



## People and Health Overview Committee

**Date:** Monday, 19 December 2022  
**Time:** 10.00 am  
**Venue:** Council Chamber, County Hall, Dorchester, DT1 1XJ

**Members (Quorum: 3)**

Mike Parkes (Chairman), Pauline Batstone (Vice-Chairman), Tony Alford, Pete Barrow, Jean Dunseith, Beryl Ezzard, Ryan Holloway, Stella Jones, Rebecca Knox and Cathy Lugg

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

For more information about this agenda please contact Democratic Services  
Meeting Contact 01305 224185 - [george.dare@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:george.dare@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)

Members of the public are welcome to attend this meeting, apart from any items listed in the exempt part of this agenda.

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### Agenda

Item	Pages
<b>1. APOLOGIES</b>	
To receive any apologies for absence.	
<b>2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b>	
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.	
<b>3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</b>	
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 [george.dare@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:george.dare@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk) by 8.30am on Wednesday, 14 December 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

#### **4. COUNCILLOR QUESTIONS**

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.

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

#### **5. 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.

**6. DORSET ATTENDANCE STRATEGY** 5 - 38

To consider the report by the Corporate Director for Education and Learning and the Service Manager for Inclusion.

**7. DEVELOPING COMMISSIONING STRATEGIES FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE** 39 - 62

To consider the report by the Commissioning Consultant.

**8. COMMITTEE'S FORWARD PLAN AND CABINET'S FORWARD PLAN** 63 - 74

To consider the Committee's Forward Plan and that of the Cabinet.

**9. EXEMPT BUSINESS**

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

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

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## People and Health Overview Committee 19 December 2022 Attendance Strategy and Plan

### For Recommendation to Cabinet

**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 Authors:** Vik Verma  
Kerry Smith

**Title(s):** Corporate Director of Education and Learning  
Inclusion Service Manager

**Email:** [vik.verma@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:vik.verma@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)  
[kerry.smith@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:kerry.smith@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)

**Report Status:** Public

#### **Brief Summary:**

This report provides information about the national focus on increasing attendance in educational settings to improve safeguarding, attainment and inclusion. The report presents the picture for Dorset and the proposed strategic direction to ensure that we meet new Department for Education statutory requirements and ensure we deliver the vision that attendance is everyone's business.

#### **Recommendation:**

To support the implementation of the new Dorset Attendance Strategy and associated plan to make attendance in educational settings a key feature of all frontline council services and partners' work.

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

New attendance statutory guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) took effect in September 2022. An expectation from the DfE's guidance is to make attendance a key feature of all frontline council services. This report seeks to respond to this guidance with a new Attendance Strategy for Dorset which has been developed with our schools and partners.

## 1. National Context

- 1.1. In May 2002, the Department for Education (DfE) published *Working together to improve school attendance*. The publication is guidance for maintained schools, academies, independent schools and local authorities to follow which took effect in September 2022. The main messages from the guidance are that attendance cannot solely be the preserve of a single member of staff or organisation – **improving attendance is everyone's business**. Absence from school is often a symptom of wider issues a family is facing. Local authorities, schools and wider partners need to work together to understand the barriers to attendance and provide support. Legal interventions should be a last resort and should only be used when they are likely to lead to a behavioural change. The guidance sets out expectations on schools, academies and local authorities.

## 2. Why does attendance matter?

- 2.1. Attending school can be a passport to a child's future into adulthood, independence and achieving one's ambition.
- 2.2. If a child has an attendance level of 90%, they will have missed one day a fortnight in school. Over a school year this will represent four weeks of absence. If this level of absence were maintained for a five-year period, it would mean that half a school year would have been missed which can lead to considerable lost learning.
- 2.3. Importantly, attending a school is not just about it being a place to learn, schools are incredible places for children to develop their relationships with friends, take opportunities to try new a different activities and can also be a safe place where children can get the support they need.
- 2.4. For the most vulnerable pupils, regular attendance is an important protective factor and the best opportunity for a child's learning needs to be identified and support provided. Research has shown associations between regular absence from school and a number of extra-familial harms. This

includes crime (90% of young offenders had been persistently absent from school) and serious violence (83% of knife possession offenders had been persistently absent from school in at least 1 of the 5 years of study). Other vulnerability factors will have been at play for some of these young people in the study, but attendance at school was highlighted as an area of focus.

- 2.5 The pupils with the highest attainment at the end of Key Stage 2 (KS2) and Key Stage 4 (KS4) have higher rates of attendance over the key stage compared to those with the lowest attainment. At KS2, pupils not meeting the expected standard in reading, writing and maths had an overall absence rate of 4.7%, compared to 3.5% among those meeting the expected standard. Moreover, the overall absence rate of pupils not meeting the expected standard was higher than among those meeting the higher standard (4.7% compared to 2.7%). At KS4, pupils not achieving grade 9 to 4 in English and maths had an overall absence rate of 8.8%, compared to 5.2% among those achieving grade 4.
- 2.6 The most recent comparative attendance data we have is from the autumn and spring terms in the 2021/22 academic year. This shows Dorset's absence rate had increased to 8% which was in line with the South West average and slightly above national average (7%). 25% of children and young people were persistently absent from school in Dorset compared to 22% nationally and 25% in the South West. The severe absence rate in Dorset was 1.9% compared to 1.5% nationally and 1.8% in the South West. However, during this period the South West experienced high levels of absence due to covid-19 and also high levels of illness absence. Dorset's covid rate was 1.8% compared to 1.3% nationally and there was a higher illness rate in Dorset of 5.5% compared to 4.7% nationally.

### **3. Local Context**

- 3.1. In 2022, 61% of children with 95% or above attendance achieved the Key Stage 2 expected standard in reading, writing and maths; compared to 47% of children with between 90 and 94.9% attendance; 38% with attendance between 85 and 89.9% attendance, 23% for children with between 80 and 84.9% attendance and 16% for children with below 80% attendance.
- 3.2. At Key Stage 4 in 2019, 72% of children whose attendance was 95% or above achieved a grade four or above in English and Maths, compared to 56% whose attendance was between 90 and 94%, 40% for children whose attendance was between 85 and 89.9%, 41% for children whose

attendance was between 80 and 84.9% and 35% for those children whose attendance was below 80%.

#### **4. Our local response to the guidance**

- 4.1. The Education service held a multi-agency Dorset attendance workshop which was attended by over 80 colleagues from Dorset Council, our schools, police, youth justice, parents and carers and health. We used the information gathered to write Dorset's attendance strategy and plan.
- 4.2. The following were identified as strengths in schools: Relationships, community links, care, values, clear policy and processes, communication, curriculum, creativity and tracking.
- 4.3. The strengths identified in localities were: Whole family working, communication, specific support, relational practice, parental support, contextual safeguarding and data.
- 4.4. The strengths identified in communities were young people, family and neighbours, volunteer groups and health.
- 4.5. The workshop identified the following Dorset wide priorities:
  - Consistent Dorset wide policy and practice
  - Knowledge sharing and communication
  - Early identification of causes lead to development of targeted interventions
  - SEMH/Emotion Based School Avoidance support packages
  - Parent support packages from birth
  - Consistent approach to transition
  - Transport solutions
- 4.6. In addition, each locality has developed their own priorities based on locality needs.
- 4.7. The team leading inclusion have also delivered training to education and early help staff as well as social care teams. We have completed a dip sample of educational outcomes for children identified as Children in Need (CiN) or supported through a Child Protection (CP) plan which will be used to inform further professional development so that all CiN and CP plans have attendance targets where a child's attendance is below 96%.



- 4.8 In addition, we are using Orchestra (a management information software) to collect live attendance data from school's information systems which feeds an inclusion dashboard allowing practitioners and leaders to prioritise their work based on live trends of data coming directly from schools.

## **5. Financial Implications**

- 5.1. The attendance strategy can be delivered within the current resources budgeted for in Children's Services. The new requirements from the DfE do place new responsibilities on local authorities.

## **6. Environmental Implications**

- 6.1. None.

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

- 7.1. In September 2021, the Public Health Advice, Guidance and Expertise (PHAGE) function of Public Health England's (PHE's) COVID-19 response published a paper summarising the existing evidence of the health and wellbeing benefits of school-age education. It reported:
- Children from the most deprived backgrounds have experienced the most adverse impact of the pandemic.
  - Four more years of schooling is associated with reduced mortality and reduced risk of heart disease and diabetes people with less education are more likely to be obese, to smoke, and to experience alcohol-related harm.
  - Schools provide opportunities for physical activity, the benefits of which for mental and physical health are well established. Active children are more likely to become active adults.
  - Sleep patterns and diets have been shown to be worse when children are out of schools. Children in receipt of free school meals are disproportionately impacted.
  - As well as improved individual health outcomes, school attendance provides inter-personal, social and occupational opportunities essential to health and development.
  - School attendance can impact on children's mental health. Schools play an important role in supporting the mental health and wellbeing of children.

## **8. Other Implications**

None

## **9. Risk Assessment**

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

Current Risk: Low

Residual Risk: Low

## **10. Appendices**

Appendix 1 - Dorset Attendance Strategy and Plan Version 1.0

Appendix 2 - Equalities Impact Assessment

## **11. Background Papers**

None



# **Dorset Council Attendance Strategy and Plan 2022**

**Version 1:0**

# Contents

- 1.Our vision for attendance in Dorset
- 2.Our commitment to attendance in Dorset
- 3.Why does attendance matter?
- 4.The national context
- 5.The Dorset context
- 6.The Localities context
- 7.The Dorset approach
- 8.Dorset wide attendance priorities
- 9.Dorset's localities attendance priorities
- 10.How we will make sure this is delivered
11. Dorset Attendance Plan

## **Our vision for attendance in Dorset**

Our vision is:

**“We want attendance to be everyone’s business and a key feature of all frontline council services and partners’ work so that the children and young people of Dorset have the highest possible school attendance which enables them to be healthy, happy, safe and achieve the best possible outcomes. We want our children to go on to achieve their potential and to lead fulfilling lives.”**

This vision is within the context of Dorset’s Children’s and Young Peoples plan 2020-25, which sets out that:

- We want Dorset to be the best place to be a child, where communities thrive and where our families are supported to be the best they can be. Our partnership has a bold and courageous vision to deliver the best education for all our children and young people;
- To prepare our young people for independence (adulthood); and
- For our children and young people to experience the best possible health and wellbeing.

## **Our commitment to attendance in Dorset**

Our work is shaped by the following commitments. We will:

- Ensure that attendance is everyone’s business
- Ensure that attendance is a key feature of all frontline council and services and partners’ work
- Work in partnership with young people, parents, schools, health, youth justice service, police and other partners
- Embrace new ways of working to support and enable innovative practice
- Commit to identify and understand barriers to attendance in Dorset
- Commit to provide good quality services
- Commit to early identification and support

## **Why does attendance matter?**

Attending school can be a passport to a child’s future into adulthood, independence and achieving one's ambition.

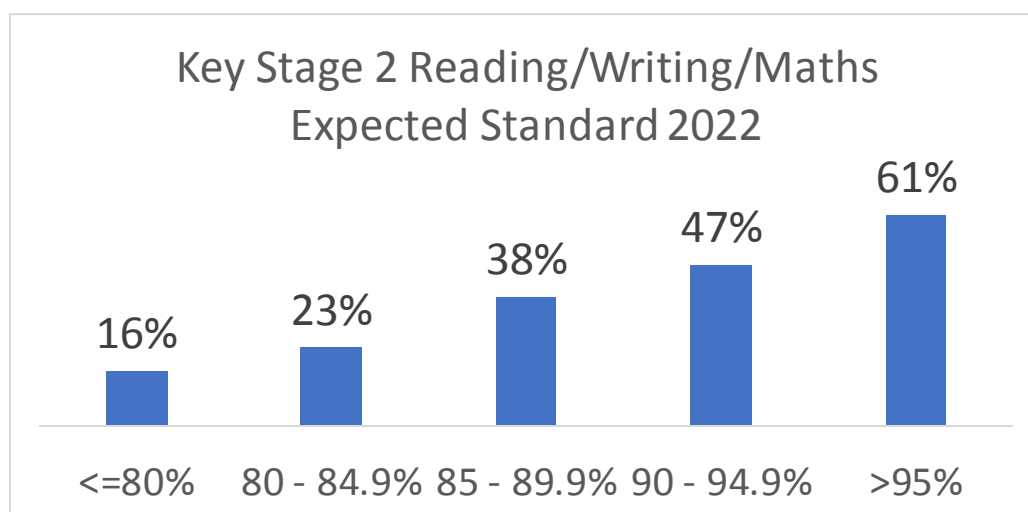
If a child has an attendance level of 90%, they will have missed one day a fortnight in school. Over a school year this will represent four weeks of absence. If this level of absence were maintained for a five-year period it would mean that half a school year would have been missed which can lead to considerable lost learning.

Importantly, attending a school is not just about it being a place to learn, schools are incredible places for children to develop their relationships with friends, take opportunities to try new a different activities and can also be a safe place where children can get the support they need.

For the most vulnerable pupils, regular attendance is an important protective factor and the best opportunity for a child's learning needs to be identified and support provided. Research has shown associations between regular absence from school and a number of extra-familial harms. This includes crime (90% of young offenders had been persistently absent from school) and serious violence (83% of knife possession offenders had been persistently absent from school in at least 1 of the 5 years of study). Other vulnerability factors will have been at play for some of these young people in the study, but attendance at school was highlighted as an area of focus.

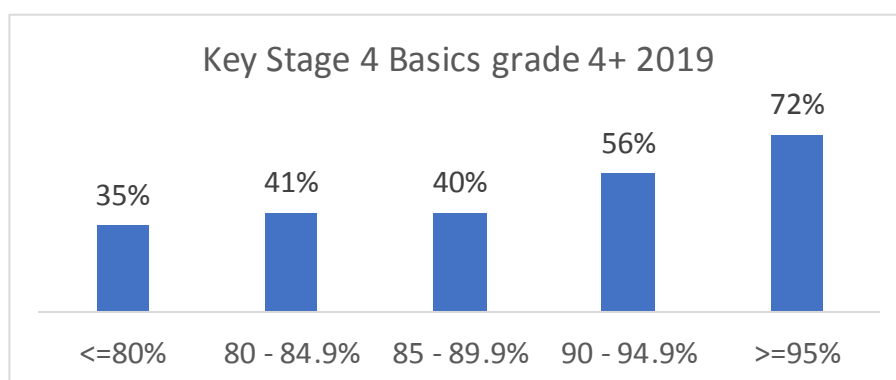
The pupils with the highest attainment at the end of Key Stage 2 (KS2) and Key Stage 4 (KS4) have higher rates of attendance over the key stage compared to those with the lowest attainment. At KS2, pupils not meeting the expected standard in reading, writing and maths had an overall absence rate of 4.7%, compared to 3.5% among those meeting the expected standard. Moreover, the overall absence rate of pupils not meeting the expected standard was higher than among those meeting the higher standard (4.7% compared to 2.7%). At KS4, pupils not achieving grade 9 to 4 in English and maths had an overall absence rate of 8.8%, compared to 5.2% among those achieving grade 4. The overall absence rate of pupils not achieving grade 9 to 4 was over twice as high as those achieving grade 9 to 5 (8.8% compared to 3.7%).

This national data is also reflected in the outcomes achieved by Dorset's children and young people. In 2022, 61% of children with 95% or above attendance achieved the Key Stage Two expected standard in reading, writing and maths; compared to 47% of children with between 90 and 94.9% attendance; 38% with attendance between 85% - 89.9% attendance, 23% for children with between 80 and 84.9% attendance and 16% for children with below 80% attendance.



At Key Stage 4 in 2019, 72% of children whose attendance was 95% or above achieved a grade four or above in English and Maths, compared to:

- 56% whose attendance was between 90% - 94%;
- 40% for children whose attendance was between 85% - 89.9%;
- 41% for children whose attendance was between 80 and 84.9%; and
- 35% for those children whose attendance was below 80%.

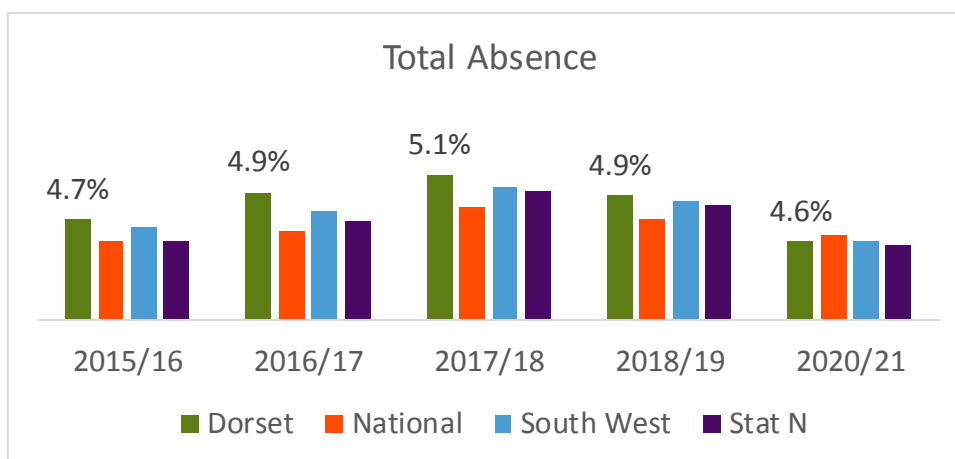


## The national context

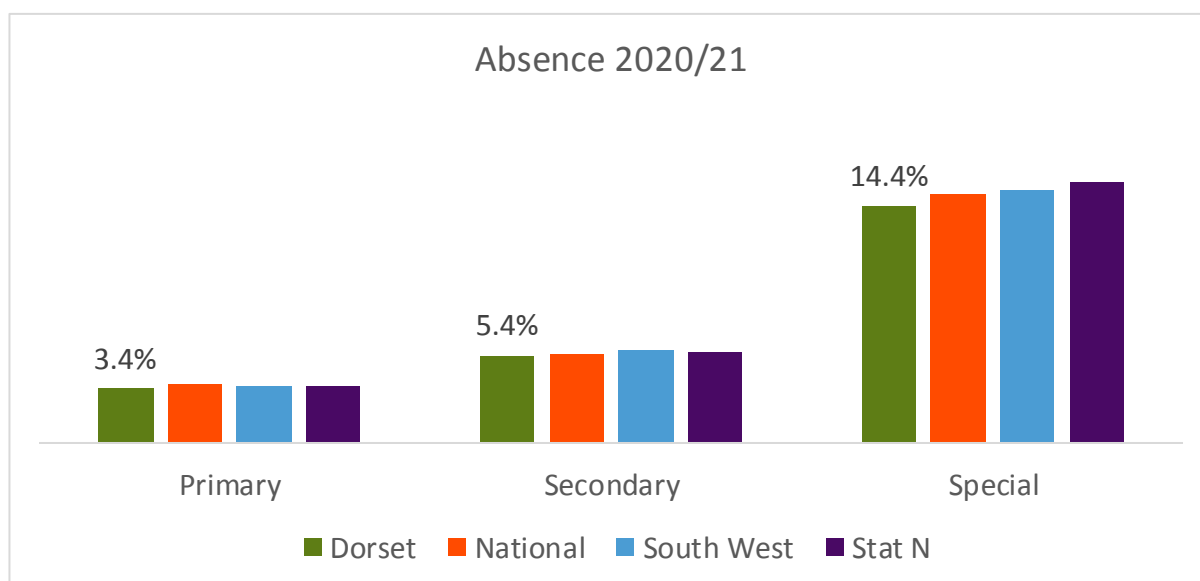
In May 2022, the Department for Education (DfE) published *Working together to improve school attendance* (link: [Working together to improve school attendance](#)). It is guidance for maintained schools, academies, independent schools and local authorities to follow which applied from September 2022. The main messages from the guidance are that attendance cannot solely be the preserve of a single member of staff or organisation – **improving attendance is everyone's business**. Absence from school can often be a symptom of wider issues a family is facing. Local authorities, schools and wider partners need to work together to understand the barriers to attendance and provide support. Legal interventions should be a last resort and should only be used when they are likely to lead to a behavioural change. The guidance sets out expectations on schools, academies and local authorities.

## The Dorset context

Total absence rates improved in Dorset from a high of 5.05% in the academic year of 2017/18, to 4.90% in 2018/19 and 4.57% in 2020/21. In 2020/21 Dorset's absence rate was in line with the national average (4.62%), South West (4.57%) and statistical neighbour (4.54%) rates.



Absence was higher for children and young people in the secondary phase of education (5.4%) compared to the primary phase (3.4%). The absence rate of 3.4% for our primary aged children was below national average (3.6%), the South West (3.5%) and our statistical neighbours (3.5%). Our secondary phase absence rate of 5.4% was also below national average (5.5%), the South West (5.6%) and our statistical neighbours (5.5%). The absence rate of children and young people in our Dorset special schools was higher than their mainstream peers at 14.4%. However, this was below national (15.2%), the South West (15.4%) and our statistical neighbours (15.8%).

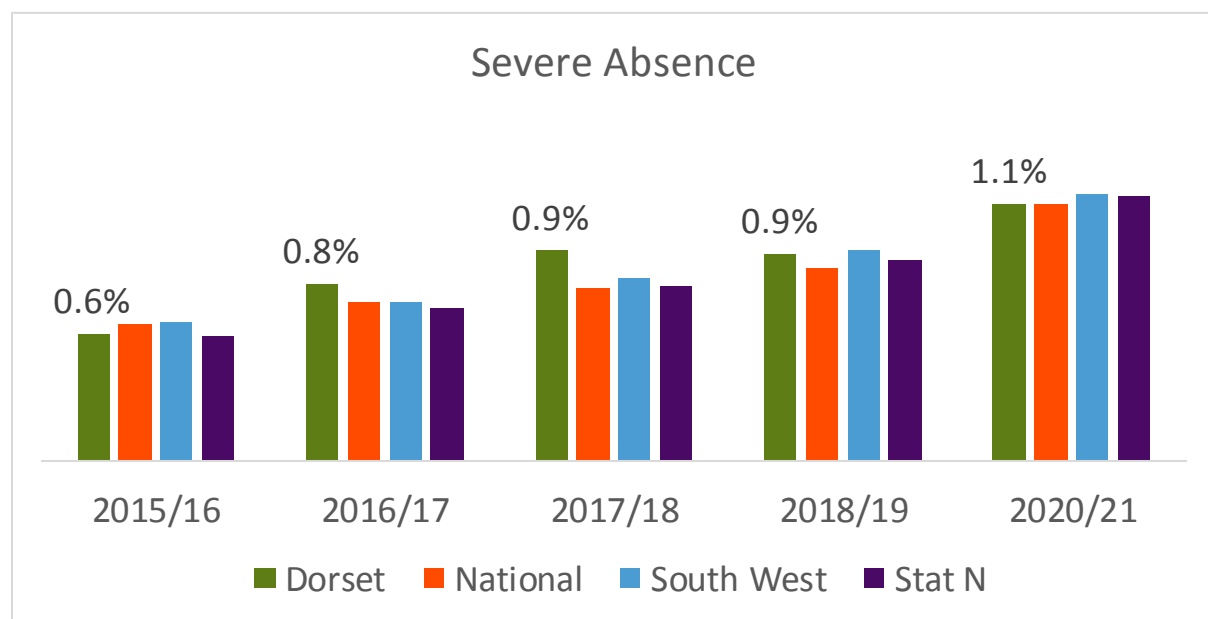


Both nationally and in Dorset, the absence of children and young people entitled to free school meals was higher than those not entitled to free school meals. Both in Dorset and nationally, the absence rate of children and young people entitled to free school meals was 8% compared to 4% for those not entitled. The absence rate of children and young people in Dorset with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) (14%) was broadly in line with national averages (13%) and below national average for children and young people identified as SEN Support (6% in Dorset compared to 7% nationally). The absence rate for

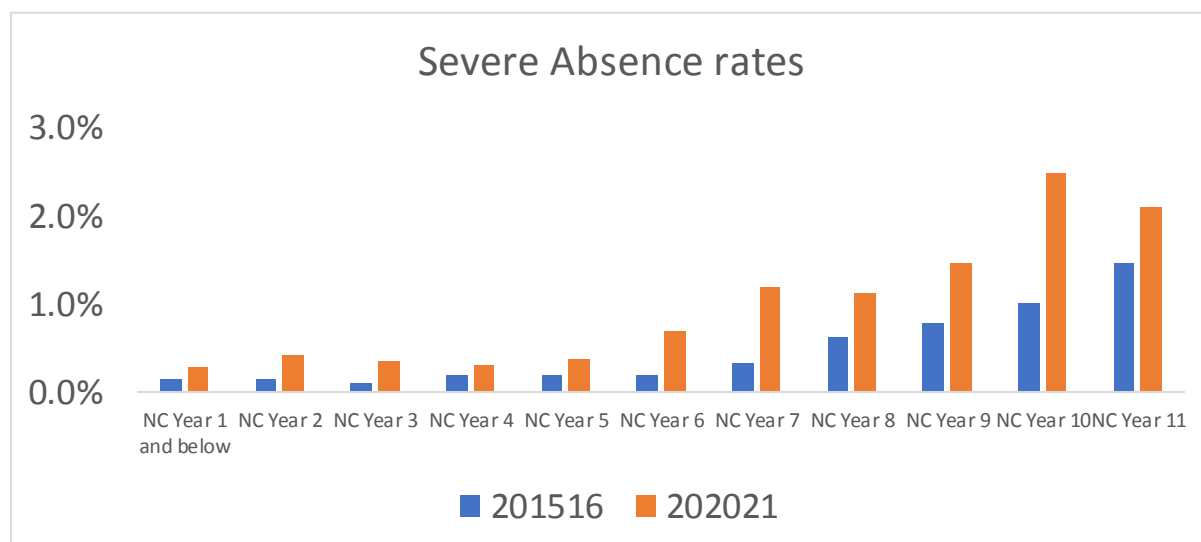


females in Dorset (4%) was below national average (5%) and the absence rate for males (5%) was in line with national average. An area of focus will be children and young people identified as traveller or Irish heritage, whose absence rate was 23% (although this is a small number of children and young people).

There was a rise in persistent absence (where a child or young person is absent for 10% or more of the time), however persistent absence in Dorset was below national, South West and statistical neighbour averages. Children and young people eligible for free school meals tend towards a higher rate of persistent absence, therefore Dorset's attendance plan will have a robust focus on the persistent absence for this group of children and young people. There was also a rise in severe absence, where a child or young person is absent for more than 50% of the time, both in Dorset and nationally following the pandemic. The severe absence rate in Dorset (1.1%) was in line with national average and below that of the South West (1.2%) and statistical neighbours (1.2%). Children and young people eligible for free school meals are more likely to be severely absent and so this will also be a key focus in Dorset's attendance plan.



In the academic year 2020/21, the rate of severe absence was highest in Year 10 (2.5%), followed by Year 11 (2.1%) and Year 9 (1.5%). There was a rise in severe absence rates from Year 6 (0.7%) to Year 7 (1.2%) and so transition will be a key focus in Dorset's attendance plan.

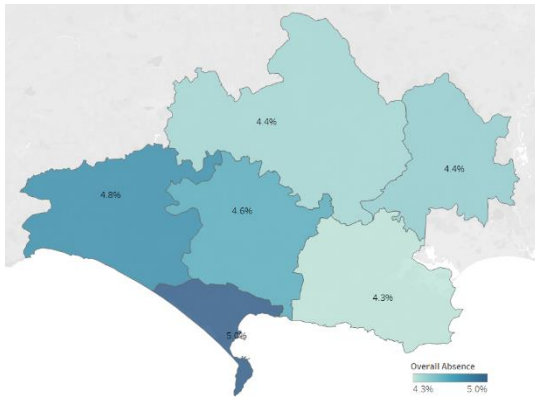


The most recent comparative attendance data we have is from the autumn and spring terms in the 2021/22 academic year. This shows Dorset's absence rate had increased to 8% which was in line with the South West average and slightly above national average (7%). 25% of children and young people were persistently absent from school in Dorset compared to 22% nationally and 25% in the South West. The severe absence rate in Dorset was 1.9% compared to 1.5% nationally and 1.8% in the South West. However, during this period the South West experienced high levels of absence due to covid-19 and also high levels of illness absence. Dorset's covid rate was 1.8% compared to 1.3% nationally and there was a higher illness rate in Dorset of 5.5% compared to 4.7% nationally.

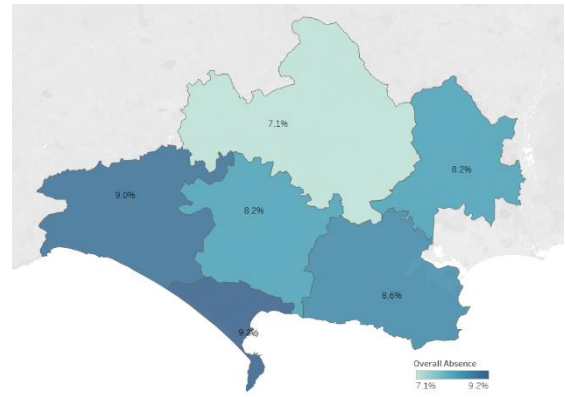
## The Localities context

In the 2020/21 academic year, the lowest rates of absence was in the Purbeck (4.3%), East (4.4%) and North localities (4.4%) and the highest rates of absence was in the Chesil locality (5.0%). In the autumn and spring terms of the academic year 2021/22, the highest rate of absence was in the Chesil (9.2%) and West localities (9.0%) and the lowest rate was in the North locality (7.1%). There will be focus in the Dorset attendance plan on increasing the attendance of our children and young people in the Chesil and West localities and exploring learning from the North locality which could be shared with other areas in Dorset.

Academic year 2020/21:



Autumn and spring terms 2021/22:



## The Dorset Approach

We held a multi-agency Dorset attendance workshop which was attended by over 80 colleagues and partners from Dorset Council, our schools, police, youth justice, parents and carers and health.

The following were identified as strengths in schools:

- Relationships
- Community links
- Care
- Values
- Clear policy and processes
- Communication
- Curriculum
- Creativity
- Tracking



The strengths identified in localities were:

- Whole family working
- Communication

- Specific support
- Relational practice
- Parental support
- Contextual safeguarding
- Data rich

The strengths identified in communities were:

- Young people
- Family and neighbours
- Volunteer groups
- Health

The workshop identified Dorset wide priorities and each locality developed their own priorities based on locality needs. This information has been used to write Dorset's attendance plan and strategy.

The team leading inclusion have also delivered training to education and early help staff as well as social care teams. We have completed a dip sample of educational outcomes for children identified as Children in Need (CiN) or supported through a Child Protection (CP) plan which will be used to inform further professional development so that all CiN and CP plans have attendance targets where a child's attendance is below 96%.

In addition, we are using Orchestra (a management information software) to collect live attendance data from school's information systems which feeds an inclusion dashboard allowing practitioners and leaders to prioritise their work based on live trends of data coming directly from schools.

## **Dorset wide attendance priorities**

1. Consistent Dorset wide policy and practice
2. Knowledge sharing and communication
3. Early identification of causes lead to development of targeted interventions
4. Consistent approach to transition
5. Transport solutions



## Dorset's localities' attendance priorities

<p><b>North locality</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Attendance of year groups whose transition between phases of education was disrupted by the pandemic</li> <li>2. Improve the effectiveness of inclusion panels through training and in school communication</li> <li>3. Improve communication with our parents and health colleagues</li> </ol>	<p><b>Chesil</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Improve communication between secondary and primary schools through a commitment to restorative and strengths-based practice</li> <li>2. Decrease rates of severe absence by clearly identifying individual barriers to attendance and ensuring the voices of our children, young people and families are heard</li> <li>3. Decrease the absence rates of our children and young people eligible for free school meals and investigate how local organisations can support with this</li> </ol>
<p><b>Dorchester</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ensure improvements to attendance are acknowledged</li> <li>2. Locality and disadvantaged schools funding to be used to support attendance</li> <li>3. The Dorchester Area School Pyramid (DASP) attendance panel to focus on using parenting contracts to support children and young people with high level attendance issues</li> <li>4. Collaborate with the Local Alliance Group (LAG) regarding pupils who are persistently absent</li> <li>5. Explore the possibility of Dorchester Learning Centre supporting with pupils who are severely absent</li> </ol>	<p><b>West</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Build resilience through a focus on student voice and parental confidence</li> <li>2. Develop early help for parents in the West Locality</li> <li>3. Improve the attendance of children and young people with SEN</li> <li>4. Develop alternative provision (AP) for short interventions</li> </ol>
<p><b>East and Purbeck</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Raise the focus on attendance in the East and Purbeck Local Alliance Groups (LAG)</li> <li>2. Widen access to the Local Inclusion Partnership (LIP) meetings to include first and middle schools</li> <li>3. Ensure there is a child centered focus/approach in the East and Purbeck Localities</li> <li>4. Improve parental engagement in the East and Purbeck Localities</li> </ol>	

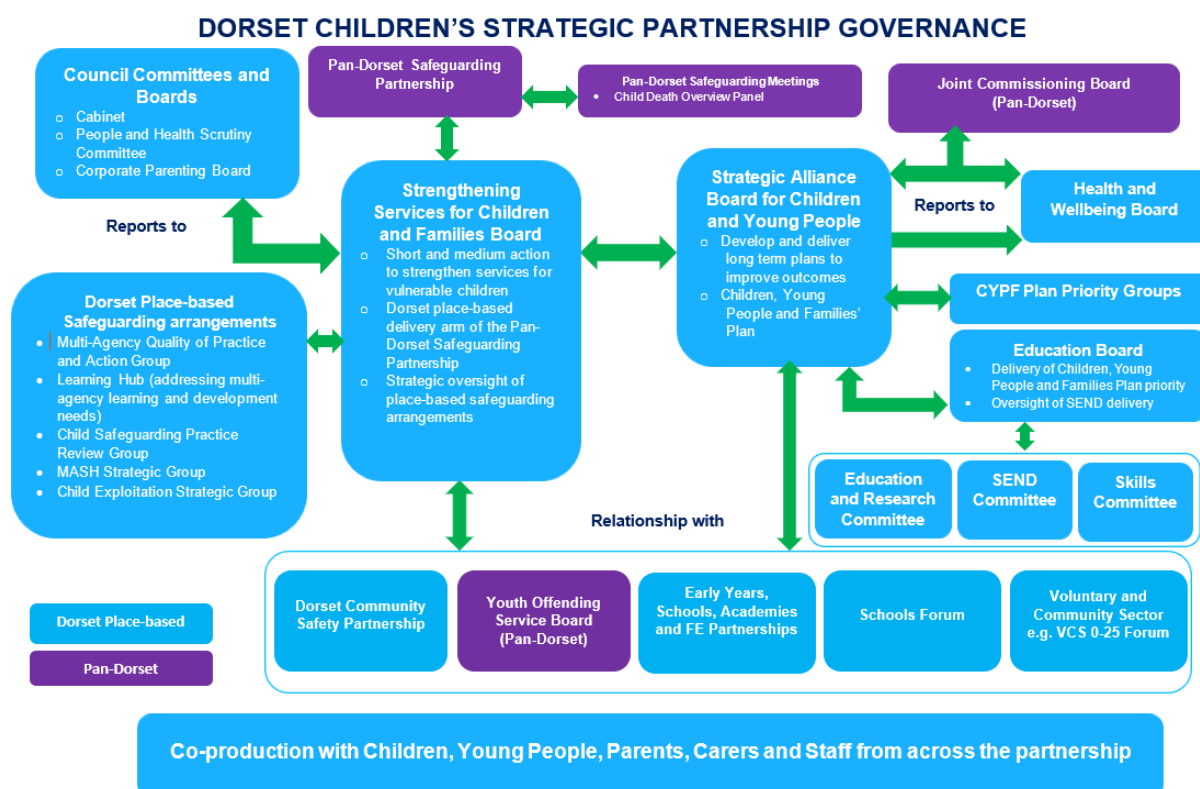
## How we will make sure this is delivered

The progress of this strategy will be reviewed at the Dorset Education Board. A termly report detailing evidence and impact of action points will be presented for each of the priority areas. This information will be presented by the Service Manager for Inclusion.

The Strengthening Services Board will monitor the development and embedding of attendance targets in CiN and CP Plans, ensuring attendance becomes a key feature of all frontline council services and partners work and the delivery of three tiers of attendance training across all directorates.

Attendance data will be incorporated into the inclusion dashboard. There will be a focus on vulnerable groups, such as children and young people with a social worker and children and young people with an EHCP. Children's Services Leadership Team will receive weekly up-dates on Dorset's attendance.

We will continue to work with our partners and families. Attendees of the Dorset attendance workshop would like it to become an annual event. We will meet termly with senior leaders championing attendance in schools and regularly update Head Teachers at briefings and meetings. We will work with Dorset Parent-Carer Council to organise an event for our families and will also collaborate with the children and young people of Dorset.



# **Dorset Attendance Plan**

## **Dorset Wide Priorities**

### **Priority One: Consistent Dorset wide policy and practice**

#### **Vision:**

We will ensure that Dorset attendance policies and practices are followed and consistently applied by Dorset Council colleagues, schools, trusts and partners across all six localities. Securing good attendance cannot be seen in isolation and effective practices for improvement will involve close interaction with schools' efforts on a consistent approach to behaviour.

#### **Outcomes:**

- The Dorset attendance guidance is understood by Dorset Council colleagues, schools, trusts and other partners
- There is a commitment by all schools and trusts to follow Dorset's attendance policy and practice
- A consistent approach is taken to inclusion panels across Dorset's localities, schools and trusts
- An increase in the use of parental contacts to support improvements in attendance across Dorset
- Whilst recognising that legal intervention is a very last resort, Dorset council, schools and trusts make use of the full range of legal interventions rather than relying solely on fixed penalty notices
- Attendance will feature in all children in need (CIN) and child protection(CP) plans
- Dorset's absence rates will be below national, South West and statistical neighbour rates for total absence, severe absence and persistent absence
- The persistent absence rate of our children eligible for free school meals will reduce to below the national average
- The absence rate for our children and young people with a traveller of Irish heritage will reduce to below the national average
- The absence rate for our children with an EHCP will reduce to below the national average
- A reduction in the number of children on part-time tables and the length of time that pupils are on a part-time timetable
- Children and young people with health needs will be able to access education swiftly



Priority Number	Action
P1/001	Publish and circulate up-dated Dorset attendance guidance so that Dorset council colleagues, schools and other partners have clear processes to follow.
P1/002	Establish termly locality networks for senior leaders in schools with responsibility for championing attendance in their settings. This will provide regular opportunities to embed and clarify policy and practice and to resolve any issues that may arise.
P1/003	Develop a Dorset Inclusion Toolkit to ensure that attendance processes are clear and easily accessible and provide guidance on the use of part-time timetables. The Dorset Inclusion Toolkit will also provide schools with useful information and resources on all areas of inclusion.
P1/004	Multi-academy trusts check attendance policy and practices are being implemented consistently across their schools.
P1/005	Provide CPD to Inclusion Team Managers and Inclusion Leads to ensure that the Dorset attendance strategy, plan, policy and practices are understood and applied consistently.
P1/006	Provide Inclusion Team Managers and Inclusion Leads with regular opportunities to clarify processes and practices and to resolve any issues that may arise through Inclusion Development meetings, Inclusion Practice meetings and inclusion 'drop-in' meetings.
P1/007	Ensure that independent schools and alternative provision settings registered as schools follow the Dorset attendance policy and processes. Ensure that independent schools and alternative provision settings registered as schools have termly inclusion meetings.
P1/008	Utilise the information and analysis gathered from 'dip-sampling' child in need (CiN) and Child Protection Plans (CPP) to develop and deliver further attendance CPD to social care colleagues.
P1/009	Promote and embed 'Therapeutic Thinking' across our Dorset Schools as part of ensuring schools are calm, orderly, safe and supportive environments where all of our children and young people want to attend.
P1/010	Audit and review the new locality medical panels to ensure that they are efficient and effective in ensuring children with health needs are able to access the right provision for them.
P1/011	Deliver CPD to Inclusion Team Managers, SEN Team Managers and Education and Early Help Service Managers on medical/health referrals to ensure children and young people with health needs access the right provision for them.
P1/012	Development plans across Dorset Council (not just children's services) will include actions around school attendance (for example transport and housing).
P1/013	Ensure all children and young people who are severely absent have a robust plan in place to improve attendance.



## Priority Two: Knowledge sharing and communication

### Vision:

Improving attendance will be everyone's business. Children, young people, families, communities and professionals will understand the importance of attendance to children's well-being and outcomes. We will listen to the voices of our children, young people and families and take a restorative strength-based approach to communication. There will be a commitment to building strong relationships with children, young people and families and between professionals which will enable us to provide the best support possible. We will also use communication to raise the aspirations of children and young people by introducing them to new people, opportunities and experiences. We will ensure that strategic, operational and individual knowledge about children and young people is shared and communicated clearly where appropriate.

### Outcomes:

- Dorset Council shares strategic level information with schools, trusts and wider partners
- Professionals share knowledge and information in relation to individual children and young people where appropriate
- Where there is multi-disciplinary support for families, in line with early help principles, families should receive a single assessment, plan, and where necessary, a single lead practitioner
- Our children and young people are introduced to new people, experiences and opportunities which raises career aspirations
- Dorset's absence rates will be below national, South West and statistical neighbour rates for total absence, severe absence and persistent absence
- The persistent absence rate of our children eligible for free school meals will reduce to below the national average
- The absence rate for our children and young people with a traveller of Irish heritage will reduce to below the national average
- The absence rate for our children with an EHCP will reduce to below the national rate

Priority Number	Action
P2/001	Establish an annual Dorset attendance conference involving Dorset Council colleagues from education, early help and social care; schools, health, Youth Justice Service (YJS), police and other partners.

P2/002	Work collaboratively with children, young people and their families to further develop Dorset's attendance strategy, plan, policy and practice through specific workshops.
P2/003	Establish a multi-agency Dorset attendance task force to ensure that attendance is everyone's business.
P2/004	Regularly include attendance updates in Dorset's education bulletin.
P2/005	Establish avenues for regularly sharing knowledge regarding attendance with our wider partners such as health and the police.
P2/006	Utilise the termly locality networks for senior leaders in schools with responsibility for championing attendance in their settings to share good practice.
P2/007	Ensure inclusion teams are utilising the inclusion dashboard to inform discussions with schools, trusts and wider partners.
P2/008	Establish a three-tiered attendance training programme across Dorset Council to ensure that everyone understands and promotes the importance of good attendance: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Universal (for all frontline staff)</li> <li>2. Enhanced (for staff whose role is more closely linked to attendance)</li> <li>3. Specific (for those staff whose role specifically includes attendance).</li> </ol>
P2/009	Include case studies of good attendance related practice in the Dorset Inclusion Toolkit.
P2/010	Securing good attendance cannot be seen in isolation and effective practices for improvement will involve close interaction with schools' efforts on curriculum, therefore we will develop avenues to share best practice in relation to curriculum models.
P2/011	Develop opportunities for our children and young people to meet new people and have new experiences that raise their career aspirations.
P2/012	Ensure joint-planning meetings between specialist teachers, educational psychologists and schools are used effectively.
P2/013	Deliver training to designated teachers on their role in promoting the attendance of our children and young people with a social worker or have ever had a social worker.
P2/014	Improve our data processes so that we understand the attendance of our children and young people that have ever had a social worker.
P2/015	Ensure that 100% of our schools are able to provide attendance data through 'Orchestra'.
P2/016	Deliver an attendance campaign across Dorset utilising social media and other methods of communication

### **Priority Three: Early identification of cause leads to development of targeted interventions**

#### **Vision:**

We will ensure that across Dorset there is a commitment to remove any barriers to attendance by building strong and trusting relationships and working together to put the right support in place. There will be a commitment to identifying our children and young people at risk of poor attendance early and to understanding the individual needs and barriers for our families so that evidence based targeted interventions can be put in place to reduce absence before it becomes habitual. We will work to support our parents from the birth of their child where appropriate.

Our children with social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) needs and our children with Emotional Based School Avoidance (EBSA) will be able to access the right support at the right time so that they are able to achieve their best possible outcomes. Other special education needs, such as speech and language and neurodiversity will be identified early, understood by schools and other professionals and effective support put in place to meet their needs.

#### **Outcomes:**

- Our children and young people at risk of poor attendance are identified early
- There is improved identification of our children and young people who are young carers
- Schools and other professionals understand the individual barriers to attendance for our children, young people and families
- Schools and wider professionals develop and implement targeted interventions that address the individual barriers to attendance of our children, young people and families
- Our parents requiring support from the birth of their child are identified and appropriate support put in place
- There will be a timely multi-agency response where appropriate when children and young people at risk of poor attendance are identified, such as team around the family meetings
- Dorset council colleagues, schools, trusts and wider partners take a restorative strength-based approach to working with our children, young people and families as well as each other
- Dorset's absence rates will be below national, South West and statistical neighbour rates for total absence, severe absence and persistent absence.
- The persistent absence rate of our children eligible for free school meals will reduce to below the national average
- The absence rate for our children and young people with a traveller of Irish heritage will reduce to below the national average

- The absence rate for our children with an EHCP will reduce to below the national rate

<b>Priority Number</b>	<b>Action</b>
P3/001	Establish community champions and mentors to support children, young people and families to remove barriers to attendance.
P3/002	Schools to include attendance in their pupil premium strategies in order to better understand barriers to attendance faced by their children eligible for free school meals and provide targeted intervention.
P3/003	Schools to include attendance in their SEND strategies in order to better understand barriers to attendance faced by children and young people with an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) and SEND support and provide targeted intervention.
P3/004	Continue to develop specific support for children with Irish traveller heritage and promote awareness of their needs and culture through work with Dorset Youth Association and Kushti Bok.
P3/005	Embed the 'Balance System' to identify speech, language and communication needs early and ensure robust intervention is in place.
P3/006	Deliver the autism in schools project, focusing on schools with a high number of suspensions. In the first year we will work with six secondary/upper schools (one in each locality) and one larger feeder schools. The aim being to reduce the suspensions and exclusions of children and young people with autism and neurodiversity.
P3/007	Promote understanding of SEMH needs and EBSA needs at locality networks for senior school leaders with responsibility for attendance.
P3/008	Develop and deliver EBSA avoidance CPD to schools and wider partners.
P3/009	Collaborative work between health and education colleagues to develop SEMH support to remove barriers to attendance leading to a reduction in absence rates for children with SEMH needs.
P3/010	Work in partnership with NHS Dorset to roll out Mental Health Support Teams in all Schools across Dorset to meet the needs of children and young people presenting with mild to moderate mental health needs.
P3/011	Develop parent support packages which start from birth so that families requiring support are identified and receive support as early as possible.
P3/012	Work with health colleagues to explore avenues to more effective communication with parents around health concerns following the covid-19 pandemic.
P3/013	Develop Inclusion Hubs in mainstream schools, which are specific resourced provision (SRP) to meets the needs of our children and young people with SEMH and communication and interaction needs.

	We have the capital funding to deliver the first phase of inclusion hubs which would increase the number of SRPs in Dorset by seven.
P3/014	Review the alternative provision (AP) offer in Dorset so that children and young people who may need access to this type of setting for a short-period of time have their needs met and achieve positive outcomes.
P3/015	Work with 'My Time' to improve identification of our young carers in Dorset and the support they receive.
P3/016	Promote the use of AV1 so that children and young people who are unable to physically attend their school for a temporary period can be virtually present in their classrooms.

#### **Priority Four: Consistent approach to transition**

##### **Vision:**

We will ensure that transitions between phases of education and changes in educational settings across all ages are strength-based, smooth and supportive. All trusts and schools will provide a warm welcome to all children, young people and their families building strong and trusting relationships with them so that they have a sense of belonging.

There will be a robust focus on children and young people who may be at risk of poor attendance, such as children with a social worker and young carers. We will ensure that the school where children and young people are transitioning to have a good understanding of any special educational needs children and young people may have.

##### **Outcomes:**

- Reduction in the use of reduced timetables in Year Seven
- Reduction in the Year Seven severe absence rate
- Dorset's absence rates will be below national, South West and statistical neighbour rates for total absence, severe absence and persistent absence.
- The persistent absence rate of our children eligible for free school meals will reduce to below the national average
- The absence rate for our children and young people with a traveller of Irish heritage will reduce to below the national average
- The absence rate for our children with an EHCP will reduce to below the national rate

<b>Priority Number</b>	<b>Action</b>
P4/001	Schools ensure robust and enhanced transition plans are in place for children and young people likely to have poor attendance and for other vulnerable children and young people, such as those with SEN or a social worker.
P4/002	Deliver strength-based and restorative practice training to schools to ensure that this approach is taken to transition.

P4/003	Use the locality network meetings for senior leaders championing attendance in schools to focus on transition at certain points in the academic year.
P4/004	Ensure schools that children and young people with a social worker are transitioning to are invited to meetings before they go on roll and that transition between schools is included in CiN and CP plans.
P4/005	Promote and implement Dorset's transition guidance (to include the delivery of training) to support our vulnerable children and young people.

### Priority Five: Transport solutions

**Vision:** Transport issues will not prevent children and young people from attending school.

#### Outcomes:

- Transport is not a barrier to school attendance for any child or young person in Dorset
- Social Workers and Early Help professionals are able to advise families around school choice and its transport implications
- Dorset's absence rates will be below national, South West and statistical neighbour rates for total absence, severe absence and persistent absence.
- The persistent absence rate of our children eligible for free school meals will reduce to below the national average
- The absence rate for our children and young people with a traveller of Irish heritage will reduce to below the national average
- The absence rate for our children with an EHCP will reduce to below the national rate

Priority Number	Action
P5/001	To ensure that families who are entitled to free transport are accessing it
P5/002	Develop good home to school transport initiatives to support children and young people at risk of poor attendance
P5/003	Develop CPD for social workers and early help professionals so they are able to advise families around school choice and its transport implications
P5/004	Ensure robust processes are in place for the allocation of transport for children and young people who are permanently excluded or on managed moves
P5/006	Dorset Council education colleagues to explore with Dorset travel options to improve school transport

## Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)

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

### Initial Information

Name:	Kerry Smith
Job Title:	Service Manager – Inclusion
Email address:	Kerry.smith@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk
Members of the assessment team:	Kerry Smith (Service Manager Inclusion)
Date assessment started:	15/11/2022
Date of completion:	15/11/2022
Version Number:	1.0

### Part 1: Background Information

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

Existing	
Changing, updating or revision	
New or proposed	*
Other	

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

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

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

Dorset Attendance Strategy and Plan

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

The Dorset attendance plan and strategy aims to ensure that children and young people in Dorset have the highest possible attendance.

What is the background or context to the proposal?

The Department for Education published its guidance document “Working together to improve school attendance” in May 2022 to take effect in September 2022. This brought some new requirements on local authorities, particularly to ensure that attendance is everyone’s business and to support the wider education system to work together to promote good attendance in schools.

## Part 2: Gathering information

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

School census data and Department for Education (DfE) attendance data.

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

In 2022, 61% of children with 95% or above attendance achieved the Key Stage Two expected standard in reading, writing and maths; compared to 47% of children with between 90 and 94.9% attendance; 38% with attendance between 85 and 89.9% attendance, 23% for children with between 80 and 84.9% attendance and 16% for children with below 80% attendance.

At Key Stage Four in 2019, 72% of children whose attendance was 95% or above achieved a grade four or above in English and Maths, compared to 56% whose attendance was between 90 and 94%, 40% for children whose attendance was between 85 and 89.9%, 41% for children whose attendance was between 80 and 84.9% and 35% for those children whose attendance was below 80%.

Is further information needed to help inform this proposal?

We will continue to use the most recent data provided by the DfE and the school census to compare the attendance in Dorset with national.

## Part 3: Engagement and Consultation

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

We held a multi-agency Dorset attendance workshop which was attended by over 80 colleagues from Dorset Council, our schools, police, youth justice, parents and carers and health.

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

We will share the attendance strategy and plan with all that took part in the workshop. We will up-date schools through Head Teacher briefings, SENCo briefings and attendance senior leader network meetings. We will hold a further workshop with parents and children and young people as well as meeting termly with our health, police and youth justice colleagues. In addition, we will provide CPD for Dorset Council staff.



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

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

**Please tick the appropriate option:**

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

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

N/A
-----

#### **Part 4: Analysing the impact**

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

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

For each protected characteristic please choose from the following options:

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

Positive Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the proposal eliminates discrimination, advances equality of opportunity and/or fosters good relations with protected groups.</li> </ul>
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>

Age:	<i>Positive Impact</i>
What age bracket does this affect?	0-16 years
Please provide details:	

	<p>The absence rate of children in Dorset primary schools was 3.4% in the academic year 2020/21 compared to 5.4% for secondary aged pupils. In the academic year 2020/21, the rate of severe absence was highest in Year 10 (2.5%), followed by Year 11 (2.1%) and Year 9 (1.5%). There was an increase in severe absence rates from Year 6 (0.7%) to Year 7 (1.2%).</p> <p>The Dorset attendance strategy and plan will focus on these age groups working in collaboration with schools.</p>
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Disability: (including physical, mental, sensory and progressive conditions)	<i>Positive Impact</i>
Does this affect a specific disability group?	Children with SEND
Please provide details:	<p>In the academic year 2020/21, the absence rate of children with an EHCP in Dorset was 14% which was slightly above the national rate of national 13% and for children identified as SEN Support it was 6%, below the national average of 7%.</p> <p>The Dorset attendance strategy and plan will identify plans to support this cohort of children.</p>

Gender Reassignment & Gender Identity:	Unclear
Please provide details:	

Pregnancy and maternity:	Unclear
Please provide details:	

Race and Ethnicity:	Positive impact
Please provide details:	<p>In the academic year 2020/21, the absences rates for children and young people with a traveller of Irish heritage were higher both nationally and in Dorset, although the number of children identified as traveller of Irish heritage was small in Dorset.</p> <p>The Dorset attendance strategy and plan will identify plans to support this cohort of children.</p>

Religion or belief:	Unclear
Please provide details:	

Sexual orientation:	Unclear
Please provide details:	

Sex (consider both men and women):	Neutral
Please provide details:	<p>In the academic year 2020/21, the total absence rate in Dorset was 5%, which was the same as national. In the same academic year, the absence rate of females in Dorset was 4% (national 5%) and for males it was 5% (national 5%).</p> <p>The Dorset attendance strategy and plan will identify plans to support these cohorts of children.</p>

Marriage or civil partnership:	Unclear
Please provide details:	

Carers:	<i>Unclear</i>
Please provide details:	

Rural isolation:	Unclear
Please provide details:	

Single parent families:	Unclear
Please provide details:	

Social & economic deprivation:	Positive impact
Please provide details:	<p>In the academic year 2020/21, the absence rate of children eligible for free school meals (8%) both in Dorset and nationally was double that of children not entitled to free school meals (4%).</p>

Armed Forces communities	Unclear
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Please provide details:	
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**Data Source:** School Census data and DfE attendance data

## Part 5: Action Plan

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

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

Issue	Action to be taken	Person(s) responsible	Date to be completed by
All protected characteristics	The EqlA will be reviewed alongside the Dorset attendance strategy and plan.	The Dorset Education Board	September 2023

## EqlA Sign Off

Officer completing this EqlA:	Kerry Smith	Date:	15.11.2022
Equality Lead:	Susan Ward-Rice	Date:	
Equality & Diversity Action Group Chair:	Dr David Bonner	Date:	

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## **People & Health Overview Committee 19 December 2022 Developing Commissioning Strategies for Adult Social Care: Engagement Feedback**

### **For Review and Consultation**

**Portfolio Holder:** Cllr P Wharf, Adult Social Care and Health

**Local Councillor(s):** All

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

**Report Author:** Mark Tyson  
**Title:** Commissioning Consultant  
**Tel:** 01305 224825  
**Email:** mark.tyson@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

**Recommendation:** People & Health Overview Committee are recommended:

- (1) To note the feedback received on the strategies over the autumn; and
- (2) To review and comment upon the proposed changes that are being worked up in the commissioning strategy drafts that were presented to the 28 June meeting, ahead of their presentation to Cabinet in the New Year.

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

The commissioning strategies are important statements of the future direction of the adult social care service. The commitment to continue to engage the people who draw on support, our partners, and the wider public in their development is important. Having undertaken a period of engagement around the drafts of the documents, work is now underway to ensure that feedback has been acted upon and the drafts that are received by Cabinet for approval reflect the views of those who engaged.

#### **Attachments:**

1. Presentation summarising feedback received on the strategies and the work underway to amend the drafts to reflect what we were told.

## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1. On 28 June 2022, People & Health Overview Committee were presented with a suite of documents that created a framework for the future planning of adult social care services. They set out to make it easier for people to engage with Dorset Council over the future of care services, and to have confidence that we had taken into account the things that mattered to them, and had set the right direction to improve the care and support they receive.
- 1.2. The suite of documents that was presented to that meeting was then used for engagement, and can be found in the accompanying papers for that meeting. Some of the simplified summary information on our strategies, as well as the programme for the engagement, can be found on our A Better Life webpages at [www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/a-better-life](http://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/a-better-life).

## **2. Engagement approach**

- 2.1. There were multiple opportunities to engage and provide feedback on the strategies that had been drafted, but also more broadly on experience or views on the social care system in Dorset. The public engagement sessions were also paired with engagement events for frontline staff teams across the localities, and both together have provided a rich source of insight into how our strategies should be shaped to address what matters to people in the years ahead. More detail on this is included in the attached report.
- 2.2. As can also be seen in the attached report, the process undertaken over the late summer and Autumn is the start of an ongoing opportunity for people to engage in shaping the approaches to improvement in adult social care. Some of the immediate engagement priorities for the year ahead are outlined, as well as some of the methods by which people will be able to continue to contribute.

## **3. High-level overview of what we heard**

- 3.1. Specific points of feedback have been grouped and themed in the attached report, from short comments included on post-it notes in the in-person sessions, to more detailed conversations and written feedback received through the online form or email. The report does not present every comment received, but Members should be assured that all contributions have been logged and are being gathered into a feedback report which will be published on the link above, alongside the strategy information.
- 3.2. One particular key point of feedback is on the structure of the suite of strategies. The initial drafts were divided up as:
  - i) An 'overarching' strategy that detailed some of the system wide commissioning issues and approaches, including prevention, direct payments, partnership, place-based work, co-production and data.



- ii) A 'working age' strategy which gathered together the commissioning plans for people who lived their adult lives with disability (physical, sensory or learning), mental health condition or other impairments, and needed care and support.
  - iii) An 'older people' strategy which presented approaches to some of the challenges associated with ageing and requiring care and support, and the commissioning plans that were needed to improve the support system.
  - iv) A carer's strategy, which gave our approach to improving the support received by family and other carers (sometimes called 'informal' carers) for people with additional needs.
- 3.3. Feedback was strongly of the view that this structuring did not work, and that in particular the framing of 'working age' was confusing and unhelpful. Firstly, there was no clarity about what a 'working age' is (in a world where many people work beyond what was once considered a 'typical' retirement age). Secondly, it was pointed out that some people will never be able to work because of profound disability, and so the framing did not speak to their life story.
- 3.4. As a result, the strategy framework will change, and these substantial changes are being worked on at the time of drafting this report. The intention is to encapsulate the broad approach for *all* adults taken by adult care and support in Dorset, with separate strategies to address specific issues in ageing and carers, together with a supporting document on how the commissioning system will work better to plan for the future.
- 3.5. The other broad piece of feedback was that there was too much in the strategies and, whilst there was some appreciation of the detailed analysis of parts of the documents, it was generally felt that something easier to digest and more punchy about the priorities for the future would be more useful. Presenting information in infographic form was also felt to be helpful (particularly given that it will need to be updated at points if the documents are to be useful for their full term).

## **4. Next steps**

- 4.1. After members of the People & Health Overview Committee have provided comments on the approaches proposed, the strategies will be finalised for submission to Cabinet for approval. The Cabinet discussion is scheduled for 28 February 2023. Thereafter, there will be continued development of action plans to ensure that the strategy ambition is tracked and delivered over the following years.
- 4.2. It is very important to acknowledge that the intention is not, at this point, for the strategies to be 'fixed in time'. They will continue to a living and developing framework for the improvement of adult social care services over the next 5 years and beyond. As set out in the attached slides there is the intention to establish a clearer programme of engagement and co-production on some of

the key themes that still require more shaping and development. Alongside this, there will be the opportunity at any point for people to feed back experiences and comments on their experience of adult social care so that the approaches can be refined based on their insight.

## **5. Conclusion**

- 5.1. These strategies present the first comprehensive overview for Dorset Council of the intentions and plans for commissioning adult social care support for the years ahead. They are not yet in final form, but they lay the basis for a dialogue with those who access support, those who provide it, and those who work with us in the system, about the direction ahead.

## **6. Financial Implications**

- 6.1. There are no direct implications for current or future spending in the contents of this report. Where feedback is made and change to the strategies is proposed, there will always be further detailed work to ensure that implementation is consistent with available budgets.

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

- 7.1. The development of these strategies is intended to improve the health and wellbeing of those who draw on care and support services, and a number of the comments received in the feedback are pointing to ways in which that impact can be strengthened or widened.

## **8. Environmental implications**

- 8.1. There are no direct environmental implications arising from this report.

## **9. Other Implications**

### **Property and Assets**

- 9.1. There are no specific property or assets implications arising from this report.

### **Voluntary organisations**

- 9.2. Voluntary sector partners were engaged in the establishment of the engagement programme described in this report, and they are core to delivering the ambitions set out in the strategies when they are agreed – as such, they will continue to be a valued partner.

## **Safeguarding Adults**

- 9.3. The strategies which have just been consulted upon are intended to strength social care service provision and therefore improve safeguarding practice and outcomes.

## **Risk Assessment**

- 9.4. A key risk associated with any engagement process is that the Council, because of many other factors acting upon it, is unable to respond positively to the feedback. In this instance, there is significant confidence that the original strategy proposals and the feedback received can be implemented over the projected five year period, for the improvement of adult social care services for the people of Dorset.

## **10. Equalities Impact Assessment**

- 10.1. With relatively low uptake of local people in the engagement programme, it is important to note the future proposals for continuing the conversation, and involving people in delivering the priorities set out in the strategy.

## **11. Appendices**

- 11.1. Appendix 1 contains the overview of the engagement process, the feedback that has been received, and the approach being taken to amend the strategies to respond to it.

## **12. Background Papers**

- 12.1. The initial report to Overview Committee was on 28 June 2022, with full strategies as appendices, and is available at:

<https://moderngov.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=652&MId=5303&Ver=4>

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People & Health Overview Committee, 19 December 2022

# What we have learned about our draft Adult Social Care Commissioning Strategies

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Jonathan Price, Interim Corporate Director of Commissioning

# Background

## Commissioning for A Better Life for the People of Dorset

### Our Overarching Commissioning Strategy for Adult Services 2022-27

We will work with the communities and people of Dorset, with our partners, and with the social care market, to plan and deliver the right support, at the right time and in the right place. We will develop a modern, responsive social care system, using the best digital tools and personalised options for people to arrange their own support. Our social care system will first and foremost **support** people to remain independent, making best use of their own strengths and assets and those of their communities to support themselves, knowing that high quality and safe services are available when their needs become greater.



## Commissioning for A Better Life for Older People with Support Needs in Dorset

### Our Strategy 2022-27

With a higher over-65 population than anywhere else in the country, it's especially important that Dorset provides the opportunity for a great quality of life for older people. We want to work with residents, communities and local service providers to continue to strengthen the supportive community networks of Dorset, develop housing and other infrastructure that supports people to make the best of their strengths and age well, and ensure that the best quality information, support and services are in place as people's health and care needs increase.



## Commissioning for A Better Life for Working-Age People with Support Needs in Dorset

### Our Strategy 2022-27

Working age adults with care and support needs living in Dorset have meaningful and fulfilling lives within their own community. The services commissioned by Dorset Council will be ambitious for the people they support, working to promote inclusion, recovery, and progression, and ensuring people are at the centre of what we do.



## Commissioning for A Better Life for Carers in Dorset

### Our Strategy 2022-27

We want to identify potential carers of the future, register identified carers, support them throughout their caring journey and reach individuals at risk before they reach crisis. We want carers supported across the whole system, and for carers to be acknowledged and recognised as an important role by everyone, not just Adult Social Care.



- Four strategies presented at Overview Committee on 28 June
- Comments included:
  - Strategies were complex. Felt like there was too much in them
  - The voice of a person with a learning disability should be captured, rather than their parents speaking for them
  - Positive support for Shared Lives
  - Concerns about underutilised care home beds
  - Emphasis on the importance of involving carers
- Accompanied by outline plan for engaging with the public, staff and partners over the following months
- Programme commenced September, through to November

# The Engagement Process

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## What we did

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- Six Roadshow events, centred around each locality within the county, with mornings dedicated to staff engagement and afternoons for the public to engage
- Nine further 'drop-in' listening sessions at locations around the county
- Online opportunity to comment, either by form or by email
- Promoted via press release, social media and local radio. Three dedicated newsletters sent out.
- Promoted by email to all Council Members on 16 September with two further follow-up reminders, and to Members of Town and Parish Councils (via clerks)
- Circulated to members of the A Better Life stakeholder group (statutory and VCS partners) for sharing amongst their networks and contacts

## Feedback gathered

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- Not a high uptake from the public, although those conversations that took place were very insightful
- Wide range of contributions from front-line staff, identifying what gets in the way of providing the best support to people
- Many hundreds of 'post-it' note comments, which have been collated, grouped and themed – the source material is around 30 pages of comments
- The themes presented here are a high-level summary of the comments, with most impact for the strategies
- **All of this information, whether it directly changes the strategies or not, will remain available to colleagues to guide implementation of the plans.**

# Generally, about the strategies

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Make the strategies more accessible



We are working now to make the final strategies shorter, more direct and easier to for people to read

“A Better Life”? What does that mean?



The overall strategy ‘strapline’ has been in use for some time, and we know that we need to do more to draw out what it means. Enabling people to live a good life, or the best life possible, were possible preferences.

More about how to manage demand for services



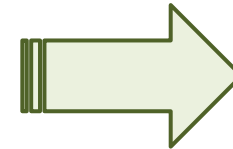
So much of what is in the strategies is about reducing demand for services by helping people to build on their own strengths, both personal and in the community, to live independently for longer. We will review how we present this so that the links are clearer.



## Quote: about the importance of co-production/listening

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*I am so grateful to the Social Care people for the opportunity to tell them about my own experience of caring, and for turning their heads round to listening mode. That is very rare in our current world!*



**We absolutely agree that it is important to listen to people who draw on support, and those around them, as we develop services. That is why this engagement exercise is only the beginning of how we involve people in the journey ahead.**

**We have also established a growing 'Expert by Experience' programme to help us shape services in the future.**

# Points about the 'overarching' strategy

We need to build the care workforce, making it a more attractive career, with progression opportunities



Absolutely critical to the future of adult social care. Many of our plans reference this. As well as improving basic terms and conditions and valuing jobs in care, our work across the Integrated Care Partnership is important, for example, how we support care workers to become trusted assessors, and help them progress their career through these routes.

You use 'community' a lot. What do you mean by that?



This is a really important challenge. We must expand what we mean, even though the answer must be a very flexible definition: maybe towns and villages, maybe a small network of friends, and all points in between.

Digital access and self-service needs to be slick and modern, and not need people to repeat their story



We agree, and this is part of the work that we are doing to reform the way people access social care.

Many points were also made that echo and strengthen what is in our strategies, including...

- ✓ Direct payments and individual service funds need to be easier to use
- ✓ There needs to be more Personal Assistants for people to employ
- ✓ People need more help to understand what technology can do for them
- ✓ The information and advice offer needs to be expanded and made easier to understand and access
- ✓ People need to be encouraged to plan earlier for possible care needs, and need better access to adaptations, tailored housing options, and equipment

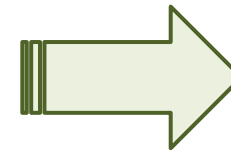
## Quotes: ease of access and a ‘personal’ touch

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“*There is no way of getting hold of anyone prior to a crisis... with social workers being so hard to get hold of, there is no preventive work happening, and you can only see someone in a crisis.*”

“*There are so many members of the public do not own/use technology and need a friendly face.*”

Both in our plans for expanding prevention, and in our vision for better information and advice, we recognise that the “personal touch” and a more responsive service is critical to getting people the right support at the right time.



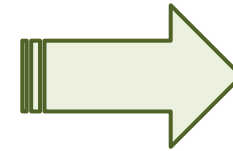
However, the Council’s own staffing resources are often taken up in responding to complex support needs. Part of our answer for balancing these demands is how we are approaching investment into community-based partners, voluntary organisations, and social care providers to work with us on a comprehensive provision of information, advice and crisis response.

## Quote: ambitions about housing options for older people

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“[The strategy should] support the growth of a thriving older people’s housing sector, which builds enough homes to match growing need and empowers consumers with choice from a diverse range of housing options to suit their needs.”

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**We agree, and a key next step for the strategies is to make a clearer alignment with the developing Housing Strategy.**

# Points about the 'working age' strategy

What does "working age mean"?  
Where are the cut-offs, and what about those who can never work?



We heard a lot of feedback that this 'framing' of the strategy didn't work for people, and we are working on a different approach [see later].

Day opportunities: specialist support needs; rural communities; flexibility; employment support



Day opportunities are a key part of our strategy, following on from the engagement work the previous summer. All of these elements are in the model proposed although there is possibly the opportunity to be clearer about the importance of more specialist support.

Autism services: need the joint review to guide next steps



The Council is a partner in the autism review along with the NHS, and we have recognised that there is a need to strengthen autism support.

Need multi-agency working arrangements on hoarding



Not currently referenced in the strategy, but we agree that multi-agency complex case management (such as hoarding) would be important, and will add.

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Many points were also made that echo and strengthen what is in our strategies, including...

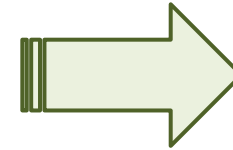
- ✓ Accommodation-based support is critical – we have a service review underway to properly set the direction of our work
- ✓ Shared Lives potential to support more people, also benefit from better networking/peer support
- ✓ More options, more flexibility needed on respite support
- ✓ Birth to Settled Adulthood: better joint work between Children's and Adult services, more accommodation options, better commissioned support, step-down services, better information

# Quote: mental health support for young people

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“

*More preventative work  
around mental health for  
young people needed, more  
investment in  
support/therapy/counselling  
to reduce use and need of  
services into adulthood*”



**From an adult services  
perspective these are the kinds  
of support that will be  
considered on the Birth to  
Settled Adulthood pathway.**

# Points about the 'older people' strategy

Strategy says larger care homes better: some disagreement, smaller are more personal, more comfortable



From an efficiency perspective, 60-80 bed units are ideal, but we need to balance this in the strategy with other considerations – like a more personal, homely feel, and responsiveness of services

Dementia: need more provision for people whose behaviour challenges services, as part of an overall strategy



There will be a separate piece of work to set out in more detail what will be needed in future to meet the support needs of people with dementia. This will be signalled in the strategy, and be one of our co-production priorities.

Intergenerational projects and programmes are needed



This is something currently not referenced in the strategy, and we will consider how to introduce it as a theme.

More OT capacity in reablement, use of available intermediate bed capacity



These are emerging developments from the work already done on the strategy, and will be expanded upon in future drafts.

Many points were also made that echo and strengthen what is in our strategies, including...

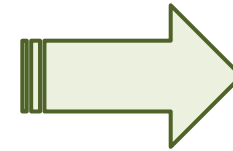
- ✓ Commissioning: less crisis purchasing, more blocks (though not that hamper creativity/choice)
- ✓ Day opportunities: person-centred rural offer; day centres as focus for other services to come (podiatry, healthchecks, wellbeing, respite). Volunteers? Community hubs pop-up? Outreach?
- ✓ More technology roadshows to demonstrate the possibilities
- ✓ Extra care housing, including 'care village' concept
- ✓ Domiciliary care: more specialist provider options; upskilling; workforce support

## Quote: about feeling confident to report concerns

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“*I was worried about coming and mentioning anything about the problems we had because we don't want to put at risk the care home placement that he currently has.*”

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**This points to the importance of clear information on safeguarding and standards in our information and advice, and of the routes available to raise concerns, and how we work with providers to investigate safeguarding issues.**



# Points about the carers' strategy

Carers still not seen as a partner in care delivery



This is reflected in the important sections of the strategy on recognising and valuing carers, but we will explore ways to strengthen it.

Carers' Assessments: more capacity needed; clarity needed about in-house vs. referral to community partners



We know that it is going to be challenging with current staffing resources to meet our ambitions to increase the uptake of carers' assessments. Partnering with carers' organisations (trusted assessor models) can be part of the answer.

Training offer for carers: resilience building, employment support; training on conditions (e.g. dementia)



This is referenced in the strategies but the comments gave us some useful pointers about ways to implement it.

Many points were also made that echo and strengthen what is in our strategies, including...

- ✓ Community offer needs increased visibility
- ✓ Respite offer needs more flexibility – and is direct payment the only way of introducing flexibility?
- ✓ Direct payments are too complicated and off-putting
- ✓ Personal assistants could be alternative for hard-to-find homecare, for giving carers a break
- ✓ Day centre services are a lifeline for carers, providing a break in the day

## Quote: rurality and farming

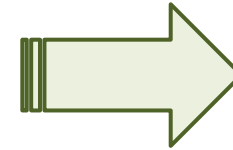
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“

*I am really keen to get farms and farmers in the forefront of people's minds... farms were not mentioned [in the strategies].*

”

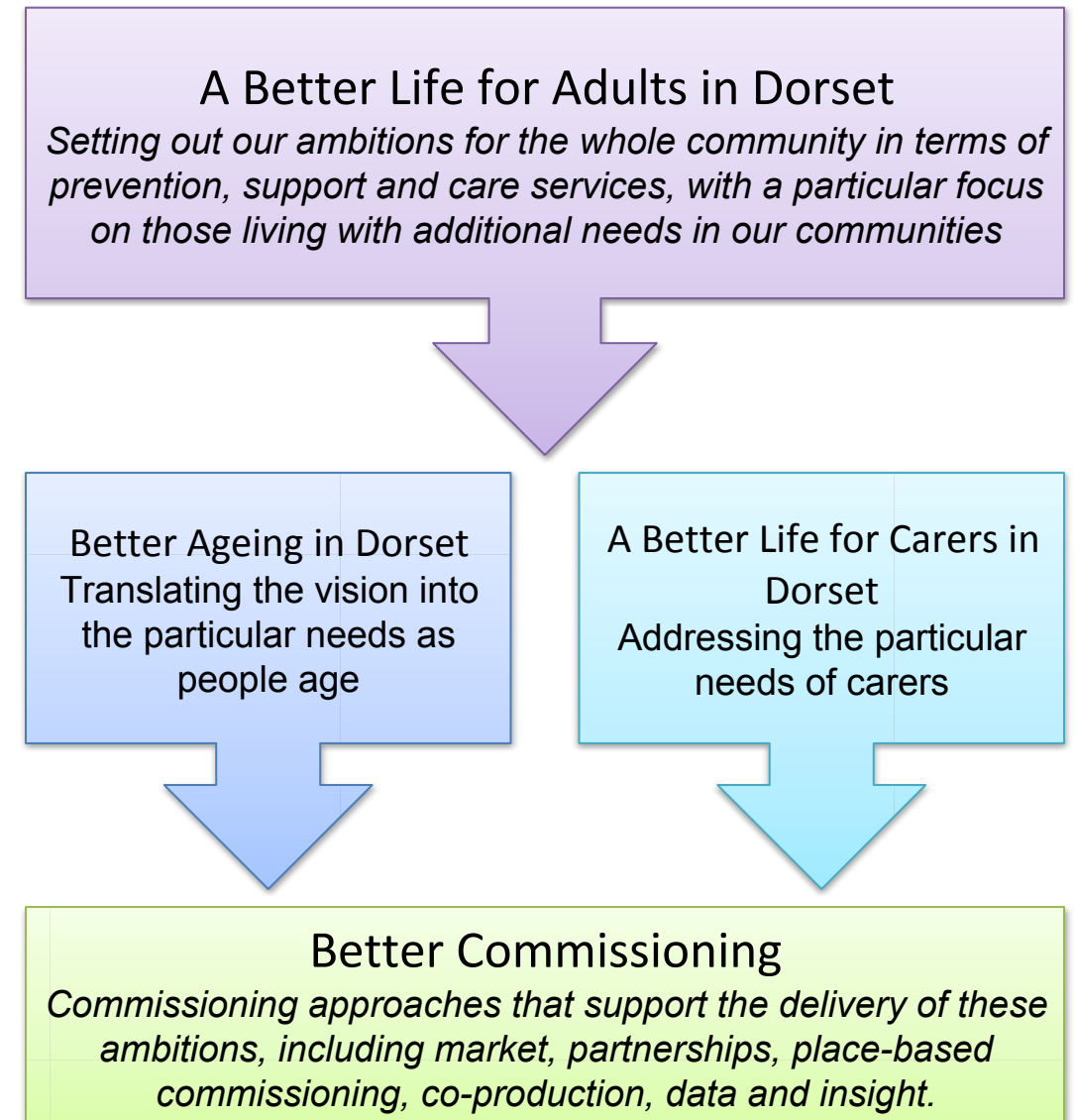
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**This is a useful observation, and we will include reference to this specifically as part of our discussion of delivering services to rural communities. We will also look to include some discussion of this in our co-production plans to further deepen our insight into the issues.**

# Next steps for the strategies

- Some clear feedback and reflection with colleagues on the documents:
  - They should be shorter, more direct, less discursive
  - They should be more graphical (in presentation of data)
  - 'Working Age' doesn't work as a framing
- Reworking is underway on this basis, for Cabinet in January



# Continued co-production

## After adoption of revised strategies

- Continue to use the A Better Life consultation pages
- New strategy text uploaded, more accessible formats
- Continued opportunity to comment by webform or email
- Establish regular (not so intensive) roadshow opportunities over the course of the year, with themes and better targeted communication – supported by website pages.
- Programme of thematic consultation to be set up – in part shaped by feedback received during this exercise
- Proposed revision points for strategies so that feedback can be incorporated and they remain 'live'

### Improving uptake

- ✓ Take the conversation out to people with an interest – rather than inviting them to us/our events
- ✓ Thematic and targeted, not broad and general
- ✓ Engage community partners to 'broker' links to people, facilitate contact
- ✓ Sustain the conversation, show impact

## Priority themes to be explored in 2023

- Direct Payments / Individual Service Funds
  - Continuing to explore how we improve the system
- Day Opportunities
  - Involving people in the design of a new model
- Dementia
  - Opening up the conversation about how we improve dementia support
- Autism
  - Opening up the conversation about how we improve support for Autism,
- Social care reforms/digital
  - New financial arrangements for social care, self-assessment, access to care records
- Birth to Settled Adulthood
  - Continuing the conversation with people who draw on support through transition about improving the service offer

# Questions the Committee may wish to consider

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- When redrafted, the strategies will establish an ambitious work programme for the years ahead – **how would the Committee like to continue to be involved in strategy development?**
- There are some significant co-production conversations anticipated for the coming year and beyond – **how would the Committee like to help shape these conversations?**
- How might the committee help **future co-production opportunities have greater involvement of local people, communities and organisations?**

*How might this work fit with the Committee's work programme?*

## In summary

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It is crucial that we engage with people on the strategies if we are to get them right

Feedback is changing the strategy content – they are currently being worked up for Cabinet

Engagement was just a start of a continued conversation – there will be many further opportunities for people to get involved

We would welcome the committee considering ways in which it can continue to be involved

*Any further questions?*

## People and Health Overview Committee – Forward Plan

Title	Description	Date of Committee Meeting	Requested by	Report Author	Portfolio Holder/s	Other Meetings (CLT, SLT, Cabinet etc)
Dorset Attendance Strategy		<b>19 December 2022</b>		Kerry Smith, Service Manager (Inclusion)	Cllr Andrew Parry - Children, Education, Skills and Early Help	Cabinet – 17 January 2023
Developing Adult Commissioning Strategies for Care Dorset		<b>19 December 2022</b>		Jonathan Price, Corporate Director for Adult Commissioning	Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health	Cabinet – 28 February
Adult Social Care Market Sustainability Plan	Review of the Market Sustainability Plan ahead of the second stage submission in February 2023	<b>31 January 2023</b>		Mark Tyson, Commissioning Consultant	Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health	
Updated Children in Care Strategy and Plan	In Dorset the allowance for foster carers has not been reviewed since 2018, this paper presents a proposal to increase fees for foster carers to ensure the offer of Dorset Council is comparative to neighbouring authorities and recognises the work that our foster carers do for our children. The report will also provide	<b>31 January 2023</b>		Louise Drury, Head of Service – Children in Care and Care Leavers	Cllr Andrew Parry - Children, Education, Skills and Early Help	Cabinet – 28 February

<b>Title</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date of Committee Meeting</b>	<b>Requested by</b>	<b>Report Author</b>	<b>Portfolio Holder/s</b>	<b>Other Meetings (CLT, SLT, Cabinet etc)</b>
	additional detail on work being undertaken in the service on recruitment and retention.					
Determination of School Admissions Arrangement 2024-2025	Statutory requirement for an annual determination of the Council's School Admissions Arrangements.	<b>31 January 2023</b>		Ed Denham, School Place Sufficiency Manager	Cllr Andrew Parry - Children, Education, Skills and Early Help	Cabinet – 28 February
Update on children's social care review		<b>31 January 2023</b>	Raised at the meeting on 8 September 2022	Paul Dempsey, Corporate Director for Care and Protection	Cllr Andrew Parry - Children, Education, Skills and Early Help	
Family hubs		<b>31 January 2023</b>	Raised at the meeting on 8 September 2022	Claire Shiels, Corporate Director for Commissioning and Partnerships	Cllr Andrew Parry - Children, Education, Skills and Early Help	
Virtual school		<b>31 January 2023</b>	Raised at the meeting on 8 September 2022	Vik Verma, Corporate Director for Education and Learning	Cllr Andrew Parry - Children, Education, Skills and Early Help	



<b>Title</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date of Committee Meeting</b>	<b>Requested by</b>	<b>Report Author</b>	<b>Portfolio Holder/s</b>	<b>Other Meetings (CLT, SLT, Cabinet etc)</b>
Birth to Settled Adulthood	Verbal update on the balanced scorecard.	<b>21 March 2023</b>		Mark Rogers, Independent Chair	Cllr Andrew Parry - Children, Education, Skills and Early Help  Cllr Peter Wharf - Adult Social Care and Health	
		<b>27 April 2023</b>				
<b>Potential Agenda Items</b>						
Youth Justice Plan	Annual item	<b>July 2023</b>			Portfolio Holder for Children, Education, Skills and Early Help  Portfolio Holder for Housing and Community Safety	Cabinet

**Potential Items for Overview:**

Data and Business Insights Strategy  
Enabling Communities Strategy  
Levelling Up white paper  
Integrated Care System



## **The Cabinet Forward Plan - December 2022 to March 2023** **For the period 1 DECEMBER 2022 to 31 MARCH 2023** **(Publication date – 8 NOVEMBER 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
December					
January 2023					
<b>Medium Term Financial (MTFP) and Budget Strategy Report</b>  <b>Key Decision</b> - Yes <b>Public Access</b> - Open  The Council is required to set a balanced revenue budget, and to approve a level of council tax as an integral part of this.	<b>Decision Maker</b> Dorset Council	<b>Decision Date</b> 14 Feb 2023	Cabinet 23 Jan 2023 People and Health Scrutiny Committee 10 January 2023 Place and Resources Scrutiny Committee 12 January 2023	Portfolio Holder for Finance, Commercial and Capital Strategy	<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>
<b>Quarter 3 2022/23 Financial Monitoring Report</b>  <b>Key Decision</b> - Yes <b>Public Access</b> - Open  To consider the Quarter 3 Financial Monitoring Report for 2022/23.	<b>Decision Maker</b> Cabinet	<b>Decision Date</b> 23 Jan 2023		Portfolio Holder for Finance, Commercial and Capital Strategy	<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>
<b>Commissioning Strategies for Adult Social Care</b>  <b>Key Decision</b> - Yes <b>Public Access</b> - Open 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.	<b>Decision Maker</b> Cabinet	<b>Decision Date</b> 23 Jan 2023	People and Health Overview Committee 19 Dec 2022	Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health	<i>Jonathan Price, Interim Corporate Director for Commissioning</i> <i>jonathan.price@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, People - Adults</i>

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
<b>Fees and Charges Policy</b>  <b>Key Decision</b> - No <b>Public Access</b> - Open  To approve the Fees and Charges Policy.	<b>Decision Maker Cabinet</b>	<b>Decision Date 23 Jan 2023</b>	Place and Resources Overview Committee 24 Nov 2022	Portfolio Holder for Finance, Commercial and Capital Strategy	<i>Dawn Adams, Service Manager for Commercial and Procurement dawn.adams@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, Corporate Development - Section 151 Officer (Aidan Dunn)</i>
<b>Dorset Attendance Strategy</b>  <b>Key Decision</b> - No <b>Public Access</b> - Open  To approve the Dorset Attendance Strategy.	<b>Decision Maker Cabinet</b>	<b>Decision Date 23 Jan 2023</b>	People and Health Overview Committee 19 Dec 2022	Portfolio Holder for Children, Education, Skills and Early Help	<i>Lisa Linscott, Principal Teacher lisa.linscott@dorsetcc.gov.uk Executive Director, People - Children (Theresa Leavy)</i>
<b>Proposal to transfer a council owned asset to AFC Bournemouth Community Trust under the Community Asset Transfer scheme.</b>  <b>Key Decision</b> - Yes <b>Public Access</b> - Fully exempt  The Council and AFC Bournemouth Community Trust (AFCBCT) are in final negotiations to transfer a Council owned asset. The draft Heads of Terms currently being negotiated propose to transfer the asset under the Community.	<b>Decision Maker Cabinet</b>	<b>Decision Date 23 Jan 2023</b>		Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth, Assets and Property	<i>Peter Hopkins, Corporate Director - Assets and Property peter.hopkins@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, Place (John Sellgren)</i>

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
<p><b>Proposal for build completion on Dorset Centre of Excellence site</b></p> <p><b>Key Decision</b> - Yes <b>Public Access</b> - Fully exempt</p> <p>Continuation of building programme on this site to provide the school with capacity for 230 pupils as well as the establishment of the Conference and Training Facilities.</p>	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 23 Jan 2023		Portfolio Holder for Children, Education, Skills and Early Help, Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth, Assets and Property	<i>Paul Scothern, Manager- Assets &amp; Property</i> <i>paul.scothern@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, People - Children (Theresa Leavy)</i>
<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>	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 23 Jan 2023	Place and Resources Overview Committee 6 Oct 2022	Portfolio Holder for Culture, Communities and Customer Services	<i>Gemma Clinton, Head of Commercial Waste and Strategy</i> <i>gemma.clinton@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, Place (John Sellgren)</i>
<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>	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 23 Jan 2023		Portfolio Holder for Highways, Travel and Environment, Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth, Assets and Property	<i>Executive Director, Place (John Sellgren)</i>
<b>February</b>					

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
<b>Update on Children in Care Strategy and Plan</b>  <b>Key Decision</b> - Yes <b>Public Access</b> - Open  To review a proposal to increase fees for foster carers to ensure the offer of Dorset Council is comparative to neighbouring authorities and recognises the work that out foster carers do for our children.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 28 Feb 2023	People and Health Overview Committee 31 Jan 2023	Portfolio Holder for Children, Education, Skills and Early Help	<i>Louise Drury, Head of Service Children in Care and Care Leavers</i> <i>louise.drury@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, People - Children (Theresa Leavy)</i>
<b>Procurement Forward Plan Report - over £500K (2023-24)</b>  <b>Key Decision</b> - Yes <b>Public Access</b> - Open  Cabinet is required to approve all key decisions with financial consequences of £50K or more.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 28 Feb 2023		Portfolio Holder for Finance, Commercial and Capital Strategy	<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>
<b>Dorset Council - Determination of School Admissions Arrangements 2024 - 25</b> <b>Key Decision</b> - Yes <b>Public Access</b> - Open Statutory requirement for an annual determination of the Council's School Admissions Arrangements.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 28 Feb 2023	People and Health Overview Committee 31 Jan 2023	Portfolio Holder for Children, Education, Skills and Early Help	<i>Ed Denham, School Admissions Manager</i> <i>ed.denham@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, People - Children (Theresa Leavy)</i>
<b>Dorset Council Plan Priorities: One Customer Account and Digital Innovation</b> <b>Key Decision</b> - Yes <b>Public Access</b> - Open To receive a report from the Portfolio	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 28 Feb 2023		Portfolio Holder for Corporate Development and Transformation, Portfolio Holder for Culture, Communities	<i>Executive Director, Place (John Sellgren)</i>

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
Holders for Corporate Development and Transformation and for Culture, Communities and Customer Services.				and Customer Services	
<b>March</b>					

<b>Climate and ecological strategy - refresh</b>  <b>Key Decision</b> - Yes <b>Public Access</b> - Open  refresh of the Climate and ecological strategy.	<b>Decision Maker</b> Cabinet	<b>Decision Date</b> 28 Mar 2023	Place and Resources Scrutiny Committee	Portfolio Holder for Highways, Travel and Environment	<i>Steven Ford, Corporate Director for Climate and Ecological Sustainability Executive Director, Place (John Sellgren)</i>
 <b>Council decision making building No climate and ecological considerations</b>  <b>Key Decision</b> - Yes <b>Public Access</b> - Open  A new decision making tool to embed climate and ecological considerations.	<b>Decision Maker</b> Cabinet	<b>Decision Date</b> 28 Mar 2023	Audit and Governance Committee 16 Jan 2023	Portfolio Holder for Highways, Travel and Environment	<i>Steven Ford, Corporate Director for Climate and Ecological Sustainability Executive Director, Place (John Sellgren)</i>
<b>Dorset Council Plan Priorities: Update: County Deals/Community Safety</b>  <b>Key Decision</b> - No <b>Public Access</b> - Open To receive a report from the Portfolio Holders for Economic Growth, Assets and Property and Housing and Community Safety.	<b>Decision Maker</b> Cabinet	<b>Decision Date</b> 28 Mar 2023		Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth, Assets and Property, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Community Safety	<i>Andrew Billany, Corporate Director of Housing, Dorset Council andrew.billany@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, People - Adults</i>



Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
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April

**Dorset Council Plan Priorities Update: Housing for Local People**

**Key Decision** - No  
**Public Access** - Open

To receive a report of the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Community Safety.

**Decision Maker**  
Cabinet

**Decision Date**  
25 Apr 2023

Portfolio Holder for  
Housing and  
Community Safety

*Andrew Billany, Corporate Director of Housing, Dorset Council  
andrew.billany@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk  
Executive Director, Place (John Sellgren)*

**Dorset Council Plan Priorities Update: Working with the Integrated Care System**

**Key Decision** - No  
**Public Access** - Open

To receive a report of the Portfolio Holder for Social Care and Health.

**Decision Maker**  
Cabinet

**Decision Date**  
25 Apr 2023

Deputy Leader and  
Portfolio Holder for  
Adult Social Care and  
Health

*Executive Director, People - Adults*

May

**Dorset Council Plan Priorities Update: Value for Money (Unitary Council Benefits)**

**Key Decision** - No  
**Public Access** - Open

To receive a report of the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Commercial and Capital Strategy.

**Decision Maker**  
Cabinet

**Decision Date**

Portfolio Holder for  
Finance, Commercial  
and Capital Strategy

*Executive Director,  
Corporate Development -  
Section 151 Officer (Aidan Dunn)*

**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.