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PEOPLE AND HEALTH OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 27 JUNE 2023

Present: Cllrs Mike Parkes (Chairman), Cathy Lugg (Vice-Chairman), Tony Alford, Jean Dunseith, Beryl Ezzard, Ryan Holloway, Stella Jones and Howard Legg

Apologies: Cllrs Pauline Batstone and Rebecca Knox

Also present: Cllr Graham Carr-Jones and Cllr Jane Somper

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

Vivienne Broadhurst (Executive Director - People Adults), Theresa Leavy (Executive Director of People - Children), Andrew Billany (Corporate Director for Housing), Amanda Davis (Corporate Director for Education and Learning), Paul Dempsey (Corporate Director - Care & Protection), Claire Shiels (Corporate Director - Commissioning & Partnerships), George Dare (Senior Democratic Services Officer), Joshua Kennedy (Apprentice Democratic Services Officer), Simon Fraiz-Brown (Service Manager - Young and Thriving), James Boxer (Programme Director - Children's Social Care Review) and Sarah Smith (Housing Strategy Lead)

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

Jonathan Price (Interim Corporate Director for Commissioning) and Lisa Reid (Corporate Director for Quality Assurance & Safeguarding Families)

8. **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Pauline Batstone and Rebecca Knox.

9. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest made at this point in the meeting.

Cllr Parkes and Holloway made a declaration which is detailed in Minute Item 16.

10. **Minutes**

Proposed by Cllr Alford, seconded by Cllr Holloway.

Decision:

That the minutes of the meetings held on 21 March and 22 May 2023 be confirmed and signed.

11. **Public Participation**

There was no public participation.

12. **Councillor Questions**

There were no questions from councillors.

13. **Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items.

14. **Committee's Work Programme and Cabinet's Forward Plan**

The committee's work programme was noted.

15. **Young Carers**

The Service Manager – Young and Thriving introduced the report and gave a presentation which is attached to these minutes. The presentation included detail on the support available to young carers and strengthening the offer available to them. A video was shown to the committee about young carers and their experiences interacting with health and care professionals.

Members asked questions of the officers and discussed the report. The following points were raised:

- When young carers are being identified it was important to identify single young carers and when parents are also involved in caring.
- There were issues with capacity to be able to do more work with schools.
- MyTime provided support for schools in the BCP area through offering training sessions to senior leadership and pastoral staff. They also deliver assemblies to students where some young carers are identified.
- There was a need to find out whether children were absent from school due to caring responsibilities.
- Supporting young carers was a statutory duty for the council.
- Young people can register as a carer by Carer Support Dorset.
- Children's services support young people with a significant caring role.

Members requested further information on identifying young carers and approaching families that may need help.

The committee supported the approach to improving the support offer for young carers.

16. **Developing the Housing Strategy**

The Corporate Director for Housing introduced the report and highlighted the public consultation for the housing strategy and the three main strands of the strategy.

The Housing Strategy Lead gave a presentation which is attached as an appendix to these minutes. The presentation included the statutory requirements of the housing strategy, the timeline for its development, the key objectives, and the next steps for development.

At this point in the meeting Cllr Parkes and Cllr Holloway declared for transparency that they were private landlords. They did not take part in the remainder of the item.

Vice-chair in the Chair.

Members discussed the report and asked questions of the officers. The following points were raised:

- Recognising that there needs to be more supply of housing.
- The Housing Strategy was connected to the local plan, but it was not a planning policy.
- Regarding building carbon neutral homes, the housing strategy could include a recommendation to developers and registered providers that they start following new planning and building regulations before they are enforced.
- The definition of 'affordable housing' in the strategy and price points for housing. Some affordable housing could have a high price.
- The number of bedrooms in homes, children sharing bedrooms, and the use of smaller third bedrooms. New regulations would cover the size of bedrooms.
- The key worker housing schemes currently provided in Dorset.
- It was important to have communication from developers and registered providers about building homes for local people.
- Members would have further opportunities to have detailed discussions in member engagement sessions.

Members were satisfied with the report.

17. **Exempt Business**

Decision:

That the press and the public be excluded for the following item in view of the disclosure of confidential information within the meaning of subsection (3)(a) of section 100A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

18. **Children's Social Care Review - Stable Homes, Built on Love**

The Corporate Director for Care and Protection introduced the report.

Members asked questions and made comments. They received responses from the Corporate Director for Care and Protection and a representative of the Department for Education.

The item had support from the committee.

Duration of meeting: 10.00 - 11.39 am

Chairman

Young Carers in Dorset

Simon Fraiz-Brown - Service Manager, Young and Thriving

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Minute Item 15

Young Carers in Dorset

- A young carer is a child or young person aged 18 or under who cares for a friend or family member who, due to illness, disability, mental health problems or an addiction, cannot cope without their support.
- Research indicates that being a young carer affects:
 - Economic situation
 - Emotional wellbeing
 - Physical health
 - Educational Outcomes
- Dorset Council is required to assess the impact of caring on the child and whole family and to provide support where this is needed. However young carers are often isolated and reluctant to ask for help

Support to young carers

Dorset Council Young Carers Team support those undertaking a 'significant caring role'. Currently 112 young people.

- 121 support and liaison with the family
- Advocate for young carer with school and other professionals
- Signpost to additional support where required
- Provide access to positive activities and a break from caring
- Attending regional and national events such as the Young Carers Festival

Support to young carers

- Carer Support Dorset are commissioned to provide all age carer support and maintain a register of carers. This includes:
 - Support young carers to co-produce services
 - Raise awareness of young carers needs
 - Provide training to professionals
 - Support young carers as they move into adulthood
- MYTIME is a pan-Dorset charity which supports young carers. Their support includes:
 - Delivery of school holiday activities
 - Online 'Zoom' youth groups
 - Employability Programme
- Rethink – Commissioned to provide emotional wellbeing support to young carers aged 16+

Strengthening our offer

- More work to do identifying young carers – BCP has much higher numbers and 2021 Census indicates that we have many more than we currently know about
- Improving how well young carers are involved in decision making, especially in health settings
- Young carers have recently been added to the school census return – this will provide an opportunity to understand the impact on school attendance and attainment and work with schools to better support them
- Continue to strengthen links with Adult Services to ensure young carers makes successful transition into adulthood
- Progress on these may require additional investment although research by Sheffield Young Carers indicates a return on this investment

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Dorset
Council

Housing Strategy



Home in on
Housing

People and Health Overview Committee

Purpose of Housing Strategy Report:

- Overview of statutory requirements
- Introduction to the timeline
- An update on the approach taken to develop the strategy
- Key Objectives
- Next Steps
- Member Engagement & Involvement



Statutory Requirements

- S.87 Local Government Act 2003
- Sets out Dorset's vision, aims & objectives
- Provides framework for housing related policies
- Includes all local housing issues
- Reflects national policies
- Not limited to social housing
- Not the local plan



Strategy Timeline



Approach taken to develop strategy

- Opportunity to do things differently
- Importance of using data and insights to inform the strategy.
- Engaging with key internal and external stakeholders to sense check findings and the direction of the strategy.
- Getting it right rather than doing it quickly
- Continuous review, engagement, and refresh, aiming for a live strategy, not something done once and 'left on a shelf'.



Key Objectives

- Housing Need
 - Housing Standards
 - Housing Supply
 - Prevention of Homelessness
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- Natural environment, climate and ecology runs as a thread throughout the strategy.



Next Steps

- Development of evidence base document
- Development of consultation questionnaire
- Launch of external website
- Launch of social media engagement and external communication.
- Launch of public consultation
- Stakeholder engagement



Member Engagement

- Member briefing
- Member drop-in sessions
- Member workshop



Questions?

Housing Strategy



Home in on
Housing

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