

## **SHAREHOLDER COMMITTEE FOR CARE DORSET HOLDINGS LTD**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12 APRIL 2023**

**Present:** Cllrs Andrew Parry (Vice-Chairman), Gary Suttle and Peter Wharf (Chairman)

**Also present:** Cllr Jane Somper

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

Vivienne Broadhurst (Executive Director - People Adults)

Aidan Dunn (Executive Director - Corporate Development S151)

Grace Evans (Head of Legal Services and Deputy Monitoring Officer)

Chris Harrod (Senior Democratic Services Officer)

Jonathan Mair (Director of Legal and Democratic and Monitoring Officer)

Tony McDougal (Communications Business Partner - Adults and Housing)

Matt Prosser (Chief Executive)

Karen Stephens (Interim Head of Service for Market Relationships, Major Contracts and Over 65's)

Steve Veevers (Managing Director - Care Dorset)

#### **22. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Laura Beddow and Spencer Flower.

#### **23. Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 19 December 2022 were signed and confirmed as a correct record.

#### **24. Declarations of Interest**

No declarations were made.

#### **25. Public Participation**

No public statements or questions had been received.

#### **26. Councillor Questions**

No councillor questions had been received.

**27. Forward Plan**

The Shareholder Committee discussed the forward plan and the following items were added:

- Policies and Procedures – TBC
- Financial Outturn Report – December 2023

**28. Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items.

**29. Exempt Business**

It was proposed by Cllr Andrew Parry and seconded by Cllr Gary Suttle:

**Decision**

That the press and the public be excluded for the following 2 items in view of the likely disclosure of exempt information within the meaning of paragraphs 1 and 3 of schedule 12 A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

**30. Dorset Council Operational Update**

The Interim Head of Service for Market Relationships, Major Contracts and Over 65's introduced the report which provided an update on the activity undertaken by the Commissioners and Care Dorset since December 2022.

There were no member questions or comments that needed responding to.

The Chairman joined Members in thanking Officers for the comprehensive report and for the work that both the Commissioning Team and Care Dorset had undertaken so far.

**Noted**

**31. Care Dorset Update**

The Managing Director of Care Dorset introduced the report which provided a company update in regard to its operations, successes and challenges.

Officers responded to Members' comments and requests for clarification, details included:

- In the future, as much of the Care Dorset Update reports would be made publicly available to ensure transparency. Any information that was considered confidential would be appended to the public report for the Shareholder Committee only.
- Care Dorset had made positive progress since its inception which could be evidenced by good outcomes for its users.

- A launch was being planned for October 2023, one year after the establishment of the company.
- Colleague surveys were paper-based or offered in the form of drop-in sessions which allowed better engagement with the colleagues as they were often unable to access emails during the working day. Feedback so far had been highly positive.
- In terms of recruitment, Care Dorset was running targeted recruitment campaigns across the care sector, as opposed to advertising “everywhere”, which had paid dividends so far in terms of recruiting a dedicated workforce and ensuring the delivery of positive outcomes for service users.
- Care Dorset was investing significantly in its workforce and it had identified the importance of making the care sector a desirable place to work in.

### **Noted**

#### **32. Care Dorset Remuneration Policy**

The item was deferred at the request of the Managing Director for Care Dorset due to the complexities involved in ensuring that this policy was robust and compliant with the requirements as set out within the shareholder agreement.

### **RESOLVED**

That the item be deferred until the next meeting.

#### **33. Care Dorset Business Plan**

The Managing Director of Care Dorset introduced the proposed Business Plan for 2023/24 to be approved and set out the longer-term ambitions for developing a 3-5 year business plan for adoption in 2024.

Officers responded to Members’ comments and requests for clarification, details included:

- This was a “light-touch” business plan which would span for an initial one-year period. A longer-term business plan, spanning a period of 3-5 years, would be developed over the coming months and would be presented to shareholders at a later date.
- As Care Dorset had been established as a Local Authority Trading Company with the council as its one and only shareholder, there was no requirement for it to make a profit, which meant that greater risks could be taken in order to meet the council’s care objectives, providing it was doing so on a cost neutral basis.
- The long-term business plan would be co-produced by the Council’s commissioning team and Care Dorset and it was noted that members would need to be actively involved in its development to ensure that it was fit for purpose and aligned with the Council’s strategy.

- The Managing Director explained that Care Dorset was committed to ensuring that the company was successful in terms of service delivery whilst providing value for money for Dorset residents. It was highlighted that there may be times where conflicts between these two objectives occurred and a view would need to be taken as to what took priority.
- Care Dorset was working alongside council colleagues to ensure that there was a reliable suite of data that could be monitored, which would allow greater transparency and ability to measure against specified targets. Positive outcomes were highly valued by Care Dorset it strived to ensure that this was a key measure in all that it did.
- Care Dorset was working to be an efficient organisation, although consideration was needed in terms of the impacts of decisions taken on people, particularly service-users and staff. Capital investment would form a large part of the full business plan.
- There were a few options for managing surplus income, which would be discussed in the coming months.
- Officers had worked hard to ensure that all data that had been supplied by the predecessor organisation was available to Care Dorset and was utilised in a way that would assist it in delivering its key objectives. It was highlighted that not all data had been forthcoming for various reasons, but officers were continuing to gather such data.
- Workshops would be planned to ensure that commissioning strategies were aligned with the ambitions of Care Dorset in order to secure positive outcomes for all service users.

**RESOLVED**

That the Care Dorset 2023/24 Business Plan be adopted.

**Duration of meeting:** 10.00 - 10.58 am

**Chairman**

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