofsted inspection.

The quality assurance of the partnership has enabled identification of areas for improvement both as a partnership and individual partners. A particular focus has been Child Exploitation' a partnership audit for this will be available in July 22 along with publication of our updated strategy.

The Partnership has during this year been supported through a commissioned service to consider child and family feedback along with participation from them to ensure we have focus on the areas that are important to them. A governance process around this has now been implemented and the partnership continues to prioritise this area of the work. We had some powerful feedback from some of our children who have additional needs. As a result, direct learning and action was progressed to facilitate changes in practice. The partnership has also recently become part of the children's service practice observation week twice a year. This enables us as leaders to learn from observation of our partnership front-line work with children and families to build on good practice and support improvements. Action plans are then progressed through the Multi Agency Quality Assurance Group (MAQPAG) and governance arrangements.

Children's services have developed a sexual abuse toolkit for practitioners. A recent local CSPR recommended that this be adopted by the full PDSCP. Work has already commenced, and it is planned that we will have a Pan Dorset sexual abuse toolkit available by December 2022.

The development of several multi-agency toolkits means front line practitioners have one dedicated resource for practical guidance, access to services and research for each topic. The toolkits also mean that practitioners can give children and families consistent access to quality information and support when they need it. We have also worked on further initiatives such as the DRIVE<sup>3</sup> programme and the Family Courts Pathfinder, which aims to make family's experience of court less adversarial.

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<sup>3</sup> DRIVE - The Drive Partnership works across the domestic abuse specialist sector, public sector partners and beyond to develop sustainable, national systems in England and Wales that respond effectively to all perpetrators of domestic abuse.

All parts of the partnership have had some form of inspection, the ILACS identified the strength of our front door arrangements but also highlighted the need to strengthen the process around strategy discussions. Police have also had a HMIC inspection and areas for improvement addressed which are heard and monitored through progress updates to the MA QPAG. We will look to oversee any further plans required. We have reviewed our Children's Services Quality Assurance Framework; we are now undertaking a peer review of safeguarding in education. We have recently published our safeguarding in schools offer and want to enhance this further and link to wider work within the partnership in a co-ordinated approach to support schools more broadly.

Future partnership working to implement Safeguarding Families Together has also been supported by committee and the partnership to implement a pilot in the Portland and Weymouth area. This will bring together adult practitioners to support a more holistic approach to working with families to manage risk and reduce children coming into care or subject to child protection plans.

### **DORSET MULTI-AGENCY SAFEGUARDING HUB**

Dorset MASH partners continued to work well together during Covid – Dorset Council Children's Services MASH arrangements, sits within the Children's Advice & Duty Service and the MASH model is a virtual one. We have continued to strengthen our multi-agency working practices, with 6 weekly MASH Operational meetings, 3 monthly MASH Strategic Group meetings and weekly audit/themes meetings. This has enabled us to provide a co-ordinated response when required, continue to develop, and strengthen practice where required and to learn from the audits to promote learning.

The Dorset Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub is capturing the voice of children, young people, and their families through direct feedback. This includes the child's likely lived experience in decision-making, analysing the referral detail, history, risks, and strengths, to consider the likely impact of this for the child and their lived experience. This is central to decision-making, keeping the child at the heart of what is done, to ensure that right from our initial contact with families, the child is at the centre of practice.

The Dorset MASH continue to audit decision-making and information sharing with our statutory partners and meets weekly to confirm outcomes, themes and identify areas of good practice and development. Audit templates identify themes to focus on within the referral and decision-making process, for example: consent or involvement of fathers.

Learning from case reviews is taken forwards, within our partnerships to understand how this learning can be applied to strengthen decision-making and identify safeguarding needs and risks at the Front Door. This includes understanding the child's rights, lived experience and needs, with the aim of the child and their family receiving the right service, first time.

Safeguarding practices within the Dorset MASH continue to be developed, using learning from audits, conversations with partners and a review of the current MASH arrangements. This has led, to a task & finish group, which currently remains in place, to look at how we promote decision-making within the MASH, what good practice looks like, how will we get there, what support do we need to get there and how we will know when we are achieving this.

Our Consultant Social Workers have supported with Vulnerability and Safeguarding training with our Dorset Police colleagues. We continue to work closely with our Dorset MASH partners and contribute where required to training and development needs in respect of safeguarding and good practice.

Ofsted Children's Services inspection report published in November 2021, noted – The 'front door' provides a calm, well-organised service, where timely and appropriate decisions are made about how to protect and support children most effectively. Parental consent is obtained if appropriate, and families are not subjected to statutory intervention unnecessarily. However, when children are, or may be, at risk of significant harm, social workers investigate quickly, with the support of key partners, including Police, when needed.

Early Help triage process will be amalgamated into the Dorset MASH creating one central contact point and consistency in decision-making at the front door for all contacts and referrals.

## **DORSET CHILD EXPLOITATION STRATEGIC GROUP**

The Dorset Child Exploitation Strategic Group meets on a quarterly basis and has oversight of the work of the Children at Risk of or Linked to Exploitation (CAROLE) tactical group and the Child Exploitation (CE) action plan.

During 20221 the contextual safeguarding toolkit was developed and implemented across the Dorset Council area. Multi Agency training was delivered between May and Sept 2021. Additional training has been delivered by Target Youth Workers to local businesses, RNLI, schools, libraries, youth clubs and the Voluntary and Community Sector.

We have embedded Youth at Risk meetings within each locality area, with good engagement from partners to identify emerging risks of exploitation and extra familial harm and explore how we can make contexts safer for young people.

Funding has been accessed from the Covid Recovery fund to support additional capacity from the voluntary and community sector to support an outreach youth worker in each of our locality areas. Outreach youth work has been effective in developing relationships with young people and identifying emerging concerns which can be addressed through our contextual safeguarding approach.

We have embedded Child Exploitation Champions across all our localities and some central services and hold monthly meetings to share information around key themes, areas of concerns, work being undertaken by Targeted youth workers and feedback from and to CAROLE and CE Strategic Group.

We have worked with Dorset Council's licencing team to ensure that the new licencing policy for taxi drivers includes safeguarding training including child exploitation; this must be completed on registration and yearly to maintain licence.

We have strengthened our approach to children in care who are placed in Dorset by other councils, particularly in unregulated homes, by ensuring that when notification is received, full details of any child exploitation risks are requested by our Children's Advice and Duty Service (ChAD), and these are shared with the Targeted Youth Worker for the locality the child is placed. This has been particularly helpful in the Chesil area where high risk young people have been placed in unregulated post-16 provisions where high-risk young people have been placed by other Local Authorities. The Targeted youth worker has been able to make proactive approaches to the placements, so that we can support disruption.

The Partnership has worked with the Tackling Child Exploitation Project led by Research in Practice and The Children's Society to consider how we can strengthen our work with young people to ensure their lived experiences are understood and that we work with young people and families to inform our next strategic plan.

We are seeking feedback from parents/ carers and young people as part of the PDSCP criminal exploitation audit which will inform our next action plan and strategy.

Following the Multi Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) audit undertaken in March 2022 we reviewed the MACE process and developed a chairs toolkit. We also now have Quality Assurance Reviewing Officers chairing MACE meetings for those children identified to be at significant risk of child exploitation. This has improved timeliness of reviews, strengthened action planning and reduced risks more quickly.

During 2022 the PDSCP Dorset Learning Hub has undertaken a multi-agency child exploitation audit which will be concluded in September 2022. Our priority for the year ahead is to conclude this audit to inform a new child exploitation strategy and action plan for 2023 onward.

## 6. PERFORMANCE DATA

### BCP COUNCIL

The number of children identified as at risk of exploitation has stabilised in the latter part of the year, with 88 children on the profile at the end of March 2022. This includes 27 children experiencing harm from exploitation (including 13 children in care), 36 at risk of harm from exploitation (including 13 children in care) and a further 25 children with potential concerns (including 6 children in care). There were 564 missing episodes in Quarter 4, an increase of 20.3% compared to the previous quarter. This fell month on month to 175 episodes in March 2022 involving 88 children (23 children in care). 92.0% of missing episodes required a return home interview, with 78.9% completed. 86.6% of those completed were within 3 working days – the highest performance seen in the last 12 months. 3 unaccompanied asylum-seeking children were missing at the end of March.

Complex Safeguarding teams and wider service use the Exploitation Team Around the Child (ETAC) model for the assessment, planning and review of multi-agency intervention and disruption. A missing tracker is reviewed monthly to identify frequent and persistent missing children, together with performance in the timely completion of return home interviews. Return Home Interviews are monitored by a Missing Co-ordinator, who assesses both quality and engagement. The service now has a Gold and Silver Command structure between the CST and Dorset Police, and has embedded the 3Ps model: Prosecution, Protection, and Prevention.

We continue to see a high number of Children in Need (CIN) with a further increase of 4% at the end of Quarter 3. Timely recording of visits to children and general case recording remains a challenge in the Safeguarding Service. Staff are providing assurance that they are undertaking visits and seeing children within the required frequency, however due to high caseloads they are not able to keep up with case recordings. At the end of March 2022, 89.7% of children in need had been seen in accordance with their plan. There is high level of daily, weekly, and monthly management scrutiny applied to ensure case recording and visits frequency are adhered to, and this remains a priority area.

Several agency social workers in the Children and Families First service resigned in April 2022, in part due to rising accommodation costs. Various options including Bournemouth University accommodation and deals with local hotels are being explored. The level of agency staff in this part of the service continues to be a concern.

## DORSET COUNCIL

### What is working well?

**% Children in Care being placed closer to home:** At the end of June, for the first time since November 2020 we have seen a drop to under 40% of our children in care placed 20 miles or more from home. Recruitment of foster carers remains a national issue that is also experienced in Dorset. However, in Dorset we continue to strive to make use of in-house local placements for our children. Operational staff and commissioning continue to work closely to ensure placements are in the community's our children have grown up in. This is positive for our children but may carry additional pressures on partnership resource to carry out the necessary statutory health checks.

**Annual Health Assessments for Children in Care:** At the end of June, timeliness of annual health assessments was above 90% for the first time since Covid. Children's Services continue to work closely with health colleagues to support ongoing improvement. Key developments to support the improving picture for these assessments are the increased capacity within the health service and the training that has been delivered by health recently. The training highlights the importance of review health assessments to health visiting staff and has moved from an annual rolling training program to 6 monthly. A further factor to improving performance is an improved escalation process within Dorset health for children placed out of county.

### Areas of Concern

**Missing:** We have seen a steady increase of missing incidents over Q1, and whilst not unexpected due to the approaching summer months, there is work progressing on how we can plan and reduce the number of missing incidents. There are also several our young people who have repeat missing episodes and we are developing a weekly missing meeting, in addition to the daily missing meeting. The focus for the weekly meeting will be on key young people where repeat missing episodes and associated contextual safeguarding risks have been identified, to inform support, care and risk management plans with the aim of working with the young person to reduce repeat missing episodes/contextual safeguarding risks. There is a clear focus within the partnership and measures either in place or being developed, to reduce not only the number of missing episodes but also how we work with the young person to inform multi-agency support plans and risk reduction.

**Initial Health Assessments for Children in Care:** Most consents for new children arriving in care are obtained within the agreed 5 working days (on May 8 out of 12, on June 7 out of 8) but Initial Health assessments are not being completed within the agreed 20 working days (in April 9%, May 14% had their IHA on time). Current data for June suggests that at least 25% of IHAs will have been held in time, with a potential for 50% on time, showing an improvement from previous months but with more work to do. Regular discussions and escalations are taking place with health to ensure this is resolved and we are starting to see improvements with our initial June data. There remain capacity concerns within health to meet the increasing demand from our predicted increase in unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.

**Increase on a Child Protection Plan:** Following an audit of 50 new children that came onto a plan in March, it was identified that 19 out of the 24 families (45 children) were appropriately started with a plan, whilst the remaining 5 families proceeded too quickly without alternative interventions first. We continue to monitor closely those identified for initial child protection conferences to ensure this is the most appropriate interventions. We are implementing a pilot of safeguarding families which will directly support a reduction of child protection numbers in the Chesil locality. Depending on the launch and success this may be rolled out wider and we continue to look at safe ways to reduce number of children on a plan.

**Care Leavers in Bed and Breakfast:** This has been an area of very close scrutiny for the council. We have seen the number of care leavers in bed and breakfast reduce to 2 (from 7 in April) and work is taking place with our Housing colleagues and holding exit planning meetings to ensure we bring this back down to 0 as soon as possible and to avoid further such arrangements.

### Understanding the trends

**Children in Care including Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children:** We continue to see a slight increase in the number of children coming into Dorset Council's care. Dorset Council is signed up to and part of the National Asylum-Seeking Children program and as part of this we continue to receive children into our care (during April and May 15 new children). It is likely that as we receive more children under this scheme that our overall children in care numbers will continue to increase. We continue to track children until they achieve permanence and are having a focused drive on reunification. Although overall numbers have risen, our numbers in care not including unaccompanied children have reduced since December (426 Dec to 419 June).

**Children in Need:** In Quarter 1 performance data we have seen a reduction in the rate of Children in Need. Dorset is still above the national average, but the direction of travel is good. Close focus has been paid to our data and child in need activity. Particular attention to the timeliness and impact of plans has taken place and there is further work to do with this. The focused attention to date will have contributed towards the reduction. Whilst we continue to see high demand and activity in some localities, as well as complexity, the focused attention on child in need planning, together with the maturity of our early help offer is resulting in reduction overall.

## DORSET CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUP

### What is working well?

- Fortnightly meetings with BCP and Police to escalate concerns quickly
- BCP QA group in development

- UASC IHA newly commissioned service
- Dorset Intelligence and insights service, good partners buy-in and momentum, BCP Council sharing of data.

### **Areas of Concern?**

- Partners response to the PDSCP risk register in a timely manner
- Critical incident notification process poorly understood by all agencies
- UASC capacity to respond to increasing numbers across all agencies in BCP area
- Transitioning to place-based arrangements / Pan-Dorset model

### **Understanding the trends**

- Increasing complexity of cases often including knife crime
- Partners response to sexual abuse / intrafamilial sexual abuse requires strengthening
- Children with complex needs / placement delays whilst in acute beds
- Increasing number of young people attending the emergency department for substance and alcohol misuse
- Safeguarding training compliance is improving following dip during covid

## **DORSET POLICE**

### **What is working well?**

HMIC returned to Dorset Police on 25th April 2022, for an update inspection regarding the force performance in child protection. The positive progress of the MASH was highlighted with good feedback on timeliness of referrals, prioritisation of risk, contextual information sharing for children's lived experience, partnership working across agencies in daily meetings and onward strategic boards.

### **Areas of Concern**

The triggers for multi-agency strategy meetings/professional meetings regarding children whose contextual risk is increasing is a concern, for example children with repeat missing episodes, carrying weapons in the community. The escalation process and management of information sharing regarding these children requires some review to ensure an increasing contextual risk can be identified and used as a foundation for multi-agency plans that tackle the core vulnerabilities of the child.



## Understanding the trends.

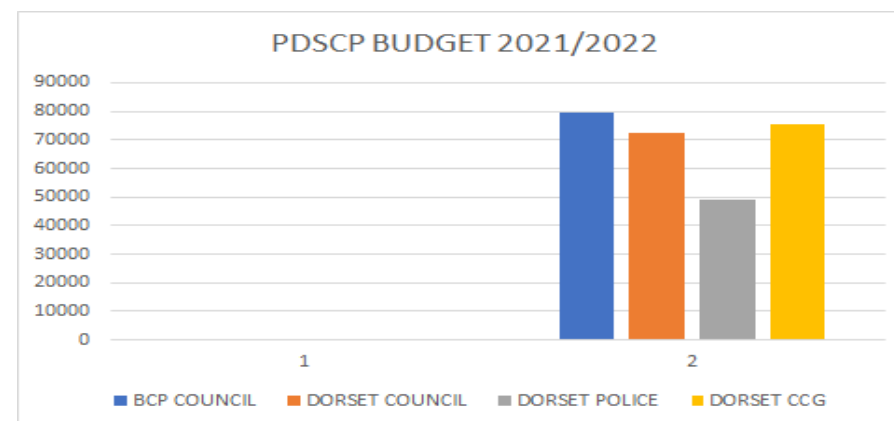
The neglect data shows a marked increase within February 2022. 41 of the crimes are attributable to only 9 families who have multiple children attached to one child protection conference, causing most of the spikes.

Police Protection Notification numbers remain high and have moved to the upper tolerances of the predicted demand thresholds for 2022. MASH processes and staffing are being flexed to accommodate these challenges.

## 7. BUDGET 2021/2022

Safeguarding partners are required to provide equitable and proportionate funding to cover all elements of their multi-agency child safeguarding arrangements (Working Together Guidance 2018).

SAFEGUARDING PARTNER	CONTRIBUTION
BCP COUNCIL	£79,605
DORSET COUNCIL	£72,359
DORSET POLICE	£48,846
DORSET CCG	£75,393
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£276,203</b>



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## Cabinet

**6 September 2022**

## **SEND Capital Strategy Implementation Plan**

### **For Decision**

**Portfolio Holder:** Cllr T Ferrari, Economic Growth, Assets & Property

**Local Councillor(s):** All

**Executive Director:** J Sellgren, Executive Director of Place

Report Author: Peter Hopkins  
Title: Corporate Director – Assets & Property  
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**Report Status:** Public

#### **Brief Summary:**

The Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Capital Strategy 2020 – 2025 was agreed by Cabinet on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2020 and committed to future capital funding to a programme of work to deliver increased SEND specialist provision across the County. This was to support the mitigation of the deficit on the High Needs Block and support more children being educated locally in their communities.

At their meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2021 Cabinet agreed a funding commitment of between £35m and £40m to support the implementation of the SEND Capital Strategy, subject to further feasibilities and planning. The further work has been completed and this paper details ten schemes at an estimated total cost of £31.5m to create an additional 228 places over three years with places available from September 2023 to September 2025.

Details of the specific schemes is commercially sensitive and so is contained in a confidential Appendix within the meaning of paragraph 4 of schedule 12 A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

#### **Recommendation:**

That Cabinet:

1. Approve the budget allocation as set out in the Appendix to enable a range of projects to be delivered as part of the SEND Capital Strategy. The projects set out total an approximate delivery of 228 new specialist places for the capital investment plus any yet to be determined variation to the PFI contract at The Sir John Colfox Academy.
2. Delegate authority to the Executive Director for Place, in consultation with the Executive Director for People - Children's to enter construction contracts at the appropriate time, in line with an existing delegation. This will be subject to the outcome of the formal consultation process in respect of each project and provided that following procurement, the project is within the set budget level of this Cabinet paper.
3. Delegate authority to the Executive Director for People – Children to agree to the commencement of any required 4-week formal consultation period, in line with relevant statutory guidance. Exercise of this delegation will be necessary if a school is to be required to formally expand their capacity by more than 10% or 20 places as part of this programme of works, at the appropriate time.

**Reason for Recommendation:**

To show the progress of the implementation of the SEND capital strategy and to approve the next phase of projects for delivery.

1. **The Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Capital Strategy and High Needs Block (HNB) Management Strategy**
  - 1.1 The SEND Capital Strategy 2020-2025 was approved by Dorset Council Cabinet on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2020.
  - 1.2 The Strategy set out the demand and provision for pupils with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP). There were c.2,800 pupils with an EHCP in August 2020 and as at June 2022 there are now approximately 3,300 pupils with an EHCP.
  - 1.3 The High Needs Block (HNB) Management Strategy sits alongside the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Capital Strategy for 2020 to 2025 and was approved by Cabinet on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2021.
  - 1.4 The HNB Management strategy cites that further capital projects will be brought forward to support the expansion of specialist provision.
  - 1.5 The purpose of this Cabinet report is to bring forward the next phase of projects which are focused on:
    - 1.5.1 expanding the Council's existing special schools;

- 1.5.2 growing the Council's pupil referral unit provision (for children with social, emotions and mental health needs); and
  - 1.5.3 growth of resourced provision (to be known as inclusion hubs) which is provision for children with special educational needs and disabilities in mainstream schools.
- 1.6 This paper seeks approval to create approximately 228 additional places to meet the needs of SEND children within Dorset. This programme will contribute to the council delivering its HNB management strategy, where reducing the council's use of independent specialist provision by expanding its own provision is a central feature.
- 1.7 The growing SEND cohort nationally and locally within Dorset brings financial pressure to the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and the Council's revenue budget. The current statutory instrument protecting the Council's budget from the DSG is scheduled to end in 2022-23, and from April 2023 responsibility for accounting for and funding the deficit could transfer to Dorset Council.

## **2. Inclusion Hubs in mainstream schools**

- 2.1 Inclusion hubs are specialist resourced provisions within mainstream school settings, which make provision for children and young people with an EHCP to allow them to remain in mainstream settings with suitable support. This allows pupils with EHCPs to remain with their peer group, to access a broader curriculum.
- 2.2 In an inclusion hub, pupils spend most of their time (usually well over 50% of their timetable) in mainstream classes. They attend the inclusion hub facilities for individual support, to learn a specific skill or to receive therapeutic support.
- 2.3 Inclusion hubs will have one of two designations. This is because the prevalent needs of pupils with an EHCP are either one of these:
- One type of inclusion hub will meet the needs and ambitions of children and young people with Communication and Interaction needs (C&I).
  - The second type of inclusion hub will support children and young people with Social, Emotional and Health (SEMH) difficulties.
- 2.4 To meet the prevalent needs of pupils with EHCPs in each locality there needs to be a mix of Communication and Interaction and SEMH inclusion hubs across all phases of education. Where there is an existing inclusion hub in a primary setting, a secondary (or a first, middle and upper school) inclusion hub will be commissioned to provide a stable transition to through the phases for pupils with EHCPs.

2.5 The inclusion hubs must be at the heart of the school to achieve the most benefit for all pupils at a school. They should allow pupils to move flexibly between mainstream and hub settings, to encourage inclusion of pupils with an EHCP.

2.6 There are several inclusion hubs, which are included as part of this report for approval and delivery between September 2023 and September 2025. Please see the Appendix for the details of these.

### 3 **Analysis of projects in train and a gap analysis of future projects required**

3.1 There are a range of projects currently under development that will contribute to meeting need for maintained specialist places.

3.2 Beacroft School expansion – currently in progress.

- The Beacroft school expansion was approved by Cabinet on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2021. The project involves refurbishing the former Wimborne First School premises to provide additional places for post 16 pupils. This frees up space on the main school campus for the admission of additional pupils and provides a transition to a post 16 provision that is more like a college.
- The project is adapting one of the blocks of accommodation on the site to specifically cater for students with complex needs. This block would be able to accommodate up to 24 of the additional 80 places and has been specifically targeted to this need as the post 16 cohort are those predominately being educated in independent placements.
- The approved budget from the SEND Capital budget to undertake the proposed works at the School Lane premises for the Post 16 provision is £3.917m and is expected to be completed by May 2023.
- This budget allocation does not make any allowance for any works which could be undertaken on the main Colehill campus, which will be required to deliver an increase in under 16 places.

3.3 Osprey Quay 14-19 AP Special School for ASC and SEMH ranges – proposed to open in September 2024.

- The project is a Department for Education (DfE) led free school meaning it is being funded and project managed by the DfE.
- The new special school, which will be located at Osprey Quay on Portland, will aim to provide up to 75 places for children and young people aged 14-19 years with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND).
- The Council is supporting the DfE and Delta Education Trust to support the delivery of this scheme.

#### **4 Process for delivery of the SEND Projects proposed in this Cabinet report**

- 4.1 The prioritisation across the programme is for the projects at special schools including Mountjoy School, and secondly Westfield Sixth Form and thirdly for the urgent need for further capacity in the East Dorset Learning Centre. Dorset specialist provision is typically rated Good or Outstanding and we would seek to expand this excellent provision that already exists.
- 4.2 The inclusion hubs programme follows additional special school and alternative provision places priority overall. The schools within this proposed programme provide an excellent education for pupils and are highly sought after by parents, so should be expanded further in future phases where possible.
- 4.3 This programme is driven by technical deliverability including value for money and engagement with Dorset schools. This Cabinet paper seeks approval to develop the projects identified in Appendix 1 in terms of technical deliverability at the same time as working with the schools involved. It is anticipated that because of this further technical work and school engagement that some projects may prove not to be deliverable within the budget set out in this report or final agreement may not be reached with schools. The over-programming of projects is a mitigation to this risk.
- 4.4 One of the main risks to the programme that is mitigated by over-programming is the availability of suitable sites. Dorset schools and trusts are custodians of significant land holdings for educational use. Some of these projects propose potentially purchasing land.
- 4.5 There are a wide range of factors that may impact on the delivery. Some of these factors are known and quantifiable at this point and some are unknown or unforeseeable despite a clear risk approach to this programme.
- 4.6 The approach taken has been to price the knowns and include various allowances for unknowns in the cost plans to mitigate their risk to the costs of the programme. Optimism bias is also calculated.
- 4.7 Provisional sums have been included for items such as retaining structures, drainage, electrical transformer capacity, brise soleil to address over-heating and other risks that the desk top viability study and engagement with the schools has highlighted. A narrative of the consideration of these factors is included at Appendix 1 and includes but is not limited to; planning, ground conditions, scheduling in terms of on-site requirements particularly with respect to consideration and requirement of school operating requirements and views expressed through consultations with schools.
- 4.8 A programme for the delivery of additional places is set out in Appendix 1.

- 4.9 External consultants AECOM have been appointed to support this initial viability study and have produced a revised High-level Order of Cost Estimate for the SEND Programme. The costs included within this estimate have been benchmarked against cost data from a recent (May 2021) Hampshire County Council National School Delivery Report, with specific allowances for any site abnormalities included as extra over.
- 4.10 In addition, a 20% combined design and construction risk allowance is included with a further 13.78% allowed for optimism bias (OB) based on standard Dorset Council budgeting requirements. The OB was calculated by AECOM following guidance from the HM Treasury's Green Book.
- 4.11 An inflation allowance has also been included and based upon AECOM's latest tender price indices (TPIs). The allowance for inflation is linked to the programme and when the works are due to complete. This allowance ranges from 10% - 20% depending on the programme.
- 4.12 Further technical feasibility studies will need to be undertaken at some school sites. For example, if additional land is secured to increase the capacity of accommodation at Mountjoy School then this will require further feasibility to refine the cost plans and understand the risks and timing of delivery of any provision.
- 4.13 Approval of this Cabinet report will allow the programme to move to this next and vital phase, to deliver more specialist provision for the children and young people of Dorset.
- 4.14 Prescribed alterations are required when making changes to the size, type or location of a school. They are statutory consultation requirements that are aimed "to ensure that good quality school places can be provided quickly where they are needed; those local authorities (LAs) and governing bodies (GBs) do not take decisions that will have a negative impact on other schools in the area; and that changes can be implemented quickly and effectively where there is a strong case for doing so.
- 4.15 In line with these aims it is expected that, where possible, additional new places will only be provided at schools that have an overall Ofsted rating of 'good' or 'outstanding'. Schools which do not fall within the above categories should only be expanded where there are no other viable options. Requirement to undertake a full consultation as the proposal to expand the School will increase numbers by more than 10% or by more than 20 places." Statutory Department for Education Guidance – 'Making significant changes ('prescribed alterations') to maintained schools October 2018'.
- 4.16 The guidance requires the Local Authority, as the proposer and decision maker, initiate a four-week consultation through the publication of a notice to expand



numbers, followed by a formal decision through Cabinet to agree the expansion subject to the responses to and outcome of the consultation. The notice will identify and detail the reasons for the change, the extent of the change and the timelines as to when the additional places will be made available. This process can commence once agreement to progress with this project is given.

- 4.17 A similar process exists for academies where they will be required to follow the Making significant changes to an open academy (January 2022) guidance.
- 4.18 On completion of the prescribed alterations (set out above), the project will be able to proceed to delivery. This will involve procurement of contractors, planning applications (where required) and preparation for the logistics of the works on site with the school.

## 5 Financial Implications

### Capital Funding

- 5.1 The SEND Capital Strategy 2020-2025 is supported with a capital allocation of up to £40M to enable the expansion of local specialist provision by approximately 500 places to support the council's management of the high needs funding for children and young people with SEND.
- 5.2 Of the £40M originally earmarked for SEND provision, £15.5M has been spent on the acquisition and set up of Coombe House School at the Dorset Centre of Excellence. This leaves a balance of £24.5M.
- 5.3 In addition, the DFE has allocated Dorset Council £7.0M of High Needs Capital to cover the period 2021-24. The SEND capital implementation strategy will therefore be funded as follows:

	£'m
SEND Capital Budget	24.5
DFE High Needs Provision Capital Allocation	7.0
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>31.5</b>

### The High Needs Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant

- 5.4 The Council received an overall grant of £47m (2022/23 allocation) through the High Needs Block to fund provision for children and young people with SEN in the 2022/23 financial year. The High Needs Block has a forecast in-year deficit on the budget for the 2022/23 financial year.

- 5.5 The greatest pressure on the High Needs Block comes from the Independent and Non-Maintained Special School spend of approximately £14m and therefore the imperative to grow specialist provision in maintained schools and academies to offset this is clear.
- 5.6 The growing pressure on the High Needs Block is unlikely to ease in the immediate short term, even as improvements in inclusive practice are implemented in schools and the growth in the cohort slows. However, improvements in practice will support the improvement of inclusive practices in our schools to ensure more children and young people can be supported in state funded educational settings to the future.

#### Value for Money

- 5.7 The tendering process will be a means of ascertaining value for money, as competition will drive value.
- 5.6 As mentioned above, the High-level Order of Cost Estimate has been based upon robust benchmark costing from recent similar Hampshire schemes and national benchmarks. AECOM allowances are aligned with this data which demonstrates value for money at this early stage. Please note the overall costs are somewhat inflated, as there is a significant amount of risk pricing included within the Estimate.

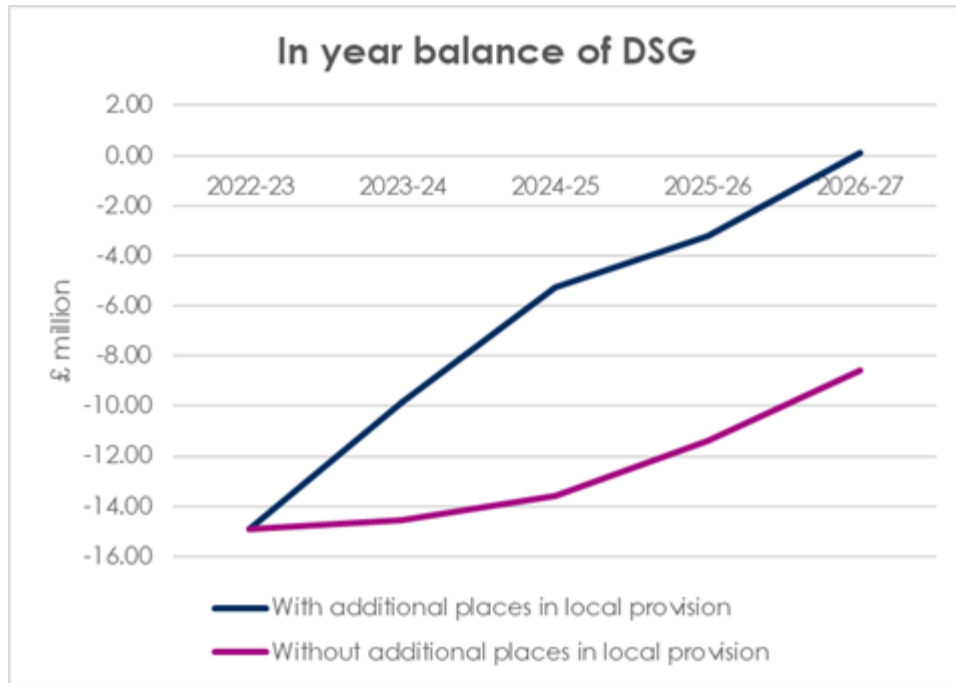
### **6 The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) “Safety Valve”**

- 6.1 The Dedicated Schools Grant ‘Safety Valve’ Agreement is an agreement between the DfE and Dorset Council for the years from 2021-22 to 2025-6 and is available online here ([link](#)).
- 6.2 At paragraph 2 “the authority undertakes to reach an in-year balance on its DSG account by the end of 2026-27 and in each subsequent year”. Further at 3.9 “Direct an increase in sufficiency through Dorset SEND Capital Strategy 2020-2025 to expand specialist provision for children and young people”.
- 6.3 The Council submit quarterly monitoring reports to the Department for Education. The Q2 monitoring report to be provided on the 15<sup>th</sup> of September will reference those projects approved for delivery on 7<sup>th</sup> September 22 by Cabinet to demonstrate the progress being made by the council to deliver this commitment.
- 6.4 Appendix 3 contains a detailed commentary of the financial position across capital and revenue relating to the SEND Capital Programme.

### **7 Revenue implications**

- 7.1 Revenue costs for the running of the school will be paid from the High Needs Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG).

- 7.2 The average cost of a placement in independent special school placements are £55,700 per pupil, compared to an average cost of a place at a maintained special school which are delivered at an average of £23,127 per pupil. This is an average difference of £32,573 per pupil per annum. If this saving is applied over a child's maximum fourteen-year education duration, then this would total a saving of £459,276 for a single child.
- 7.3 Currently 8% of pupils are in Independent Specialist Provision, Non-Maintained Special Schools (INMSS) and Specialist Post 16 provision (SPI) costing 31% of the revenue cost for places and top ups. The safety valve agreement aims to reduce this to 1% of pupils (costing 4% of the funding for places and top ups).
- 7.4 The potential savings to the High Needs Block is based on the assumption that 50% of the new places created will be taken up by children in existing high cost, independent placements that would then return to Dorset created provision, through partnership working with families. The remaining 50% of places would be to support new demand and cost avoidance of children that would otherwise require an independent specialist placement.
- 7.5 The graph below shows the impact of the additional places described in this paper and how they support the safety valve programme. Without the additional places and assuming that the proportion of children in each type of school remains as it is now, the costs to the High Needs Block would continue to rise giving a deficit in the High Needs Block in 5 years' time of over £100m which would continue to rise annually by ~£6m. With the local places the DSG revenue will be able to balance moving forwards. The 'safety valve' agreement contributions from DfE and Dorset Council and our assumptions for DSG funding will have removed the cumulative deficit in this period leaving the high needs block to balance within its grant income.



## 8 Climate implications

- 8.1 It is anticipated that the delivery of this project will enable suitable places to be located more locally which will avoid the significant travel implications some pupils currently have to undertake.
- 8.2 More local provision to meet the highest levels of need will reduce travel for pupils and therefore reduce climate impact.
- 8.3 As with all property related work climate change implications are always considered and will be addressed where possible. For example, in the options appraisal for each provision e.g. Westfield South Annexe proposal the option of re-purposing an existing Council building to avoid the climate impact of new construction and additional built assets has been considered for each project.

## 9 Well-being and Health Implications

- 9.1 The provision of good quality SEND local education provision is essential for health and wellbeing of children, young people, and families.

## 10 Other implications

- 10.1 Not used

## 11 Risk Assessment

- 11.1 Having considered the risks associated with this decision, the level of risk has been identified as:
- Current Risk: High
- Residual Risk: High
- 11.2 A schedule of risks is maintained by the Assets and Property team for the programme.
- 11.2 Rising inflation is having an impact on construction costs nationally.
- 11.3 Rising construction material costs and labour shortages may start to impact capital projects (including Free School delays). This includes capital projects costing more than initially thought and taking longer to deliver than expected due to later start times.
- 11.4 These risks have been factored into this report.

## **12 Equalities Impact Assessment**

- 12.1 This proposal will increase the number of Special School places available to Dorset pupils, with the intention of reducing the number having to be placed outside the Council area and in independent special schools. An equalities impact assessment was completed as part of the original SEND Capital Strategy.

## **13 Appendix (Exempt)**

- Programme
- 220721 Dorset SEND-Project Sheets
- Narrative on known and unknown risks to the SEND Capital programme
- Detailed commentary on SEND programme – capital and revenue

## **14 Background papers**

**SEND Capital Strategy 2020-2025 approved by Cabinet 8<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

**SEND High Needs Block Management Strategy approved by 8<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

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# Recommendation to Cabinet – 6 September 2022

From the Place and Resources Overview Committee of  
28 July 2022

## Redlands Community Sports Hub – Lease and Management Arrangements

### For Decision

**Portfolio Holder:** Cllr L Beddow, Culture, Customer and Community  
Services

**Local Councillor(s):** Cllr D Gray, Cllr H Legg, Cllr P Barrow

**Executive Director:** [J Sellgren, Executive Director of Place](#)

Report Author: Paul Rutter / Peter Hopkins

Title: Service Manager for Leisure / Corporate Director for Assets & Property

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**Report Status:** Part Exempt

### Recommendation

1. That the Corporate Director for Assets & Property be authorised to agree the terms of the schedule of surrender payments and timeline for Weymouth College to surrender the lease at Redlands Community Sports Hub.
2. That the Corporate Director for Assets & Property be authorised to agree the terms to complete the early lease surrender with Weymouth College, agreeing the level of surrender payment and the grant of a new 30-year lease to Active Dorset for Redlands Community Sports Hub, with a break clause for either party at 5 years.
3. That the Council agrees to insure and maintain the fabric of the buildings, boundary fencing, car parks, access roads and any other built infrastructure at Redlands Community Sports Hub for the period of the lease to the extent of maintaining a wind, watertight and accessible site.

4. That The Council acknowledges the 8-year revenue forecast set out at Appendix 3 and agrees to provide cash flow support (if required) for the period of the initial business case and the 8-year revenue projections forecast to be built into the Dorset Council Medium Term Financial Plan.
5. That the Place and Resources Scrutiny Committee be asked to undertake a review of the arrangements at an appropriate time.

### **Reasons for Recommendation:**

The Council recognises the financial challenges for Weymouth College in continuing to manage the community facilities at Redlands and granting an early lease surrender will enable them to focus solely on their educational priorities.

Active Dorset have a passion for helping people to be more active, and their exciting plans for developing the volunteer led community café and sports fields will enable far greater community use for all ages.

The local community have openly expressed their wish for the indoor sports provision to be retained and the proposed keyholder model will give users and volunteers the opportunity to show that support and play a more active role moving forward.

Most funding bodies require a security of tenure of 30 years and Active Dorset will require this to secure external funding.

Active Dorset, as a local charity, would be unwilling to take on the liability of maintaining the building and land, however the Council has the resource and expertise to manage such an asset; and by using the surrender payments would be best placed to affect any essential repairs now and in the future.

Similarly, the Council would be better placed to smooth out the revenue cashflow in the early years on a budget that is forecast to be in surplus at the end of the 8-year period.

### **Appendices**

Appendix A - Report to Place and Resources Overview Committee – 28 July 2022 – Redlands Community Sports Hub – Lease and Management Arrangements. *The following appendices are included with the report:*  
*Appendix 1 – Surrender payments - exempt*  
*Appendix 2 – Capital Costs and Funding - exempt*  
*Appendix 3 – Revenue budget – exempt*



*Appendix 4 – Equality Impact Assessment*

Appendix B – Extract from minutes of Place and Resources Overview Committee on 28 July 2022

**Background papers**

[Agenda for Place and Resources Overview Committee on Thursday, 28th July, 2022, 10.00 am - Dorset Council](#)

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# **Place and Resources Overview Committee 28 July 2022 Redlands Community Sports Hub – Lease and Management Arrangements**

## **For Recommendation to Cabinet**

**Portfolio Holder:** Cllr L Miller, Customer and Community Services

**Local Councillor(s):** Cllr D Gray, Cllr H Legg, Cllr P Barrow

**Executive Director:** J Sellgren, Executive Director of Place

Report Authors: Paul Rutter/Peter Hopkins

Title: Service Manager for Leisure Services/Corporate Director for Assets & Property

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**Report Status:** Part Exempt

### **Brief Summary:**

In June 2021, after prior discussions with Dorset Council portfolio holders and senior officers, Weymouth College officially announced that, due to financial pressures, they were no longer able to run Redlands and would actively seek new tenants to take over the operations of the site.

Through an Expression of Interest exercise, the College received a single formal bid from Active Dorset, a local charity with a focus on helping people to become more active. The Active Dorset proposal was only to operate the external sports facilities and set out ambitious and exciting plans to develop Redlands into a more inclusive community park.

Council representatives attended several community engagement events hosted by Weymouth College and Active Dorset; listening to the concerns raised about the potential loss of the indoor leisure provision.

Active Dorset have subsequently brought forward a revised proposal centred around a key holder model, where community users and volunteers take on more responsibility for the site operations. This approach would enable the retention of both sports halls and some of the ancillary spaces.

## Appendix A

There is an identified strategic need for an additional full size 3G synthetic turf pitch at Redlands and early discussions with the Football Foundation around funding support has been positive as this is one of their priority projects.

There is scope within the existing lease for WC to underlet the whole or part of the property to a sports club or community group, on the provision that Dorset Council as the landlord, has given their consent. This could enable Active Dorset to introduce the key holder model prior to the surrender of the lease by Weymouth College and a new lease being granted to Active Dorset.

The new lease will be for 30 years to enable Active Dorset to secure external funding for facility improvements. However, there will be a 5-year break clause that can be activated by either party if the new model of operation proves not to be viable.

Under the new lease Dorset Council will be responsible for effecting any essential repairs and maintenance to the fabric of the buildings and adjacent land. Monies received from Weymouth College, in consideration for accepting their surrender, will be used to offset these costs.

Active Dorset have provided an 8-year income and expenditure forecast and although the site is expected to make a loss in the early years, they forecast an overall positive return of £24,000 by the end of the eight-year period.

### **Recommendation:**

That the committee recommends to Cabinet:

1. That the Corporate Director for Assets & Property be authorised to agree the terms of the schedule of surrender payments and timeline for Weymouth College to surrender the lease at Redlands Community Sports Hub.
2. That the Corporate Director for Assets & Property be authorised to agree the terms to complete the early lease surrender with Weymouth College, agreeing the level of surrender payment and the grant of a new 30-year lease to Active Dorset for Redlands Community Sports Hub, with a break clause for either party at 5 years.
3. That the Council agrees to insure and maintain the fabric of the buildings, boundary fencing, car parks, access roads and any other built infrastructure at Redlands Community Sports Hub for the period of the lease to the extent of maintaining a wind, watertight and accessible site.

## Appendix A

4. That The Council acknowledges the 8-year revenue forecast set out at Appendix 3 and agrees to provide cash flow support (if required) for the period of the initial business case and the 8-year revenue projections forecast to be built into the Dorset Council Medium Term Financial Plan.

### **Reason for Recommendation:**

The Council recognises the financial challenges for Weymouth College in continuing to manage the community facilities at Redlands and granting an early lease surrender will enable them to focus solely on their educational priorities.

Active Dorset have a passion for helping people to be more active, and their exciting plans for developing the volunteer led community café and sports fields will enable far greater community use for all ages.

The local community have openly expressed their wish for the indoor sports provision to be retained and the proposed keyholder model will give users and volunteers the opportunity to show that support and play a more active role moving forward.

Most funding bodies require a security of tenure of 30 years and Active Dorset will require this to secure external funding.

Active Dorset, as a local charity, would be unwilling to take on the liability of maintaining the building and land, however the Council has the resource and expertise to manage such an asset; and by using the surrender payments would be best placed to affect any essential repairs now and in the future.

Similarly, the Council would be better placed to smooth out the revenue cashflow in the early years on a budget that is forecast to be in surplus at the end of the 8-year period.

### **1. Background**

- 1.1 Redlands Community Sports Hub (Redlands) is under the ownership of Dorset Council. Weymouth College are the current leaseholder of the Redlands site apart from the hockey pitch, which is leased to Weymouth Hockey Club. Weymouth College have a 25-year full repairing lease which runs until 2036. The existing lease is on a peppercorn rent.
- 1.2 Weymouth College initially contacted Dorset Council in October 2019 to highlight the financial challenges that they were facing in operating Redlands. They were incurring an annual deficit of between £150,000-£200,000, with the subsidy needing to be met through its overall college funds.

## Appendix A

1.3 The Council had at that time, appointed consultants to review its leisure provision, with Redlands considered as part of this wider review. A condition survey of Redlands was carried out at this stage as was a local facility audit. The Dorset Playing Pitch and Built Facility Strategies were also reviewed as part of this work. These indicated that there was an identified need for the external sports provision at Redlands, but an oversupply of sports hall provision in Weymouth, notwithstanding that much of this is on school sites. It should also be noted that the sports pitches are protected by Fields in Trust and the Football Foundation also have a charge over this area.

1.4 In June 2021, after prior discussions with Dorset Council portfolio holders and senior officers, Weymouth College officially announced that, due to financial pressures, they were no longer able to run Redlands and would actively seek new tenants to take over the operations of the site.

### **2. Expressions of Interest**

2.1 The College subsequently invited expressions of interest by directly contacting local and national leisure providers as well as local clubs and community groups. They also issued a press release which received good local coverage.

2.2 Whilst Dorset Council, as property owner, would need to undertake due diligence of any prospective new tenants, the invitation to tender process was managed fully by Weymouth College as the existing leaseholder.

2.3 Initially Weymouth College had contact from ten interested organisations, with three of them stating their intention to submit a formal proposal. That said, they only received one formal bid and that was to only operate the external facilities as the operator had reservations around the viability of managing the internal facilities.

### **3. Active Dorset Proposal**

3.1 That bid was from Active Dorset, a local charity with a focus on helping people to become more active. They have demonstrable experience locally of developing facilities for community use and are currently operating the Wey Valley Tennis Centre next to the Redlands site.

3.2 They submitted an exciting business plan with a vision to create much more of a community park than a sport only space. They planned to introduce some soft landscaping and planting and an accessible hard surface loop for walking, jogging, and cycling, as well as a trim trail and informal play spaces such as a skatepark. All of this would be centred

around a volunteer led community café, encouraging local people to be more active in the outside environment.

- 3.3 In terms of the formal recreational spaces, they are also keen to refurbish the existing 3G synthetic turf pitch and build an additional pitch to meet demand levels. The Dorset Football Facility Plan and Playing Pitch Strategy both identified a need for an additional full-size pitch for Weymouth and given the existing infrastructure, Redlands makes the ideal location. Active Dorset have been engaged with the Football Foundation who have indicated their support to provide match funding for this project. A funding bid would however be subject to a business case approval and reviewed by an assessment panel.
- 3.4 Whilst Active Dorset have a clear vision for the site, they are also keen to engage with the local community so that facility improvements would be shaped through strong community collaboration and support.

#### **4. Community Engagement**

- 4.1 Whilst the Active Dorset proposal around enhancing the external provision was positively received by many, the potential loss of the internal sports facilities raised significant unrest with users and the local community. Although the facility audit work suggested that most of this existing usage could be accommodated at other facilities within the local area, an online petition was created with nearly 4000 people voicing their concerns.
- 4.2 Even though the Council were not directly involved in the tendering process, they wanted to listen and reflect upon what the community had to say and consider any alternative proposals for the site. They were able to do this by attending a large community meeting hosted by Weymouth College and Active Dorset. They also joined discussions with local clubs and users and continued to engage with the Town Council and local ward members throughout.

#### **5. Revised proposal and operating model.**

- 5.1 With a strong level of community support, Active Dorset was encouraged to review their plans and see if they could identify a way of also operating as much of the internal facilities as possible.
- 5.2 Whilst high staffing requirements will always prevent an operation like this from being financially viable and sustainable, a community led operating model can be. Active Dorset already have experience of operating facilities where the community themselves play a far more active role. This is evidenced in the keyholder model approach which they operate elsewhere. This requires groups and clubs to take responsibility for the facilities during their usage time, setting up and taking down their own

## Appendix A

equipment, and securing the building when last to leave. This significantly reduces the required levels of paid staff.

- 5.3 Similarly, all bookings and enquiries would be dealt with online, taking away the need for an onsite customer service presence. Bookings will generate a code which will enable users to access the building through a coded entry point.
- 5.4 This approach would allow for the retention of both sports halls and some of the ancillary spaces. It is however imperative that the facilities are fully maximised and proposed plans would see the conversion of the underutilised squash courts into a modern multi-purpose studio and the creation of a new community café and children's soft play area; all of which would be designed to encourage more usage from all sectors of the community. If the community did not support the centre to the levels required to make the operating model sustainable, then there is the risk that the lease could be terminated mutually by either party.
- 5.5 Whilst Active Dorset is keen to maintain a high level of interaction with users, it should be recognised that whilst this operating model will secure most of the current facilities and services, some facilities and activities may well be changed or cease altogether. However, Active Dorset is committed to work with any displaced users and identify alternative opportunities for them to continue to be active. As the landlord, the Council would make the necessary building alterations to enable the keyholder model to be introduced.
- 5.6 Weymouth College have engaged with Active Dorset to consider the TUPE position of staff at Redlands, including grounds staff. The Redlands team operate at Redlands and Cranford Sports Centre so there will be a requirement for Weymouth College to retain some staff at Cranford Sports. Currently there is a small team of 13 staff (8.2FTE), including grounds staff that oversee the management of Redlands and Cranford Sports. Based on a review of each member of staff's centre of duty and required staffing at Cranford Sports Centre from September 2022, 7 staff (3.36 FTE) are expected to TUPE across to Active Dorset. Discussions between Weymouth College and Active Dorset confirm an indemnity will be agreed to address potential staffing costs on transfer.

## **6. Leisure Strategy**

- 6.1 The Council needs to address the matter of the future of its built leisure provision. It currently has a building stock which is ageing and proving costly to operate. Dorset Council does have a strong and resourced capital programme but needs to ensure that any future investment in its leisure offer gives best return on investment and creates the widest benefit for its residents. In respect of revenue funding the Council's resources should be distributed equitably across the county prioritising areas of



## Appendix A

health inequalities. This will also ensure that any ongoing revenue support for the Council's future leisure offer is financially sustainable.

- 6.2 The proposed investment in the external facilities at Redlands will be appropriate due to the protections that the playing pitches have, however long-term decisions around the built facility should be considered as part of this wider review.

### **7. Underletting arrangements**

- 7.1 There is scope within the existing lease for Weymouth College to underlet the whole or part of the property to a sports club or community group, on the provision that Dorset Council as the landlord, has given their consent.
- 7.2 Whilst the plan is for Weymouth College to surrender the lease and the Council to issue a new lease to Active Dorset, both Weymouth College and Active Dorset are keen to introduce the new key holder model with Active Dorset taking over the operational management of the site. At this stage, the conditions within the existing lease would be maintained, until such time as a new lease has been granted. The Corporate Director for Assets and Property will, under delegated powers, be able to grant permission for the underlet between Active Dorset and Weymouth College.

### **8. Lease Surrender**

- 8.1 Subject to necessary approvals from the College Boards, Cabinet, third parties with a charge on the lease and Fields in Trust, Dorset Council propose to accept the early surrender of the lease. Officers will implement the Cabinet decision as soon as it becomes effective and once all due diligence and terms have been agreed between all relevant parties. It is intended that documents are exchanged with 12 weeks of the enactment of the Cabinet decision subject to clearance of all final due diligence matters.
- 8.2 The details pertaining to the proposed surrender payment schedule and costs associated with any potential future development of the site are set out at Appendix 1.

### **9. New Lease**

- 9.1 Subject to the above surrender, the proposal is to grant a new 30-year lease to Active Dorset, with a break clause at 5 years. Active Dorset will need to have security of tenure for a period of 30 years to enable it to secure external funding.

## Appendix A

- 9.2 Alongside this will sit a management agreement between Dorset Council and Active Dorset which will set out the service specification requirements. This will not be a full repairing lease, so Dorset Council will be responsible for effecting any essential repairs and maintenance to the fabric of the buildings, boundary fencing, car parks, access roads and any other built infrastructure to the extent of maintaining a wind, watertight and accessible site.
- 9.3 Dorset Council will agree with Active Dorset the works to be addressed by them as the landlord within two months of the agreed Heads of Terms to ensure the premises are safe and compliant for use. These works may include electrical, mechanical, and engineering, internal, and external repairs and may result in specified works being scheduled after lease completion. Dorset Council will agree with Active Dorset further works deemed necessary and schedule in the works over the first five years of the lease term. A detailed works schedule will be maintained by Dorset Council itemising the works that will be funded from the surrender monies.

## **10. Finance and Risk**

- 10.1 The report has set out how the site will be operated in the future and the responsibilities that Dorset Council will have with the buildings and land. It also details the surrender payment schedule and confirms how these funds will be used towards maintaining the facilities moving forward. The Active Dorset proposal also highlights how facilities could be developed in the future and sets out the levels of required external and match funding to achieve this. There is strong strategic evidence to support these developments, and key funding bodies such as the Football Foundation are already in dialogue with Active Dorset. This is a priority project for the Football Foundation, so they are eager for a scheme to be brought forward.
- 10.2 The financial implications fall into two aspects: the one-off costs in undertaking the necessary changes and adaptations on site, and the medium-term financial viability of the site.
- 10.3 The one-off works are necessary to make the site fit for purpose both in terms of safety and compliance and to enable Active Dorset to maximise the potential usage of the site. In the main, these works will require capital funding. The most significant aspect of this is the new and replacement 3G pitch. Appendix 2 provides details of the total estimate of costs and the combination of funding sources to offset these. It should be noted that the anticipated Football Foundation pitch grant and central government grant is not yet secured.
- 10.4 The medium-term viability of the site is set out in the 8-year income and expenditure projection attached at Appendix 3. The projection has been

## Appendix A

prepared by Active Dorset and is a combination of taking known costs at the site from Weymouth College and/or Dorset Council, but also making adjustments going forward based on the experience of Active Dorset in running similar sites elsewhere.

- 10.5 Weymouth Town Council also wanted to show their support for the retention of the indoor facilities and as a result has committed to provide an annual funding grant of £35,000 for the next two years. It is hoped that this commitment is continued beyond the next election cycle.

### **11. Financial Implications**

There are several one-off works that are necessary to make the site fit for purpose both in terms of safety and compliance and to enable Active Dorset to maximise the potential usage of the site. The most significant aspect of this is the new and replacement 3G pitch. Appendix 2 provides details of the total estimate of costs and the combination of funding sources to offset these.

The site is expected to make a loss in the early years but make an overall positive return of £24,000 by the end of the eight-year period. As with all projections, there is a risk. A 10% reduction in income produces an overall loss of £300,000 + over the eight-year period, however, a change in the projection to reflect 10% additional income produces an overall positive figure of £300,000 + over the same period.

It should be noted that the anticipated Football Foundation pitch grant and central government grant is not yet secured. It should also be noted that there is currently significant general risk of cost inflation within the wider economy, and the leisure centre sector is also still recovering from the effects of the pandemic. For these reasons, any modelling of the medium-term financial viability should be considered as indicative rather than robust.

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

As reflected by the Government and Sport England strategies and recognised by local authorities and Public Health England for some time, 'sport' is no longer delivered solely for 'sport's' sake. Increasing participation in sport and physical activity and reducing levels of inactivity are key to both local and national Government achieving outcomes in public health (physical and mental), adult social care and education.

This is further reflected in the Council Plan, where a key priority is to help create strong, healthy communities. The council's aims are to support communities to be active, to increase people's healthy life expectancy and reduce differences between areas. Leisure facilities will play a significant role in providing opportunities for all ages to lead a more physically active lifestyle.

## Appendix A

A recent report completed by Sheffield Hallam University reviewed the social return of investment into sport in England. It concluded that for every £1 spent on sport, £1.91 of benefits are generated in health and other related outcomes.

### **13. Climate implications**

Having declared a climate emergency, Dorset Council is committed to reducing its carbon footprint by developing energy efficiency and renewable energy projects in council buildings. Leisure centres owned by the council are large buildings with high energy consumption, and the condition survey reports have identified a need for a substantial amount of facility investment.

Any future investment in existing buildings, or decisions around future uses and viability of buildings, will need to take account of the ability of the building to incorporate low carbon technologies such as LED lighting, efficient pool ventilation, solar PV, biomass heating or air/ground source heat pumps etc.

### **14. Other implications**

The Council is due to commence work on developing a new Leisure Strategy that will help shape future thinking around the wider leisure offer across the Dorset Council area. Any long-term decisions for Redlands should be considered as part of this.

### **15. Risk Assessment**

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

Current Risk: Medium

Residual Risk: Medium

### **16. Equalities Impact Assessment**

The recommendations propose a change to a new operator at Redlands and an adoption of the keyholder operating model. This will enable groups/clubs to access the facilities and encourage higher levels of community involvement with Redlands. Individual users will still be able to attend activity sessions and will also be encouraged to join groups that hire the facilities.

Improvements to the existing facilities will attract a broader range of users and will enable the site to be more inclusive. The details are set out in Appendix 4.

**17. Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Surrender payments - exempt  
Appendix 2 – Capital Costs and Funding - exempt  
Appendix 3 – Revenue budget – exempt  
Appendix 4 – Equality Impact Assessment

**18. Background Papers**

None

**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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**Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) Template**

Before completing the EQIA please have a look at the [Dorset Council style guide](#) and also use the [accessibility checker](#) to make sure your document is easy for people of all abilities to read.

Use the [Hemingwayapp](#) to check the readability of your document, to do this, click the edit button on the top right of the hemminwayapp screen, paste your text and the app will highlight if there are any problem areas.

**Some key tips**

- avoid tables and charts, if possible please provide raw data
- avoid pictures and maps if possible.
- avoid using bold, italics or colour to highlight or stress a point
- when using numbering or bullet points avoid using capitals at the beginning unless the name of something
- date format is dd month yyyy (1 June 2021)
- use clear and simple language
- where you need to use technical terms, abbreviations or acronyms, explain what they mean the first time you use them
- if using hyperlinks, make sure the link text describes where the link goes rather than 'click here' Please note equality impact assessments are published on the Dorset Council [website](#)

Before completing this form, please refer to the [supporting guidance](#). The aim of an Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) is to consider the equality implications of your policy, strategy, project or service on different groups of people including employees of Dorset Council, residents and users of our services and to consider if there are ways to proactively advance equality.

Where further guidance is needed, please contact the Inclusion Champion or the [Diversity & Inclusion Officer](#).

**1. Initial information**

Name of the policy, project, strategy, project or service being assessed:

Redlands Community Sports Hub – Lease and Management Arrangements

2. Is this a (please delete those not required):

## Project

### 3. Is this (please delete those not required):

Both internal and external

### 4. Please provide a brief overview of its aims and objectives:

The Council's decision to grant an early lease surrender from Redlands will enable Weymouth College to focus solely on their educational priorities.

Awarding a new 30-year lease to Active Dorset will enable the retention of all the leisure facilities at Redlands.

The local community have openly expressed their wish for the indoor sports provision to be retained and the proposed keyholder model will give users and volunteers the opportunity to play a more active role moving forward. This will involve groups and clubs taking responsibility for the facilities during their usage time, setting up and taking down their own equipment, and securing the building when last to leave. It will also create new opportunities for volunteering.

Active Dorset submitted an exciting business plan with a vision to create much more of a community park than a sport only space. They plan to introduce some soft landscaping and planting and an accessible hard surface loop for walking, jogging, and cycling, as well as a trim trail and informal play spaces such as a skatepark. New plans could also see the conversion of the underutilised squash courts into a modern multi-purpose studio and the creation of a new community café and children's soft play area; all of which would be designed to encourage more usage from all sectors of the community.

In terms of the formal recreational spaces, they are also keen to refurbish the existing 3G synthetic turf pitch and build an additional pitch to meet demand levels. The Dorset Football Facility Plan and Playing Pitch Strategy both identified a need for an additional full-size pitch for Weymouth and given the existing infrastructure, Redlands makes the ideal location.

Overall, this would allow for the retention and improvement of both the internal and external leisure and community facilities.

### 5. Please provide the background to this proposal?

In June 2021, after prior discussions with Dorset Council portfolio holders and senior officers, Weymouth College officially announced that, due to financial pressures, they were no longer able to run Redlands and would actively seek new tenants to take over the operations of the site.

Through an Expression of Interest exercise, the College received a single formal bid from Active Dorset, a local charity with a focus on helping people to become more active. The



Active Dorset proposal was only to operate the external sports and set out ambitious and exciting plans to develop Redlands into a more inclusive community park.

Council representatives attended a number of community engagement events hosted by WC and Active Dorset; listening to the concerns raised about the potential loss of the indoor leisure provision.

Active Dorset have subsequently brought forward a revised proposal centred around a key holder model, where community users and volunteers take on more responsibility for the site operations. This approach would enable the retention of both sports halls and some of the ancillary spaces.

There is an identified strategic need for an additional full size 3G synthetic turf pitch at Redlands and early discussions with the Football Foundation around funding support has been positive as this is one of their priority projects.

Under the new lease DC will be responsible for effecting any necessary repairs and maintenance to the fabric of the buildings and adjacent land. Monies received from Weymouth College, in consideration for accepting their surrender, will be used to offset these costs.

## **facilities**

Evidence gathering and engagement

6. What sources of data, evidence or research has been used for this assessment? (e.g national statistics, employee data):

Dorset Football Facility Plan

Dorset Playing Pitch Strategy

Dorset Built Facility Strategy

7. What did this tell you?

The strategies told us that there was an oversupply of sports hall provision in Weymouth, but an undersupply of sports pitches and 3G pitch provision.

8. Who have you engaged and consulted with as part of this assessment?

Whilst the AD proposal around enhancing the external provision was positively received by many, the potential loss of the internal sports facilities raised significant unrest with users and the local community. Although the facility audit work suggested that most of this existing usage could be accommodated at other facilities within the local area, an online petition was created with nearly 4000 people voicing their concerns. [Save Redlands Community Sports Hub | 38 Degrees](#)

Even though the Council were not directly involved in the tendering process, they wanted to listen and reflect upon what the community had to say and consider any alternative proposals for the site. They were able to do this by attending a large community meeting hosted by WC and Active Dorset. They also joined discussions with local clubs and users and continued to engage with the Town Council and local ward members throughout.

On the back of this Active Dorset were able to bring forward a revised proposal that would alleviate the concerns raised by clubs, users, and the local community.

Whilst Active Dorset have a clear vision for the site, they are also keen to engage with the local community so that facility improvements will be shaped through strong community collaboration and support

9. Is further information needed to help inform decision making?

No

Is an EQIA required?

Not every proposal will need an EqIA. The data and research should inform your decision whether to continue with this EqIA. If you decide that your proposal does not need an EqIA, please answer the following question:

N/a

Assessing the impact on different groups of people

For each of the protected characteristics groups below, please explain whether your proposal could have a positive, negative, unclear or no impact. Where an impact has been identified, please explain what it is and if unclear or negative please explain what mitigating actions will be taken.

- use the evidence you have gathered to inform your decision making.
- consider impacts on residents, service users and employees separately.
- if your strategy, policy, project or service contains options you may wish to consider providing an assessment for each option.
- see guidance for more information about the different [protected characteristics](#).

Key to impacts

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

Impacts on who or what?	Choose impact	How
Age	Positive	An enhancement of facilities for young children and families will have a positive impact within the local community.
Disability	Positive	The retention and enhancement of facilities will enable new and existing disabled users and visitors to still utilise Redlands.
Gender reassignment and Gender Identity	Neutral	No change
Marriage or civil partnership	Neutral	No change
Pregnancy and maternity	Neutral	No change
Race and Ethnicity	Neutral	No change
Religion and belief	Neutral	No change
Sex (consider men and women)	Positive	The new 3G pitch would enable greater growth in girls/ladies' sport.
Sexual orientation	Neutral	No change
People with caring responsibilities	Neutral	No change
Rural isolation	Positive	Active Dorset have existing experience of running café that are managed solely by volunteers. This new venture will similarly develop opportunities

Impacts on who or what?	Choose impact	How
		for volunteering that can help reduce isolation.
Socio-economic deprivation	Positive	Weymouth has high levels of socio-economic deprivation and health inequalities; the retention and enhancement of facilities will have a positive impact on the community. <a href="#">Deprivation Topic Data - Dorset Council</a>
Armed forces communities	Neutral	No change

Please provide a summary of the impacts:

The decision to retain and enhance the community sports facilities at Redlands will be a positive outcome for a community that were concerned at losing some or all of the existing provision.

Facility developments and programmes are likely to evolve over time, however Active Dorset have recognised the importance of community engagement in helping to deliver these improvements.

## Action Plan

Summarise any actions required as a result of this EqIA.

Issue	Action to be taken	Person(s) responsible	Date to be completed by
Data	To review on an annual basis the Active Dorset data relating to accessibility and Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion.	Paul Rutter	November 2023.

## Sign Off

Officer completing this EqIA: Paul Rutter

Officers involved in completing the EqIA: Paul Rutter

Date of completion: 05/07/22

Version Number:

EqIA review date: September 2023

Inclusion Champion Sign Off:

Equality Lead Sign Off: James Palfreman-Kay

## Next Steps:

- the EqIA will be reviewed by Communications and Engagement and if in agreement, your EqIA will be signed off.
- if not, we will get in touch to chat further about the EqIA, to get a better understanding.
- EqIA authors are responsible to ensuring any actions in the action plan are implemented.

Please send to [Diversity and Inclusion Officer](#)

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