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## PEOPLE AND HEALTH OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

### MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 2023

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

**Apologies:** Cllrs Pauline Batstone

**Also present:** Cllr Jane Somper

**Also present remotely:** Cllr Cherry Brooks

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

George Dare (Senior Democratic Services Officer), Amanda Davis (Corporate Director for Education and Learning), Julia Ingram (Corporate Director for Adult Social Care Operations), Theresa Leavy (Executive Director of People - Children), Claire Shiels (Corporate Director - Commissioning & Partnerships), Tony McDougal (Communications Business Partner - Adults and Housing), Joshua Kennedy (Apprentice Democratic Services Officer), Kelly Henry (Interim Head of Placement Commissioning) and Karen Stephens (Interim Head of Service - Market Relationships, Major Contracts, and Over 65's)

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

Mark Rogers (Independent Chair, Birth to Settled Adulthood Board)

19. **Apologies**

An apology for absence was received from Cllr Pauline Batstone.

20. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

21. **Minutes**

Proposed by Cllr Holloway, seconded by Cllr Ezzard.

**Decision**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 27 June 2023 be confirmed and signed.

22. **Public Participation**

There was no public participation.

**23. Councillor Questions**

There were no questions from councillors.

**24. Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items.

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

There were no comments from the committee on the work programme or the Cabinet Forward Plan.

Several items had been added to the work programme since the previous meeting.

**26. Ofsted Regulation of Supported Accommodation for 16-17 Year Olds**

The Corporate Director for Commissioning and Partnerships introduced the report and gave a presentation which is attached to these minutes. The presentation outlined supported accommodation, the reasons for policy change and the approach to this in Dorset, the new requirements including registration of providers, and the financial implications.

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

- Grant funding from the Department for Education was £330,000 which would be given to the council in four equal instalments.
- Part of the Ofsted inspection regime included talking to children and young people.
- There was an open consultation on the Ofsted inspection so there may be changes to the inspection as a result of this consultation.
- Social workers and personal advisors would work with young people when they turn 18.
- There was a one-off registration fee for registering the supported accommodation.
- There was a risk in the Ofsted inspection process when they would inspect the head office and not the supported accommodation. It was important that children and young people were included in the process.
- There was a national charity with regional groups which were sharing information and delivering training.
- 16-17 year olds will not be able to be placed in unregistered accommodation.

- The new national policy may impact provision through some providers no longer providing for 16-17 year olds or some providers specialising in this age group.

Proposed by Cllr Alford, seconded by Cllr Knox

### **Decision**

That the adoption of the approach to Ofsted regulation of supported accommodation for 16-17 year olds be recommended to Cabinet.

## **27. Birth to Settled Adulthood - Report of the Independent Chair**

The Independent Chair of the Birth to Settled Adulthood Board introduced the report and gave a presentation which is attached to these minutes. The introduction included a summary of the previous report in March 2023 and the key areas of the report being considered at this meeting were highlighted.

Committee members discussed the report and asked questions of the officers and the Independent Chair. The following points were raised:

- Both Dorset Council and NHS Dorset needed a shared understanding of the how much funding was currently being spent and how much would be needed in the future.
- There was a need to ensure that resources were sufficient to provide the services.
- Collaborative working could be developed further through an understanding of the cost for poor transitions.
- Families may prefer to meet online, and they will be able to meet in-person or have physical resources too.
- Young people were not keen on attending the Birth to Settled Adulthood Board meetings. However, there was good representation from the Dorset Parent Carer Council.
- There were opportunities for officers to receive feedback from young people.

The 9 focused outcomes of the service redesign would be shared with the committee.

Members noted the progress and the update.

## **28. Exempt Business**

There was no exempt business.

**Duration of meeting:** 10.00 - 11.03 am

**Chairman**

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**People and Health Overview Committee**  
**14/9/23**

**Ofsted Regulation of Supported  
Accommodation for 16- & 17-year-olds**

# What is supported accommodation?

- A form of accommodation or semi-independent living for 16- and 17-year-olds who are ready to live with more independence and who do not need significant levels of care
- It can be offered to:
  - Children in care
  - Care leavers
  - 16- and 17-year-olds who present as homeless to the council
- Aims to support young people to develop their independence and prepare for adult life whilst keeping them safe in a homely and nurturing environment:
  - Offer stability and consistency
  - Enable access to local services (including education and healthcare)
  - Facilitate development of relationships with local community

# Reasons for the policy change

## Quality

- Lack of national guidelines or standards on how supported accommodation should be managed or the experience of individuals managing this provision – leading to variable quality

## Suitability

- Nationally growing numbers of children in care were being placed in this type of provision, including some aged under 16 years and those not ready for independence
- Increased use nationally as a result of a lack of provision for children with complex needs

## Desired Outcomes

- Children in the right setting:
  - No children under 16 in an unregistered setting
  - Children who require significant levels of care do so in an appropriate registered setting (not supported accommodation)
- Improved quality, experiences and outcomes for young people
- Greater clarity on type of support offered
- Improved leadership and management

## Our approach to Supported Accommodation in Dorset

- We do not place children under the age of 16 in provision not registered with Ofsted
- Primarily we support children in care to remain in foster care or residential children's home until 18th birthday and beyond
- We will consider supported accommodation for our children in care when it:
  - Supports the path to independence
  - Follows a care plan review
  - Is approved by a Service Manager
  - Is ratified by their Quality Assurance Reviewing Officer (sometimes known as an Independent Reviewing Officer – IRO)
- We put in place:
  - Enhanced visiting requirements
  - Senior manager oversight and visits to supported accommodation providers



# What are the new requirements?

- All supported accommodation providers must register with Ofsted by 28<sup>th</sup> October
- Inspection by Ofsted will commence in April 2024
- Identify which category of supported accommodation they are delivering:
  - Supported accommodation in a self-contained unit
  - Shared or group living limited to children in care and care leavers
  - Shared or group living not limited to children in care and care leavers
  - Supported accommodation provided by an individual or individuals in a private residence
- Identify a registered manager with the required skill and experience to manage the provision
- Write a statement of purpose setting out the support that will be offered by the provision
- Set out how 4 standards will be met:
  - Protection standard
  - Accommodation standard
  - Support standard
  - Leadership and management standard

# Progress towards registration in Dorset

- In house services

- supported lodging service run by the council's fostering service and must register with Ofsted
- Registered manager identified
- Policies and procedures in place
- First stage of registration documents submitted

- Externally commissioned services

- All providers are aware and have acknowledged requirement to register
- Weekly oversight on progress in in place
- Meetings with all providers in August
- No providers currently identified where we need to move children due to lack of activity to register
- Continue to review progress to plan for any moves that may be required
- When placing new young people in supported accommodation we check registration status and intention to register prior to placement

# Financial Implications

- Grant from Department for Education to support costs incurred by regulations
- Inhouse provision
  - Direct cost of registration for in-house provision (£5,500)
  - Indirect costs:
    - Oversight and quality assurance
    - New processes
    - Preparation for Ofsted Inspection
- External provision
  - Potential to increase fees as a result of increased cost due to regulations
  - Monitoring

# Recommendation

## Recommendations

- 1.The People and Health Overview Committee is invited to comment on the approach to implementation of the national policy and the progress to date.
- 2.The People and Health Overview Committee recommends to Cabinet that this approach is adopted by the council.

## Reason for Recommendation:

- To ensure compliance with the latest legislation and any subsequent regulation / statutory guidance



Dorset  
Council



# Birth To Settled Adulthood Programme

3<sup>rd</sup> Report of the Independent Chair to the People and Health Overview Committee

14<sup>th</sup> September 2023

# Summary from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Report: March 2023

## Overall assessment:

There was confidence in the partnership's ambition, plan and commitments, all of which were strongly indicative of the programme being able to progress within the timeframe set out.

## Strengths:

- Effective programme leadership
- Strengthened relationships and focus across the partnership
- Committed and informed political oversight from the relevant executive members
- An improved programme plan, reporting process and risk assessment framework

# Summary from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Report: March 2023

## Risks:

- Ensuring that attention, capacity and capabilities are maintained at a time when there are many competing (and, inevitably, unforeseen) demands on people's time
- Undertaking a comprehensive system mapping of current funding, including the implications of any savings to be made, and agreeing future resources for the new service model
- Adequately preparing the workforce for the changes ahead
- Communicating the purpose, nature and benefits of the changes to all relevant parties and, most especially, parents, carers, children and young people.



# Summary from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Report: September 2023

## Overall assessment:

- Tremendous progress has been made – most especially in the service redesign workstream
- Continuing senior leadership focus and the supporting capacity remain critical to success
- Partnership working needs to continue to strengthen and deepen
- Communications need to move into a new phase

# Summary from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Report: September 2023

## Highlights:

- Funding mapping and future resource allocation has been progressed, but the work is not yet concluded and now needs completing apace
- Service redesign is proceeding at speed with important checkpoints over the next two months
- There is a continued focus on and learning from the improvement and recovery work (see the case study)
- Future commissioning arrangements are coming to fore and the partnership needs to settle on its intended long-term model
- Communications need to shift up a gear to account for the rapidly emerging new service model
- Senior leaders need to continue to nurture the partnership conditions for success as there are many competing pressures and some key risks (finance, capacity, etc)

# Birth To Settled Adulthood Programme

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