



Dorset Council

Date: Thursday, 13 July 2023
Time: 6.30 pm
Venue: Council Chamber, County Hall, Dorchester, DT1 1XJ

All members of Dorset Council are requested to attend this meeting of the Full Council.

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

For more information about this agenda please contact Democratic Services
Meeting Contact susan.dallison@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

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1. APOLOGIES

To receive any apologies for absence.

2. MINUTES

7 - 36

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 11th May 2023.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

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

4. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

To receive any announcements from the Chairman of Council.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS

Representatives of town and parish councils and members of the public who live, work, or represent an organisation within the Dorset Council area are welcome to submit either 1 question or 1 statement for each meeting. You are welcome to attend the meeting in person or via MS Teams to read out your question and to receive the response. If you submit a statement this will be circulated to all members of Council in advance of the meeting as a supplement to the agenda and appended to the minutes as the formal record but will not be read out at the meeting. The first 8 questions and the first 8 statements will be accepted on a first come first served basis in accordance with the deadline set out below.

The full text of the question or statement must be received by 8.30am on Monday 10th July 2023. All submissions must be emailed to susan.dallison@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Please note that questions should be no more than 450 words, including the pre-amble to the question.

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS

37 - 38

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

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

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

[Council Procedure Rules](#)

1. To consider a petition submitted by Mr N Sim-Duff

The petition for consideration is appended to this agenda.

In accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme the Lead Petitioner will have up to 3 minutes to present the petition. If the petition is not referred to an overview or scrutiny committee or another committee for consideration, without debate, members of Full Council will debate the petition. Members may ask questions of the Lead Petitioner who will be granted a right of reply, not exceeding 3 minutes at the end of the debate before a final decision or vote is taken.

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

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

8. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

To receive questions submitted by councillors. The deadline for receipt of questions is 8.30am on 10th July 2023.

9. YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN

39 - 94

To consider a recommendation from Cabinet.

10. DISPENSATION UNDER SECTION 85 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

95 - 96

To consider a report by the Democratic Services Team Leader.

11. NOTICE OF MOTION - CLLR T FERRARI

To consider the following Notice of Motion proposed by Cllr T Ferrari seconded by Cllr L O'Leary and supported by Cllrs T Coombs, G Carr-Jones, B Goringe, J Haynes, C Brooks, N Lacey-Clarke, M Penfold, R Cook, P Harrison, J Worth, J Dunseith, B Ridout, M Parkes, M Barron, D Shortell, G Suttle and P Wharf.

Asylum Seekers Barge – Portland Port

That this council condemns the commercial Agreement between the Home Office and Portland Port for the mooring of the Bibby Stockholm barge to accommodate up to 500 asylum seekers at this location. That the mooring of the barge in Portland Port is an entirely inappropriate location and should be removed at the earliest opportunity.

That Dorset Council, while not the decision makers, will work with agencies to mitigate the impact this will have on Dorset.

12. NOTICE OF MOTION - CLLR K CLAYTON

97 - 98

To consider the following Notice of Motion proposed by Cllr K Clayton seconded by Cllr B Bawden and supported by Cllrs P Barrow, D Bolwell, A Brenton, S Cocking, B Ezzard, L Fry, B Heatley, R Hope, R Hughes, N Ireland, H Legg, J Orrell, M Roe, A Starr, C Sutton and K Wheller.

The heavy rain parts of Dorset experienced last month once again resulted in sewage being discharged into the sea – this time at West Bay, Lyme Regis, and seven locations across Weymouth and Portland. As a result, people were advised not to bathe on certain polluted beaches.

The main reason this occurs is our antiquated sewage system – a single system that has to deliver both foul water and surface water to the treatment plants, a system that is unable to cope with sudden large amounts of surface water.

Whilst the investment and determination to upgrade this system is largely outside the remit of this Council, there are three things it can do. This Council, therefore, resolves to:

1. Lobby central government for changes in national planning guidance such that it has the power to require all new developments to construct a dual sewage system, one that separates foul water from surface water.
2. Through both its new local development plan and a wider public campaign, discourage the use of impermeable material on any land other than that used as a public roadway.
3. Hold talks with Wessex Water and South West Water to discuss an investment plan to reduce sewage discharges by the substantial amount needed.

Mike Garrity, Head of Planning, has prepared a short briefing note on this Notice of Motion, appended to this agenda for members' information.

13. URGENT ITEMS

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

14. EXEMPT BUSINESS

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

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

There is no scheduled exempt business.

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DORSET COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 11 MAY 2023

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

Apologies: Cllrs Dave Bolwell, Tim Cook, Janet Dover, Paul Kimber, Emma Parker, Mike Parkes and Peter Wharf

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

Jacqui Andrews (Service Manager for Democratic and Electoral Services), Hayley Caves (Member Development and Support Officer), Kate Critchel (Senior Democratic Services Officer), Susan Dallison (Democratic Services Team Leader), George Dare (Senior Democratic Services Officer), Aidan Dunn (Executive Director - Corporate Development S151), Jennifer Lowis (Head of Strategic Communications and Engagement), Jonathan Mair (Director of Legal and Democratic and Monitoring Officer), Matt Prosser (Chief Executive), John Sellgren (Executive Director, Place) and Lindsey Watson (Senior Democratic Services Officer)

1. **Election of Chairman**

It was proposed by Cllr G Suttle and seconded by Cllr N Lacey-Clarke that Cllr V Pothecary be elected Chairman of the Council for 2023/24.

There were no other nominations.

Decision

That Cllr V Pothecary be elected as Chairman of the Council for 2023/24.

The Chairman thanked Cllr B Goringe for his support as Vice-Chairman during the previous year. She also thanked the Democratic Services Team Leader, her

Personal Assistant, and her partner. Cllr Potheary made and signed the declaration of acceptance of office.

2. Election of Vice-chairman

It was proposed by Cllr V Potheary and seconded by Cllr L O’Leary that Cllr W Trite be elected Vice-Chairman for 2023/24.

It was proposed by Cllr C Sutton and seconded by Cllr J Andrews that Cllr L Fry be elected Vice-Chairman for 2023/24.

Cllr L O’Leary requested a recorded vote and in accordance with the constitution this was supported by at least 10 members. The votes are recorded in the table below.

Decision

That Cllr W Trite be elected Vice-Chairman for 2023/24. The Vice-Chairman signed the declaration of acceptance of office and thanked Council for their support.

Election of Vice-Chairman (Cllr W Trite appointed) (Vice-Chairman of Full Council)	
Councillor Rod Adkins	Cllr W Trite
Councillor Anthony Alford	Cllr W Trite
Councillor Jon Andrews	Cllr L Fry
Councillor Mike Barron	Cllr W Trite
Councillor Pete Barrow	Cllr L Fry
Councillor Shane Bartlett	Cllr L Fry
Councillor Pauline Batstone	Cllr W Trite
Councillor Belinda Bawden	Cllr L Fry
Councillor Laura Beddow	Cllr W Trite
Councillor Derek Beer	Cllr L Fry
Councillor Richard Biggs	Cllr L Fry
Councillor Alex Brenton	Abstain
Councillor Cherry Brooks	Cllr W Trite
Councillor Piers Brown	Cllr W Trite
Councillor Ray Bryan	Cllr W Trite
Councillor Andy Canning	Cllr L Fry
Councillor Graham Carr-Jones	Cllr W Trite
Councillor Simon Christopher	Cllr W Trite
Councillor Kelvin Clayton	Cllr L Fry
Councillor Susan Cocking	Cllr L Fry
Councillor Robin Cook	Cllr W Trite
Councillor Toni Coombs	Cllr W Trite
Councillor Jean Dunseith	Cllr W Trite
Councillor Mike Dyer	Cllr W Trite
Councillor Beryl Ezzard	Abstain
Councillor Tony Ferrari	Cllr W Trite
Councillor Spencer Flower	Cllr W Trite

Councillor Les Fry	Cllr L Fry
Councillor Simon Gibson	Cllr W Trite
Councillor Barry Goringe	Cllr W Trite
Councillor David Gray	Cllr L Fry
Councillor Matthew Hall	Cllr L Fry
Councillor Paul Harrison	Cllr W Trite
Councillor Jill Haynes	Cllr W Trite
Councillor Brian Heatley	Cllr L Fry
Councillor Ryan Holloway	Cllr L Fry
Councillor Ryan Hope	Cllr L Fry
Councillor Rob Hughes	Cllr L Fry
Councillor Nick Ireland	Cllr L Fry
Councillor Sherry Jespersen	Cllr W Trite
Councillor Carole Jones	Cllr W Trite
Councillor Stella Jones	Cllr L Fry
Councillor Andrew Kerby	Cllr W Trite
Councillor Rebecca Knox	Cllr W Trite
Councillor Nocturin Lacey-Clarke	Cllr W Trite
Councillor Howard Legg	Abstain
Councillor Robin Legg	Cllr L Fry
Councillor Cathy Lugg	Cllr W Trite
Councillor David Morgan	Cllr L Fry
Councillor Louie O'Leary	Cllr W Trite
Councillor Jon Orrell	Cllr L Fry
Councillor Andrew Parry	Cllr W Trite
Councillor Mary Penfold	Cllr W Trite
Councillor Bill Pipe	Cllr W Trite
Councillor Val Potheary	Cllr W Trite
Councillor Byron Quayle	Cllr W Trite
Councillor Molly Rennie	Cllr L Fry
Councillor Belinda Ridout	Cllr W Trite
Councillor Mark Roberts	Cllr W Trite
Councillor Julie Robinson	Cllr W Trite
Councillor Maria Roe	Cllr L Fry
Councillor David Shortell	Cllr W Trite
Councillor Jane Somper	Cllr W Trite
Councillor Andrew Starr	Cllr L Fry
Councillor Gary Suttle	Cllr W Trite
Councillor Clare Sutton	Cllr L Fry
Councillor Roland Tarr	Cllr L Fry
Councillor David Taylor	Cllr L Fry
Councillor Gill Taylor	Cllr L Fry
Councillor David Tooke	Cllr L Fry
Councillor Bill Trite	Cllr W Trite
Councillor David Walsh	Cllr W Trite
Councillor Kate Wheller	Cllr W Trite
Councillor Sarah Williams	Cllr L Fry
Councillor John Worth	Cllr L Fry
Carried	

3. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 February 2023 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman, subject to a minor amendment at min 52; replacing the word “reserved” with “deserved”.

4. **Declarations of Interest**

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

5. **Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman reported to Council that Cllr S Jones had served as a Councillor for Dorset residents for 50 years. She took this opportunity to thank Cllr Jones for her dedicated service to the community.

6. **Election of Leader of Council**

It was proposed by Cllr A Parry seconded by Cllr L Beddow that Cllr S Flower be elected Leader of the Council for 2023/24.

Decision

That Cllr S Flower be elected as Leader of the Council for 2023/24.

7. **Appointment of Deputy Leader of Council, Cabinet/Portfolio Holders and Lead Members**

The Leader of the Council announced the following appointments:

Deputy Leader of the Council – Cllr G Suttle

Portfolio Holder(s):

Finance, Commercial and Capital Strategy – Cllr G Suttle

Assets and Property – Cllr A Parry

Corporate Development and Transformation – Cllr J Haynes

Culture and Communities – Cllr L Beddow

Economic Growth and Levelling-up – Cllr S Gibson

Highways, Travel and Environment – Cllr R Bryan

Adult Social Care, Health, and Housing – Cllr J Somper

Children, Education, Skills, and Early Help – Cllr B Quayle

Planning – Cllr D Walsh

8. **Announcements and Reports from the Leader of Council and Cabinet Members**

No announcements were reported at the meeting.

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

There were 10 questions and statements received from members of the public and these are set out in appendix 1 to these minutes.

10. **Public Participation - petitions and deputations**

There were no petitions or deputations.

11. **Questions from Councillors**

There were 3 Cllr questions as appended to these minutes at appendix 2.

12. **Community Governance Review - Parishes in the Vale of Allen Group, the Winterborne Farringdon Group, Chickerell and Weymouth - Final Recommendations**

The Leader of the Council presented a report and its final recommendations of the community governance review of parishes in the Vale of Allen group, the Winterborne Farringdon group, Chickerell and Weymouth.

On 22 October 2022, Full Council had approved the terms of reference for the community governance review, looking at the existing parish governance arrangements in the parishes and inviting representations from local councils, residents, and any other interested parties in respect of the current and future arrangements. A cross-party working group had considered all the responses received during the second period of public consultation and the final recommendations from the group were set out in appendix 1 to the report.

The Leader of the Council proposed that “the proposals set out in Appendix 1 be adopted by the Council as Final Recommendations for the purposes of the Community Governance Review that will form a Reorganisation Order taking effect on 1 April 2024.” This was seconded by Cllr M Roberts.

Cllr L O’Leary presented the following amendment to the recommendation:

“I would like to make the below recommendation as an alternative community governance review proposal. This map is amendment to a proposal myself and Cllr Luke Wakeling of Weymouth council tried to come up with as a compromise. Sadly Weymouth council did not support the proposal. Therefore I would like to propose the below plan as alternative to their recommendation and also to Dorset council plan.

The numbers for all the wards are below. The variation in electors/seat is 1400-1900 (mean 1723) Just two wards with a var over 200.

Ward Name	No. of Councillors	Electorate	Electorate per Cllr
Broadway Upwey and Wey Valley	3	5202	1734
Littlemoor	2	3728	1864
Preston and Sutton Poyntz	3	4301	1433

Radipole	2	3747	1873
Lodmoor	2	3529	1764
Melcombe Regis	2	3970	1985
Westham West	3	5385	1795
Westham East	2	3316	1658
Rodwell	2	4221	2110
Chapplehay and Harbourside	2	3932	1966
Wyke Regis	2	3462	1731

Total Seats: 25

Average electors/seat: 1723

This alternative does key things

- Cuts the number of Weymouth councillors from 29 to 25
- Keep Weymouth town council ward within the same Parliamentary boundary so no ward is stretched over two constituencies.
- Only breaks Dorset council ward boundaries twice (both times in order to keep within Parliamentary boundaries and to achieve good electoral equality and keep good community cohesion)
- Listens to the concerns of Littlemoor and Chickerell residents and delivers for them and doesn't split communities and therefore achieves cohesion
- Gives communities such as Sutton Poyntz and Southill name recognition
- Has better electoral equality than the Dorset council option one as seen below and eliminates anomalies like Nottingham ward.

Dorset council ward options numbers. There are nine wards with a variance over 130 and six with a variance over 200.

n	seats	n/seat	var	name
3619	2	1809	60	Littlemoor
4515	2	2257	508	Preston
3848	2	1924	175	Upwey and Broadway
3513	2	1756	7	Melcombe Regis
176	1	176	-1572	Nottingham
3424	2	1712	-36	Lodmoor
4049	2	2024	275	Radipole
4249	2	2124	375	Rodwell
3231	2	1615	-133	Westham East
3670	2	1835	86	Westham West
2803	2	1401	-347	Wyke North
1005	1	1005	-743	Lanehouse
3852	2	1926	177	Wyke South

Total Seats: 24

Average electors/seat: 1748

Difference with Dorset council's proposal

What this plan does as opposed to Dorset council's is moves the 500 houses North of Littlemoor and the area around Nightingale drive out of the parish of Winterbourne Faringdon into the Weymouth parish and into the ward of Upwey

and Broadway as per the wishes of people in the consultation as they will share more similarities both in terms of community and representational circumstances. This gives Littlemoor good electoral equality as opposed to DC and Weymouth's plan. It also moves the Nottingham ward (which is the Chickerell DC ward) into the Upwey and Broadway ward to make a three member ward which would have far better electoral equality. It does cross DC border but keeps it in the same parliamentary boundary. It would keep Chickerell's border the same as DC recommends but move the Weymouth part of the Lanehouse ward into the Westham West ward. The rest of the plan largely keeps to Weymouth town councils wishes.

Electoral equality by variation from average number per councillor which is around 1725

Ward	DC plan 24 Cllrs	My plan 25 Cllrs	WTC plan 1 24 Cllrs	WTC plan 2 24 Cllrs
Littlemoor	60	139	146	146
Preston	508	-292	-258	-258
Upwey	175	-9	289	289
Melcombe	7	148	32	32
Lodmoor	N/A	39	38	38
Radipole	275	148	93	93
Pye/Rodwell	-347	385	55	N/A
Rodwell/Nothe	375	241	70	70
Westham East	-133	70	158	-151
Westham West	86	-67	261	-6
Wyke regis	177	6	157	157
Nottingham	-1572	N/A	N/A	N/A
Lanehouse	-734	N/A	N/A	N/A
Highest var dif	2080	385	547	547

Difference with WTC proposal

My submission is different from WTC's because it also put a focus on community cohesion which is ignored in their submission. My plan realises that while electoral equality is important so are natural boundaries, community boundaries, and cohesion of neighbourhoods. WTC's plan is designed for good equality but it doesn't even deliver that. It argues that the north side of Weymouth is over represented while the south side of Weymouth is under represented. But their plan would see Littlemoor and Upwey both area's that will see most of the future development under represented to offset overrepresentation in Preston which is an easily definable community that will grow. This is unfair as they are separate communities and should not just be lumped together. The difference in representation from wards in my plan is minimal the biggest difference is between Upwey with -264 and Lodmoor (which is central not Southern Weymouth or north by central or even East) which is 196 this is a difference of 460 which is small in the main scheme of things. Lodmoor is highly unlikely to expand while Upwey, Broadway, and Nottingham are likely to and already are. Weymouth's own plan has far worse differences between the largest and smaller variation from average. Weymouth's objection to the north of Weymouth being over represented by claiming that anything south of Upwey Broadway, Littlemoor and Preston is south Weymouth while ignoring their being a north south, east west and central area of

the town. This would be like claiming that everything south of Newcastle is the south. While it is southern to Newcastle it is not the South of England there are midlands, west and Eastern areas. Weymouth's plan claims to include future developments and take them into consideration. However several developments in Littlemoor and Preston including a new housing estate have been missed and ignores the planned development in the Sutton Poyntz neighbourhood plan. I fear Weymouth's plan that will leave areas of Weymouth's northern side under represented (A fact they have tried to hide by offsetting this against Preston's numbers) is part of further evidence that they have a negative attitude to this part of the town. Each ward should be looked at on its own merit.

As said below it does cross Dorset council boundaries twice.

1. It cuts the Winterbourne and Broadmayne ward and Upwey and Broadway ward by merging the Nightingale drive area and the development North of Littlemoor into the Upwey and Broadway town council ward. This area would still be split over two DC wards in the current DC proposal but would cut the same area by putting in the Littlemoor and Preston ward. This proposal though at least means that they share the same MP (As Upwey and Broadway is due to go into West Dorset), and town councillor as opposed to just a town councillor.
2. The second place is the Upwey and Broadway ward and Nottingham are by merging Nottingham (which is in the Chickerell DC ward) to the rest of the proposed Upwey and Broadway ward. This achieves far better electoral equality than the current proposal and also ensures that they are all within West Dorset.

Community cohesion boundary's and names

Weymouth unlike most towns in Dorset council but similar to Poole and Bournemouth is a collection of smaller communities, estates, villages, and suburbs. This means we must do what we can to keep those communities sovereign and separate but within Weymouth councils area.

Historically certain smaller communities in Weymouth have been overlooked and swallowed up. Southill with is a growing suburb has been part of Westham North since 1979 despite the fact it is a separate community and has more in common with the Radipole area. Sutton Poyntz is a village which is on the north side of Preston and has always been in both borough and county council and now town and unitary wards part of the same ward as Preston. This makes sense but it would be beneficial to ensure its name is included in the ward name.

The North side of Weymouth has easily definable communities. Littlemoor, Upwey and Broadway and Preston and Sutton Poyntz with Radipole on the edges. These communities make up under half of Weymouths population but will be where most of the large scale development will come from. It is crucial that

1. These communities have separate representation to protect their interests and ensure they have a voice on issues
2. These communities aren't at the mercy at the rest of the town by ensuring it has fair community based representation.
3. As these communities spill out into other administrative and electoral domains (parliamentary, unitary wards and currently other parish's) they need to keep within the same domain

4. These communities are different. On the north side Littlemoor is the second most deprived area in Weymouth while Preston and Upwey and Broadway are the most affluent. It is key to ensure Littlemoor has separate representation.

Conclusion

This plan delivers a plan that balances borders, numbers and communities. It cuts the number of councillors, achieves good electoral equality, keeps town council wards within Dorset council wards where it can and keeps them entirely within the same constituency. It listens to the voice of residents in ensuring that communities are protected and cohesive. I hope you look at this as an alternative when making your final decision.

My objections to Littlemoor being merged with the area to our north

-The official government guidance on community governance review states in paragraph 163 that "no parish ward should be split by such a boundary" this proposal cuts the Littlemoor ward across the Winterbourne and Broadmayne ward and the Littlemoor and Preston ward. If you move these borders you will render my unitary ward name mute as I would instead be the councillor for "some of Littlemoor and Preston". This will add confusion to the already confusion borders that are not congruent with DC boundaries.

-While guidance has been stated that certain circumstances may warrant expectations I still have not been informed why an exception were made for Nottingham (which at the next election would have 1 Councillor elected by 177 and only increase to 498 in 5 years' time while Littlemoor would have 1864 per one 1 Councillor) but not the 500 houses north of Littlemoor and the existing area around Nightingale drive

-Issues have been raised around the viability of neighbouring parish council and of the importance of local borders. But if the Nightingale drive area is taken into Weymouth Winterbourne and Faringdon parish council W&FPC they claim they will become unviable. If the area of 500 houses is kept in their area they say they will become unviable surely the two answers would be to either bring in the area up to the natural border of the Ridgeway into Weymouth town council. Or W&FPC need to adapt to new housing in order to remain viable. Surely people cannot just pick and choose what they want and don't want. Littlemoor is arguing only to retain what it already has which is sovereign separate community representation at a town council level based on its historic identify and borders.

-Littlemoor has had separate representation on the lower tier authority since 2004. Prior to that it was part of the North central ward. This ward was split into Wey Valley and Littlemoor because it was felt that both given their differences should have separate representation. Merging Littlemoor with a housing development in another area would go against this

-In paragraph 161 it says "In urban areas community identity tends to focus on a locality, whether this be a housing estate, a shopping centre or community facilities. Each locality is likely to have its own sense of identity. Again, principal

councils should consider each case on its merits having regard to information and evidence generated during the review." This can easily be said of the Littlemoor. It is built around the community centre and shopping prescient at its middle and kept separate from Preston by fields to its East, a large nature reserve to its south, either the A354 relief road or main railway line depending on where you class Littlemoor. To its north it is separated by Winterbourne Faringdon by the A353 Littlemoor road.

-Paragraph 162. States "In reaching conclusions on the boundaries between parish wards the principal council should take account of community identity and interests in the area, and consider whether any particular ties or linkages might be broken by the drawing of particular ward boundaries. Principal councils should seek views on such matters during the course of a review. They will, however, be mindful that proposals which are intended to reflect community identity and local linkages should be justified in terms of sound and demonstrable evidence of those identities and linkages." Littlemoor residents through their own voice, the view of myself as one of their Dorset councillors, in their attendance at a public meeting where they unanimously agreed and through their community group and community safety group have shown they feel they are a distinct community separate from the area to their north. This is due to historic boundaries, differences in representation both and past and present and demographic.

-Paragraph 159 It states that "In considering whether or not a parish should be divided into wards, the 2007 Act requires that consideration be given to whether:

- a) the number, or distribution of the local government electors for the parish would make a single election of councillors impracticable or inconvenient; and
- b) it is desirable that any area or areas of the parish should be separately represented"

As stated above these proposals create the ward of Nottingham in order to keep within Dorset council boundaries and to ensure the area/community of a parish is separately represented. Why can this not be done for the area north of us within Winterbourne and Farringdon?

-The rest of the guidance continually brings up the issue of cohesion 31 times in 54 pages, it also brings up identity 14 times, yet there seems to be little attention paid to the potential breaking of community and neighbourhood cohesion in regards to Littlemoor due to the feeling that the rules, guidance and attention paid to responses are not being treated fairly compared to other areas. Nor does it address concerned raised that Littlemoor's identity could be threatened.

-The arguments for or against various aspects of these proposals seem to be based on finance and precept monies. This is despite the guidance stating otherwise. The arguments against the Littlemoor ward gaining this new development seem to be the only ones being made based on the guidance and spirit of the rules and guidance not on money.

-Littlemoor is semi-rural. It is largely housing with some community facilities and some shops. The area to the north will contain housing but also a hotel, car show

room and large industrial units this will upset the balance and makeup of the area.

-While some groundwork has been done of this site the 500 homes have not yet been built. Cllr Flower did mention at a public meeting that petitions on specific areas could be brought forward at any time and the guidance does allow it surely it should make sense to keep the status quo and wait to see this development pan out and give the residents of that area a say on what area they live in? This approach is more in keeping with the spirit of the purpose of the community governance review.

-In the original submission of the community governance review Littlemoor's border remained unchanged. Why has this now been changed especially as it is changing the status quo and also breaking important guidelines against the wishes of the community.

-Littlemoor as it currently known sits in the ecclesiastical parish of Littlemoor serviced by St Francis church which for a modern congregation is a healthy number. The 500 houses sits in the ecclesiastical parish of Bincombe serviced by the village church at Holy Trinity which has a small congregation. Keeping these 500 houses linked to Bincombe may help bolster numbers here. The churches of Bincombe, Upwey and Brodaway share the same Vicar as well and are in the same grouping. The banner in St Nicholas church Broadway is emabnnered "Broadway cum Bincombe" showing a long term connection to the two communities.

-Littlemoor residents tend to socialise and congregate at Littlemoor community centre and the Top Club. There are no pubs or cafes on the estate so these venues along with the church tend to be more used for these activities. While residents in the Nightingale drive area tend to socialise at the Standard pub in Upwey and Broadway or the Reynolds institute in Upwey and Broadway. The community to the North will also have its own community centre.

-When discussing issues relating to our community Littlemoor residents use one of the buildings on the estate to hold their residents meetings at either the community centre, the church or the Top Club. The residents in the Nightingale drive area have always tended to use the Reynolds hall or the Memorial Hall in Upwey where their parish council also meets.

-The guidance around community governance talks a lot around cohesion and also brings up the fact reviews should not break up cohesive communities. The resentment against the development of 500 houses to our north and the impact that will have on our community and it's infrastructure is already fomenting. Forcibly merging the two area's against the settled area's will is likely to only increase this resentment."

The amendment was seconded by Cllr T Ferrari.

Members debated the merits for and against the amendment and upon being put to the vote the amendment was **CARRIED**, and this became the substantive motion.

Cllr R Hope proposed the following amendment to the substantive motion, and this was seconded by Cllr G Taylor.

- “(a) That DC should adopt as a draft recommendation for the purposes of the community governance review the revised parish and ward boundaries as identified in map, Appendix A, and the ward names and councillor numbers set out in the table in the documents published with the agenda at [Cllr Hope & Cllr Taylor amendment CGR 11 May 2023.pdf \(dorsetcouncil.gov.uk\)](#) and
- (b) That the draft recommendation be published for consultation purposes for eight weeks.
- (c) That the results of the consultation, together with proposed final recommendations be reported to Full Council on 12 October 2023.”

Members debated the merits for and against the amendment and upon being put to the vote the amendment was **LOST**.

Cllr S Cocking put forward the following amendment in respect of Ferrybridge, Portland, due to the impact of Cllr L O’Leary’s amendment becoming the substantive motion.

“With reference agenda item 13 and page 48, firstly I fully support the statement from Mr Andy Matthews. Weymouth’s submission included a Suggestion I highlight the word Suggestion is to extend the boundary from the centre of the now demolished old Ferrybridge to the centre of the existing Ferrybridge some 100 m to the south.

During all the time that this governance review proposal has been in progress and a working group set up, Portland was not mentioned in the front page of the report packs. It only stated Parishes in the Vale of Allen Group, the Winterbourne Farringdon group, Chickerell and Weymouth. Portland was never in the scope of the working group when it was first established, but later as Weymouth had made a Suggestion then it has been included. Portland Town Council objected to this, part of their objection is The 2021 update of the NPPFF included wording policy which encouraged Planning groups to seek out opportunities to support renewable energy. Paragraph 156 Local planning authorities should support community led initiatives for renewable and low carbon energy. As set out in the February 2023, the Portland Neighbourhood Plan has a specific enabling policy concerning renewables and the associated text specifically mentions the Ferrybridge area. If the request by Weymouth Town council is approved, it could compromise this early opportunity by splitting the administrative area of the fleet entrance between the two councils.

If this proposal is supported what will happen to the Royal Manor Status of that land ? has the Court Leet been consulted as they are custodians of the land ,I quote from the Court Leet, Portland is a Royal Manor, its main concerns are to maintain and administer the commons on the land, there are two types of common land Freehold and Crown Common land this second type includes Hamm Common along Portland Beach Road, its statement has been the same for

hundreds of years and still exists and that is “Safeguarding and protecting the common land against encroachments and abuse”

This is my objection to this proposal of the encroachment onto Portland from Weymouth.

I am proposing an amendment to the boundary line around Ferrybridge, that it remains as is the current boundary line.
No properties full within this area therefore there will be no impact on electoral equality as a result of my proposed amendment.”

The motion was seconded by Cllr R Hughes.

Members debated the merits for and against the amendment and upon being put to the vote the amendment was **CARRIED**.

Decision (Substantive)

- (a) That the proposal set out above and in [Cllr L O’Leary’s Amendment Community governance review alternative plan](#) be adopted by the Council for the purposes of the Community Governance Review that will form a Reorganisation Order taking effect on 1 April 2024.
- (b) That the boundary line around Ferrybridge remains as is in the current boundary line.

Reason for the decision

To ensure that community governance arrangements within the Dorset Council area are reflective of the identities and interests of the community in the area and achieve electoral equality.

13. Appointment to Committees, Joint Panels and Board and the election of Committee Chairmen and Vice-chairmen

The Leader of the Council presented a report setting out the proposed allocation of committee seats in line with political balance rules and, in accordance with the Council’s constitution, to make appointments to committees, joint panels and boards. The report also set out the proposed Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of ordinary committees for the forth coming year.

It was proposed by Cllr S Flower seconded by Cllr L Fry

Decision

- (a) That the allocation of committee seats in accordance with political balance rules, the appointments to ordinary committees and appointments to joint panels and boards, as nominated by the Political Group Leaders, be approved for 2023/24 as set out in Appendices 1, 2 & 3 of the report.

- (b) That authority be delegated to the Director of Legal & Democratic in consultation with the appropriate Political Group Leader to make in- year changes to committee, joint panels, and board appointments.
- (c) That Full Council appoints committee Chairmen and Vice-chairmen for the 2023/24 municipal year, as set out at Appendix 4 of the report.

Reason for the decision

To comply with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Dorset Council Procedure Rules (as set out in the Constitution).

Full Council adjourned for a short comfort break at 19.52 and returned at 20.05pm.

14. Review of Public Participation Rules

The Chairman of the Audit & Governance Committee set out a recommendation from the committee proposing changes to the public participation process following a cross-party review.

Cllr R Biggs proposed the following recommendation, and this was seconded by Cllr S Flower.

“That the Procedure Rules for Public Participation be amended as follows:

- (a) That the Council accepts the first 8 questions and the first 8 statements received from members of the public or organisations for each Full Council meeting on a first come first served basis in accordance with the current deadline for receipt of questions and statements.
- (b) That in exceptional circumstances the Chairman of Council has discretion to allow more than 8 questions.
- (c) That any questions received over the first 8 questions, the resident or organisation will be asked if they wish to receive a written response from the Portfolio Holder.
- (d) That members of the public or organisations can submit a maximum of 1 question or 1 statement at each meeting of the Full Council.
- (e) That each question or statement submitted be up to a word count of 450 and the response from the Portfolio holder be a maximum of 300 words.
- (f) That statements received by residents or organisations be published, in full, before the Full Council meeting as a supplement to the agenda and published, in full, as an appendix to the minutes but will not be read out at the Full Council meeting to allow more time for questions and responses.”

Cllr B Bawden proposed an amendment with the addition of (e) "A person who has submitted a question may ask a follow-up question in the meeting, remotely by teams, or in writing, once Dorset Council's reply to the question has been received." This was seconded by Cllr K Clayton.

Upon being put to the vote the amendment was **LOST**.

Following debate, on the original recommendation was put to the vote.

Decision

That the Procedure Rules for Public Participation be amended as follows:

- (a) That the Council accepts the first 8 questions and the first 8 statements received from members of the public or organisations for each Full Council meeting on a first come first served basis in accordance with the current deadline for receipt of questions and statements.
- (b) That in exceptional circumstances the Chairman of Council has discretion to allow more than 8 questions.
- (c) That any questions received over the first 8 questions, the resident or organisation will be asked if they wish to receive a written response from the Portfolio Holder.
- (d) That members of the public or organisations can submit a maximum of 1 question or 1 statement at each meeting of the Full Council.
- (e) That each question or statement submitted be up to a word count of 450 and the response from the Portfolio holder be a maximum of 300 words.
- (f) That statements received by residents or organisations be published, in full, before the Full Council meeting as a supplement to the agenda and published, in full, as an appendix to the minutes but will not be read out at the Full Council meeting to allow more time for questions and responses."

Reason for the decision

To enable the Chairman of Council to manage the half hour public participation period effectively and allow each person who submits a question to read out the question in full and receive a response.

15. Appointment of Co-opted Committee Members - Audit & Governance Committee

The Chairman of the Audit & Governance Committee presented a report on the proposal to appoint 2 co-opted independent members to the Audit and Governance Committee. These appointments would supplement the expertise of existing membership, in accordance with CIPFA guidelines and good practice.

It was proposed by Cllr R Biggs seconded by Cllr S Cocking

Decision

- (a) That the constitution be amended to incorporate two co-opted members to the Audit & Governance Committee, in advance of the September 2023 meeting; and
- (b) That the Independent Remuneration Panel's recommendation that an annual allowance of £2,000 should be payable per co-opted member.

Reason for the decision

To ensure that the Audit and Governance Committee had the appropriate level of technical expertise to perform its role as set out in its terms of reference.

16. Appointment of Deputy Electoral Registration Officers and delegation to amend polling places

The Chief Executive presented a report to appoint Deputy Electoral Registration Officers for the effective and efficient administration of the electoral service function including implementation for Election Act 2022 responsibilities, and to agree a delegation for temporary changes to polling places.

It was proposed by Cllr S Flower seconded by Cllr C Sutton.

Decision

- (a) That the following officers be appointed as Deputy Electoral Registration Officers with Full Powers: Legal and Democratic Services, Service Manager, Democratic and Electoral Services and Team Leader, Electoral Services.
- (b) That all Electoral Services Officers be appointed as Deputy Electoral Registration Officers for the purpose of issuing temporary Voter Authority Certificates only.
- (c) That authority be delegated to the Electoral Registration Officer the designation of temporary polling places.

Reason for the decision

To expedite the issuing of temporary Voter Authority Certificates, and ensuring the effective and efficient administration of the electoral service function if the Electoral Registration Officer is unable to act. Also, to enable a designation of an alternative polling place (polling station) if the place agreed by Full Council is temporarily unavailable for use.

17. **Urgent items**

There were no urgent items.

18. **Exempt Business**

There was no exempt business to report.

Appendix 1 - Public Participation Questions and Responses
Appendix 2 - Councillor Q&A's

Duration of meeting: 6.30 - 9.23 pm

Chairman

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Annual Meeting of Council 11 May 2023

Questions & Statements submitted for the Public Participation Period

1. Question – submitted by Shaun Leavey OBE

I request details of action taken by Dorset Council within the past 12 months to proactively safeguard listed buildings (Grade 1 & 2) within the county, and to state the number of occasions when the Council's statutory powers were used.

Response by Cllr David Walsh

Maintaining listed buildings is primarily the responsibility of the landowner or occupier. Whilst Local authorities have a number of discretionary powers that can be used, this is only undertaken when other options have been exhausted and it is expedient and in the public interest to do so. In general we strive to resolve issues in a pro active manner with owners.

Whilst the council has made a number of section 215 notices in recent years, it has not been considered expedient to issue any in the last 12 months.

2. – Question submitted by Roger White MA FSA

Kathryn Melhuish of Dorset Council has made the following statement to the Georgian Group, which is the statutory national amenity society covering listed 18th century buildings, regarding Newell House in Sherborne:

Dorset Council is aware of the condition of the Grade II listed Newell House. But as there are no active breaches of planning or listed building control, its state of repair is a matter for the property owner to address in the first instance.

We have brought this to the attention of the owner and also looked into the scope of using powers under the Town and Country Planning Act to address maintenance of the building. But such action needs to be demonstrably in the public interest and, in assessing this, we must also have regard to the circumstances of the owner/occupier. At this present time, it is considered that such action would not be expedient but officers will keep the situation under review.

It is very obvious that, while it may technically be the responsibility of the property owner to address the very poor and deteriorating condition of Newell House, it is equally clear that the owner in question has created the current situation and has absolutely no intention of taking action, having ignored offers of help from the Sherborne CPRE, for instance. He does not reply to letters, he does not live in the building - though a light is left on to create the impression that he does - and there is no evidence that he has carried out any repairs since it closed as a school in 2000. So this prominently sited listed building has been sitting deteriorating in full view for over 20 years. In the circumstances, I do not see how can it be argued that 'there are no active breaches of listed building control'. Would the Council find it more concerning, and be spurred into action, if the owner was replacing the windows in UPVC without listed building consent? If so, this clearly makes an absurdity of Dorset Council's view of listed buildings as a whole.

Question:

Why does Dorset Council continue to be so reluctant to take action over the condition of Newell House? Further, when did anyone from Dorset Council last visit Newell House to assess its condition, and, assuming that such a visit took place, what conclusions were drawn?

3. – Statement and question submitted by Julia Findlater

Statement

As residents of Sherborne we have watched the gradual deterioration of Newell House since it ceased being a school in 2000. The house is rarely occupied and the decline of the property is now accelerating. Vegetation overwhelms the East elevation, some of it growing through broken windows. The building is not weather tight and its fine interiors will soon be in an advanced state of decay. We have raised our concerns with Dorset Council who inform us they are keeping a 'watching brief,

In recent weeks a gate on the perimeter wall of the house was forced open and graffiti daubed on the walls inside the property.

Question

Given the recent vandalism, which we hope does not lead to further more serious attacks, precisely how far does the deterioration of Newell House have to go before Dorset Council will take decisive action to prevent further decline?

Response to Questions 2 & 3 above by Cllr David Walsh

Dorset Council is aware of the condition of the Grade II listed Newell House. But as there are no active breaches of planning or listed building control, its state of repair is a matter for the property owner to address in the first instance.

We have brought this to the attention of the owner and also looked into the scope of using powers under the Town and Country Planning Act to address maintenance of the building. But such action needs to be demonstrably in the public interest and, in assessing this, we must also have regard to the circumstances of the owner/occupier. At this present time, it is considered that such action would not be expedient but officers will keep the situation under review.

4. Question – submitted by Gerald Rigler, Chairman – Purbeck & Poole Group of Dorset CPRE

Since the street lighting team is required to maintain real understanding of current needs/research (with a view to enabling regular reviews of policy to keep it sound), why are the perceived associated contractual arrangements (with Enerveu Ltd) being allowed to inhibit implementation of any relevant changes until 2032?

(Mr G Rigler is unable to attend the meeting so therefore will receive a written response).

5. Statement – submitted by Andy Matthews, Chair, Portland Community Partnership Ferrybridge Boundary

The officers report accompanying this item indicates that there is a minded decision to support a change to the Boundary despite the submission of Portland Town Council which has a legitimate reason for putting forward the case as stated.

Portland Community Partnership which supports the Town Council in various areas in particular the development of the Portland Neighbourhood Plan had originally made a similar request on behalf of the Town Council and despite being recognised by the Authority [Partnership working In Weymouth and Portland](#) had this submission not formally recorded. However, at the Full Council meeting of the 14th July did conclude that a Boundary change was not necessary ref Agenda Item 24 – Appendix 1 - Recommendation 31 (see link)

[Appendix 1 - Draft FINAL Recommendations.pdf \(dorsetcouncil.gov.uk\)](#)

The subsequent review of the Weymouth and surrounding area authorised at the Full Council meeting of the 20th October Item 39 Appendix 1 did not formally scope in the Portland Parish and boundary. (see link)

[Community Governance Review - Weymouth and surrounding areas and Vale of Allen - Dorset Council](#)

Nevertheless Portland Town Council responded in good faith to the request and reiterated the original position.

The moving of the Boundary will entail unnecessary costs, result in confusion and could in fact limit opportunities for the area which are improved by maintaining the current position.

6. – Statement submitted by Cllr David Harris (Weymouth Town Council)

Dear Fellow Councillors

The guidance for CGR makes it very clear that Parish and Town Council Wards are the building blocks for the next tier of councils and that these higher tier council wards are the building blocks for parliamentary seats. Lower tier wards should reflect the communities that people live in and not depend on lines drawn on maps mostly over 100 years ago or for Dorset Council 4 years ago. This process has not followed these logical requirements. It is suggested in para 4.3 that DC and WTC can work together to resolve the present problems when DC wards are reviewed at some time in the future. However it is also clear that this review cannot alter parish/town boundaries and our communities will still be split because DC wards overlap the boundaries between Chickerell and Weymouth with parts of present Weymouth being allocated to the Chickerell DC ward.

When the first consultation came out last year it correctly recognised that Weymouth had expanded since the last review 50 years ago and that there were estates on the Western edge of Weymouth that had crossed the old West Dorset boundary. These communities at Wyke, Littlesea and Cobham Drive, which are marked on the distributed map, were brought together and rightly placed in Weymouth. At that time, for some unknown reason, DC joined

them into a single town ward completely separated and in no way a community. Weymouth Town Council complained about having such a non-sensical, non-community based ward and hence this second consultation.

The new proposal, on which we have supposedly been consulted, removed this problem by leaving these three areas split as communities and handing them back to Chickerell. This left estates split and communities fractured. When on Dorset County Council I used to represent the 14 houses in Cobham drive actually on the Weymouth side of the line, having to drive past 25 houses in West Dorset to get to some of them. To quote from the guidance in this paper, the purpose of a CGR is to produce clearly defined boundaries, tied to firm ground features and remove anomalies. Leaving this unchanged is clearly NOT doing this. I have just persuaded First Bus to keep a Weymouth Westham Bus going for another three months, which has an impact on all the residents of Cobham Drive. The Chickerell bus could not be involved in the solution as Cobham Drive is not connected to Chickerell by the road system in any way.

The main response by the town council, representing 53000 people, to this flawed consultation, was to return to the original boundaries suggested by DC. To achieve this consistency with the logic of the process (Community coherence and democratic representation, or effective and convenient) Weymouth Town Councillors were willing to represent almost double the number of people represented by all the other town councillors in the County. We accepted this added burden knowing this would join communities together in a sensible way and concur with democratic requirements.

Wyke, Littlesea and Cobham Drive all look to Weymouth for their services, their parks and open spaces, their shopping, the beach and sea front and toilets. Littlesea and Cobham Drive are almost equidistant from either town hall but Wyke is over ½ mile further from Chickerell than from Weymouth. Littlesea and Cobham Drive residents have to drive over ½ mile through Weymouth to get to the boundary of Chickerell. Wyke residents drive **over a mile through Weymouth** before getting road access to the Chickerell boundary. Clearly defined boundaries, tied to firm ground features and remove anomalies is the purpose of the review. These areas have easy access to Weymouth but are separated from Chickerell by open spaces, industrial estates and will go to Weymouth to gain access to DC services in Weymouth library.

The recommendation before you today is a missed opportunity to restructure our boundaries so they make sense to the people living in them in the 21st century. Although the consultation period was several weeks the recommendations before you today were formulated by the working group the day after the consultation closed and so clearly the time to consider the logic of alternative views and feedback, with the opportunity for site visits, was minimal for valid decisions. Councillor Gill Taylor has her house in Littlesea, Weymouth, but her garden is in Chickerell, she would have willingly hosted the review team to tea so they could see for themselves the illogic of their thinking.

Weymouth residents deserve logical community boundaries – the recommendation before you today fails to achieve this and leaves me wondering what the value of this entire exercise has been. It claims to be using DC ward boundaries as its guiding rule but then says in the paragraph concerning Bincombe “For good community governance the new development and the present split area of Nightingale Drive should be in Weymouth” The new development land in Southill will be crossing the proposed boundary between Weymouth and Chickerell yet this has been left unchanged to create split communities in the future.

I urge you to vote against the recommendation being put before you on the basis that it contradicts itself and fails to join communities together as it is required to do.

(Please see *Boundary map as a separate appendix to this document*).

7. Statement from Winterborne Farringdon Parish Council – Cllr Graham Brant

Section 4, Recommendation 3 on page 9

The paragraph:

“Whilst Winterborne Farringdon Grouped Parish Council supported the move of the southern boundary of Bincombe where a large scale development is proposed, they did not support the move of other existing properties, particularly Nightingale Drive. They expressed concern that this may impact on electoral equality of Dorset Council’s ward boundaries, and may also make their own parish potentially unviable. Dorset Council considered this submission carefully but felt that in the interests of good community governance, that [sic] the residents of the Nightingale Drive area should reside within a single parish, and not be split across 2 different parishes.”

... Is an inaccurate characterisation of Winterborne Farringdon’s stated position.
It would better read:

“Winterborne Farringdon Group of Parish Councils [WFGPC] supported the northward move of the southern boundary of Bincombe where a large scale development is proposed but not yet built. But they did not support the move of existing properties, particularly Nightingale Drive, into Weymouth Town Council [WTC] until the Dorset Council ward and Parliamentary constituency can be similarly realigned. WFGPC recognised that such a realignment of the ward boundary may impact on the carefully constructed electoral equality of Dorset Council’s ward boundaries so may have knock on effects. As a secondary issue, WFGPC noted that the loss of such a large proportion of the existing population may make the existing parish grouping unviable and other forms of representation, such as individual parish meetings, may have to be considered.”

Dorset Council claim to have ‘considered this submission carefully’ but seem to have misunderstood the nuances of WFGPC’s position and instead relied too much on WTC’s characterisation of it in their submission. With due respect to Dorset Council, the report’s conclusion that ‘in the interests of good community governance, the residents of the Nightingale Drive area should reside within a single parish, and not be split across 2 different parishes’ is a logical *non sequitur*, it is already split by the illogical 1933 boundary but the large majority currently live in Bincombe. The question for the CGR is when and how to bring about a more logical solution.

In summary, the position of this council is simply:

- 1. Move the boundary NOW in all those areas where development has yet to take place.**
- 2. DO NOT move the boundary in those areas where there is an existing population UNTIL the DC ward and Parliamentary constituency can be similarly realigned.**

(Please see *boundary map as a separate appendix to this document*)

8. – Question submitted by Richard Thomas

In response to a question from a member of the public at the Council's meeting on 14 February, Cllr Flower concluded, on the matter of so-called 'predetermination': 'My encouragement to councillors is to seek advice from the Monitoring Officer before committing in public to a particular point of view.'

This was because Cllr Flower appeared to believe that elected members of Dorset Council are sufficiently feeble of mind that 'there are dangers in a councillor associating themselves closely with one particular pressure group and speaking after having listened only to that group' and 'doing so can give the impression that they have made up their mind in advance and even that they are speaking on behalf of that group.'

The Localism Act 2011, however, makes it very clear that it is an intrinsic part of any elected members role 'to engage in an open and rigorous debate with their local communities about council business.' Further, the Act, according to the Local Government Association, 'clarifies that decision-makers will not be taken to have had (or to have appeared to have had) a closed mind when making the decision just because (i) they had previously done anything that directly or indirectly indicated what view the decision-maker took, or would or might take, in relation to a matter, and (ii) the matter was relevant to the decision.'

Question to Cllr Flower: Will Cllr Flower therefore admit that his admonition to Dorset members that they must seek the permission of Mr Mair before they can voice an opinion in public was wrong and is misguided and will he accept that an elected member is entitled to any view he or she cares to express in public without having to seek the permission of anyone, either officer or another member? Will he further accept that to do so is not only lawful but a basic democratic right in a country that boasts of an individual's right to free speech?

Response by Cllr Spencer Flower

In response to a question put to me at the February Council meeting I **encouraged** councillors to seek **advice** from the Monitoring Officer about questions of predetermination. I did not as the questioner supposes say that councillors needed **permission** from an officer before speaking publicly.

My answer tonight is no different than the one I gave in February when I was asked about the distinction between a councillor who is predisposed to a point of view and one who has a predetermined position.

Like anyone else a councillor can be predisposed to a particular point of view. That is to be expected and is, I am told, perfectly lawful. What we must not do is approach decisions having already made up our minds in advance and unwilling to listen. There are dangers in a councillor associating themselves closely with one particular pressure group and speaking after having listened only to that group. Doing so can give the impression that they have made up their mind in advance and even that they are speaking on behalf of that group.

The law around predetermination is complex, with the potential for significant consequences if we get it wrong. My encouragement to councillors is to seek **advice** on such matters from the Monitoring Officer before committing themselves in public to a particular point of view.

9. – Question submitted by Tracee Cossey

Is it correct that democratic organisational or public participation in council meetings is to be limited in future and if so, why?

10. – Question submitted by Giles Watts

In the report from the Review of Public Participation Rules, the recommendation is that the rules be changed so that Council only accepts the first 8 questions and the first 8 statements received.

"While I appreciate that Council needs to manage the half-hour public participation and thus is unable to do this is an excess of questions and statements are received from residents or organisations, I see no reason why all statements should not be published in full in the agenda and the minutes. Furthermore, it would not affect the management of the public half hour if any questions in excess of 8, where the resident or organisation has requested a response, were to be published in the agenda and in the minutes. This would however provide the benefit of providing public visibility of all questions asked of Council and the responses given, and all statements made.

"Will Council consider changing the proposed Procedure Rules to allow for all statements to be accepted and published, and for all questions asked and answers given, whether read out in the meeting or not, to be published in the agenda and the minutes?"

Response to questions 9 & 10 by Cllr Spencer Flower

This matter has been discussed by a cross party working group and considered by the Audit & Governance Committee, all members will have the opportunity to debate the recommendations when the report is considered later in this meeting at agenda item 15.

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**Full Council
11 May 2023**

Questions submitted by Councillors

Question 1 – submitted by Cllr Les Fry

Following Natural England's latest report on Nitrates in September 2022, the vast majority of planning applications are still stuck unable to proceed. Developers are asking for advice and guidance from Dorset Council.

Firms are becoming concerned about their staff as they scramble about to find work to keep them employed, they don't want to let them go as they will be needed when applications are approved. Much needed homes are not being built due to the delay in granting consent.

An amendment to the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill will require the upgrade of all sewerage treatment works serving more than 2,000 people, but this decision may still be way off.

Can an update on the advice and guidance from the Council for developers be given so that jobs are not lost?

Response by Cllr David Walsh

There are five catchment areas for internationally protected wetland habitats within, or overlapping with, Dorset Council's administrative area where phosphorus and/or nitrogen levels have the potential to adversely affect water quality. Dorset Council has a legal responsibility to ensure that any development it permits will not adversely affect the integrity of any internationally protected site.

The largest and most significant catchment area affecting Dorset in terms of geographical area and housing applications is Poole Harbour, and Dorset Council has in place an adopted strategy to mitigate the impacts of nitrogen from new residential development. However, the advice from Natural England in September 2022 confirmed that phosphorus is also an issue for Poole Harbour.

The Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill is proposing measures which will require improvements to waste water treatment works which, if enacted, will go a significant way to mitigating phosphorus impacts. However, as drafted, there is a risk that smaller treatment works would not be in scope and so the Leader of Dorset Council has written to the Secretary of State to request that all necessary wastewater treatment works in the Poole Harbour catchment are within scope of the intended improvements, and officers have held subsequent meetings with government departments, Natural England and Wessex Water to look at this further. Government is giving careful consideration to Dorset Council's position and the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill is anticipated to receive Royal Assent during the Summer, at which point we hope to have greater certainty to offer applicants and developers. In the meantime, officers are continuing to work proactively to look at finding solutions, including:

- Working with Registered Providers to deliver mitigation to existing housing stock to provide additional capacity for affordable housing units;
- Engaging with DLUHC to seek additional funding to bring forward mitigation;

- Investigating mitigation options outside of the Poole Harbour catchment, in partnership with neighbouring authorities.

Our website contains information on the latest position and we will continue to provide updates and guidance as the situation evolves.

Question 2 - submitted by Cllr Les Fry

We seem to be going headlong down the Electric car route without much consideration of the impact on the climate and our planet, electric cars emit no pollutants, so that's all right then?

We need Electricity to charge our cars and we know that here in Dorset we are short of sufficient power for our Commercial needs, with some businesses unable to settle here in Dorset due to the lack of electricity. We also seem to be totally ignoring the impact on the environment with the significant mining required and precious metals needed to build our batteries, see the Channel 4 program on mining in The Congo. I am aware of a possible alternative Battery using Ceramic instead of Lithium, which is an exciting prospect.

We know that electric powered vehicles are not suitable for Agriculture, heavy industry or Road Haulage to name just a few examples.

Fossil fuel powered vehicles are being phased out in a few years (from 2030 onwards), as yet we do not seem to have a suitable alternative fuel source.

What is Dorset Council doing to explore an improved electric supply to the County and alternative fuel sources, such as Hydrogen?

Response by Cllr Ray Bryan

Road transport is the UK's highest emitting sector and decarbonising it is a strategic priority. EVs will be central, but they are not a panacea and will be pursued alongside enabling alternatively fuelled vehicles, boosting vehicle occupancy, and facilitating modal shift.

Our strategy for replacing vehicles is two-pronged: EVs for smaller vehicles, and alternative fuels for larger vehicles like HGVs or tractors.

We have taken great steps forward on the smaller fleet having recently expanded our EV pool car fleet substantially, and replaced several small vehicles with EV's and have plans for further expansion over the coming years. To support this, we are expanding the EV infrastructure, such as the 14 new charge points here at County Hall and exploring rolling this out to other Council sites. And through the LEVI funding from government will strengthen the EV network across the county.

The larger fleet is more challenging, but we have been actively exploring a range of technologies to include trials of EV waste vehicles, exploration of hydrotreated vegetable oil, and biomethane-powered vehicles and engaging with the private sector (including vehicle manufacturers) on developing the prospects for local deployment of hydrogen. Additionally, we have been support the South West's first green hydrogen manufacturing by Canford Renewable Energy, through our Low Carbon Dorset programme.

Tech and policy is rapidly evolving on alternative fuels, and much is dependent on government's wider hydrogen strategy, trials, market developments, costs, infrastructure

deployment, and fuel production capacity. We'll continue to keep an eye on opportunities and continue engaging with manufacturers as the situation evolves to nurture a suitable role for alternative fuels alongside EVs.

Grid capacity in Dorset is a concern for the deployment of low carbon technologies such as EV's, although National Grid has given assurances that it will be robust to cope with increased demand for EV's. We are actively engaging with Network Operators and supporting them to anticipate need – to support their strategic investment in a locally efficient and responsive grid.

Question 3 – submitted by Cllr Matt Hall

Would the relevant Portfolio Holder provide a figure for the numbers of residents who had their parking permit renewed by taking the payment a week before the renewal date and with no form of reminder being sent? Would the Portfolio Holder agree that considering the current cost of living crisis that lack of any form of reminder was in hindsight a mistake?

Response by Cllr Ray Bryan

We do send out renewal reminders for all our permits by e-mail. We have not had any contact relating to the issue below.

We don't set up accounts on auto renewal, the customer has to opt into the system when they apply for the permit.

We will check our systems to ensure they are working correctly but please provide as much information as you can to help investigate the case in question. Any details can be sent to Michael Westwood.

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Full Council

13th July 2023

Agenda item 6 – Petitions and Deputations

To consider the following petition submitted by Mr N Sim-Duff:-

“The summer car park charges from Dorset Council on their car parks in Weymouth are unfair, unreasonable and unjustifiable. Local residents and visitors have to pay 3 times those of other towns in the County. Two hours parking in Dorchester, Blandford, Bridport and Wimborne costs £1.50. In Weymouth, this price is £4.50! For example, a busy mum wanting to nip to the shops and maybe have a coffee with a friend, she would have to pay £6 for 3hrs in Weymouth but only £2.20 in Dorchester! How is that fair?

Car Park charges are a small tax that we all pay for the right to park for a short time in our towns. IT should be fair and equal and not discriminate against one sector or group over another. But this is exactly what Dorset Council have done, penalising Weymouth residents and visitors against those living in or visiting other Dorset towns. Weymouth is subsidising the cheaper parking elsewhere in the county and is disproportionately paying more into the Council’s coffers than other towns.

The high tax on the right to park in Weymouth is directly affecting people’s leisure time and discretionary spending. It is harming Weymouth businesses in retail, hospitality, and amusements. To save money, people will not stay more than an hour or two, and with less disposable money to buy a coffee or a lunch or simply enjoy the town.

The fact that Weymouth is a seaside town and visitor attraction is totally irrelevant as holidaymakers should not be ripped off any more than Weymouth residents. Maybe cheaper parking will encourage more visitors and for those to stay longer.

The petition is not about the public transport, Park and Ride, street parking, supermarket parking, cycling, walking or any other form of transport. It is about the right to park your car in Weymouth and not pay 3 times the rate of other towns.

This petition requests Dorset Council to reduce the carpark charges in Weymouth to those of other towns with immediate effect.”

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Recommendation to Full Council 13 July 2023

From Cabinet of 20 June 2023

Youth Justice Plan 2023/24

For Decision

Portfolio Holder: Cllr B Quayle, People - Children, Education, Skills and Early Help

Local Councillor(s): All

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

Report Author: David Webb
Title: Head of Service, Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service
Tel: 01202 974321
Email: david.webb@bcpcouncil.gov.uk

Report Status: Public

Recommendation:

That the Youth Justice Plan be approved

Appendices

Report to Cabinet 20 June 2023 – Youth Justice Plan 2023/24, including the following appendix.

Appendix 1: Youth Justice Plan

Background papers

[Agenda Papers for Cabinet on Tuesday, 20th June, 2023, 10.00 am - Dorset Council](#)

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Cabinet

20 June 2023

Youth Justice Plan 2023/24

For Recommendation to Council

Portfolio Holder: Cllr B Quayle, Children, Education, Skills and Early Help

Local Councillor(s):

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

Report Author: David Webb
Job Title: Head of Service, Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service
Tel: 01202 974321
Email: david.webb@bcpcouncil.gov.uk

Report Status: Public

Brief Summary:

There is a statutory requirement to publish an annual Youth Justice Plan which must provide specified information about the local provision of youth justice services. This report summarises the Youth Justice Plan for 2023/24, with a copy of the Plan appended. The Youth Justice Plan needs to be approved by the full Council.

Recommendation:

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

Reason for Recommendation:

Youth Justice Services are required to publish an annual Youth Justice Plan which should be approved by the Local Authority for that Youth Justice Service. Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service works across both Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council and Dorset Council. Approval is therefore sought from both Dorset Council and from Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council.

1. **Report**

- 1.1 The Crime and Disorder Act (1998) requires Youth Offending Teams (now more widely known as Youth Justice Services) to publish an annual youth justice plan. The Youth Justice Board provides detailed and prescriptive guidance about what must be included in the plan. The draft Youth Justice Plan for the Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service is attached at Appendix One. A brief summary of the Youth Justice Plan is provided in this report.
- 1.2 The Youth Justice Plan provides information on the resourcing, structure, governance, partnership arrangements and performance of the Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service. The Plan also describes the national and local youth justice context for 2023/24 and sets out our priorities for this year.
- 1.3 Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service was inspected under HMI Probation's 'Joint Inspection' framework in September and October 2022. This was a rigorous and detailed inspection, scrutinising work with 62 children across both local authorities and reviewing the service's management and leadership, partnership arrangements and use of information. The inspection report was published in January 2023, rating the service as 'Good'.
- 1.4 The Youth Justice Board continue to monitor three 'key performance indicators' for youth justice. The first indicator relates to the rate of young people entering the justice system for the first time. The latest national data, relating to the 12 months to September 2022, shows a combined pan-Dorset rate of 239 per 100,000 under 18-year-olds entering the justice system for the first time. This compares with a figure of 183 per 100,000 under 18-year-olds in the previous year. For context, the rate for the year 2019/20, before the pandemic, was 309 per 100,000 under 18-year-olds. The combined pan-Dorset rate does not reflect progress made in the Dorset Council area, described in the following paragraph.
- 1.5 Local data enables us to monitor numbers of first-time entrants in each local authority area. This local data shows the number of Dorset children entering the justice system reduced from 79 in 2019/20, and 50 in 2021/22, to 40 in 2022/23, reflecting good progress in partnership early intervention work in Dorset. The Youth Justice Plan provides more detail about the children who enter the justice system and about work to divert children from the youth justice system.

- 1.6 The other two national indicators relate to reducing reoffending and minimising the use of custodial sentences. Our local reoffending rate has for the most part remained below the national rate. Local analysis shows that young people who are more likely to reoffend are also more likely to have more complex speech, language and communication needs, to have experienced traumatic events that have impaired the child's cognitive and emotional development and to find it hard to access education or training. The Youth Justice Plan sets out some of the actions that have been taken and future plans to address these issues.
- 1.7 Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service has low rates of custodial sentences, below the national average. Work to avoid custodial sentences has been particularly successful in the Dorset Council area. For the third consecutive year, no Dorset Council children received a custodial sentence during 2022/23.
- 1.8 The Youth Justice Service Partnership priorities for 2023/24 align with the strategic priorities of other services and partnerships, including the Dorset Community Safety Partnership and the Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership. More work is planned to divert children from the justice system and to ensure their needs are identified and met, using the Ministry of Justice 'Turnaround' programme; further work will be undertaken to improve the education outcomes of children in the youth justice system; additional action is needed to improve the timeliness and effectiveness of our local responses to weapon offences and serious violence. The Youth Justice Plan also outlines priorities for practice development within the Youth Justice Service, including implementation of the 'Identity Lens' model to build children's positive, pro-social identities.

2. **Financial Implications**

The Youth Justice Plan reports on the resourcing of the Youth Justice Service (YJS). After years of static or reducing Youth Justice Grant allocations, and static local authority and other partner contributions, there was an increase in the Youth Justice Grant in 2022/23, taking it to £794,915. To put this in context, the Youth Justice Grant allocation in 2014/15 was £790,000. At the time of writing this report, in mid-May, the Youth Justice Grant for 2023/24 has not been announced.

The creation of the pan-Dorset youth offending service in 2015 increased the service's resilience and ability to adapt to reduced funding and

increased costs. The management of vacancies, and the deletion of some posts, has enabled a balanced budget to be achieved in the years to 2023.

3. **Natural Environment, Climate & Ecology Implications**

No adverse environmental impact has been identified. The Covid-19 pandemic led to changes in the working arrangements of the Youth Justice Service. These changes included significant reductions in staff travel, both to and from work and to visit service users, with more activities being carried out remotely. Although staff travel has increased, with the return to more face-to-face work, team members continue to undertake some tasks remotely and travel has not returned to pre-Covid levels.

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

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

5. **Other Implications**

No Human Resources implications have been identified. Local Authority YJS staff members are employees of Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole council, including those team members who work in the Dorset Council area. The YJS also includes employees of the partner agencies who have been seconded to work in the team and who remain employed by the partner agency. The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 also contains statutory requirements for the staffing composition of youth offending services. The Youth Justice Plan shows how Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service meets these requirements.

6. **Risk Assessment**

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

Current Risk: Low

Residual Risk: Low

7. **Equalities Impact Assessment**

The Youth Justice Plan does not relate to a new strategy, policy or function so an Equalities Impact Assessment has not been undertaken.

Some information about equalities issues is included in the report. No adverse equalities impacts have been identified.

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




8. **Appendices**

Appendix One: Youth Justice Plan 2023/24

9. **Background Papers**

None.

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 D O R S E T
 C O M B I N E D
 Youth Justice Service



YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2023/24

Service	Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service
Head of Service	David Webb
Chair of YJS Board	Theresa Leavy

Youth Justice Plan 2023/24

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1. Introduction, vision, strategy and local context

Introduction

This document is the Youth Justice Strategic Plan for the Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service (DCYJS) for 2023/24. It sets out the key priorities and targets for the service for the next 12 months as required by the Crime & Disorder Act 1998 and overseen by the Youth Justice Board. This Plan adheres to the Youth Justice Board's 'document 'Youth Justice Plans: Guidance for Youth Justice Services'.

This Plan has been developed under the direction of the DCYJS Partnership Board after consultation with DCYJS staff and taking into account feedback from DCYJS users.

The Youth Justice Strategic Plan:

- summarises the DCYJS structure, governance and partnership arrangements
- outlines the resources available to the DCYJS
- reviews achievements and developments during 2021/22
- identifies emerging issues and describes the partnership's priorities
- sets out our priorities and actions for improving youth justice outcomes this year.

Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service Statement of Purpose

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

We support the national Youth Justice Board Vision for a 'child first' youth justice system:

A youth justice system that sees children as children, treats them fairly and helps them to build on their strengths so they can make a constructive contribution to society. This will prevent offending and create safer communities with fewer victims.

Who We Are and What We Do

Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service (DCYJS) is a statutory partnership between Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council, Dorset Council, Dorset Police, The Probation Service (Dorset) and NHS Dorset Integrated Care Board.

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

More information about the Youth Justice Service (YJS) partnership and the members of the YJS team is provided later in this document.

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

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

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

The combination of direct work with children, parents and victims and work to improve our local youth justice and children's services systems enables us to meet our strategic objectives to:

- Reduce the number of children in the youth justice system
- Reduce reoffending by children in the youth justice system
- Improve the safety and well-being of children in the youth justice system
- Reduce and repair the harm caused to victims and the community
- Improve outcomes for children in the youth justice system.

Local Context

Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service (DCYJS) is a partnership working across two local authorities: Dorset Council and Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council. Dorset Council covers a large geographical, predominantly rural area with market towns and a larger urban area in Weymouth and Portland. Dorset Council has a population of about 380,00. Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole together form a conurbation with a population of nearly 400,000.

Other members of the DCYJS Partnership, such as Dorset Police, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, NHS Dorset CCG, Dorset HealthCare Trust and the Probation Service (Dorset) also work across both local authorities.

The following tables provide demographic information about young people in both local authorities:

Dorset Council:

Population

Age 10-17

Number of Children ¹	32,924
Male ¹	51.4%
Female ¹	48.6%
Pupils eligible for Free School Meals ²	20.2%
Pupils with SEN Support ²	14.2%
Pupils with an EHC Plan ²	5.4%
Pupils from Non-white Minority Ethnic groups ³	4.7%
22.7% children living in Poverty after housing costs ⁴	

Safeguarding

Age 10-17

Number of Children in Need ⁵	665
Male ⁵	52.5%
Female ⁵	46.9%
Indeterminate ⁵	0.6%
Number of Children with a Child Protection Plan ⁵	140
Number of Children in Care ⁶	310
Male ⁶	60.3%
Female ⁶	39.4%
Indeterminate ⁵	0.3%
Number of children and young people at risk of exploitation ⁷	
Significant	24
Moderate	56
Emerging	16

1. Dorset mid-year 2021 population estimates (published June 2022)

2. October 2022 School Census (includes all pupils at a Dorset School aged 10-17: ages as at 31 August 2022)

3. January 2022 School Census (all non-white pupils at a Dorset School, excluding 'Refused' and 'Information not yet obtained')

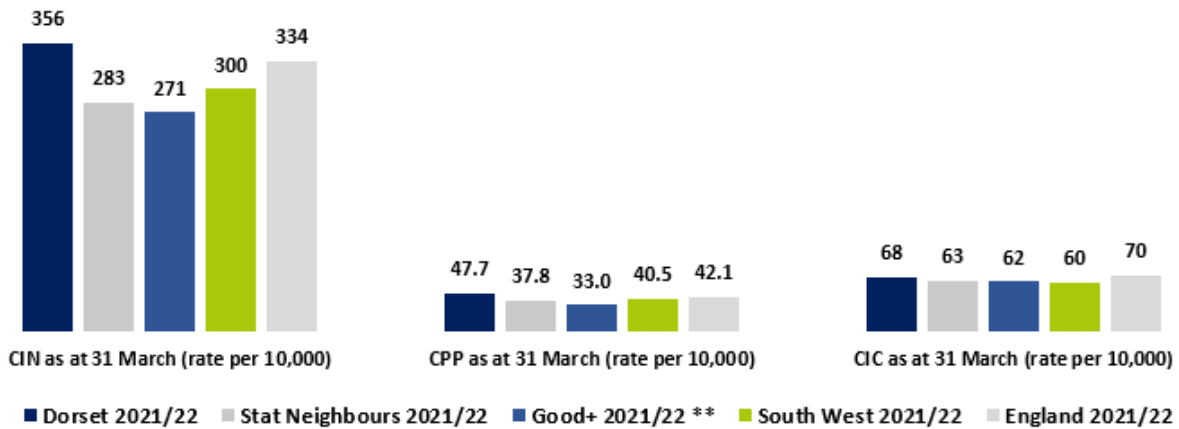
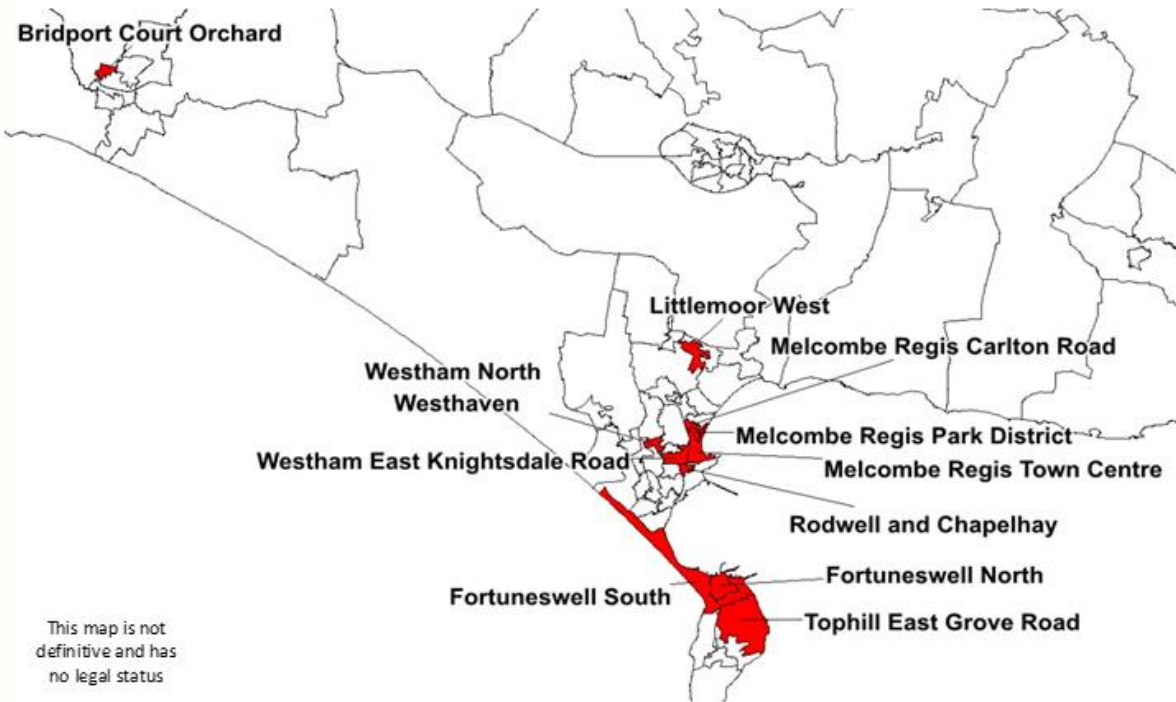
4. Local child poverty indicators 2020/21. Based on the DWP/HMRC statistics "Children in low income families: local area statistics" (March 2022).

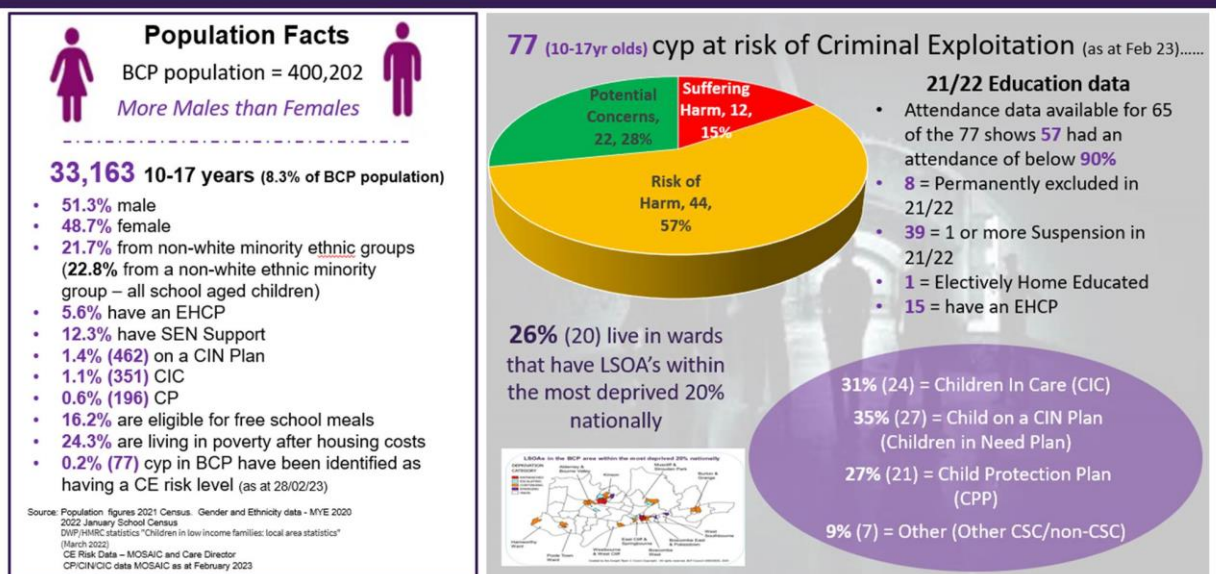
5. From MOSAIC, as at 31 March 2023. Excluding CP and CIC. Gender figures exclude Unknown, Unborn and Indeterminate

6. From MOSAIC, as at 31 March 2023. Gender figures exclude Unknown, Unborn and Indeterminate

7. From MOSAIC as at 31 March 2023

LSOAs in Dorset within the top 20% deprived nationally





DCYJS was inspected in September and October 2022 under the HMI Probation 'Full Joint Inspection' framework. The inspection report was published in January 2023, rating the service as 'Good'. The inspection report can be found at this link: [A joint inspection of youth offending services in Dorset \(justiceinspectors.gov.uk\)](https://www.justiceinspectors.gov.uk).

2. Child First

Under the leadership of the Youth Justice Board, 'Child First' is the guiding principle for the youth justice sector, underpinning their guidance documents 'Standards for Children in the Youth Justice System' and the 2022 revision of 'Case Management Guidance'. These documents direct the work of youth justice services.

The YJB's 'Child First: Overview and Guide' states that 'A Child First approach means putting children at the heart of what we do. The youth justice system should treat children as children, see the whole child, including any structural barriers they face and focus on better outcomes for children. This will also create safer communities with fewer victims'.

The Child First approach has four tenets, summed up as 'ABCD':

- **As children:** recognise how children are developmentally different from adults and require different support
- **Building pro-social identity:** promote children's individual strengths and capacities to develop a pro-social identity, focusing on positive child outcomes rather than just trying to manage offending
- **Collaborating with children:** involve children meaningfully to encourage their investment, engagement and social inclusion
- **Diverting from stigma:** promote supportive diversion from the criminal justice system where possible, or minimising stigma within it, as we know that stigma causes further offending.

The Child First approach is built on evidence demonstrating its effectiveness to reduce offending by the small number of children within the youth justice system and to prevent offending by children who are at risk of entering the justice system. The research evidence is summarised in this document: <https://www.lboro.ac.uk/subjects/social-policy-studies/research/child-first-justice/>.

DCYJS supports these principles and promotes them in its own work and in its interactions with local partners in children's services and the youth justice system.

The following feedback from a young person to a YJS manager illustrates how this approach can work in practice:

I had a telephone conversation with P, and she shared with me that she had a good relationship with her YJS worker, T, and she got on really well with her. P didn't have anything she was unhappy about and said that T was clear with her about what was expected from her, and they didn't focus solely on the offence as in P's words "I just used a word I shouldn't have". She said T supported her with liaising with school and supporting her with positive activities. P was clear the offence was a one-off occurrence and T didn't make her focus on the negatives of what had happened.

The DCYJS Youth Justice Plan for 2022/23 set out strategic priorities which were aligned with the YJB's Child First principles, reflecting work to strengthen the local implementation of the four tenets of Child First practice.

Evidence of the Partnership's commitment to Child First principles is embedded throughout this document.

3. Voice of the child

DCYJS works collaboratively with children to elicit their views and to hear their voices. The team's Speech and Language Therapists complete assessments so that each child's communication needs can be understood and responded to, not just by other workers in the team but also by the child, their carers and other professionals working with the child.

As well as hearing the child's voice in the team's day to day practice, there are also processes in place to gather the views of children and other service users about their experience of the service's work.

A 'Smart Survey' feedback form is used towards the end of the child's contact with the service, alongside some of the questions in the self-assessment documents that are completed by children and their carers. Appendix 3 shows the collated Smart Survey responses received in February and March 2023.

The survey includes questions about children having a say in the work that we do with them, about their worker believing the child would make positive changes and the child feeling listened to and being helped to find their own answers. These questions give an indication of the effectiveness of worker relationships with the child. Positive responses indicate worker adherence to the service's practice principles. The survey responses in Appendix 3 show that most children were 'Satisfied' or 'Very Satisfied' with these aspects of our work.

In 2022/23 the service also sought the views of children and parents as part of an audit of YJS work with children on Out of Court Disposals. Seeking the views of service users is now an established part of YJS case audit processes, influencing the service's improvement plans.

Service users also make spontaneous comments about the quality of the service's work with them. These comments are recorded and collated to give a wider, less structured perspective on the service's work. Examples of recent comments from service users include:

H's mum has thanked me for the work completed to help H. She said he has turned things around and it was a wakeup call for him. He is starting to think about the future.

My feedback for you couldn't be more positive. All I have seen from you is someone who really cares about the well-being of my son. As I said on the call I really did expect this process to be something to be endured for a year but it's been so positive and great for M's self-esteem. Nothing has been too much trouble and you were always there when we needed you.

Just a update on W. The police and others are all really proud of him turning himself around and not being on the radar any more. He was pupil of the week whoop whoop. And has been gold for the last 2 weeks at school. We have the YJS SALT calling round in the morning to do the report for EHCP and to do the autism testing. He had his CAMHS meeting yesterday which went well and he's going to get CBT therapy. I have a meeting at school next Tuesday about his EHCP plan also. So things seem to be moving in the right direction for him. So thank you for all your help steering us in the right direction to receive the help he needed.

In 2022/23 the service also sought the views of children and parents as part of an audit of YJS work with children on Out of Court Disposals. Seeking the views of service users is now an established part of YJS case audit processes, influencing the service's improvement plans.

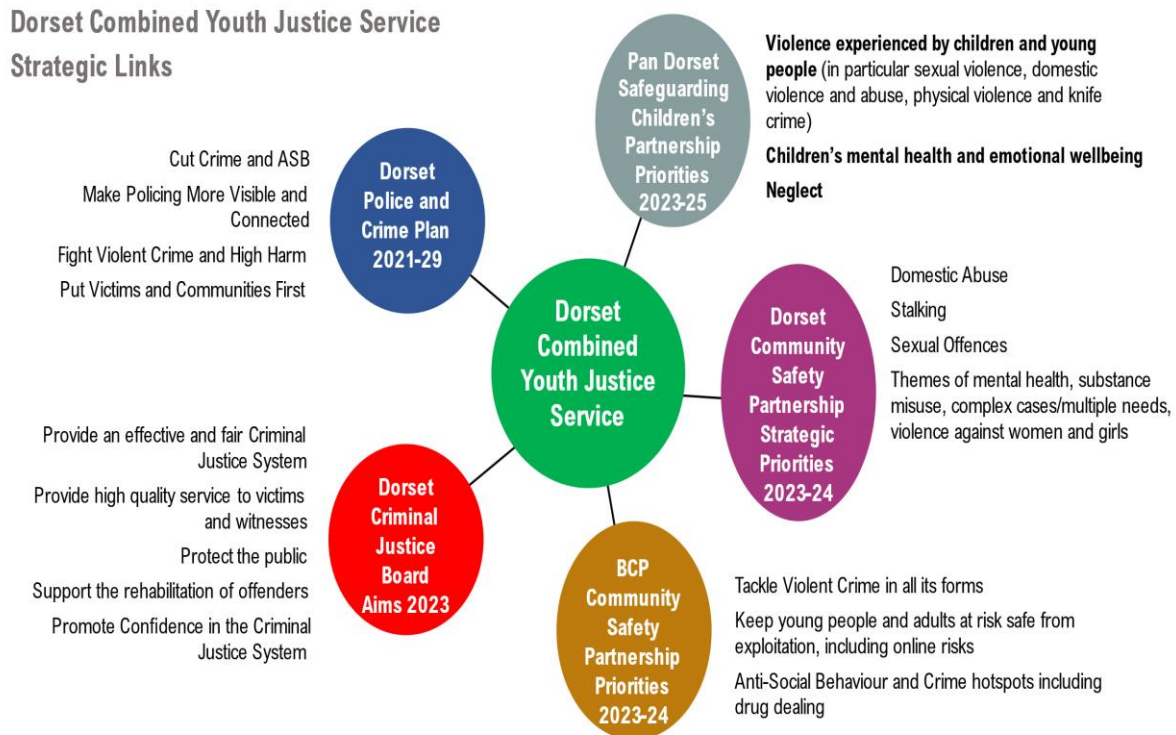
4. Governance, leadership and partnership arrangements

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

Membership:

- Dorset Council (chair)
- Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council (vice-chair)
- Dorset Police
- The Probation Service (Dorset)
- NHS Dorset Integrated Care Board
- Public Health Dorset
- Dorset Healthcare University Foundation Trust
- Her Majesty's Court and Tribunal service
- Youth Justice Board for England and Wales
- Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

The Partnership Board oversees the development of the Youth Justice Plan, ensuring its links with other local plans. Board members sit on other strategic partnerships, helping to ensure that strategic plans and priorities are integrated and consider the needs of children and victims in the local youth justice system. The following graphic illustrates the links between local strategic groups and their overlapping strategic priorities:



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

The DCYJS participates in local multi-agency agreements for information sharing, for safeguarding and for the escalation of concerns. The DCYJS Partnership Personal Information Sharing Agreement underpins local multi-agency work to prevent offending and to reduce reoffending.

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

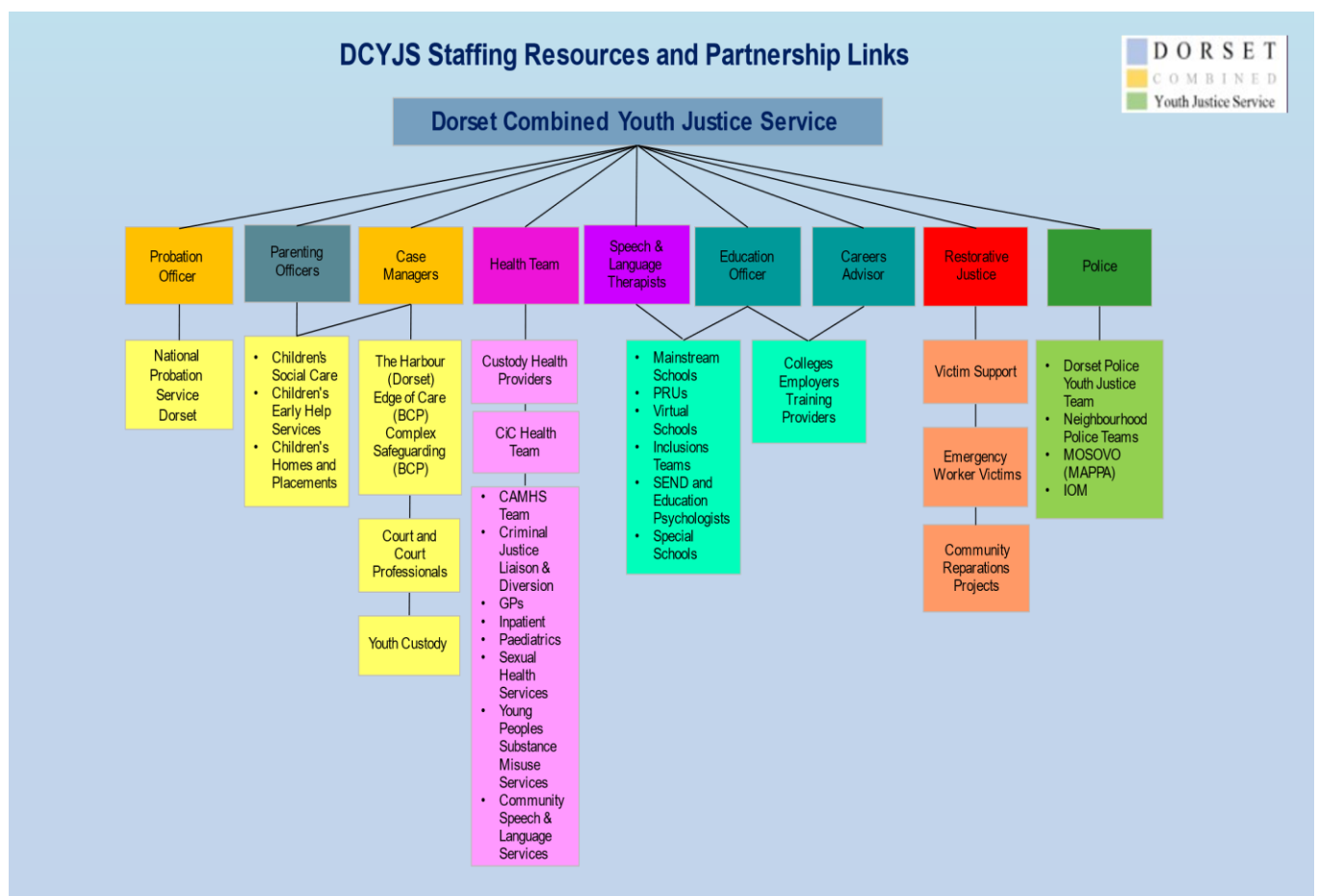
The Partnership Board also provides oversight and governance for local multi-agency protocols in respect of the criminalisation of children in care and the detention of children in police custody. The DCYJS Manager chairs multi-agency operational groups for each protocol and reports on progress to the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

DCYJS is hosted by Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council. The Head of Service is a Tier 3 Manager, reporting to the Director for Safeguarding and Early Help in the Children's Social Care service. The Head of Service also reports to the Corporate Director for Care and Protection in Dorset Council.

Appendix One includes the structure chart for DCYJS and structure charts showing where the service is located in each local authority.

DCYJS meets the statutory staffing requirements for youth justice services, set out in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. Specialist staff are seconded into the service by Dorset Police, the Probation Service and Dorset HealthCare University Foundation Trust. These workers have line managers in both the YJS and their employing organisation. They have direct access to their own organisation’s case management systems, to enable the prompt and proportionate sharing of information.

The YJS multi-disciplinary team also includes education specialists, parenting workers and restorative justice practitioners. The team works closely with other local services, as illustrated below:



5. YJS Partnership Board Development

The YJS Partnership Board met for a half-day development session in November 2022. The Board reviewed information from its own self-assessment and from the recent HMI Probation Joint Inspection of the service, which included scrutiny of the Board’s work.

HMI Probation gave a rating of Good for the service’s Governance and Leadership. As well as identifying many strengths, the inspectors suggested possible ‘Areas for improvement’:

- The board chairing arrangements are not rotated. For the partnership board to be challenged in its ambition to drive the performance of the service forward, a level of independence is required that holds all partnership agencies to account.
- While the seniority of the board membership is appropriate, attendance is not consistent.
- Although the youth justice plan references work taking place to look at disproportionality, the service does not have a specific diversity and disproportionality policy. Focus on this area requires a framework that collates the diversity and disproportionality work together, which guides and enables staff to ask appropriate questions about a child's heritage and their lived experiences.
- Although new board members meet with the YJS service manager and chair of the board as part of their induction, there is no formal induction pack which ensure consistency.

The Board has taken action in response to all these points. The Board is currently reviewing its chairing arrangements. The attendance of Board members is monitored at each meeting and has improved since the inspection. An induction process for new Board members has been agreed and work is underway on a discrete YJS Diversity and Disproportionality Policy.

6. Progress on previous plan

The DCYJS Youth Justice Plan for 2022/23 identified strategic priorities under the headings of 'System Improvement' and 'Practice Improvement'.

The System Improvement priorities are listed below with a brief summary of progress made:

Continue to reduce the rate of children entering the justice system:

- Implementation of the Ministry of Justice 'Turnaround' programme targeted at children who have not yet entered the justice system
- Use of the police crime disposal option 'Outcome 22' for children with low level offences who receive assessments and interventions through the Turnaround programme
- Extending the Turnaround approach for children who are excluded from the Turnaround programme criteria, such as children in care and children on a child protection plan
- Developing a Turnaround route for children who are coming to police attention for repeated Anti-Social Behaviour
- Work in Dorset Council to develop a pro-active approach to identifying and supporting children who are at risk of future offending.

Continue to address over-representation of minority groups in the youth justice system:

- Analysis of police custody detention times by ethnicity
- YJS performance data reporting is broken down by disadvantaged groups to check for any over-representation

- YJS staff have received training to build their knowledge and confidence in working with sexuality and gender identity issues
- The findings from previous view-seeking work with young people have been shared with other services
- A route has been agreed with Dorset Police for the YJS to help families raise concerns about perceived unfair treatment on grounds of race
- YJS Speech and Language Therapists provide assessment reports to other professionals to help them meet children's communication needs and to assist with assessments for special educational needs and disabilities

Continue to improve the efficiency, effectiveness and quality of the local youth justice system:

- YJS staff and Dorset youth panel magistrates have worked together, with advice from children and parents, to create and distribute the booklet "You are going to Youth Court in Dorset"
- Continued joint work with DCYJS and the Dorset Police Youth Justice Team to ensure the timeliness of youth Out of Court Disposals
- Work with defence solicitors to reduce the inappropriate use of 'no comment' interviews which prevent children receiving diversion options or Out of Court Disposals
- The YJS Speech and Language Therapist provided training sessions to detectives in Dorset Police and to Appropriate Adults to help them respond to children's communication needs
- Transition arrangements from YJS to Probation have been strengthened, working with other services such as leaving care and SEND to meet young adults' ongoing needs.

Practice Improvement priorities for 2022/23 are listed here, with brief details of actions taken, progress made and work still to do:

Make our assessments, plans and interventions more accessible, collaborative and responsive to discrimination:

- A new format for intervention plans, based on advice from the YJS Speech and Language Therapists, has been trialled with some children and volunteers
- We have changed the format of our reports for Referral Order initial panel meetings so that information about the child comes first, before information about the offence
- YJS practitioners have received training and support from YJS Speech and Language Therapists to promote the use of 'Talking Mats' in their work with children
- Team audits of casework now include contact with the child and their parents to seek their views of our work
- Identification and recording of diversity and identity issues has improved, with diversity statements added to Pre-Sentence Reports.

Clarify and align activities to repair harm, increase employability and to support pro-social interests and activities, including links to community organisations:

- We have reviewed our approach to ‘reparation’ activity to switch the focus to ‘repairing harm’ and making the activities more meaningful for the child and responsive to their victim’s wishes
- Recruitment of a new Community Resource Worker has restored our capacity to use these workers for constructive activities and for activities to support employability
- The OPCC has provided funding to support children gaining their ‘CSCS’ card and to support access to post-16 Maths and English courses
- A budget allocation has been set aside to support children to access positive activities to support pro-social identities and reduce the likelihood of re-offending.

The improvement areas listed above reflect areas of YJS practice which will need continuing attention during 2023/24. Specific issues where more work is needed include:

- Further work to reduce the numbers of local children entering the justice system
- Monitoring the timeliness of cases progressing through the youth court, including the possible need to fast-track priority cases such as those related to weapon offences
- Extend our work with children who have experienced discrimination to help them understand its impact and ways we can respond
- Develop links with community organisations to support children developing a pro-social identity with community support.

7. Resources and Services

The funding contributions to the DCYJS partnership budget are listed in Appendix Two.

All local authority staff in DCYJS are employed by Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council. Other DCYJS staff are employed by Dorset Police, the Probation Service (Dorset) and Dorset HealthCare University NHS Foundation Trust. A DCYJS Structure Chart is included in Appendix One, showing the posts provided through our partnership resources DCYJS has a strong multi-agency and multi-disciplinary identity, meeting the staffing requirements of the Crime and Disorder Act (1998).

Like all public services, DCYJS operates in a context of reducing resources. Ensuring value for money and making best use of resources is a high priority for the service. The combined partnership, working across Dorset’s local authorities since 2015, has enabled the service to maintain high practice standards while managing real terms budget reductions over that period.

The Youth Justice Board Grant is paid subject to terms and conditions relating to its use. The Grant may only be used towards the achievement of the following outcomes:

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

The conditions of the Grant also refer to the services that must be provided and the duty to comply with data reporting requirements.

The Youth Justice Grant contributes to the Partnership's resources for employing practitioners who work with children to prevent and reduce offending and to keep children and other members of the community safe from harm. Resources from the Youth Justice Grant are also used to provide restorative justice and reparative activities, to promote pro-social activities for children building on their strengths and to improve the education, training and employment opportunities of young people in the local youth justice system.

In addition to the service outcomes listed above, the Youth Justice Grant and other Partnership resources are used to achieve the strategic priorities set out later in this Plan. Progress against those priorities is reported to the DCYJS Partnership Board, with oversight also provided by the respective children's services scrutiny committees of the two local authorities.

8. Performance

In 2022/23 the three national key performance indicators for youth justice services related to:

- The rate of first time entrants to the criminal justice system
- The rate and frequency of reoffending by children in the criminal justice system
- The use of custodial sentences.

The YJB publish quarterly performance data for youth justice services, compiled nationally, in relation to these three indicators. The information reported below is drawn from the data published in February 2023 for the period ending December 2022.

New Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for youth justice are being introduced from April 2023. A summary of the new KPIs is included below.

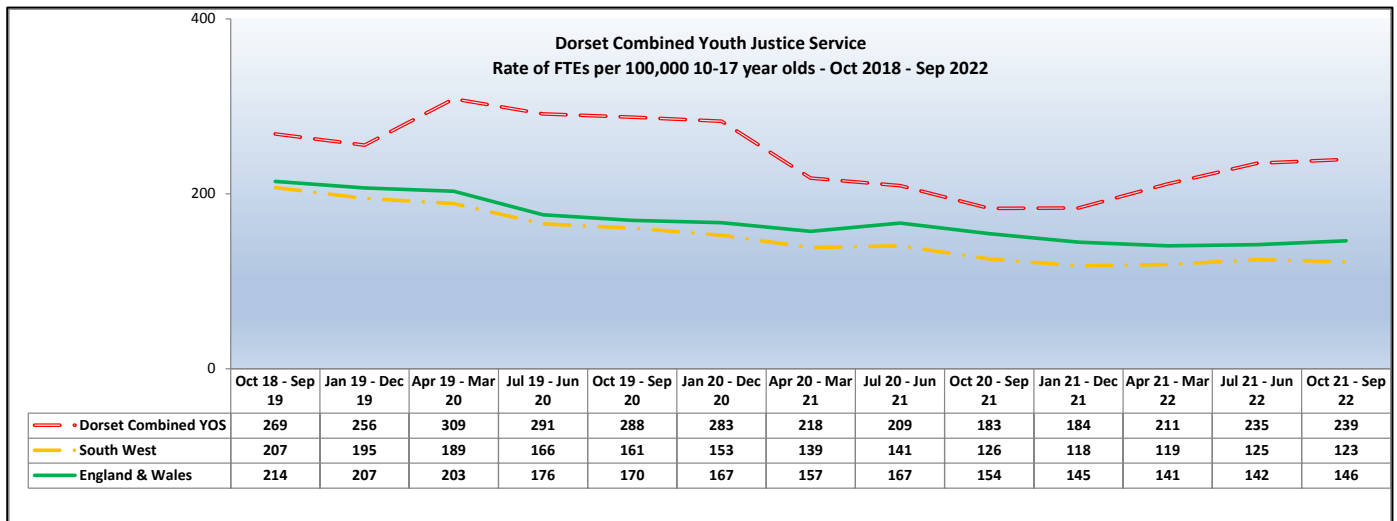
First Time Entrants

A 'First Time Entrant' is a child receiving a formal criminal justice outcome for the first time. A Youth Caution, a Youth Conditional Caution or a court outcome count as a formal criminal justice outcome. There are also informal options available for responding to offences by children.

Dorset Police, DCYJS and other children's services work closely together to decide the appropriate outcome for a child who has committed a criminal offence. Whenever possible we seek to use an informal option which does not criminalise the child. It is recognised that receiving a formal justice outcome is in itself detrimental for children.

National performance data for First Time Entrants is drawn from the Police National Computer (PNC). Local data is also recorded on the DCYJS case management system. There is a discrepancy between national and local data for First Time Entrants; it is not possible to compare individual case records to confirm how national data allocates children to local areas. DCYJS has confidence in the accuracy of its case records showing home address information and child in care status.

The following chart shows the most recent published national First Time Entrants data. DCYJS saw a reduction in its rate of children entering the justice system in 2020 and 2021, possibly linked to the pandemic and its aftermath. In 2022 the rate has risen, although it has not returned to pre-pandemic levels. The combined rate for our two local authorities dropped from 288 per 100,000 under 18s in the year to September 2020 to 183 in the year to September 2021, rising to 239 in the year to September 2022.. Despite local work to divert children from the justice system, DCYJS remains above regional and national averages for this indicator. The ambition is to match or move below rates in other areas.



DCYJS tracks data on its own case management system to monitor the extent and characteristics of children entering the justice system. Local data shows a reduction in the number of children entering the justice system compared to the year before the pandemic, with the reduction being more marked in the Dorset Council area:

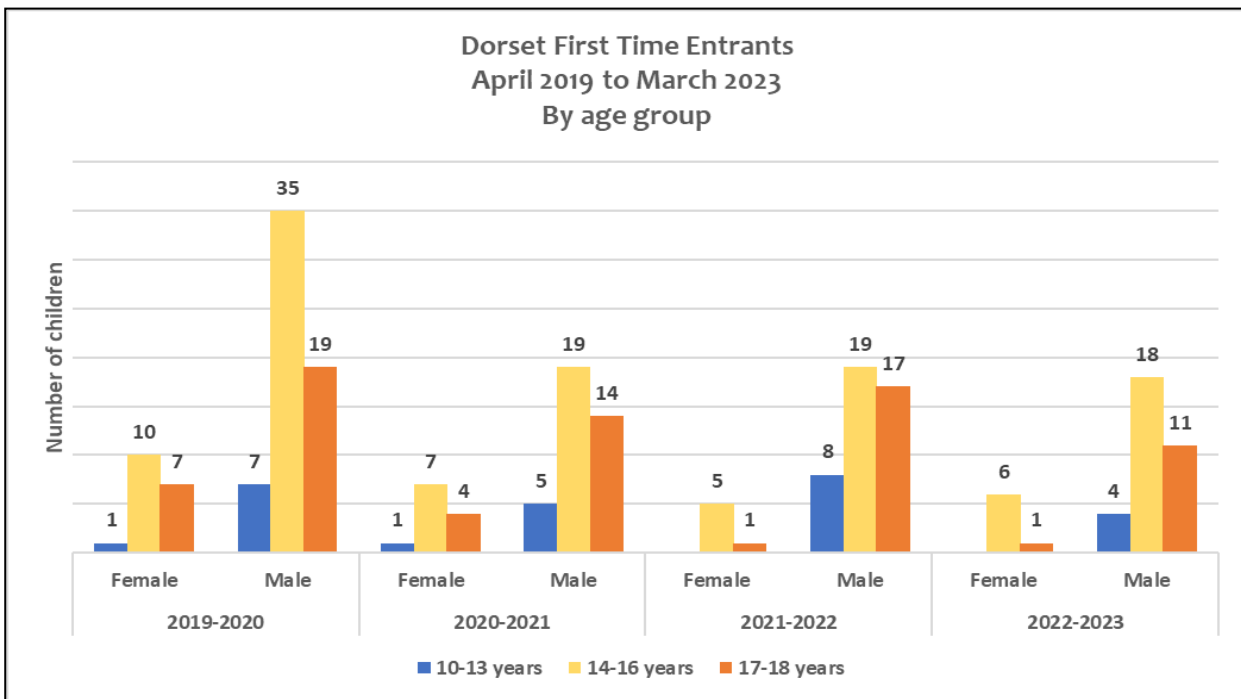
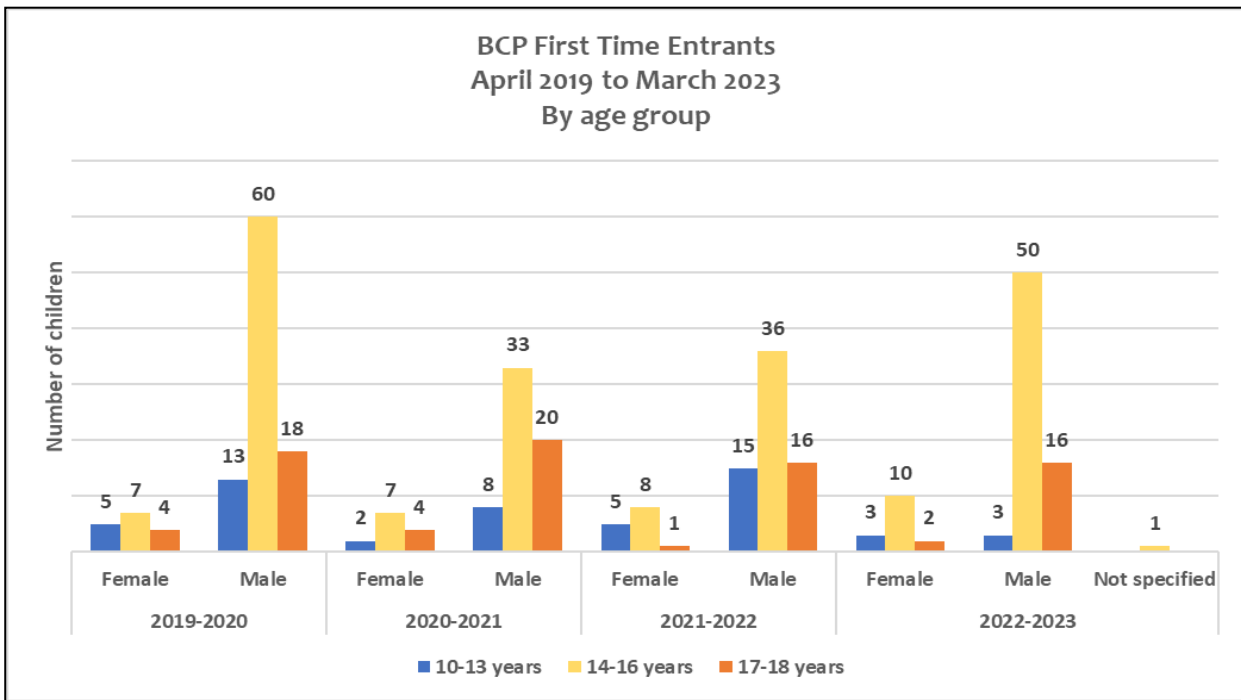
Year	BCP First-Time Entrants	Dorset First-Time Entrants	Total DCYJS First-Time Entrants
2019/20	107	79	186
2020/21	74	50	124
2021/22	81	50	131
2022/23	85	40	125

The gender breakdown of first-time entrants remains fairly consistent, with about 17-18% being female.

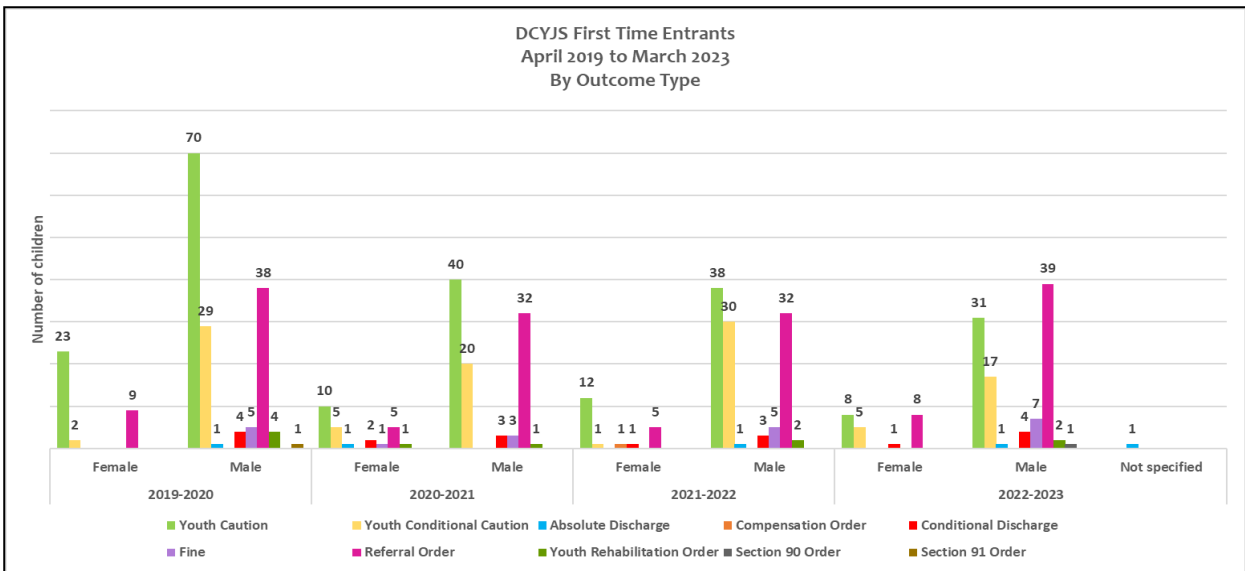
The ethnicity of local first-time entrants does not indicate over-representation of black, mixed heritage or other children of diverse heritage. Over the past two years, local data shows that 10.8% of first-time entrants in the BCP Council area and 3.3% of first-time entrants in the Dorset Council area were from black, mixed heritage or other diverse heritage groups.

Previous analysis of our local first-time entrants indicated that the reduction had been less marked among younger children. Further analysis was undertaken to identify the common factors in this group of younger first-time entrants, with a pattern emerging of these children being first known to the police as a victim or witness of crime, having special educational needs or disabilities, having experienced school exclusions and being known to children's

social care. Data for the past 4 years indicates that 2022/23 saw a reduction in first-time entrants aged 10-13 in both local authority areas:



There was a drop in 2022/23 in the proportion of children receiving out of court disposals when they entered the justice system, down from 60% in 2021/22 to 49% in 2022/23. This is illustrated in the following chart:



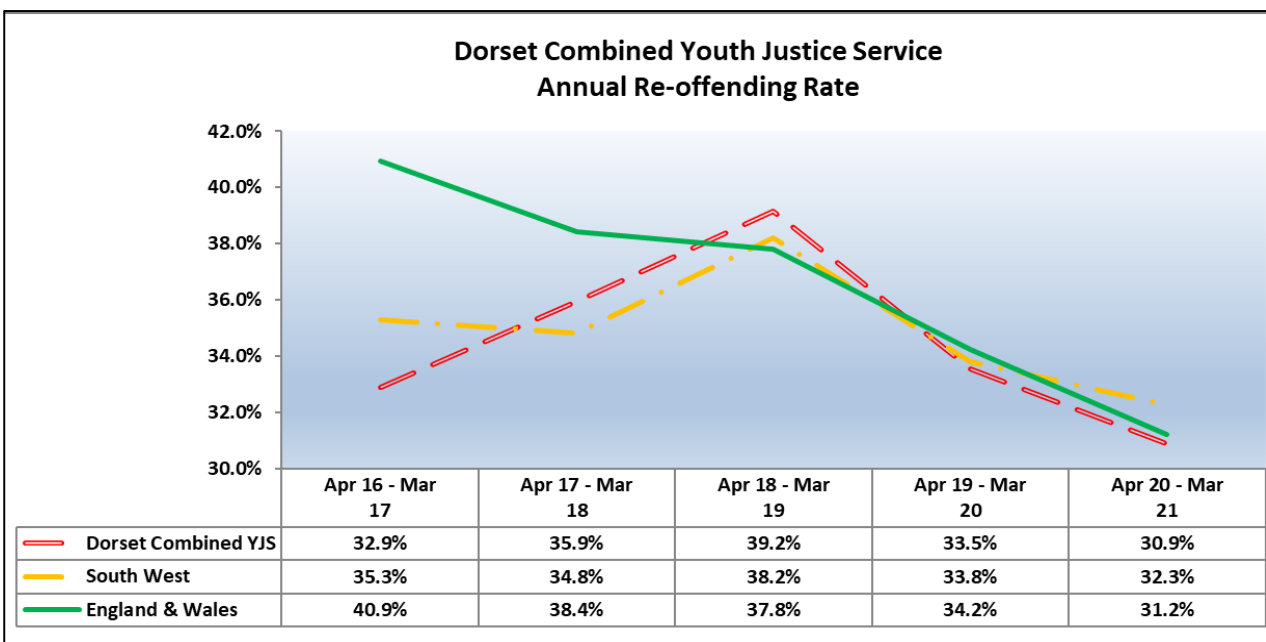
Decision-makers on the local Out of Court Disposal panel have been seeking to divert children from formal outcomes, like Youth Cautions, to informal outcomes like community resolutions.

Local application of the Ministry of Justice ‘Turnaround’ programme is focusing on diverting children from Youth Cautions to an ‘Outcome 22’ disposal, meaning no further police action with the child receiving support from the Turnaround workers.

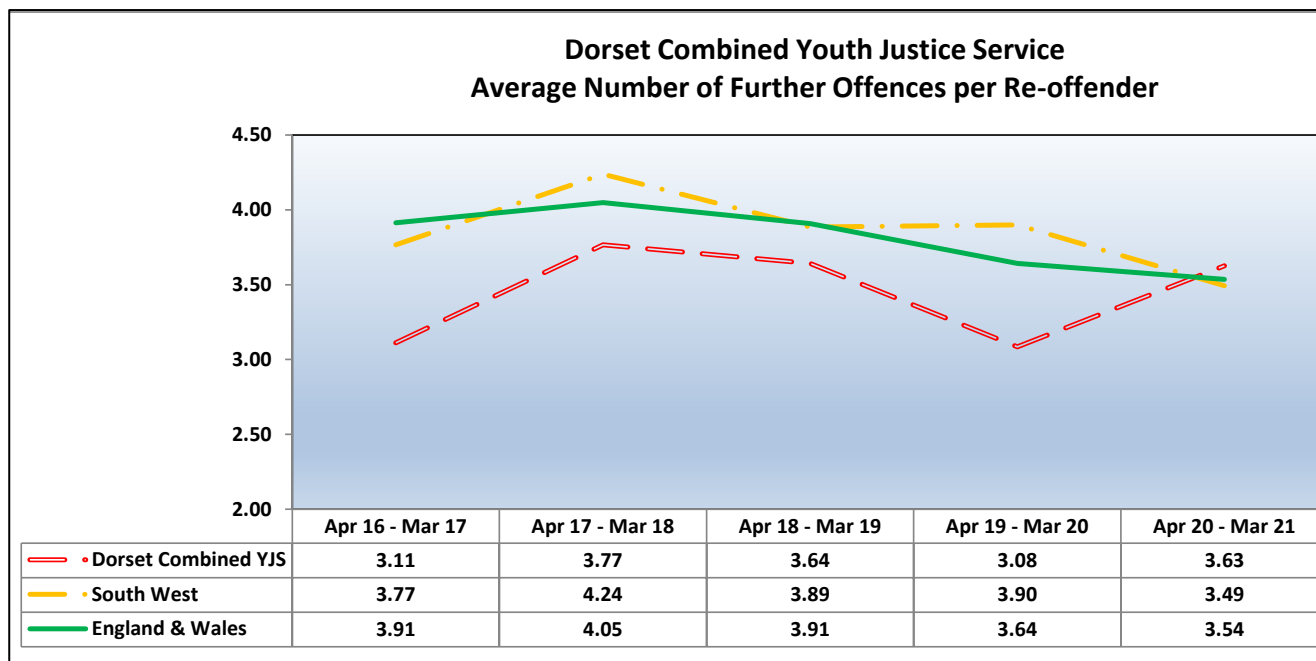
Rate of Proven Reoffending

National re-offending data is published in two formats: the ‘binary’ rate shows the proportion of children in the cohort who go on to be convicted for subsequent offences in the 12 months after their previous justice outcome; the ‘frequency’ rate shows the average number of offences per reoffender. Reoffending data is necessarily delayed in order to allow time to see if the child is reconvicted and for that later outcome to be recorded. The following data therefore relates to children with whom the service worked up to March 2021.

Reoffending rate (Reoffenders/Number in cohort)



Reoffences/Reoffenders



DCYJS has remained below or close to the regional and national averages for both measures, showing good performance in both the numbers of children reoffending and the average number of their offences.

Local data, stored on the DCYJS case management system, can also be scrutinised to provide a more specific understanding of reoffending patterns. Analysis of reoffending by children on the DCYJS caseload between April 2020 and March 2021 gives a more detailed understanding of reoffending by local children:

- 14-16 year-olds are the age group most likely to reoffend
- Boys are more likely to reoffend than girls
- Black and mixed heritage children show a higher reoffending rate than white children
- Children in the BCP Council area had a higher reoffending rate than children in the Dorset Council area
- Children who were currently or previously in care were more likely to reoffend than children who had not been in care
- Children on court orders were more likely to reoffend than children on out of court disposals

[Use of Custodial Sentences](#)

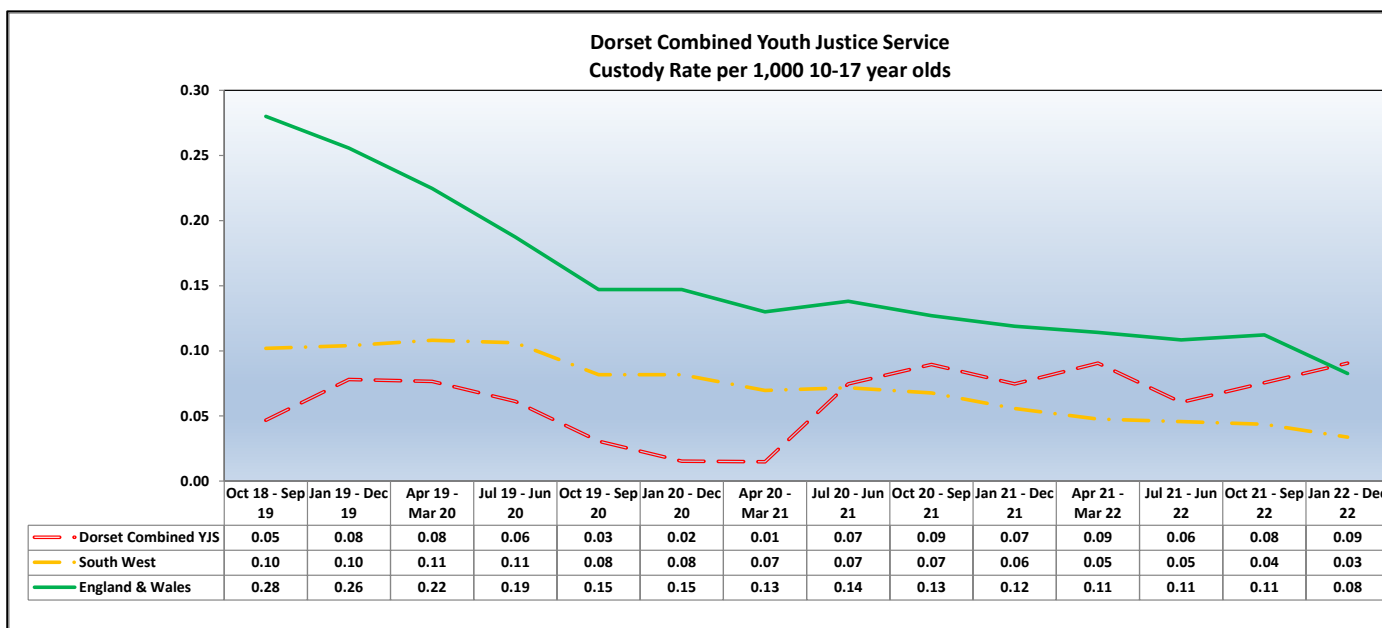
DCYJS continues to see low numbers of children sentenced to custody.

The latest national data is copied below. The context of this data is a large reduction over recent years in the number of children in custody in England and Wales. This means that small changes in numbers can have a noticeable effect on the local and national rates.

No children from the Dorset Council area have been sentenced to custody since March 2020.

Seven children from the BCP Council area were sentenced to custody in the year to March 2023.

DCYJS works closely with other children’s services to provide community sentences which have the confidence of our local courts so that custodial sentences are only used as a last resort.



[New Youth Justice Key Performance Indicators](#)

Youth Justice Services are required to report on a new set of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) from April 2023. The new KPIs will add information for children who received diversion outcomes as well as for children on the statutory caseload. The intention is for the new KPIs to show the strength of local partnership working, indicated by the following measures:

- Accommodation – the percentage of children in suitable accommodation
- Education, training and employment (ETE) – the percentage of children attending a suitable ETE arrangement
- SEND – the percentage of children with SEND who are in suitable ETE with a current, formal learning plan in place
- Mental healthcare and emotional wellbeing – the percentage of children identified as needing an intervention to improve their mental health or emotional wellbeing and the percentage being offered and attending interventions
- Substance misuse – the percentage of children identified as needing an intervention to address substance misuse and the percentage being offered and attending interventions
- Out of Court Disposals – the percentage of out of court disposals that are completed or not completed

- Management Board attendance – the attendance of senior representatives from partner agencies and if partners contribute data from their services to identify ethnic and racial disproportionality
- Wider services – the percentage of YJS children who are currently on an Early Help plan, on a Child Protection Plan, classified as a Child in Need or a Child in Care
- Serious Violence – the rates of children convicted for a serious violence offence on the YJS caseload
- Victims – the percentage of victims who consent to be contacted by the YJS; of those, the percentage who are engaged with about restorative justice opportunities, asked their views prior to out of court disposal decision-making and planning for statutory court orders, provided with information about the progress of the child's case (when requested) and provided with information on appropriate support services (when requested).

DCYJS has been working with local partners to continue or establish data exchange processes to enable it to meet all of these new reporting requirements. We have also been working with our case management system supplier to agree the necessary changes to our case management system to enable the new recording and reporting.

9. Priorities

Over-representation

It is recognised nationally that some groups of children, such as those with diverse ethnic heritage, children in care and children with Special Educational Needs are over-represented in the youth justice system. Nationally, just over 50% of children in custody identify as having diverse ethnic heritage, significantly more than the proportion in the total population.

The low numbers of local children being sentenced to custody makes it difficult to provide sound statistical analysis of possible over-representation of young people with diverse ethnic heritage. The YJS reviews custodial sentences to identify learning, including possible indications of over-representation or differential treatment.

First-Time Entrants information referred to above, relating to the analysis of local children entering the justice system, does not show over-representation of children with diverse ethnic heritage at this stage of the justice system.

National reviews do show, however, that black children can be more likely to 'progress' through the justice system to receive court orders and custodial sentences. The proportion of children with diverse ethnic heritage on the DCYJS caseload is higher among those who received a court order compared to those who received an out of court disposal. The reoffending rate of children with diverse ethnic heritage is higher than the rate for white children. This may reflect the higher reoffending rate for children on court orders but other explanations and responses are also being explored, such as the point of entry into the justice system and possible differences in the assessment of risk. The YJB have recently published research analysing ethnic disparity in reoffending rates in the youth justice system which gives us a helpful basis on which to address this issue: [Understanding ethnic disparity in reoffending rates in the youth justice system - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/research-data-and-analysis/publications/understanding-ethnic-disparity-in-reoffending-rates-in-the-youth-justice-system).

The proportion of girls on the DCYJS caseload fluctuates but stays within a range of about 15%-20% of the total caseload, consistent with national rates. Worker allocation decisions are taken carefully to be sensitive to each girl's needs. DCYJS recognises that work to make girls safer, in the context of the Violence Against Women and Girls agenda and concerns about peer on peer sexual abuse, requires work with boys to help them achieve healthy relationships and to reduce the risk they pose to girls.

DCYJS also works with a small number of young people who are exploring their gender identity and may be in the process of gender reassignment. Given the low numbers and the emerging information and understanding in this area it is hard to assess the extent of possible over-representation of this group in the youth justice system. It is clear though that these young people face potential discrimination and are likely to have specific needs which require an individualised response. DCYJS commissioned training in this area for its practitioners in March 2023.

During 2022/23 DCYJS made good progress, with local authority colleagues, to improve the accuracy of our information about children's educational needs. DCYJS caseload information shows that children in the local youth justice system may well have Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. In February 2023 29% of children on the caseload had an Education, Health and Care Plan and a further 17% had the status of 'SEN Support'. These concerns fit with evidence collected by the DCYJS Speech and Language Therapists, showing high levels of communication needs amongst children in our local youth justice system.

[Prevention](#)

The rate of children entering the justice system is influenced by the effectiveness of local prevention and diversion activities. 'Prevention' refers to work with children who have been identified as being at risk of going on to commit offences in future if they do not receive additional help. 'Diversion' refers to the response to children who have committed an offence but who can be diverted from the justice system.

DCYJS does not directly undertake prevention work. Each of our local authorities provides early help services, working with other local organisations like schools, the Dorset Police Safer Schools and Communities Team and the voluntary sector.

In the Dorset Council area oversight of prevention activities sits with the Strategic Alliance for Children and Young People, supported by more detailed work at locality level. The DCYJS Manager is a member of the Strategic Alliance and team members participate in locality meetings to identify and respond to children at risk. 'The Harbour' is a Dorset Council multi-disciplinary service which works with children who need additional support to prevent negative outcomes such as being taken into care or entering the justice system. DCYJS and The Harbour have close links, including joint work with children who have entered the justice system.

In the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council area, the Children and Young People's Partnership oversees prevention work.

[Diversion](#)

Diversion work is undertaken locally on a partnership basis. Dorset Police, DCYJS and local authority Early Help services meet weekly as an Out of Court Disposal Panel to decide the appropriate youth justice outcome for children who have committed criminal offences. The panel looks for opportunities to divert children from a formal justice outcome when possible.

Diversion activities usually involve additional support for the child and, when appropriate, some form of restorative response in respect of the criminal offence. The Dorset Police Safer Schools and Communities Team, Early Help Services, Children's Social Care Services and DCYJS each provide support at the diversion stage. The appropriate service for each child is decided on the basis of the child's needs, risks and existing relationships with professionals.

During 2022/23 the Ministry of Justice announced a new programme, 'Turnaround', aimed at 'children on the cusp of the youth justice system'. Locally we have used this programme to target our high rate of first-time entrants. Instead of receiving a Youth Caution, children are considered for an informal response which is recorded by the Police as 'Outcome 22' (No Further Police Action) on the basis that a Turnaround worker will meet with the child and their family, complete an assessment and commission a suitable intervention. The aim is to build the child's positive identity and reduce the risk of further offending.

The local Turnaround programme is overseen by a multi-agency group of operational managers, reporting to the Youth Justice Service Partnership Board and submitting the necessary quarterly returns to the Ministry of Justice.

[Education, Training and Employment](#)

Nationally and locally it is recognised that children in the youth justice system are less likely to stay in mainstream schools, to achieve good educational outcomes and to access education, employment or training after Year 11. Each local authority's Director of Education is a member of the DCYJS Partnership Board.

DCYJS employs an Education Officer and a post-16 Careers Adviser who work with schools and local authorities to increase the suitability of provision and with young people to understand their needs and to support their attendance and engagement.

In June 2022 HMI Probation published a thematic inspection report on 'education, training and employment services in youth offending teams in England and Wales': [A joint inspection of education, training and employment services in youth offending teams in England and Wales \(justiceinspectors.gov.uk\)](https://www.justiceinspectors.gov.uk). DCYJS reviewed its ETE work against this report and took actions in response, including improved recording and reporting of school exclusions and of children's education attainment levels.

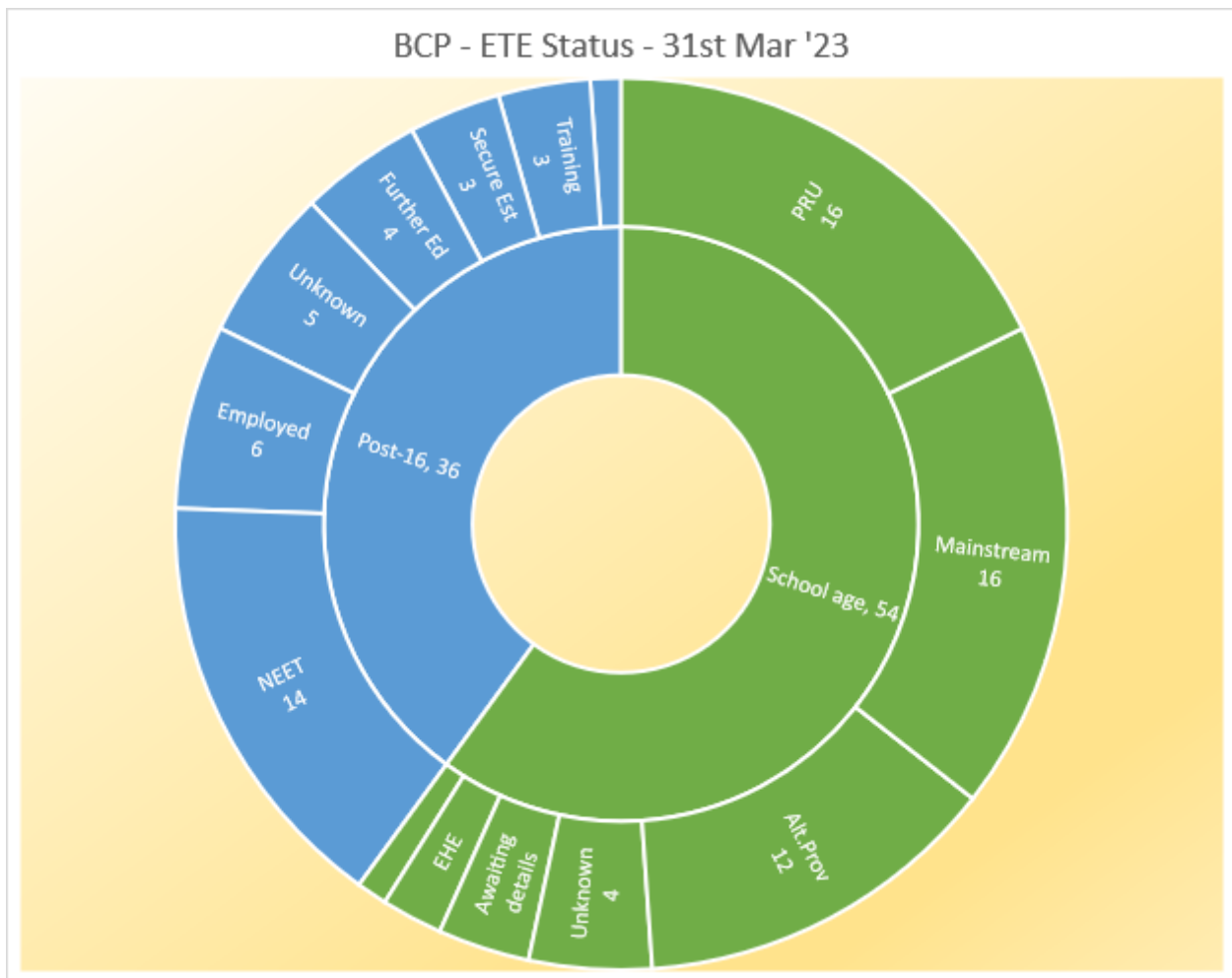
The DCYJS ETE workers maintain strong links with colleagues in the local authority Virtual Schools, the SEND teams and Inclusion services. In 2022/23 DCYJS ETE workers and the local authority Virtual School and SEND teams completed self-assessment documents, modelled on the youth justice SEND quality mark framework, to review our joint working and identify areas for development.

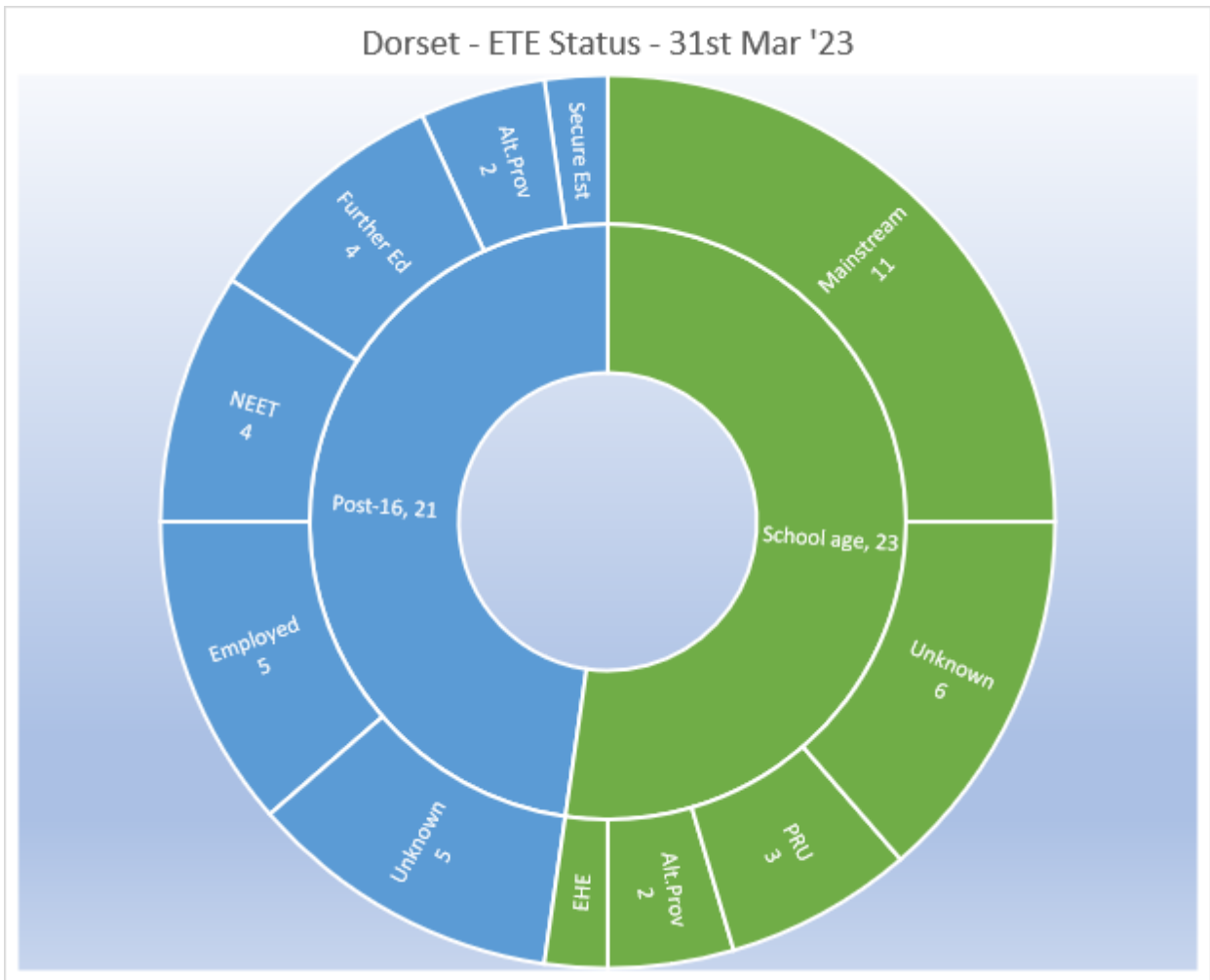
Information reported above, in the section on Over-Representation, showed the frequency of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities among children on the DCYJS caseload. In

February 2023 29% of children on the caseload had an Education, Health and Care Plan and a further 17% had the status of 'SEN Support'.

During 2022/23 DCYJS has allocated additional staffing resources to improve the collection and recording of education information for each child. More accurate and more detailed information enables a more targeted approach to improve education provision and outcomes for children in our local youth justice system.

The following charts show the education status of BCP and Dorset children on the YJS caseload in March 2023:





These charts show the numbers of children who are not in mainstream school or in suitable employment or training. The service monitors more detailed information, such as the social care and SEND status of these young people, to enable a focused response by our education specialists, working alongside relevant local authority colleagues.

DCYJS occasionally works with children who are receiving Elective Home Education. The YJS Education Officer follows up each case where a child receives Elective Home Education to review the adequacy and safety of the arrangement and to offer more support if needed.

The numbers of young people who not in employment, education or training (NEET) or in employment without training reflects the limited opportunities for YJS young people, who can lack the necessary attainment levels. Actions taken in 2022/23 to address this gap include:

- funding provided by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for young people to train for the Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS card)
- DCYJS registered with AQA to enable young people's learning from activities with DCYJS to be certificated
- DCYJS ETE and reparation staff trained as AQA award facilitators, to support team colleagues in this work.

Implementing the new AQA awards will be a priority for 2023/24.

Restorative Justice and Victims

Whenever DCYJS work with a child whose offence harmed a victim, the DCYJS Restorative Justice Practitioners contact the victim to find out about the impact of the offence and to seek opportunities for Restorative Justice activities.

One element of the team's Restorative Justice work is undertaking 'reparation' activities with young people, to help them make amends for their offence. Examples include making wooden planters or bird boxes to be sold for charities chosen by the victim or supported by the service or conservation activities. During 2022/23 the service has been developing its approach to reparation so that it is tied more closely to meaningful work to repair the harm caused, directed by the victim if possible, rather than setting a fixed number of sessions for a young person to complete.

Delays in the youth justice system, which are more common in cases that go to court, make it harder to engage victims in activity to repair the harm they have experienced. The DCYJS Restorative Justice Practitioners exercise tact and sensitivity in their contacts with victims, emphasising the victim's choice in whether or how much they engage with our service.

During 2022/23 DCYJS has increased its restorative justice work and victim support in complex and sensitive cases. Examples of this work include:

- facilitation of a restorative justice conference in a case of domestic abuse;
- careful, sensitive long-term support for a victim in a high risk public protection case;
- helping a young person raise money for a charity nominated by a bereaved family.

The DCYJS Restorative Justice Practitioners are experienced, skilled facilitators of Restorative Justice Conferences, illustrated in the following case example.

The victim in this case had been assaulted and humiliated, with the incident filmed and shared on social media. Each time the incident was viewed and commented on, the child was revictimized.

The victim wanted a Restorative Justice Conference but his father was sceptical, feeling disappointed that the offender had received an out of court disposal which he felt did not represent sufficient consequences for him. The YJS workers decided to go ahead with the Restorative Justice Conference because both young people wanted to meet. The workers completed a risk assessment in case difficulties arose during the meeting and gave clear guidance to all participants about the rules and expectations for the meeting.

Having answered the initial scripted questions around the offence and his thoughts and feelings towards his actions the young person stood up, apologised, and shook the hand of his victim. It was clear to all present that he was genuinely sorry for his behaviour. The victim willingly accepted this apology. The victim's father visibly relaxed back into his chair. At the point he was asked to contribute to the meeting all his answers reflected his appreciation of the apology made to his son. All the anger he had displayed during the preparation session had dissipated.

Following the conference, while the boys chatted together, the YJS Restorative Justice Practitioner accompanied the father outside and asked him his views on the meeting. He said, "I understand it now. I get it".

Serious Violence and Exploitation

Tackling child exploitation and reducing serious violence are priorities for strategic partnerships in both our local authority areas (as described in section 4 of this Plan).

Most of the violent offences committed by children do not reach the 'serious violence' threshold. Youth Justice Service and Community Safety Partnership data analysis shows that there has been a reduction in the total number of violent offences in recent years but an increase in weapon-related offences.

In May 2023 the YJS will complete a case audit to review its work with children who commit offences with weapons. The audit will include the views of children, parents and YJS practitioners and will inform our service priorities in 2023/24.

DCYJS uses the 'Trauma Recovery Model' in its work. One of the benefits of this approach is to understand and respond to the issues which may underlie a child's exploitation or their use of violent behaviour. DCYJS appointed a 'Trauma Champion' to participate in the YJB's South West network of trauma champions and to lead the service's work in this area, working with the service's Psychologist. Although the NHS England funding for the Trauma Champion post ended in March 2023, the service will continue to resource this important role.

The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2021 introduced a Serious Violence Duty for specified authorities, including youth justice services, to work together to share data and knowledge, allowing them to target their interventions to prevent serious violence. The Duty came into effect at the end of January 2023. As stated in section 5 above, tackling violence is a current priority for both our Community Safety Partnerships, and for the Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner. It is a priority of the DCYJS Partnership to accelerate the response to children with weapon offences, including faster progress through the justice system so that less time passes between the offence and the criminal justice outcome.

Child Exploitation occurs across the pan-Dorset area, with DCYJS seeing higher rates of exploitation amongst its BCP Council caseload. DCYJS plays an active role in the partnership arrangements in both local authority areas to address child exploitation, participating in the strategic and tactical groups as well as other multi-agency initiatives such as the 'Missing, Exploited, Trafficked' (MET) Panel in BCP Council and the Dorset Council CE Champions group. At the operational level, DCYJS team members are part of multi-agency child exploitation case meetings and contribute to multi-agency responses to concerns about specific locations or networks.

Dorset Police, Children's Social Care services and DCYJS work together to refer suitable cases to the National Referral Mechanism. Delays in the Home Office response to these referrals can lead to repeated adjournments of court cases involving young people who have had NRM referrals. Long delays in completing cases in the youth court and the crown court mean that children can remain subject to bail conditions for many months. Delays between the offence and the court outcome also have a negative effect on work to meet the needs of victims and to address a child's offending.

Detention of children in police custody

A multi-agency group, led by the DCYJS Head of Service, monitors and addresses the use of police custody for children. The aim of the group is to avoid the unnecessary detention of children and to reduce the duration of detentions that do take place.

Data on child arrests is also reported to the YJS Partnership Board. The following table shows the child arrests in Bournemouth, Weymouth and Poole during 2022/23.

2022/23	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Auth Detention	42	40	38	51	43	34	29	24	22	32	35	38
Detention Not Auth	5	4	2	9	8	1	2	2	3	1	2	2
10-13 Y/O	1	1	3	9	1	1	3	0	1	2	2	2
Overnight	17	21	14	25	20	8	9	10	9	16	23	10
Remand/warrant	2/3	0/0	1/0	1/2	0/2	2/2	0/3	3/1	0/2	3/2	2/1	0/0
Average detention length	10.88	12.2	10.81	12.12	11.74	9.12	12.6	15.1	11.3	13.8	16.1	10.5

Child arrest numbers reduced from September, reflecting active efforts to avoid using arrest for children. Dorset Police have also been working to reduce the length of detentions in police custody, reflected in the overnight detention and average detention length figures. The figures for 'Detention Not Authorised' show that custody sergeants actively review each child that is brought to the custody suite, refusing detention in some cases.

The multi-agency group has previously identified a number of factors which can prolong a child's detention in police custody, including the availability of Appropriate Adults and the time of day when the child arrives in the custody suite. The timeliness of Appropriate Adult attendance has improved since the service was commissioned externally from 'The Appropriate Adult Service' (TAAS) with average arrival times in 2022/23 of 31 minutes at Bournemouth and 34 minutes at Weymouth. Dorset Police have changed their approach to custody arrivals during the evening to reduce the numbers that are detained overnight.

When the police charge a child with an offence and refuse to grant the child bail, there is a legal requirement to transfer the child to local authority accommodation until their appearance at the next available court. Locally a foster carer is on standby each night to accommodate a child in this situation. Usage of this foster placement is lower than expected so the local authorities and Dorset Police are working together to ensure that opportunities are not missed to use the foster bed.

Supporting children in custody

There are no child custody establishments in the south-west. This means that all children in custody are located at a considerable distance from home, making it harder for families to visit. DCYJS supports parents of children in custody, as well as the children themselves, helping them to cope with both the practicalities and the emotional impact of the situation.

DCYJS allocates paired case managers for all children in custody, to ensure resilience and shared reflection in the work with these children. A DCYJS nurse and a DCYJS education specialist are always allocated to children in custody to facilitate liaison with custody health care and education providers so that the child's specific educational and health needs can be met. This also enables continuity of education and health care during and after the

custodial period. DCYJS Speech and Language assessments are also shared with the custodial establishment to enable custody staff to communicate more effectively with the child.

Remands

While the national performance indicator relates to custodial sentences, there is also concern about the numbers of children being remanded into custody. Information from the Ministry of Justice showed that in 2021 about 45% of children in custody were on remand. During 2022/23 five local children were remanded in custody, a reduction on the seven custodial remands in the preceding year. Of the five children remanded in custody, three received a custodial sentence in excess of 12 months, one has now been released on bail and the other received a community sentence. Lack of suitable accommodation was a factor in the remand decision for this final case, concerns which DCYJS raised at the time.

Custodial Sentences and Resettlement

Seven local children received custodial sentences during 2022/23. Most of these young people will turn 18 during their time in custody, with case responsibility being transferred to the Probation Service prior to their release. The seconded DCYJS Probation Officer facilitates the transition of cases to ensure the appropriate transfer of information and a careful handover from the YJS worker to the Probation worker.

In recent years very few children have been released from custody before their 18th birthday. The service approach to resettlement is therefore adapted to each child's unique situation, led by the allocated YJS case manager who prioritises maintaining positive relationships with the young person. Finding suitable accommodation for children leaving custody can be challenging. DCYJS contributes to local authority care planning processes, promoting the early identification of the child's release address. The DCYJS Manager reports to the DCYJS Partnership Board on the timeliness of accommodation being confirmed for children being released from custodial sentences. Only two children reached their release dates during 2022. Their release addresses were not confirmed until 11 days or less before release.

10. Standards for children in the youth justice system

Youth justice services are required to comply with minimum national standards. The latest edition of national standards, 'Standards for Children in Youth Justice Services', was published in 2019. The YJB mandates youth justice services to undertake periodic self-assessments of their compliance with national standards.

The last national standards self-assessment was completed in March 2020. DCYJS demonstrated adherence to the standards with a small number of standards requiring further activity in order to strengthen compliance.

The following areas of activity were identified for further development:

- Development of local strategies to prevent children from becoming involved in crime or anti-social behaviour
- Multi-agency analysis of disproportionality in court and out of court contexts for local children
- Evidencing strategic partner confidence in the YJS supervision of children on justice outcomes in the community
- Holding local partners to account for their part in the successful transition and resettlement of children released from custody
- Consistent recording/storage of sentence plans.

These actions were reported to the DCYJS Partnership Board and were added to DCYJS team plans. Progress has been made in all these areas though some of these activities are outside the direct control of DCYJS. Continuing actions are identified for each of the above issues, to develop or audit the progress made.

Although the joint inspection of DCYJS in 2022 did not explicitly focus on compliance with national standards, the inspectors were satisfied that DCYJS provides the required activities and meets its duties, rating the service as 'Good'.

The Youth Justice Board requires youth justice services to undertake an updated self-assessment of compliance with national standards during 2023/24. Actions arising from this self-assessment will be added to the service's priorities for the year.

11. Workforce Development

The DCYJS Workforce Development Policy identifies core training for different roles in the team. As well as refresher training in child safeguarding, child exploitation and information governance, team members are also trained in Motivational Interviewing, AIM3 Harmful Sexual Behaviour assessments and Restorative Justice with complex and sensitive cases.

In 2022/23 team members also attended:

- training courses to build their knowledge, skills and confidence in working with young people's sexuality and gender identity
- a workshop led by a YJS Nurse on self-harm and suicide
- a workshop led by the YJS Education Officer on education and SEND issues for children in the youth justice system
- a workshop led by the YJS Trauma Champion on trauma informed practice
- training sessions with the YJS Speech and Language Therapists on using 'Talking Mats'
- a training session led by the MAPPA Coordinator on MAPPA in youth justice
- a regional conference on Prevent and radicalisation in the youth justice context.

In addition to the core training courses, which will continue to be attended and updated in 2023/24, the service's development plans require staff training in the following areas:

- Identity Lens – develop the team's understanding and application of this model
- Child Exploitation and Extra-Familial Harm – train with colleagues from other local services to embed the use of new multi-agency assessment and planning processes

- Assessments – continue to develop the quality of YJS Risk of Harm assessments, using learning from the case audit of weapon offences
- Assessments - implement the new national assessment tool for children on Out of Court Disposals
- AQA awards – train team members in the provision and certification of activities with children for AQA awards

Working in youth justice is both demanding and rewarding. Team members work closely with children who experience significant harm and who sometimes cause significant harm to others. Our parenting workers and our Restorative Justice practitioners support parents and victims at times of distress and challenge. DCYJS team members are also affected by the impact of the pandemic and the cost of living crisis. Supporting the wellbeing of our staff and volunteers will continue to be a priority in 2023/24, attending to relationships within the team as well as with children, parents/carers, victims and other professionals.

12. Evidence-based practice, innovation and evaluation

The primary focus for effective practice in DCYJS is the quality of workers' relationships with children on the caseload, alongside positive relationships within the team and with other professionals. This focus reflects evidence showing that the key determinant for positive change is a pro-social relationship with a trusted adult. The approach also builds on previous feedback from young people on the DCYJS caseload about what was most important to them in their experience of the service.

The team continues to focus on understanding children's communications needs, through speech and language assessments, and responding to children's history of trauma, understanding its impact on their current behaviour and on their interactions with other people.

Risk Factors for Speech and Language Assessments

In 2022-23 the DCYJS Speech and Language Therapists developed a 'risk factor' methodology to assist their prioritisation of children to assess. Although the preference is to assess the communication needs of all children on the team's caseload, this presents issues for the therapists' workload capacity. Assessing all children also means that the children with the most acute need are not prioritised. The risk factor approach enabled the therapists to identify those children with pre-disposing factors for communication needs. A subsequent review confirmed that the level of communication need did correlate with the number of risk factors identified before the assessment. Alongside the risk factor approach, the therapists developed screening tools for YJS case managers to use with other children and provided advice on communication-friendly working practices which would assist all children with communication needs.

Employment and training support for 16-17 year-olds

Another area of development has been to improve the employment and training prospects of young people aged 16 and 17 on the DCYJS caseload. Training options for this group have reduced in recent years, making it harder to find suitable courses or to find alternatives if a young person does not maintain a place on a course. In 2022/23 DCYJS has registered with AQA and relevant team members have completed the necessary

training to enable us to provide the AQA award scheme. This means that YJS workers will be able to structure their activities with young people so that the young person achieves an AQA certificated learning award. The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner also agreed to provide funding for young people to work with training providers to gain their 'CSCS' card to increase their chances of work in the construction sector.

Early identification of children at risk of future offending

Last year's Youth Justice Plan included analysis of common factors among children who entered the youth justice system under the age of 14. Almost all these children were first known to the police as a victim or witness (often in a domestic abuse situation), most of them had special educational needs or disabilities, were known to Children's Social Care and had experienced exclusions from school. During 2022/23 DCYJS and Dorset Council have built on this evidence to develop a methodology for pro-actively identifying younger children with these risk factors so that additional support needs can be identified.

13. Service development plan

All the information summarised in the preceding sections have contributed to the service's plan and strategic priorities for 2023/24.

The service's priorities and development plan for 2023/24 are based on the information contained in the preceding sections of this document, including:

- Local partnership priorities
- Strategic direction from the DCYJS Partnership Board
- National initiatives and priorities
- DCYJS performance information
- HMI Probation's full joint inspection of DCYJS in autumn 2022
- Needs and views of children, families and victims
- Views of DCYJS team members
- Learning from self-assessments, case audits, learning reviews and thematic inspection reports during 2022/23.

HMI Probation inspection recommendations:

HMI Probation published the report 'An inspection of youth offending services in Dorset' in January 2023, rating the service as 'Good'. The report included the following six recommendations:

The Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service partnership board should:

1. review the board arrangements to ensure effective strategic partnerships across the combined area and consider whether additional independent chairing arrangements could enhance these
2. develop a shared approach across the partnership to addressing child exploitation and county lines and put a framework in place which promotes effective practice
3. continue to support and challenge all schools to ensure that YJS children receive their full entitlement to education

4. improve partnership working with children’s social care by ensuring YJS case manager involvement in all statutory multi-agency meetings and improve their direct access to children’s social care records.

The YJS service manager should:

5. analyse the reoffending of children subject to out-of-court disposals and monitor the effectiveness of the disposals given

6. improve the analysis and quality of assessments to ensure there is effective and robust understanding regarding the risk of harm a child can pose to others

DCYJS’s action plan in response to these recommendations was accepted by HMI Probation in February 2023. The inspection report also identified ‘areas for improvement’ which are addressed in a more detailed action plan, with progress monitored by the DCYJS Partnership Board.

DCYJS Priorities and Plans for 2023/24

The following table shows the priorities and plans for DCYJS in 2023/24. Actions which link to our inspection report are marked ‘HMIP’. This is a dynamic plan which will continue to be updated, recognising that other priorities will arise during the year.

DCYJS Partnership Priority	Area for Development	Partners and Staff Providing Support	Benefits	Success Indicators
Reducing First-Time Entrants	Develop the implementation of the ‘Turnaround’ programme	Local Authority Early Help Services Dorset Police Dorset HealthCare Ministry of Justice	Children diverted from the justice system	Reduction in FTEs Successful Turnaround completions
Reducing First-Time Entrants	Early identification of children at risk of offending	Local Authority Business Intelligence Local Authority Early Help Services	Prevention of future offending	Reduction in FTEs Children at risk of offending receiving support
Serious Violence and Child Exploitation	Contribute to Serious Violence Duty needs assessments and action plans	Local Authority Community Safety Partnerships	Strategic, coordinated response to serious youth violence	Needs assessment completed Action Plan agreed and implemented
Serious Violence and Child Exploitation	Case audit of DCYJS work on weapon offences	DCYJS team members Children and families	Improved DCYJS work with children who carry weapons	Case audit completed Action Plan agreed and implemented
Serious Violence and Child Exploitation	Extension of DCYJS Trauma Champion role	DCYJS Trauma Champion DCYJS Psychologist	Development of trauma informed practice with children	Actions agreed and implemented to show trauma informed work

		DCYJS team members		with wider caseload
Serious Violence and Child Exploitation	Local partnerships agree new CE tools, processes and training (HMIP)	Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership	Clear and effective processes for identifying and responding to CE	New CE documents and processes being used by YJS staff
Serious Violence and Child Exploitation	Improve the analysis and quality of DCYJS risk of harm assessments (HMIP)	DCYJS operational managers and case managers	Improved risk assessments leading to better risk management for harm to others	Case audits evidence good quality risk of harm assessments, addressing HMIP findings
Reducing over-representation	YJS Partners share disproportionality data from their services	BCP Council, Dorset Council, Dorset Police, Probation Service, NHS Dorset	Improved understanding of and response to over-representation	YJS Board receiving and reviewing disproportionality data from partners
Reducing over-representation	Create a DCYJS diversity and disproportionality policy (HMIP)	YJS Head of Service	Clarity about YJS work on diversity issues	New Diversity Policy completed and shared with YJS staff
Improving education outcomes	Allocate additional YJS resources to improve education for children with EHCPs, SEN Support	YJS Head of Service Local authority education services	Timely, suitable placements for children with EHCPs, SEN Support and other specific needs	Better education outcomes Reduction in fixed term and permanent exclusions on YJS caseload
DCYJS practice improvement	Use the Identity Lens approach to underpin DCYJS work with children	YJS managers and practitioners; YJB and other Youth Justice Services	Improved outcomes for children focusing on their positive identity	Evidence on assessments, plans and case records of the Identity Lens model being applied
DCYJS practice improvement	Implement the use of AQA awards for children doing YJS activities	DCYJS ETE and reparation workers; BCP and Dorset EET and Virtual School teams	Improved access to ETE options for YJS children	Completed AQA awards
DCYJS practice improvement	Use the HMIP ETE thematic report and the new KPI ETE information to continue to improve work on education outcomes	DCYJS ETE and information staff. BCP and Dorset ETE and information staff. Schools.	Improved knowledge and targeting of specific ETE issues leading to better ETE outcomes for YJS children	Accurate, up to date, detailed ETE case records on YJS system

Board development	Develop partnership effectiveness and confirm future chairing arrangements (HMIP)	YJS Board Partners, BCP and Dorset Chief Executives	Improved local YJS strategic and operational partnership	Decision taken on future Board chairing. Board partners actively contributing to Board meetings and work
Develop the collection and use of performance information	Implement the new national youth justice Key Performance Indicators	YJS head of service and management information staff. Partner information staff. YJB	Improved understanding of local YJ partnership performance and actions needed	Successful quarterly reporting of new KPIs
Develop the collection and use of performance information	Analyse the reoffending of children subject to out of court disposals (HMIP)	YJS Performance and Information Manager. Dorset Police	Better understanding of OOCDC impact to guide decision-making	Report to YJS Board of reoffending by different out of court disposal types
Compliance with YJB requirements	Audit compliance with national standards and implement the new national OOCDC assessment tool when directed	YJS managers. YJB	YJS meeting national standards for youth justice work	Audit of national standard compliance submitted on time to YJB. YJS using new assessment tool for OOCDC work.

14. Challenges, risks and issues

Like other youth justice services, DCYJS operates in a context of system challenges and resource pressures. Achievement of the service's priorities in 2022/23 could be affected by a number of risks and issues, including:

- Funding and resources –the DCYJS partnership budget has seen little growth in cash terms since the service formed in 2015, without allowing for inflation and pay increases during that period. In 2022/23 the national Youth Justice Grant increased, returning to 2014/15 levels, and local partners increased their contributions. Continuing budget pressures on all partners and inflation risks make resources an ongoing challenge.
- Children's Services face a number of challenges, nationally and locally, with the shortage of suitable placements for children in care being of particular relevance to youth justice services. Without suitable placements it is difficult to establish the building blocks to help children build positive futures, such as education, health care and positive peer networks, and to propose credible bail packages and community sentences for children at risk of custody.
- Children's Services are also responding to the independent review of children's social care

- Delays in the youth justice system, linked to pressures in the wider criminal justice system, make it harder to work effectively with young people to prevent future offending to engage victims in Restorative Justice.
- The impact of Covid on young people is still emerging, including setbacks to young people's education and their mental health.

DCYJS will continue to address these issues on a partnership basis in 2023/24, making best use of resources, working with partners to mitigate the impact of placement shortages, developing plans to improve timeliness in our local youth court system and responding to the education and mental health needs of children following the pandemic.

15. Sign off, submission and approval

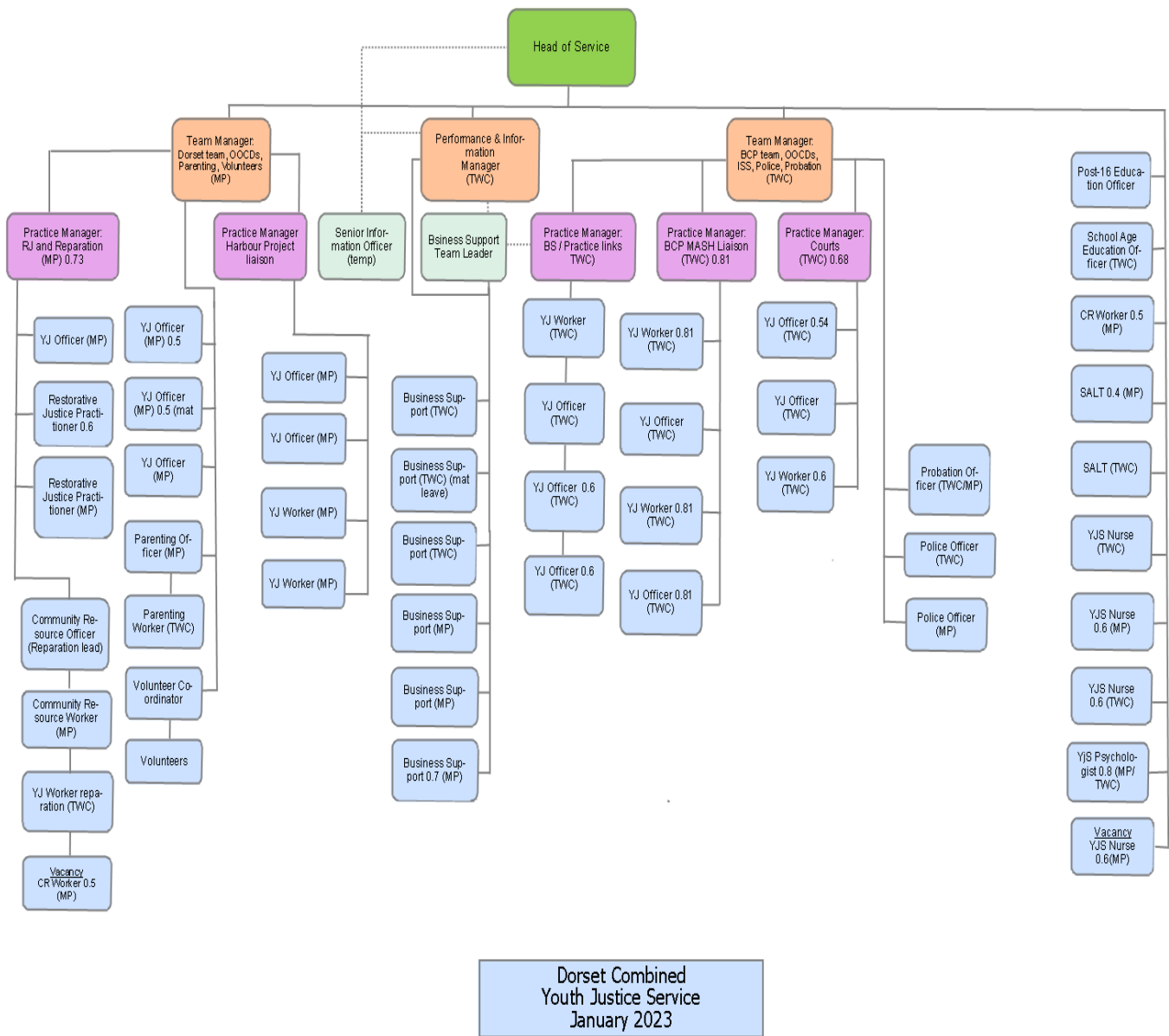
This Youth Justice Plan has been approved by the YJS Partnership Board in April 2023.

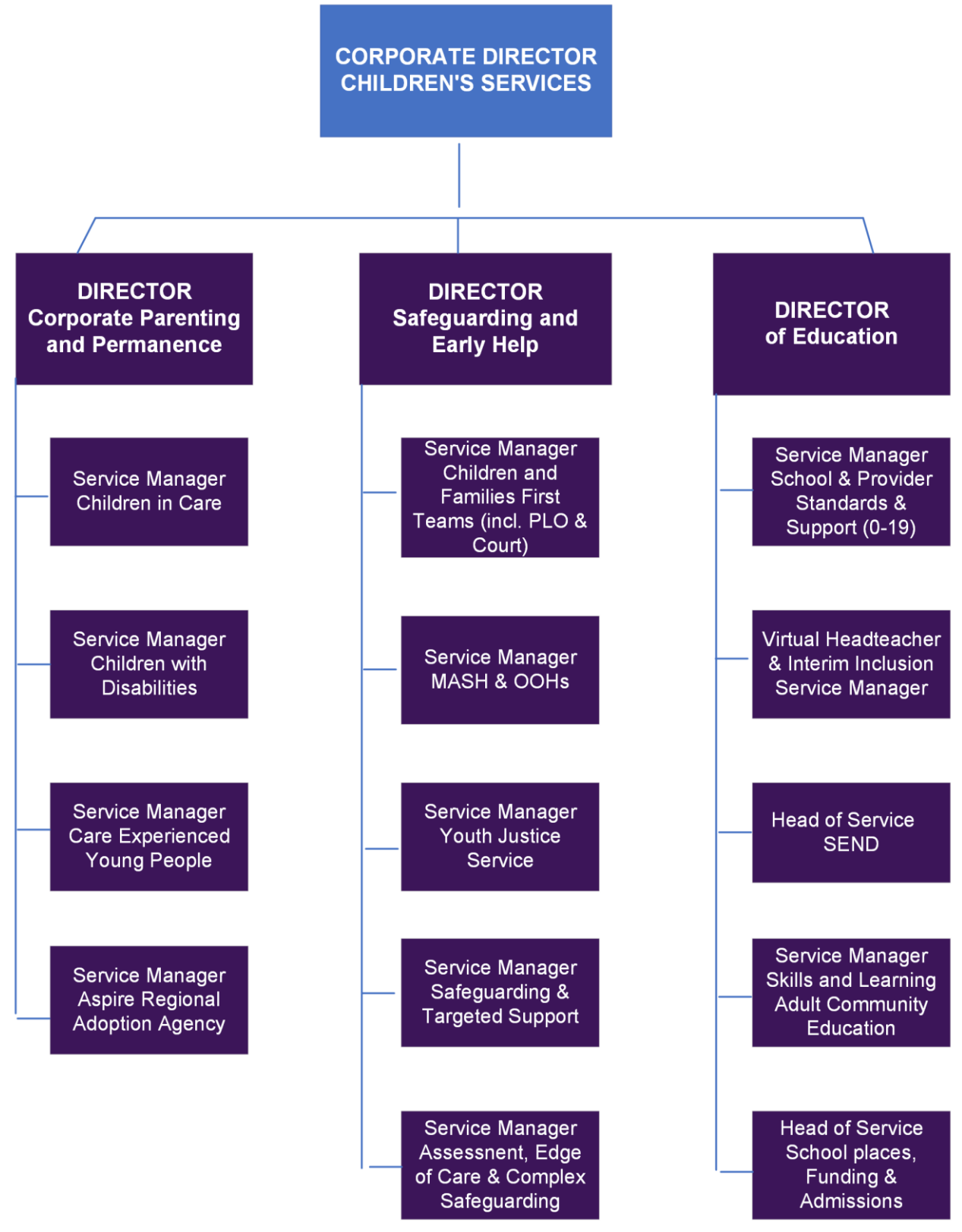
In accordance with 'Regulation 4 of the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000', Youth Justice Plans must be approved by the full council of the local authority. This Youth Justice Plan is subject to the scrutiny and approval processes of our two local authorities. It will be considered for approval by the full council of Dorset Council on 13/07/2023 and by the full council of Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council on YYYY.

Chair of YJS Board - name	Theresa Leavy
Signature	
Date	

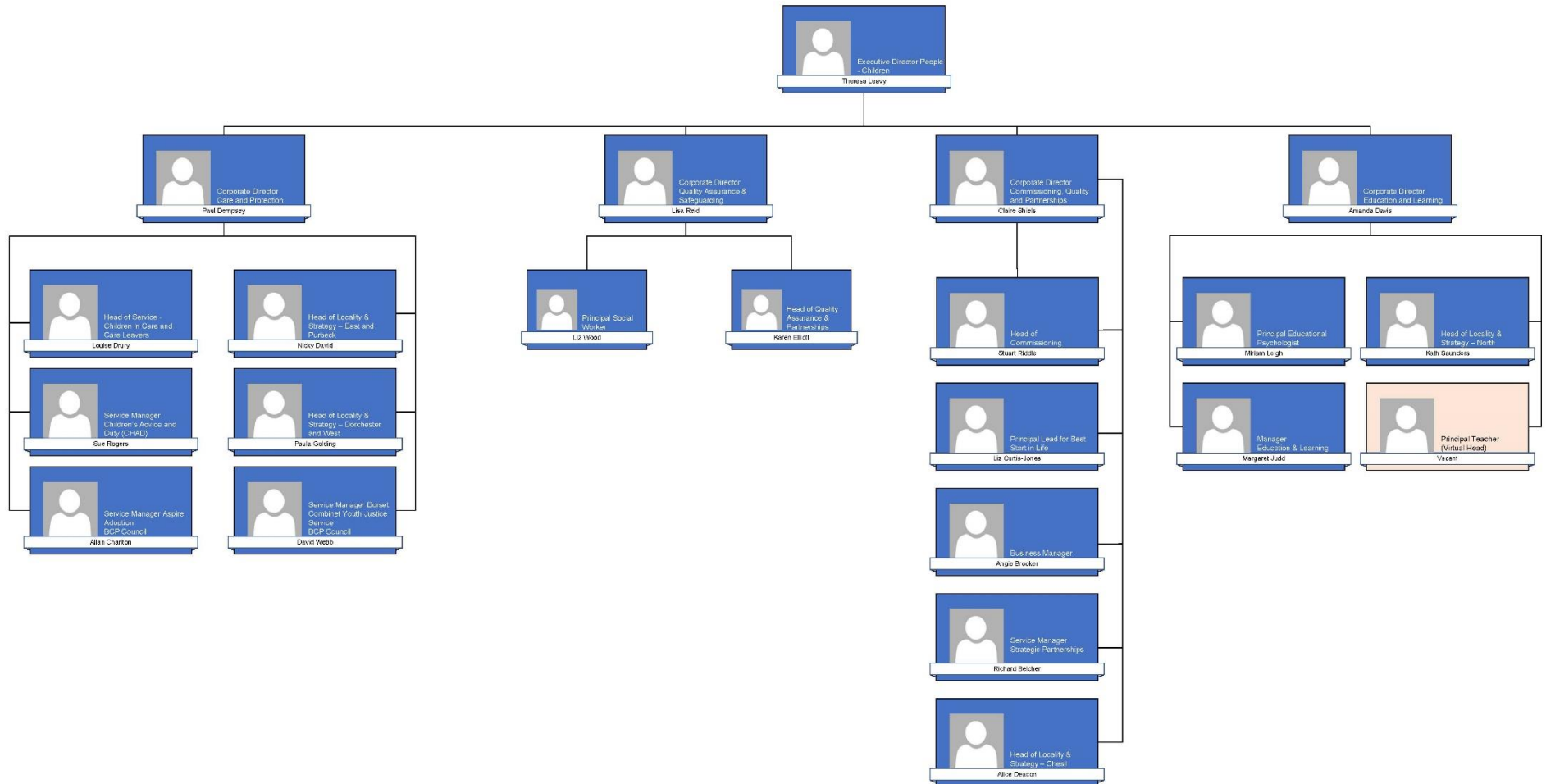
16. Appendix 1 – Service Structure Chart

The following structure charts show the staffing structure of Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service and where the service sits in the two local authorities.





Dorset Council Extended Leadership Team



DCYJS Staff and Volunteers:

The following table shows the gender, ethnicity and disability status of DCYJS staff members and volunteers:






Ethnicity	Female staff members	Male staff members	Female volunteers	Male volunteers	Total
White British	42	10	10	6	68
White Other	1		3	1	5
Mixed Heritage	1		0	0	1
Disability	4				4






Five staff members in DCYJS are recorded as having a disability.









17. Appendix 2 – Budget Costs and Contributions 2023/24

Partner Agency	22/23 Revenue (excluding recharges)	Staff
Dorset Council	£536,164	
Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council	£628,529	
Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner	£81,927	2.0 Police Officers
The Probation Service (Dorset)	£5,000	1.0 Probation Officer
NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group	£22,487	2.8 FTE Nurses, 0.8 Psychologist, 1.4 Speech and Language Therapists
Youth Justice Grant	£794,915 (2022/23 figure)	
Total	£2,069,022 (assuming standstill contributions from all partners)	



18. Appendix 3 – Smart Survey feedback results

1. I had a say in what work the YJS planned with me:				
Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Very Dissatisfied		4.55%	1
2	Dissatisfied		4.55%	1
3	Neutral		13.64%	3
4	Satisfied		50.00%	11
5	Very Satisfied		27.27%	6
			answered	22
			skipped	0







2. The good things about the YJS are:				
Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	My worker		65.00%	13
2	Learnt new things		50.00%	10
3	Interesting		30.00%	6
4	Reparation		30.00%	6
5	Did something different		25.00%	5
			answered	20
			skipped	2

3. I had help with:				
Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Friends		4.55%	1
2	Money		4.55%	1
3	Alcohol		9.09%	2
4	Drugs		18.18%	4
5	Anger		45.45%	10
6	Boredom		18.18%	4
7	Health		13.64%	3
8	Education		45.45%	10

3. I had help with:

9	Family		36.36%	8
10	Other (please specify):		36.36%	8
			answered	22
			skipped	0
Other (please specify): (8)				
1	10/03/2023 11:50 AM ID: 212818667	Housing		
2	14/03/2023 07:30 AM ID: 213018384	Nothing		
3	14/03/2023 09:57 AM ID: 213028493	Nothing		
4	21/03/2023 17:23 PM ID: 213610283	CSCS Card qualification		
5	30/03/2023 16:29 PM ID: 214313048	Head injuries Consequences of violence		
6	31/03/2023 14:25 PM ID: 214376662	Head injuries Assaults Consequences		
7	03/04/2023 11:28 AM ID: 214472216	They listen and give good feedback		
8	03/04/2023 11:31 AM ID: 214472521	Got me back in to school.		





4. The things I would change about the YJS are:

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Boring		14.29%	3
2	Time of appointments		23.81%	5
3	Worker		4.76%	1
4	Length of appointments		14.29%	3
5	Nothing		52.38%	11
6	Other (please specify):		19.05%	4
			answered	21
			skipped	1
Other (please specify): (4)				





4. The things I would change about the YJS are:

1	28/02/2023 10:56 AM ID: 212017304	Sometimes not long enough I like to work with my worker as much as I can as find it really helps me
2	10/03/2023 11:50 AM ID: 212818667	Later appointments
3	21/03/2023 17:23 PM ID: 213610283	Not sure what I would change. I like my worker The reparation sessions are long not sure if they help with not offending. If I could choose I wouldn't of done them. CSCS card sessions were good and I have learnt something.
4	31/03/2023 14:25 PM ID: 214376662	Shorter appts





5. My worker thought I would make positive changes to my life:

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Very Dissatisfied		4.76%	1
2	Dissatisfied		0.00%	0
3	Neutral		14.29%	3
4	Satisfied		42.86%	9
5	Very Satisfied		38.10%	8
			answered	21
			skipped	1

6. My worker listens to my ideas and helps me find my own answers:

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Very Dissatisfied		4.76%	1
2	Dissatisfied		0.00%	0
3	Neutral		9.52%	2
4	Satisfied		42.86%	9
5	Very Satisfied		42.86%	9
			answered	21
			skipped	1

7. Working with the YJS made things better for me:

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Very Dissatisfied		4.76%	1
2	Dissatisfied		0.00%	0
3	Neutral		19.05%	4
4	Satisfied		42.86%	9
5	Very Satisfied		33.33%	7
			answered	21
			skipped	1

Common youth justice terms – national glossary

ACE	Adverse Childhood Experience. Events in the child's life that can have negative, long lasting impact on the child's health and life outcomes
AIM 2 and 3	Assessment, Intervention and Moving on; an assessment tool and framework for children who have instigated harmful sexual behaviour
ASB	Anti-social behaviour
AssetPlus	Assessment tool to be used for children who have been involved in offending behaviour
CAMHS	Child and adolescent mental health services
CCE	Child Criminal exploitation, where a child is forced, through threats of violence, or manipulated to take part in criminal activity
Children	We define a child as anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday. This is in line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and civil legislation in England and Wales. The fact that a child has reached 16 years of age, is living independently or is in further education, is a member of the armed forces, is in hospital or in custody in the secure estate, does not change their status or entitlements to services or protection.
Child First	A system wide approach to working with children in the youth justice system. There are four tenets to this approach which should be: developmentally informed, strength based, promote participation, and encourage diversion
Child looked-after, also Child in Care	Child Looked After/Child in Care; where a child is looked after by the local authority
CME	Child Missing Education
Constructive resettlement	The principle of encouraging and supporting a child's positive identity development from pro-offending to pro-social
Contextual safeguarding	An approach to safeguarding children which considers the wider community and peer influences on a child's safety
Community resolution	Community resolution; an informal disposal, administered by the police, for

	low level offending where there has been an admission of guilt
EHCP	Education and health care plan; a plan outlining the education, health and social care needs of a child with additional needs
ETE	Education, training or employment
EHE	Electively home educated; children who are formally recorded as being educated at home and do not attend school
EOTAS	Education other than at school; children who receive their education away from a mainstream school setting
FTE	First Time Entrant. A child who receives a statutory criminal justice outcome for the first time (youth caution, youth conditional caution, or court disposal)
HMIP	Her Majesty Inspectorate of Probation. An independent arms-length body who inspect Youth Justice services and probation services
HSB	Harmful sexual behaviour, developmentally inappropriate sexual behaviour by children, which is harmful to another child or adult, or themselves
JAC	Junior Attendance Centre
MAPPA	Multi agency public protection arrangements
MFH	Missing from Home
NRM	National Referral Mechanism. The national framework for identifying and referring potential victims of modern slavery in order to gain help to support and protect them
OOCD	Out-of-court disposal. All recorded disposals where a crime is recorded, an outcome delivered but the matter is not sent to court
Outcome 22/21	An informal disposal, available where the child does not admit the offence, but they undertake intervention to build strengths to minimise the possibility of further offending
Over-represented children	Appearing in higher numbers than the local or national average
RHI	Return home Interviews. These are interviews completed after a child has been reported missing
SLCN	Speech, Language and communication needs
STC	Secure training centre

SCH	Secure children's home
Young adult	We define a young adult as someone who is 18 or over. For example, when a young adult is transferring to the adult probation service.
YJS	Youth Justice Service. This is now the preferred title for services working with children in the youth justice system. This reflects the move to a child first approach
YOI	Young offender institution

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Full Council

13 July 2023

Dispensation Under Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972

For Decision

Portfolio Holder: Cllr S Flower, Leader of the Council

Local Councillor(s): N/a

Executive Director: J Mair, Director of Legal & Democratic

Report Author: Susan Dallison
Title: Democratic Services Team Leader
Tel: 01305 252216
Email: susan.dallison@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Report Status: Public

Brief Summary:

Under Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, if a member of a local authority fails to attend a meeting throughout a period of 6 consecutive months, from the date of the last attendance, they shall cease to be a member of the local authority, unless the failure to attend was due to some reason approved by the Full Council before the expiry of that period.

Recommendation:

To approve a dispensation for Cllr J Dover from attending meetings of the Council until 2 May 2024, by reason of ill health.

Reason for Recommendation:

To comply with the requirements of the Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 and to enable Cllr J Dover time to recuperate without the risk of losing her seat as a Dorset Councillor.

1. **Report**

- 1.1 Due to continuing ill health Cllr J Dover has not been able to attend meetings since May 2022 and will not be able to attend the Full Council

meeting on 13th July 2023 when her current dispensation period ends. Without a further dispensation from Full Council Cllr J Dover will cease to be a member of Dorset Council as she is not well enough to attend Full Council. Full Council is therefore requested to grant this request for a dispensation for non-attendance with immediate effect.

- 1.2 The Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group has been consulted about this process and agrees the recommendation contained within this report. Arrangements have been put in place for Cllr M Roe to deal with Cllr J Dover's ward work.

2. **Financial Implications**

None

3. **Climate Implications**

None

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

None

5. **Other Implications**

None

6. **Risk Assessment**

- 6.1 HAVING CONSIDERED: the risks associated with this decision; the level of risk has been identified as:
Current Risk: low
Residual Risk: low

7. **Equalities Impact Assessment**

N/A

8. **Appendices**

None

9. **Background Papers**

[Dispensation report.pdf \(dorsetcouncil.gov.uk\)](https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/Document/Dispensation-report.pdf)

Comments on Notice of Motion for July 13th Council

It is fully recognised that there is much concern among communities about the problems caused by discharges of sewage into watercourse and the sea. A significant part of the problem stems from historic development and there are currently some mechanisms in place to minimise the impact of new development on surface and foul water management:

1. Building Regulations require that foul sewage should be separated from surface water systems in accordance with a specific hierarchy which expects surface water to be discharged (in order of preference) via a soakaway or a watercourse. If neither option is possible then a combined sewer can only be considered where there is capacity to accommodate it and subject to the agreement of the sewage undertaker.
2. The Local Planning Authority consults the flood risk management team on planning applications who will advise on how surface water needs to be managed and this will consider the need for surface water attenuation and permeability of surface treatment to ensure that the development does not lead to local flooding, or surface water problems of overcharging of drains.
3. The Local Planning Authority does engage with water management companies at a strategic level when preparing development plans to ensure that any planned growth can be supported by any essential infrastructure. The issue of regulating reductions in sewage discharges is the responsibility of Defra and does not fall within the remit of the Local Planning Authority.

Notwithstanding the above, it is accepted nationally that more can be done to secure robust and sustainable water management principles when new development is proposed to help address the impacts of climate change, while achieving multiple benefits such as reducing surface water flood risk, improving water quality, and harvesting rainwater. To this end, the Government commissioned an independent review of the arrangements for determining responsibility for surface water and drainage assets, the findings of which were published in January this year. The review concluded that sustainable drainage systems which properly manage surface water (to segregate from foul water discharges) should become mandatory, and subject to adoption in accordance with national standards on their design, construction and operation. Approval for connection to sewers will also be needed in advance of any construction. This will be secured via the implementation of Schedule 3 to the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, and consultation on the review findings will take place in the forthcoming months. It is proposed that Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFAs) become the approving body.

Therefore, I have no difficulty in principle with the intent of the motion as originally proposed, but would suggest that it could be amended to reflect the forthcoming changes affecting the implementation of sustainable drainage systems, and in turn propose that Dorset Council engages positively with Government in the forthcoming consultation and thereafter the implementation of the review's findings.

Michael Garrity
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