



People and Health Scrutiny Committee

Date: Thursday, 7 March 2024
Time: 10.00 am
Venue: Council Chamber, County Hall, Dorchester, DT1 1XJ

Members (Quorum: 3)

Gill Taylor (Chairman), Molly Rennie (Vice-Chairman), Piers Brown, Robin Cook, Nick Ireland, Paul Kimber, Louie O'Leary, Jon Orrell, Bill Pipe and Belinda Ridout

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

For more information about this agenda please contact Democratic Services Meeting Contact 01305 224185 - george.dare@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

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

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Agenda

Item		Pages
1.	APOLOGIES	
	To receive any apologies for absence.	
2.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
	To disclose any pecuniary, other registrable or non-registrable interest as set out in the adopted Code of Conduct. In making their disclosure councillors are asked to state the agenda item, the nature of the interest and any action they propose to take as part of their declaration.	
	If required, further advice should be sought from the Monitoring Officer in advance of the meeting.	
3.	MINUTES	5 - 14
	To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 12 January 2024.	

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

All submissions must be emailed in full to george.dare@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk by 8.30am on Monday, 4 March 2024.

When submitting your question or statement please note that:

- You can submit 1 question or 1 statement.
- a question may include a short pre-amble to set the context.
- It must be a single question and any sub-divided questions will not be permitted.
- Each question will consist of no more than 450 words, and you will be given up to 3 minutes to present your question.
- when submitting a question please indicate who the question is for (e.g., the name of the committee or Portfolio Holder)
- Include your name, address, and contact details. Only your name will be published but we may need your other details to contact you about your question or statement in advance of the meeting.
- questions and statements received in line with the council's rules for public participation will be published as a supplement to the agenda.
- all questions, statements and responses will be published in full within the minutes of the meeting.

5. COUNCILLOR QUESTIONS

To receive questions submitted by councillors.

Councillors can submit up to two valid questions at each meeting and sub divided questions count towards this total. Questions and statements received will be published as a supplement to the agenda and all questions, statements and responses will be published in full within the minutes of the meeting.

The submissions must be emailed in full to george.dare@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk by 8.30am on Monday, 4 March 2024.

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

6. 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.

7. COMMITTEE'S WORK PROGRAMME AND EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLANS 15 - 42

To consider the committee's Work Programme and the Executive Forward Plans.

8. COST OF LIVING CHALLENGE UPDATE 43 - 64

To consider a report by the Business Partner – Communities and Partnerships.

9. SCRUTINY PERFORMANCE REVIEW

A review of the relevant Dorset Council performance dashboard to inform the Scrutiny Committee's work programme and identify items for deep dives.

The following link is the dashboard for the committee: [People and Health Scrutiny Committee Dashboard](#).

10. REGISTERED PROVIDERS OF SOCIAL HOUSING UPDATE

To receive a report by the Corporate Director for Housing and Community Safety.

(Report to follow.)

11. SEND DELIVERY STRATEGY 65 - 136

To consider a report by the Corporate Director for Education and Learning.

12. 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 are no exempt items scheduled for this meeting.



PEOPLE AND HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 12 JANUARY 2024

Present: Cllrs Gill Taylor (Chairman), Piers Brown, Robin Cook, Nick Ireland and Jon Orrell

Present remotely: Cllrs Molly Rennie (Vice-Chairman)

Apologies: Cllrs Paul Kimber, Louie O'Leary, Bill Pipe and Belinda Ridout

Also present: Cllr Spencer Flower, Cllr Byron Quayle, Cllr Jane Somper, Cllr Jon Andrews, Cllr Shane Bartlett, Cllr Derek Beer, Cllr Beryl Ezzard, Cllr David Gray, Cllr Brian Heatley, Cllr Sherry Jespersen and Cllr Andrew Starr

Also present remotely: Cllr Alex Brenton

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

George Dare (Senior Democratic Services Officer), Paul Dempsey (Corporate Director - Care & Protection), Aidan Dunn (Executive Director - Corporate Development S151), Julia Ingram (Corporate Director for Adult Social Care Operations), Theresa Leavy (Executive Director of People - Children), Jonathan Price (Corporate Director for Commissioning), Lisa Cotton (Corporate Director for Customer and Cultural Services), Sean Cremer (Corporate Director for Finance and Commercial), Lee House (Service Manager for Finance), Joshua Kennedy (Apprentice Democratic Services Officer), Heather Lappin (Head of Strategic Finance), Sam Poole (Transformation and Performance Manager) and Sarah Howard (Deputy Director of Place, NHS Dorset)

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

Andrew Billany (Corporate Director for Housing), Vivienne Broadhurst (Executive Director - People Adults) and Sian White (Service Manager, Finance)

46. **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Paul Kimber, Belinda Ridout, Bill Pipe and Louie O'Leary.

Cllr Molly Rennie attended the meeting online.

47. **Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Ireland declared that he was a governor of Dorset HealthCare.

48. **Minutes**

Proposed by Cllr Taylor and seconded by Cllr Ireland.

Decision

That the minutes of the meeting held on 11 December 2023 be confirmed and signed.

49. **Public Participation**

There was no public participation.

50. **Councillor Questions**

There were no questions from councillors.

51. **Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items.

52. **Committee's Work Programme and Executive Forward Plans**

There were no comments on the work programme and forward plans.

Members noted the committee's work programme and the Executive forward plans.

53. **Budget and Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) Strategy Report**

The Executive Director for Corporate Development introduced the budget and Medium-Term Financial Plan. Overall, the budget proposed an 8% increase in funding for the council, which included a 5% increase in council tax. The proposed budget included a savings target of £12m for the Our Future Council programme. The budget setting process until this point was outlined.

The Committee and non-committee members raised a series of issues and recommendations for Cabinet to consider prior to finalising the budget. The table below summarises the issues raised, and responses given at the committee meeting, as well as the recommendations for Cabinet to consider.

Issues raised by the People and Health Scrutiny Committee	Response
Children's Services The Executive Director of People – Children gave a short presentation on the transformation, savings, and external funding for Children's Services. The presentation is attached to these minutes.	

Were there any planned cuts to staffing levels?	There were no savings planned through job cuts. Some recruitment may be withheld for 3 months when a vacancy arises to ensure that the post is right.
Was the council making savings from Family Hubs?	The council was not proposing savings from reduction in the number or scale of operations of Family Hubs. However, the work enabled would lead to a reduction in high level need which would create the savings included in the proposed budget.
What benefit would £110k being allocated to the Birth to Settled Adulthood Head of Service post bring to the council?	The Birth to Settled Adulthood programme would improve services for young people transitioning into adulthood, up to the age of 25. It required significant leadership, and the post would be a complex role. The funding was for the total cost of the post rather than the salary.
How could national changes to children's services policy affect the budget?	The Council was part of the Families First for Children pathfinder which enabled Dorset Council to be further ahead than other councils on this major national policy change. The council was working with the government on policy changes for school attendance and education.
What would be the risk of increasing the number of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children but not increasing the funding? Would costs for support services decrease as children become more integrated?	The council has made a commitment to meet the requirement set by government. Integration through foster carers or supported accommodation would bring costs down. Staffing has been future proofed in case the number of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children increased. There was full cost recovery for accommodation costs.
Was there enough funding to look after unaccompanied asylum-seeking children to age 25?	There were currently over 500 care leavers. It was built into the budget in terms of staffing.
The financial risks associated with	The high needs block was the most

<p>the High Needs Block.</p>	<p>significant financial risk to the council. The Statutory Instrument was in place until April 2026, which if not extended would mean that the Council would have to account for a significant debt . There was a £40m capital programme to build more sufficient capacity for children. An application for a further £14m was submitted to the Department of Education to fund the capital programme.</p>
<p>The Department for Education gave the council a significant grant through the ‘Safety Valve’ agreement. Was there any clawback in the agreement if plans were not met.</p>	<p>The DfE would contribute just over £40m over a 4-year period, and to this point £20m has been given to us. Within the agreement with the DfE there is no expectation to give the money back. The council was currently in negotiations with the DfE to revise the agreement because plans were not progressing as expected, and this would enable the council to receive the next instalment of funding.</p>
<p>If not extended beyond April 2026, the forecast debt for the High Needs Block was £45.8m. Should this be provisioned for in the reserves?</p>	<p>Increasing the reserves to offset risk was likely to be from repurposing the current reserves. There needed to be a national solution because it would lead to multiple local authorities declaring a Section 114 notice if they did not have enough reserves.</p>
<p>Fees and Charges The Corporate Director for Adult Care introduced the theme by outlining how Adult Social Care used fees and charges. They generated income in a number of areas, but they were not able to make a profit under the Care Act. Adult social care had a client contribution process and a specialist financial assessment team.</p>	
<p>Traded services income removal would cost Children’s Services £0.6m. Were there any other areas generating income for Children’s Services?</p>	<p>The traded services income removal was from education support services which was not appropriate for the level of benefit to the council, and it was a risk. The outdoor education service was successful in terms of trading. In some cases, income would be generated from training</p>

	courses.
The council provides care to people who are entitled to it. How much of the self-funded care market would the council be able to get into?	The council buys about 25% of the available beds in the residential nursing market and about 50% in community-based services for people who have been Care Act assessed. Self-funders can be guided through the council for information and advice to find appropriate care, but the council does not actively broker for them. Reform of Adult Social Care looked at this aspect, but it has been pushed back for a number of years.
Would the funding given to Care Dorset create an income for the council?	There was a contract of £26m between Dorset Council and Care Dorset. A 5-year business plan would be created with Care Dorset which would have opportunities to look for income to the council from the wider market. Teckal trading arrangements allowed for Care Dorset to do 20% trading above the contract value with the council.
Were people made aware of the services that Adult Social Care offered so more income could be generated for the council?	Adult social care looked for areas where they could charge for services, however they were limited in what services they could charge for and how much they could charge clients. Approximately 76% of service users paid a contribution and a charge to their care, which was based upon their ability to pay a fee.
A member felt that income generation for the council was difficult because councils are service providers. A Dorset premium could be charged for some services that the council delivers because the council was best at delivering them. Officers could receive more training on income generation.	
The Adults & Housing budget had an increase of £7.2m and this included £8m savings. What was included within the £5m savings for market	The directorate had a good track record of delivering savings and they were confident that they could deliver the £5m savings because of

management?	work that has already taken place. A breakdown of what was included within the £5m would be provided to members.
The council raises revenue through a number of ways such as selling advertising on roundabouts. There should be a wider discussion about this in the Place & Resources Scrutiny Committee.	The majority of roundabouts were sponsored, and an internal member of staff works on this. £152k of income is generated from this. The council works with companies filming in Dorset to generate income for the council.
A member did not want to see specialist resource being used in adult social care to be used to generate additional income because it may only increase funding marginally.	
A member thought it was important that income generation was reported through a robust income generation section in quarterly financial reports, because it would highlight the areas where the council does have income generation.	
It was difficult for adult social care to generate income, however the council benchmarked well against other councils for generating income within adult social care. Was this because people in Dorset were able to pay more contributions towards their care?	Yes, this was a contributing factor.
Recommendation 1: That Cabinet explores more options for fees and charges to create income for services.	
Recommendation 2: That Cabinet receives regular reporting of income generation from fees and charges within Quarterly Financial reports.	
<p>Transformation and Our Future Council The Executive Director of Corporate Development introduced the theme of transformation and Our Future Council. The Council's approach to transformation has had a significant financial impact. The budget included</p>	

<p>£12m savings from Our Future Council. There was a need to identify how the savings would be made, however they would not be made through cutting or reducing front-line services. Possibilities included reviewing how services are commissioned, delivery models, service redesign, and through asset management. Plans would need to be developed by the new council following the local elections. As the Section 151 Officer, the Executive Director for Corporate Development was confident that there were enough reserves available if the savings target was not met.</p>	
<p>The Our Future Council savings were originally £15m but it was now £12m. Has £3m already been saved and would using capital receipts for revenue also reduce it?</p>	<p>An underlying theme was invest to save. Generating £12m of savings would create a cost itself. The budget gap was £15m however it was reduced because of reducing inflation on utilities.</p>
<p>Several members were concerned about reserves being used to underwrite the savings of Our Future Council. Members thought that using reserves in the budget did not lead to a balanced budget, and it contradicted the principle of not using reserves to balance the budget.</p>	<p>There was a fundamental issue of using reserves to close a budget gap. In this case, sufficient funding from reserves was being set aside to cover the risk of not meeting the savings.</p> <p>The flexible use of capital receipts would not be used to offset Our Future Council savings.</p>
<p>Recommendation 3: That Cabinet amend the principle that “we will not balance the Budget Strategy by using reserves” in order to clarify the cabinet’s position on using reserves within the budget.</p>	
<p>The council was not doing well in terms of the Revenue Support Grant it received. The council has been lobbying government however it has not worked.</p>	
<p>Recommendation 4: That Cabinet write to government to ensure that councils are properly funded.</p>	
<p>How confident was the Section 151 officer that 3.2% inflation was achievable and why was there a 5% increase in fees and charges when inflation was lower?</p>	<p>The assumption was that inflation would fall; however, this had not yet been achieved nationally. The council would set aside 3.2% for average inflation. The council also holds a £5m contingency budget to also mitigate the risk of further</p>

	<p>inflationary pressures. There were additional allocations for utility costs where they rise faster than inflation. The 5% increase in charges would be what was best for services and what they could do within relevant legislation.</p>
<p>There was uncertainty about the future of the adult social care grant. Were preparations being made for the future?</p>	<p>There was funding through the adult social care grant for the next year, but there was no clarity on the future of the funding which created a risk.</p>
<p>In the next year of the Medium-Term Financial Plan, an additional £13m of business rates was being budgeted for. Where was this number from?</p>	<p>The business rate income was originally based on government assumptions. The significant change to the increase in business rates income is due to the revised rateable values which came into effect in April 2023, with the last rating revaluation being in 2017. In addition to this, the Council sought external advice on business rates which has led to the Council being able to be set higher income than the government prediction because of local circumstances.</p>
<p>Housing Finance</p>	
<p>Have the mitigations put in place to reduce the use of B&B accommodation worked?</p>	<p>The number of B&B accommodation being used has reduced and alternatives are found when people become homeless. Although homelessness has increased, the decrease in use of B&B accommodation shows good performance. It was important to focus on the prevention of progress through working with landlords. There needs to be more work in moving people from temporary accommodation to settled accommodation.</p>
<p>What housing had the council purchased through schemes. Were there plans to continue purchasing housing to use as temporary</p>	<p>The council had acquired 66 homes over the last 3 years through government grants. This included grants for Ukrainian or Afghan</p>

accommodation?	families and rough sleeper initiatives. It was important to continue working with government to receive grants.
The number of private rented housing is decreasing, and the cost is going up. What is the council doing with this?	Work has been put into creating the Housing Strategy over the past year. The next stage was developing a delivery plan which would help to address the challenges. The council needed to be working with landlords and property owners. Members would be involved with development of the delivery plan.
What was the impact of a decrease in the New Homes Bonus, and does it indicate a failure of Dorset Council?	The Planning Authority had a role to play in encouraging and approving developments. The number of houses delivered has decreased, as suggested by the decrease in the New Homes Bonus. The New Homes Bonus does not relate to how many housing units are brought forward by the council itself. The council has involvement in bringing new developments forward, but it is not solely responsible for this.
Transport for Children and Adults	
More SEND units were being set up across the county to reduce travel. Parents challenge school placements and the council rarely wins the appeals. Would the building more places increase the amount of travel because there is more choice, and each school would offer different specialisms.	Children having the opportunity to learn within their local communities was very important so building specialist facilities on existing school sites was in the best interests of the children. It would also be in the best interest of the travel budget. If parents do not agree with placements and the parents win the appeal, it can lead to expensive travel costs for the council.
Although Home to School transport was a cross-council issue, it did matter which service was the budget holder. Financial principles dictate that the majority user should hold most the budget. There were currently multiple users of the budget, but the place directorate had the expertise. The users, children's	

and adult services, should be holding most of the budget and they should buy in the experience from Place in order to reduce overspend.	
Recommendation 5: That Cabinet considers whether Place was the appropriate budget holder for Home to School Transport.	
How do adult social services work with volunteers to help access care, such as volunteer car schemes.	The Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy being developed could address this. Adult social care works closely with voluntary services. There was an adult's transport budget of £1.4m to access day services. An element of accessing care was for health providers.

At 12.41pm the committee adjourned for a comfort break until 12.50pm.

Upon reconvening it was proposed by Cllr Taylor and seconded by Cllr Cook that the meeting be extended beyond 3 hours until 13.30pm. The committee agreed to the proposal.

The Committee made 5 recommendations to Cabinet, which are summarised in the table above.

54. **Exempt Business**

There was no exempt business.

Duration of meeting: 10.00 am - 1.31 pm

Chairman

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People and Health Scrutiny Committee Work Programme

Meeting Date: 7 March 2024

Report Title	Aims and Objectives	Lead Officers / Members	Other Information
Performance Scrutiny	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To review the most recent performance information and use this to agree items to add to the committee work programme for further analysis. 	<p>David Bonner – Service Manager for Business Intelligence and Performance</p> <p>Cllr Jill Haynes – Portfolio Holder for Corporate Development and Transformation</p>	<p>Link to the performance dashboard: People & Health Scrutiny Dashboard</p>
SEND Delivery Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of the SEND Delivery Strategy 	<p>Amanda Davis – Corporate Director for Education and Learning</p> <p>Cllr Byron Quayle – Portfolio Holder for Children, Education, Skills and Early Help</p>	
Progress report on Registered Providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To receive an update report on the committee’s previous work on registered providers of social housing. 	<p>Andrew Billany – Corporate Director for Housing</p> <p>Cllr Jane Somper – Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care, Health and Housing.</p>	<p>Link to the minutes of the meeting on 11 September 2023: People and Health Scrutiny Committee Minutes</p>
Cost of Living Challenge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To review the outcomes of making £2m funding available for cost of living support. 	<p>Laura Cornette – Communities and</p>	

		Partnerships Business Partner Cllr Laura Beddow – Portfolio Holder for Culture and Communities	
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Meeting Date: 27 June 2024

Report Title	Aims and Objectives	Lead Officers / Members	Other Information
Community Safety Annual Report Page 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To scrutinise and review the council's community safety duties. 	Andy Frost – Service Manager for Community Safety	Annual report to the designated Crime & Disorder Committee on the Council's and partners' progress against their statutory community safety duties as required under The Police & Justice Act 2006.

Meeting Date: 1 August 2024

Report Title	Aims and Objectives	Lead Officers / Members	Other Information

Meeting Date: 19 September 2024

Report Title	Aims and Objectives	Lead Officers / Members	Other Information
Housing Strategy		Andrew Billany – Corporate Director for Housing	

Meeting Date: 14 November 2024

Report Title	Aims and Objectives	Lead Officers / Members	Other Information

Meeting Date: 17 January 2025

Report Title	Aims and Objectives	Lead Officers / Members	Other Information
Budget Strategy and Medium-Term Financial Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To scrutinise the council's budget and medium-term financial plan for the year 2025-26 To make any recommendations to Cabinet. 	Aidan Dunn – Executive Director of Corporate Development / Section 151 Officer	Consideration by Cabinet on 30 January 2024 and Full Council on 13 February 2024.

Meeting Date: 6 February 2025

Report Title	Aims and Objectives	Lead Officers / Members	Other Information

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Meeting Date: 8 April 2025

Report Title	Aims and Objectives	Lead Officers / Members	Other Information

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Meeting Date: Unscheduled Committee Items

Report Title	Aims and Objectives	Lead Officers / Members	Other Information
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Informal Work of the Committee:

Date	Topic	Format	Members	Lead Officers / Members	Other Information
TBC	Update session from Dorset County Hospital / Dorset HealthCare	Online meeting	People & Health Scrutiny Committee		

4 July 2024	Visit to University Hospitals Dorset	Site Visit	People & Health Scrutiny Committee		Invitation received following a meeting with UHD.
June/July 2024	Work Programme Development	Informal Meeting	People & Health Scrutiny Committee	George Dare – Senior Democratic Services Officer	

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The Cabinet Forward Plan - February to May 2024 (Publication date – 12 FEBRUARY 2024)

Explanatory Note:

This Forward Plan contains future items to be considered by the Cabinet and Council. It is published 28 days before the next meeting of the Committee. The plan includes items for the meeting including key decisions. Each item shows if it is 'open' to the public or to be considered in a private part of the meeting.

Definition of Key Decisions

Key decisions are defined in Dorset Council's Constitution as decisions of the Cabinet which are likely to -

- 1991
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- (a) to result in the relevant local authority incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the relevant local authority's budget for the service or function to which the decision relates (**Thresholds - £500k**); or
 - (b) to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards or electoral divisions in the area of the relevant local authority."

In determining the meaning of "*significant*" for these purposes the Council will have regard to any guidance issued by the Secretary of State in accordance with section 9Q of the Local Government Act 2000 Act. Officers will consult with lead members to determine significance and sensitivity.

Cabinet Portfolio Holders 2023/24

Spencer Flower	Leader / Governance, Performance and Communications
Gary Suttle	Deputy Leader and Finance, Commercial and Capital Strategy
Ray Bryan	Highways, Travel and Environment
Jill Haynes	Corporate Development and Transformation
Laura Beddow	Culture and Communities
Simon Gibson	Economic Growth and Levelling Up
Andrew Parry	Assets and Property
Byron Quayle	People – Children, Education, Skills, and Early Help
Jane Somper	People - Adult Social Care, Health, and Housing
David Walsh	Planning

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
2024					

March					
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<p>Procurement Forward Plan Report - Over £500k (2023-2025)</p> <p>Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open</p> <p>The Council defines a key decision, in terms of procurement activity, as those with financial consequence of £500k or more. This report will provide notice of the planned/known procurement activities that Cabinet will need to make a key decision on for 2024/25.</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 12 Mar 2024</p>		<p>Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance, Commercial and Capital Strategy</p>	<p><i>Dawn Adams, Service Manager for Commercial and Procurement</i> <i>dawn.adams@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Chief Executive (Matt Prosser)</i></p>
<p>Grid Capacity Task & Finish Group</p> <p>Key Decision - No Public Access - Open</p> <p>The final report of Place and Resources Scrutiny Committee's grid capacity task and finish group, which was established to review the strategically significant</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 12 Mar 2024</p>	<p>Place and Resources Scrutiny Committee 26 Feb 2024</p>	<p>Portfolio Holder for Highways, Travel and Environment</p>	<p><i>Antony Littlechild, Sustainability Team Manager</i> <i>antony.littlechild@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Carl Warom, Climate and Ecological Policy and Project Manager</i> <i>carl.warom@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Lead for Place Directorate (Jan Britton)</i></p>

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
<p>issue of Dorset's constrained grid capacity. The report will summarise its findings and recommendations for the future.</p>					
<p>Family Hub network development</p> <p>Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open</p> <p>This report outlines proposals for the development of Dorset's Family Hub Network Model in line with requirements of the DfE's Grant funded Transformation Programme, local need and strategic priorities.</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 12 Mar 2024</p>	<p>People and Health Overview Committee 6 Feb 2024</p>	<p>Portfolio Holder for People - Children, Education, Skills and Early Help</p>	<p><i>Elizabeth Saunders, Interim Corporate Director of Commissioning</i> <i>elizabeth.saunders@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, People - Children (Theresa Leavy)</i></p>
<p>Allocation of S106 Funding for community facilities at Mampitts Green, Shaftesbury</p> <p>Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open</p> <p>To determine the award of s106 developer contribution funding for the delivery of community facilities at Mampitts Green, Shaftesbury</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 12 Mar 2024</p>		<p>Portfolio Holder for Planning</p>	<p><i>Andrew Galpin, Infrastructure & Delivery Planning Manager</i> <i>andrew.galpin@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Mike Garrity, Head of Planning</i> <i>mike.garrity@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Lead for Place Directorate (Jan Britton)</i></p>
<p>Community Infrastructure Levy - Exception Circumstances Policy for the Purbeck area</p> <p>Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 12 Mar 2024</p>		<p>Portfolio Holder for Planning</p>	<p><i>Andrew Galpin, Infrastructure & Delivery Planning Manager</i> <i>andrew.galpin@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Lead for Place Directorate (Jan Britton)</i></p>

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
To agree and adopt the draft order.					
<p>Poole Harbour Local Nutrient Mitigation Fund Award</p> <p>Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open</p> <p>Highlighting the recent award of funds from the DLUHC Local Nutrient Mitigation Fund for delivery of nutrient mitigation across the Poole Harbour catchment to enable development and the arrangements for spending the fund.</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 12 Mar 2024</p>		<p>Portfolio Holder for Planning</p>	<p><i>Terry Sneller, Strategic Planning Manager</i> <i>terry.sneller@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Lead for Place Directorate (Jan Britton)</i></p>
<p>Dorset Council's Response to Hampshire County Council Minerals and Waste Plan Update - Final Consultation</p> <p>Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open</p> <p>Hampshire County Council are undertaking the final consultation on their Minerals and Waste Plan update before it is submitted for Examination. This report sets out Dorset Council's response for Cabinet's consideration and approval.</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 12 Mar 2024</p>		<p>Portfolio Holder for Planning</p>	<p><i>Mike Garrity, Head of Planning</i> <i>mike.garrity@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, Place</i></p>
<p>Local Development Scheme Update</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 12 Mar 2024</p>		<p>Portfolio Holder for Planning</p>	<p><i>Mike Garrity, Head of Planning</i></p>

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
<p>Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open</p> <p>To consider a report on a update of the Dorset Council Local Plan Development Scheme.</p>					<p><i>mike.garrity@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Terry Sneller, Strategic Planning Manager</i> <i>terry.sneller@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Lead for Place Directorate (Jan Britton)</i></p>
<p>Children's Sufficiency Strategy</p> <p>Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 12 Mar 2024</p>	<p>People and Health Overview Committee 6 Feb 2024</p>	<p>Portfolio Holder for People - Children, Education, Skills and Early Help</p>	<p><i>Elizabeth Saunders, Interim Corporate Director of Commissioning</i> <i>elizabeth.saunders@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, People - Children (Theresa Leavy)</i></p>
<p>Leisure Contracts</p> <p>Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Fully exempt</p> <p>To seek approval to extend the leisure contracts at Blandford Leisure Centre and the Ferndown Leisure Centre.</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 12 Mar 2024</p>		<p>Portfolio Holder for Culture and Communities</p>	<p><i>Paul Rutter, Service Manager for Leisure Services</i> <i>paul.rutter@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Lead for Place Directorate (Jan Britton)</i></p>
<p>April</p>					
<p>June</p>					
<p>Quarter 4 Financial Monitoring 2023/24</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 11 Jun 2024</p>		<p>Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance, Commercial</p>	<p><i>Sean Cremer, Corporate Director for Finance and Commercial</i></p>

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
<p>Key Decision - No Public Access - Open</p> <p>To consider the Quarter 4 Financial Monitoring Report 2024/25.</p>				and Capital Strategy	<p><i>sean.cremer@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> Executive Director, Corporate Development - Section 151 Officer (Aidan Dunn)</p>
<p>BCP Local Plan consultation response</p> <p>Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open</p> <p>Proposed for change set out in an investment to save business case.</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 11 Jun 2024</p>		Portfolio Holder for Planning	<p><i>Terry Sneller, Strategic Planning Manager</i> <i>terry.sneller@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> Executive Director, Place</p>
<p>26 July</p>					

<p>Youth Justice Plan 2024/25</p> <p>Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open</p> <p>Annual approval of the Youth Justice Plan.</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 9 Jul 2024</p>	<p>People and Health Overview Committee 13 Jun 2024</p>	<p>Portfolio Holder for People - Children, Education, Skills and Early Help</p>	<p><i>David Webb, Manager - Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service</i> <i>david.webb@bcpcouncil.gov.uk</i> Executive Director, People - Children (Theresa Leavy)</p>
<p>Extra Care Housing Strategy & Accommodation with support programme</p> <p>Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open</p> <p>To present the Extra Care Housing Strategy, seek</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 9 Jul 2024</p>	<p>People and Health Overview Committee 13 Jun 2024</p>	<p>Portfolio Holder for People - Adult Social Care, Health and Housing</p>	<p><i>Adam Fitzgerald, Building Better Lives Programme Manager</i> <i>adam.fitzgerald@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> Executive Director, People - Adults</p>

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
endorsement from Cabinet, and to brief members on the Accommodation with Support programme.					

September

Quarter 1 Financial Monitoring 2024/25 Key Decision - No Public Access - Open Do consider the Quarter 1 Financial Monitoring Report 2024/25	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 10 Sep 2024		Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance, Commercial and Capital Strategy	<i>Sean Cremer, Corporate Director for Finance and Commercial sean.cremer@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, Corporate Development - Section 151 Officer (Aidan Dunn)</i>
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Draft Contaminated Land Strategy Key Decision - No Public Access - Open Draft Contaminated Land Strategy and report of consultation findings on the draft strategy.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 10 Sep 2024	Place and Resources Overview Committee 6 Jun 2024	Portfolio Holder for Culture and Communities	<i>Steven Horsler, Environmental Health Officer steven.horsler@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Janet Moore, Service Manager for Environmental Protection Janet.Moore@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Lead for Place Directorate (Jan Britton)</i>
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October

Growth & Economic Regeneration Strategy	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 15 Oct 2024	Place and Resources Overview Committee	Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth and	<i>Jon Bird, Service Manager for Growth and Economic</i>
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Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
<p>Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open</p> <p>To consider and agree a refresh of the Council's strategy for economic growth. This will encompass the functions to be taken over by the Council from Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership in accordance with devolution and promote the needs and actions required to drive forward the economy in the Dorset Council area.</p>			12 Sep 2024	Levelling Up	<p><i>Regeneration</i> <i>jon.bird@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Nick Webster, Head of Growth and Economic Regeneration</i> <i>nicholas.webster@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Lead for Place Directorate (Jan Britton)</i></p>
<p>8 November</p>					

<p>Quarter 2 Financial Monitoring Report 2024/25</p> <p>Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open</p> <p>To consider the Quarter 2 Financial Monitoring Report 2024/25</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 12 Mar 2024</p>		<p>Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance, Commercial and Capital Strategy</p>	<p><i>Sean Cremer, Corporate Director for Finance and Commercial</i> <i>sean.cremer@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, Corporate Development - Section 151 Officer (Aidan Dunn)</i></p>
<p>Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) and budget strategy - update</p> <p>Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 19 Nov 2024</p>		<p>Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance, Commercial and Capital Strategy</p>	<p><i>Sean Cremer, Corporate Director for Finance and Commercial</i> <i>sean.cremer@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director,</i></p>

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
To receive a budget update for 2025/26.					<i>Corporate Development - Section 151 Officer (Aidan Dunn)</i>
January 2025					
<p>Quarter 3 Financial Monitoring 2024/25</p> <p>Key Decision - No Public Access - Open</p> <p>To consider the Quarter 3 Financial Monitoring Report 2024/25</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 28 Jan 2025</p>		<p>Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance, Commercial and Capital Strategy</p>	<p><i>Sean Cremer, Corporate Director for Finance and Commercial</i> <i>sean.cremer@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, Corporate Development - Section 151 Officer (Aidan Dunn)</i></p>
<p>Budget strategy and medium-term financial plan (MTFP)</p> <p>Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open</p> <p>To consider a report and recommendation of the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Commercial and Capital Assets.</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 28 Jan 2025</p>	<p>People and Health Scrutiny Committee Place and Resources Scrutiny Committee 17 Jan 2025 16 Jan 2025</p>	<p>Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance, Commercial and Capital Strategy</p>	<p><i>Sean Cremer, Corporate Director for Finance and Commercial</i> <i>sean.cremer@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, Corporate Development - Section 151 Officer (Aidan Dunn)</i></p>

Private/Exempt Items for Decision

Each item in the plan above marked as 'private' will refer to one of the following paragraphs.

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5. Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.
6. Information which reveals that the shadow council proposes:-
 - (a) to give under any enactment a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person; or
 - (b) to make an order or direction under any enactment.
7. Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.



The Shareholder Committee for the Dorset Centre of Excellence (DCOE) Forward Plan For the period 1 MARCH 2024 to 30 JUNE 2024

Explanatory Note:

This Forward Plan contains future items to be considered by the Shareholder Committee for the Dorset Centre of Excellence. It is published 28 days before the next meeting of the Committee. The plan includes items for the meeting including key decisions. Each item shows if it is 'open' to the public or to be considered in a private part of the meeting.

Definition of Key Decisions

Key decisions are defined in Dorset Council's Constitution as decisions which are likely to -

- (a) to result in the relevant local authority incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the relevant local authority's budget for the service or function to which the decision relates (**Thresholds - £500k**); or
- (b) to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards or electoral divisions in the area of the relevant local authority."

In determining the meaning of "*significant*" for these purposes the Council will have regard to any guidance issued by the Secretary of State in accordance with section 9Q of the Local Government Act 2000 Act. Officers will consult with lead members to determine significance and sensitivity.

Committee Membership 2023/24

Spencer Flower	Leader / Governance, Performance and Communications
Gary Suttle	Deputy Leader / Finance, Commercial and Capital Strategy
Jane Somper	Adult Social Care, Health and Housing
Laura Beddow	Culture and Communities
Byron Quayle	Children, Education, Skills and Early Help

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
Standing items for consideration				
March				
Dorset Council Delegated Decisions Key Decision - No Public Access - Open	Decision Maker The Shareholder Committee for the Dorset Centre of Excellence (DCOE)	Decision Date 11 Mar 2024	Councillor Byron Quayle	<i>Executive Director, People - Children (Theresa Leavy)</i>
Dorset Centre of Excellence Annual Performance Report November 2023 Key Decision - No Public Access - Open To consider the annual performance report.	Decision Maker The Shareholder Committee for the Dorset Centre of Excellence (DCOE)	Decision Date 11 Mar 2024	Portfolio Holder for People - Children, Education, Skills and Early Help	<i>Executive Director, People - Children (Theresa Leavy)</i>
Dorset Council Commissioning Report Key Decision - No Public Access - Part exempt	Decision Maker The Shareholder Committee for the Dorset Centre of Excellence (DCOE)	Decision Date 11 Mar 2024	Councillor Byron Quayle	<i>Executive Director, People - Children (Theresa Leavy)</i>

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
DCoE - Report of the Chair of the Board Key Decision - No Public Access - Part exempt	Decision Maker The Shareholder Committee for the Dorset Centre of Excellence (DCOE)	Decision Date 11 Mar 2024	Councillor Byron Quayle	<i>Executive Director, People - Children (Theresa Leavy)</i>
June				

Review of Terms of Reference Key Decision - No Public Access - Open	Decision Maker The Shareholder Committee for the Dorset Centre of Excellence (DCOE)	Decision Date 10 Jun 2024	Leader of the Council	<i>Chris Harrod, Senior Democratic Services Officer chris.harrod@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Director of Legal and Democratic Services - Monitoring Officer (Jonathan Mair)</i>
Dorset Council Delegated Decisions Key Decision - No Public Access - Part exempt	Decision Maker The Shareholder Committee for the Dorset Centre of Excellence (DCOE)	Decision Date 10 Jun 2024	Portfolio Holder for People - Children, Education, Skills and Early Help	<i>Executive Director, People - Children (Theresa Leavy)</i>
Dorset Council Commissioning Report Key Decision - No Public Access - Part exempt	Decision Maker The Shareholder Committee for the Dorset Centre of Excellence (DCOE)	Decision Date 10 Jun 2024	Portfolio Holder for People - Children, Education, Skills and Early Help	<i>Executive Director, People - Children (Theresa Leavy)</i>

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
<p>DCoE - Report of the Chair of the Board</p> <p>Key Decision - No Public Access - Part exempt</p>	<p>Decision Maker The Shareholder Committee for the Dorset Centre of Excellence (DCOE)</p>	<p>Decision Date 10 Jun 2024</p>	<p>Portfolio Holder for People - Children, Education, Skills and Early Help</p>	<p><i>Executive Director, People - Children (Theresa Leavy)</i></p>
<p>Annual Reports</p>				
<p>Annual Performance Report to Council</p> <p>Key Decision - No Public Access - Open</p>	<p>Decision Maker The Shareholder Committee for the Dorset Centre of Excellence (DCOE)</p>	<p>Decision Date</p>	<p>Portfolio Holder for People - Children, Education, Skills and Early Help</p>	<p><i>Executive Director, People - Children (Theresa Leavy)</i></p>

2024
34

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6. Information which reveals that the shadow council proposes:-
 - (a) to give under any enactment a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person; or
 - (b) to make an order or direction under any enactment.
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Shareholder Committee for Care Dorset Holdings Ltd Forward Plan For the period 1 MARCH 2024 to 10 JULY 2024 (Publication date – 30 JANUARY 2024)

Explanatory Note:

This Forward Plan contains future items to be considered by the Shareholder Committee for the Dorset Centre of Excellence. It is published 28 days before the next meeting of the Committee. The plan includes items for the meeting including key decisions. Each item shows if it is 'open' to the public or to be considered in a private part of the meeting.

Definition of Key Decisions

Key decisions are defined in Dorset Council's Constitution as decisions which are likely to -

- a) to result in the relevant local authority incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the relevant local authority's budget for the service or function to which the decision relates (**Thresholds - £500k**); or
- b) to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards or electoral divisions in the area of the relevant local authority."

In determining the meaning of "*significant*" for these purposes the Council will have regard to any guidance issued by the Secretary of State in accordance with section 9Q of the Local Government Act 2000 Act. Officers will consult with lead members to determine significance and sensitivity.

Committee Membership 2023/24

Spencer Flower	Leader / Governance, Performance and Communications
Gary Suttle	Deputy Leader / Finance, Commercial and Capital Strategy
Jane Somper	Adult Social Care, Health and Housing
Laura Beddow	Culture and Communities
Byron Quayle	Children, Education, Skills and Early Help

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
Standing Items for Consideration				
February				
Dorset Council Delegated Decisions Key Decision - No Public Access - Part exempt	Decision Maker Shareholder Committee for Care Dorset Holdings Ltd	Decision Date 27 Feb 2024	Portfolio Holder for People - Adult Social Care, Health and Housing	<i>Jonathan Price, Corporate Director for Commissioning</i> <i>jonathan.price@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, People - Adults</i>
Dorset Council Organisational Update Key Decision - No Public Access - Part exempt	Decision Maker Shareholder Committee for Care Dorset Holdings Ltd	Decision Date 27 Feb 2024	Portfolio Holder for People - Adult Social Care, Health and Housing	<i>Jonathan Price, Corporate Director for Commissioning</i> <i>jonathan.price@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, People - Adults</i>
Care Dorset Update Key Decision - No Public Access - Part exempt	Decision Maker Shareholder Committee for Care Dorset Holdings Ltd	Decision Date 27 Feb 2024	Portfolio Holder for People - Adult Social Care, Health and Housing	<i>Executive Director, People - Adults</i>
Care Dorset 5 Year Strategy Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Part exempt	Decision Maker Shareholder Committee for Care Dorset Holdings Ltd	Decision Date 27 Feb 2024	Portfolio Holder for People - Adult Social Care, Health and Housing	<i>Executive Director, People - Adults</i>

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
July				

Review of the Committee's Terms of Reference Key Decision - No Public Access - Open	Decision Maker Shareholder Committee for Care Dorset Holdings Ltd	Decision Date 1 Jul 2024	Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance, Commercial and Capital Strategy	<i>Jonathan Mair, Director of Legal and Democratic and Monitoring Officer jonathan.mair@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, People - Adults</i>
Dorset Council Delegated Decisions Key Decision - No Public Access - Part exempt	Decision Maker Shareholder Committee for Care Dorset Holdings Ltd	Decision Date 1 Jul 2024	Portfolio Holder for People - Adult Social Care, Health and Housing	<i>Jonathan Price, Corporate Director for Commissioning jonathan.price@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, People - Adults</i>
Dorset Council Organisational Update Key Decision - No Public Access - Part exempt	Decision Maker Shareholder Committee for Care Dorset Holdings Ltd	Decision Date 1 Jul 2024	Portfolio Holder for People - Adult Social Care, Health and Housing	<i>Jonathan Price, Corporate Director for Commissioning jonathan.price@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, People - Adults</i>
Care Dorset Update Key Decision - No Public Access - Part exempt	Decision Maker Shareholder Committee for Care Dorset Holdings Ltd	Decision Date 1 Jul 2024	Portfolio Holder for People - Adult Social Care, Health and Housing	<i>Executive Director, People - Adults</i>

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
Annual Reports				
Annual Performance Update for Council Key Decision - No Public Access -	Decision Maker Shareholder Committee for Care Dorset Holdings Ltd	Decision Date	Portfolio Holder for People - Adult Social Care, Health and Housing	<i>Executive Director, People - Adults</i>

Private/Exempt Items for Decision

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6. Information which reveals that the shadow council proposes:-
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People and Health Scrutiny Committee

7 March 2024

Cost of Living Challenge Update

For Review and Consultation

Portfolio Holder: Cllr L Beddow, Culture and Communities

Executive Director: A Dunn, Executive Director, Corporate Development

Report Author: Laura Cornette
Job Title: Business Partner – Communities and Partnerships
Tel: 01305 224306
Email: laura.cornette@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Report Status: Public

Brief Summary:

In February 2023, following a request from the Leader of the council, Cllr Spencer Flower, Cabinet authorised a one-off amount of £2 million to be drawn from the General Fund reserves to deliver a programme of short and medium-term activities and schemes to support Dorset residents hardest hit by the cost-of-living challenge. The programme of activities was developed to complement and enhance the support provided by central government and Dorset Council.

Recommendation:

That members scrutinise the spend and impacts of the £2 million investment throughout the financial year 2023-24.

Reason for Recommendation:

When approval for the £2 million Cost of Living proposal was awarded by Cabinet in February 2023, it was a condition that an update of the spend and impact of this fund would be presented to People and Health Scrutiny Committee and offer them the opportunity to ask any arising questions.

The report is coming before the end of the financial year, due to the pre-election period. A further full report of impact will be made available in the first quarter of financial year 2024.

1. **Background**

- 1.1 Many Dorset Council residents have been directly affected by the cost-of-living challenge. In many ways, Dorset residents are facing the same issues as people across the country. However, in 2022, our research data shows one factor which we knew affects Dorset Council residents more than elsewhere: the high cost of housing relative to earnings. This has been felt in higher rental and mortgage payments, which lead to lower or, in some cases, no disposable income with which to absorb any price increases to fuel, energy bills and food.
- 1.2 Since mid-2022, Dorset Council has worked closely with our statutory and voluntary & community sector partners through the 'Dorset Together – Cost of Living' network to support residents with the challenges they are facing. This programme developed into four priority workstreams:
 1. Keeping warm and well
 2. Food security
 3. Support to increase volunteering
 4. Keeping homes warm and energy efficient.
- 1.3 Cllr Spencer Flower, Leader of the council, asked officers to develop a list of proposals for various activities and schemes which could provide immediate and medium-term support to Dorset residents hardest hit by the cost-of-living crisis to a total value of £2 million, which would be taken from the General Fund reserves.
- 1.4 These proposals were approved by Cabinet in February 2023. The link to the paper is in the **background documents**. The original detail of the projects agreed by Cabinet is detailed in **Appendix 1**. It was agreed that a report would be taken to People and Health Scrutiny to report on the impact of this funding for Dorset residents.
- 1.5 It was agreed by Senior Leadership Team that an update paper would be presented to People and Health Scrutiny Committee in March 2024 prior to the pre-election period commencing.

2. **Projects**

- 2.1 As the year progressed, new trends our residents were experiencing due to the Cost-of-Living challenge became apparent: in particular, evidence of significant increases to rents and threat of eviction within the private housing sector, with Dorset Council Housing team reporting an 31% increase in threat of homelessness.

2.2 In September 2023, Cllr. Laura Beddow and the Senior Leadership Team gave authorisation to adjust the amounts of Healthy Homes Dorset down from £500,000 to £375,000 and Off-Grid Energy Vouchers down from £280,000 to £60,000, to be delivered in a targeted way via Citizens Advice and to add in 2 more projects within the £2m budget.

2.3 The 2 added projects to support the emerging trends of Homelessness Prevention and Debt and Cost-of-Living Advice are detailed in **Appendix 2**.

3. Impacts of the Funding

3.1 There is a full breakdown of the impacts of the funding up for quarter 1 to 3 in **Appendix 3**. The below table shows a short summary of the impacts for each project.

3.2

No. & Project name	Impact Headlines
1. Targeted supermarket vouchers	<p>An additional 2333 £150 supermarket vouchers supplemented the Household Support Fund (HSF), creating an overall total of 12,000 available over the year.</p> <p>Demand has continued to increase and each month the scheme opens and closes within several hours.</p>
2. Debt and CoL Advice	<p>Since Q3 the specialist debt advisors have delivered the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 298 clients helped • 1,376 issues supported • £259,358 in financial gains for clients
3. Healthy Homes Dorset	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A total of 86 households benefitted • 77 households were low income • 69 households had a long-term illness or disability • 80 properties were classed as Park Homes
4. Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP) allowance	<p>Due to having to spend the annual Government grant first, this project only commenced in December 2023 and the impact will be reported at the end of the year. However, having this funding has meant the DHP officers have been able to award longer term stability to those at risk of homelessness due to being able to stretch into this additional budget.</p>

<p>5. Disabled Facilities Grant – Energy Efficiency support</p>	<p>58 Grants either completed or awaiting completion.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="548 226 1469 636"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="548 226 1187 296">Areas of work</th> <th data-bbox="1187 226 1469 296">Number of Jobs</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="548 296 1187 365">Doors and windows (replaced / repaired)</td> <td data-bbox="1187 296 1469 365">6</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="548 365 1187 434">New heating system installed</td> <td data-bbox="1187 365 1469 434">4</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="548 434 1187 504">Park home insulation installed</td> <td data-bbox="1187 434 1469 504">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="548 504 1187 573">Replacement boiler/boiler repair</td> <td data-bbox="1187 504 1469 573">43</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="548 573 1187 636">Roof insulation</td> <td data-bbox="1187 573 1469 636">4</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Areas of work	Number of Jobs	Doors and windows (replaced / repaired)	6	New heating system installed	4	Park home insulation installed	1	Replacement boiler/boiler repair	43	Roof insulation	4
Areas of work	Number of Jobs												
Doors and windows (replaced / repaired)	6												
New heating system installed	4												
Park home insulation installed	1												
Replacement boiler/boiler repair	43												
Roof insulation	4												
<p>6. Food security</p>	<p>Food projects funded support to over 4306 households per month.</p> <p>29% were to families with children; 23% disability (physical, mental health, learning disability, sensory); 12% pensioners; 36% other (inc. couples with none or no dependant age children, single people inc. temporary housing and HMOs).</p> <p>The largest numbers supported were in Weymouth, Portland, Sturminster Newton and Wareham</p>												
<p>7. Small energy efficiency adaptations</p>	<p>Volunteer Centre Dorset (VCD) have received 208 referrals which come from a range of professional sources</p> <p>Items distributed include heated throws, oversized hoodies, hot water bottles, heated blankets, blankets, radiator foil, microwaves and air fryers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 75% of referrals are for people aged 40 and under • 47% of referrals are for adults living alone • 35% of referral are for households with children • 91% are struggling with utility bills and 35% are on a prepaid meter 												
<p>8. Off grid energy discretionary vouchers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A total of 169 off-grid £150 grants issued by Citizens Advice. - 37 households with children; 88 households with a disability; 42 with a state pension age person; 12 Gypsy Roma Traveller and 23 park home residents • Locations include Bridport 15; Dorchester 40; East Dorset & Purbeck 47; North Dorset 26; Sherborne 18; Weymouth & Portland 23 												
<p>9. Additional pre-school hours for 3–4-year-olds going to school</p>	<p>This additional funding has enabled 134 children in the summer term, 152 children in the autumn term and 161 children in the winter term, to access additional early education hours in their setting of choice. Impact for families included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support with the household with the cost-of-living situation. 												

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ability to access additional paid work. • direct benefit to children’s development from the additional hours in a settled education environment
10. Targeted ‘ready to thrive’ locality programme	<p>Working with a target audience of parents and children who started school in September 2023 in partnership with HomeStart.</p> <p>75 children engaged with the HomeStart 2023 School Readiness programme. The programme of support included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • funding school uniform and other opportunities to increase children’s preparation for the transition into school. • Maths programme for early years settings being rolled out from January 2024 • supporting and celebrating the development and strengthening of parent-child relationships in preparing children for school. • offering children with play activities aligned with key school readiness areas. • Weekly focus groups for families discussing the significance of each area and discovering alternative ways to explore these topics at home
11. Homelessness Prevention	<p>179 households avoided homelessness.</p> <p>A campaign was funded to support where and when to get help if facing a risk of homelessness</p>

4. Budget and Spend Update

4.1 Below is a table that with an update of the spend until the end of Quarter 3 with comments.

No. & Project name	Allocated Budget	Spend to Dec 2023	Narrative
1. Targeted supermarket vouchers	£380,000	£380,000	Breakdown of £350k + £30k administration fee. Full budget now spent.
2. Debt and CoL Advice	£120,000	£120,000	This project was added at the end of Q2 and has been supplemented further by an extra £10,000 from the HSF. Full budget now spent.

3. Healthy Homes Dorset	£375,000	£375,000	Project was reduced from £500,000 to allow reallocation of funds for emerging needs. Full budget now spent.
4. Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP) allowance	£200,000	£17,202	This is the only project that may not meet its full budget allocation by the end of Q4. The reason is that the DHP team can only spend against this once the full Government grant has been allocated. The team are predicting a spend of £131,702 (66%).
5. Disabled Facilities Grant - Energy	£320,000	£288,211	90% spent. The last 10% has been allocated, awaiting invoicing from the contractor.
6. Food security	£70,000	£70,000	Full budget now spent.
7. Small energy efficiency adaptations	£30,000	£30,000	Full budget now spent.
8. Off grid energy discretionary vouchers	£60,000	£19,200	This project was only made available from December 2023. The remaining 68% to be spent in Q4.
9. Additional pre-school hours for 3–4-year-olds going to school	£100,000	£100,000	Full budget now spent.
10. Targeted 'ready to thrive' locality programme	£120,000	£120,000	Full budget now spent.
11. Homelessness Prevention	£125,000	£125,000	Project added for Q2 due to emerging trends. Full budget now spent.

4.2 The only project that funds will need to be allocated from is project no. 4. Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP) allowance who are predicting an underspend of £66,000. A request will be made to SLT to reallocate these funds to enhance projects 1 and 6 as both projects have evidenced increasing demand as the year has progressed and both

may have a detrimental effect on our vulnerable communities if the Government does not extend the Household Support Fund (HSF).

5. **Financial Implications**

This report has no further financial implications following the Cabinet decision of 28 February 2023 to permit a one-off £2 million allocation to support the Cost-of-Living Challenge from the General Fund reserves. The Section 151 officer was satisfied that £2 million could be repurposed from the risk mitigation reserves (on a one-off basis) to fund cost of living activities.

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

The Natural Environment, Climate or Ecology Implications of the allocated funds are evidenced in this report.

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

The impacts of the well-being and health implications of the allocated funds are evidenced in this report.

8. **Risk Assessment**

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

Current Risk: Low

Residual Risk: Medium

Although the £2 million has achieved its purpose and has significantly supported our vulnerable residents to weather the cost-of-living challenge, the challenge has not ended. Emerging trends throughout this financial year have shown that housing issues have become more prevalent. There is a risk that our residents who may have been relying on some of the funded programmes, may not be in a position to bridge the financial gap once the funding support ends at the end of March 2024. Additionally, currently there is no confirmation from Government regarding the future of the Household Support Fund (HSF) which supports many vulnerable people including paying for free school meal vouchers in the school holidays, supermarket vouchers (to support with increased energy prices), grants to foodbanks and social supermarkets and many others.

9. **Equalities Impact Assessment**

Proposals for the Cost-of-Living Challenge Cabinet paper 28 February 2023 were targeted at our most vulnerable residents. Means testing was used where possible to ensure the additional funding reaches those in greatest need.

Our research team undertook extensive data modelling to identify those households in greatest need. Using this data, we were able to identify gaps in national government and local support to date. We worked closely with our VCS partners such as Citizens Advice & Age UK NSW to reach their client base (those identified as struggling at this time).

10. **Appendices**

- Appendix 1 – List of the Cabinet agreed projects of support.
- Appendix 2 – Projects added after Quarter 2
- Appendix 3 – Impacts of the funding by project Quarter 1-3

11. **Background Papers**

- [Cost of Living Challenge Cabinet paper 23rd February 2023](#)

Appendix 1 – Original Project Authorisation by Cabinet February 2023

Directorate	Project detail	Amount	Proactive / Reactive	Links with Council Plan Priorities
Children's services and Customer services	<p>1. Supermarket Vouchers.</p> <p>The HSF R3 has now given out 3000 vouchers in December and January 2023, however the demand far exceeded what we were able to offer from the Government funding. R4 has been confirmed for the spring. This funding will provide 2000 more vouchers and will be administered by our Customer Service teams throughout the year.</p>	<p>£380,000</p> <p>(£350k in vouchers + £30k Admin)</p>	Reactive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating stronger, healthier communities • Driving economic prosperity
Housing / Climate and Ecology	<p>2. Invest in the Healthy Homes Dorset scheme.</p> <p>The £4m HUG2 funding we have applied for has set criteria and will benefit residents who are off grid only. We were successful in our application, this extra funding will complement this provision, offering opportunities for low income on-grid residents who meet the Healthy Homes Dorset requirements. Energy costs are rising, and while there is some support in place, investing in appropriate clean microgeneration schemes i.e., solar, can make a huge difference to people's lives. We have a readymade delivery portal (Healthy Homes Dorset) through which it can be administered.</p>	<p>£500,000</p>	Proactive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating sustainable developments and housing • Creating stronger, healthier communities • Protecting our natural environment, climate and ecology • Driving economic prosperity

Revenue and Benefits.	<p>3. Discretionary Housing Payment allowance.</p> <p>Dorset Council has a fixed annual funding budget from Government and this financial assistance supports those struggling to pay their rent within an eligibility framework. Revenues and Benefits colleagues work closely with our Housing needs team. Payments often prevent eviction and allow short term financial support regarding meeting costs in this area which can assist residents meet other financial demands. We have exceeded our budget allocation this year as demand is increasing and we are monitoring this closely. Additional funding in this area will directly support some of the most vulnerable within an already established legal framework and administration so I would be keen to suggest an allocation to this fund if this additional funding is offered for FY 23-24. May prevent residents from being made homeless. Current homelessness enquiries are up by 31% (Appendix 2)</p>	£200,000	Proactive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating stronger, healthier communities • Becoming a more responsive customer focused council
Housing / Adults services	<p>4. Disabled Facilities Grant - Energy.</p> <p>This grant is given by Government each year to support adaptations to building for disabled residents. However, it does not include energy adaptations such as energy efficient boilers / heat pumps. This would support some of our most vulnerable residents reduce their bills by replacing old inefficient boilers / night storage heaters.</p>	£320,000	Proactive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating sustainable developments and housing • Creating stronger, healthier communities • Becoming a more responsive customer focused council

Communities and Partnerships	<p>5. Food security. Further support for sustainable and affordable food projects such as social supermarkets and foodbanks.</p>	£70,000	Reactive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating stronger, healthier communities • Protecting our natural environment, climate and ecology
Adults, Children's and Housing VCS – VCD/CA to deliver	<p>6. Small energy efficiency adaptations. LED lightbulbs, draught excluders, curtains and curtain rails, electric blankets / blankets / hot water bottles other practical small energy efficiency solutions for low-income families / older people. Links with assessments for slips and trips. Operated in partnership with already existing handyman services in VCD / CA or Age UK NSW</p>	£30,000	Reactive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating stronger, healthier communities • Becoming a more responsive customer focused council • Protecting our natural environment, climate and ecology
Children's services	<p>7. Additional hours for early years children going to school in Sept 2023. Working families can be eligible for 30 hours childcare but this is not an option for everyone. Some parents may not be able to work because of the costs of childcare. This additional hours for the summer term will support parents to increase access to work and help to alleviate some of the impact of the cost of impact. This will also support early years development as these children were aged 1-2 years during the pandemic. Many have delays in their personal, social, and emotional development & communication and language. This will have a long-term impact on their learning in school.</p>	£100,000	Proactive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Driving economic prosperity • Creating stronger, healthier communities • Becoming a more responsive customer focused council

Communities and Partnerships	<p>8. Off Grid energy discretionary support vouchers (Oil & Calor Gas).</p> <p>Dorset has approximately 42,000 households off grid and using our modelled data sets, we predict circa 15% of these will have a low income of u£30,000 (6200 households). The government oil scheme has not paid out anything yet (proposed payments of £400 due February via their electric bills).</p> <p>This proposal would be for Citizens Advice to means test those residents in need who have off grid and have the facility to offer vouchers to offset the high price of purchasing the oil / calor gas.</p> <p>This will complement the Government scheme, whilst targeting those most in need.</p> <p>To be released in Winter 2023 dependant of further Government support.</p>	<p>£280,000</p> <p>(£250K support, £30,000 admin)</p>	Reactive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating stronger, healthier communities • Becoming a more responsive customer focused council
Children's services	<p>9. School readiness programme 'Ready to Thrive'.</p> <p>In Sept 2022, 3369 children started school, some without the necessary skills to start their learning journey in school.</p> <p>With this targeted initiative to provide intensive support involving Home Start & locality staff in the home and in the community for identified families with the aim for all children to achieve a Good Level of Development at the end of Reception impacting on long-term outcomes</p> <p>£20k per Children's Services locality</p>	<p>£120,000</p>	Proactive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Driving economic prosperity • Creating stronger, healthier communities • Becoming a more responsive customer focused council

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Appendix 2 – Projects added after Quarter 2 due to emerging Trends

Directorate	Project Detail	Amount	Proactive / Reactive	Links with Council Plan Priorities
Housing	<p>1. Homelessness Prevention</p> <p>As the cost of living continues to affect residents, our homelessness teams are seeing significant increase in residents not being able to afford private rents/mortgages and therefore at risk of losing their homes and falling to our homelessness teams to rehouse them. Many of these are in the private rented and homeowners fall outside if the Discretionary Housing Allowance criteria so cannot be supported under this programme. Last Financial year the Housing Advice and Homelessness service paid out the following to prevent homelessness: Rent in advance payments £81,015 Deposit Payments £33,500 Arrears Payments £33,000</p> <p>The HP team will continue with the work with Shelter and Citizens Advice on the awareness campaign about early help</p> <p>Breakdown of costings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Awareness campaign £8,000 - Rent in advance payments £60,000 - Deposit Payments £28,500 - Arrears Payments £28,500 	£125,000	Proactive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creating stronger, healthier communities - Becoming a more responsive customer focused council

Citizens Advice & Communities and Partnerships	<p>2. Debt and Cost of Living Advice</p> <p>Extension to the Fixed Term Contract 3 FTE specialist caseworkers at Citizens Advice who support residents with Cost of Living and debt advice.</p>	£120,000	Reactive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creating stronger, healthier communities - Becoming a more responsive customer focused council

Appendix 3 – Impacts of the Project Breakdown Quarter 1-3 (April – December 2023)

Project number	Project name	Impact
1	Supermarket Vouchers.	<p>The full £380,000 has been spent (£350,000 in supermarket vouchers and £30,000 in administration fees).</p> <p>2,333 additional applications have been approved due to the additional funding received. Demand has increased each month for the £150 vouchers, with the window often closing within the same day it opens.</p> <p>The Household Support Fund Round 4 (which was the original vouchers) is currently due to close after March 2024. The scheme will have awarded a total of £1.8m or 12,000 by 31 March 2024 in partnership with Citizens Advice.</p>
2	Debt and CoL Advice	<p>Providing an extension for the 3 FTE specialist debt caseworkers, originally funded by COMF funding due to the significant increase in demand. Debt issues increased by 22% and requests for benefits & tax credits increased by 20%; Utilities and Communications support issues increased by 16% and foodbank and charitable support issues increased by 12% in the period August 2022-23. The specialist debt caseworkers commenced in Q2 and so far have had the following impact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 298 Clients helped • 1,376 Issues supported • £259,358 in financial gains for clients
3	Invest in the Healthy Homes Dorset scheme.	<p>86 households benefitted</p> <p>77 households were low income</p> <p>69 households had a long term illness or disability</p> <p>80 properties were classed as Park Homes</p>
4	Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP) allowance.	<p>This project was always going to be spent in Q4 due to the requirement that the team must fully spend the grant they receive from Government prior to spending any further funds. The impact of having this additional funding available, is that the DHP team have been able to make longer term financial decisions which will keep residents in their homes for longer. A full</p>

		report on the impact will be made available after Q4 as part of the wider analysis of the funding.												
5	Disabled Facilities Grant - Energy.	<p>End of Q3 31 December 2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 58 Grants either completed or awaiting completion. • Total spend allocated to these grants - up to end Q3 is £288,211 • 90% of budget now spent or allocated. • Applicants must meet the criteria for the funding – are disabled either by mental, physical, learning disability, sensory disability. • Applicants are located across Dorset <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Areas of work</th> <th>Number of Jobs</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Doors and windows (replaced / repaired)</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>New heating system installed</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Park home insulation installed</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Replacement boiler/boiler repair</td> <td>43</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Roof insulation</td> <td>4</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Areas of work	Number of Jobs	Doors and windows (replaced / repaired)	6	New heating system installed	4	Park home insulation installed	1	Replacement boiler/boiler repair	43	Roof insulation	4
Areas of work	Number of Jobs													
Doors and windows (replaced / repaired)	6													
New heating system installed	4													
Park home insulation installed	1													
Replacement boiler/boiler repair	43													
Roof insulation	4													
6	Food security.	Food projects funded support to over 4306 households per month. Funded food projects included 5 social supermarkets, 19 foodbanks and we were able to support a grant to the Friendly Food Club to offer 2 cooking courses in Littlemoor and the Park District to support health, wellbeing and budget outcomes along with train the trainer sessions for communities wanting to offer community cookery sessions.												

		<p>29% were to families with children; 23% disability (physical, mental health, learning disability, sensory); 12% pensioners; 36% other (inc. couples with none or no dependant age children, single people inc. temporary housing and HMO's).</p> <p>The largest numbers supported were in Weymouth, Portland, Sturminster Newton and Wareham</p>
7	Small energy efficiency adaptations.	<p>Volunteer Centre Dorset have delivered this project, distributing 1173 items so far.</p> <p>They have received 208 referrals to date which come from a range of professional sources including: social workers, social prescribers, The Lantern and Shelter, Housing Associations, Citizens Advice Energy Advice Unit, Millbrook Sight and Hearing Team etc.</p> <p>Items distributed include heated throws, oversized hoodies, hot water bottles, heated blankets, blankets, radiator foil, microwaves and air fryers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ¾ of referrals are for people aged 40 and under • 47% of referrals are for adults living alone • 35% of referral are for households with children • 91% report they are struggling with utility bills and 35% are on a prepaid meter. <p>All referrals receive a benefit of some kind to boost their income, most have mental health needs, a long-term condition, physical disability and/or learning disability.</p>
8	Additional hours for early years children going to school in Sept 2023.	<p>This additional funding has enabled 134 children in the summer term, 152 children in the autumn term and 161 children so far this term, to access additional early education hours in their setting of choice.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact for families included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ support with the household with the cost-of-living situation. ○ ability to access additional paid work. ○ direct benefit to children's development from the additional hours noted below

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent feedback on the impact included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊖ Helped my child prepare for school. ○ It was a great way for our child to be social and access learning. ○ He went in a couple of extra sessions after I'd had an operation. He went somewhere where he was safe and settled and I knew he was somewhere that I could trust he was looked after, and his needs met. ○ Allowed the children to have more time in their peer group. ○ It gave our child three full days at pre-school which she enjoyed and needed. ○ Helped with speech and socialisation. ○ More settled at nursery and better prepared for school. • Provider feedback on the impact included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This was so valuable as I know without the extra sessions and a gap between leaving my setting and starting school, would have resulted in steps backwards for this child. ○ I know the parents were very grateful for the extra funding, and they have asked me to pass on their thanks. ○ The extra boost hours were really useful for some of our families as it enabled them to take on a few additional hours work. ○ The additional hours were beneficial for this child's development in preparation for school. ○ This helped mum as she has mental health issues. ○ This was a great way to support one of my children to become school ready in the final term of nursery. ○ Benefitted from personal, social, and emotional development by attending the setting more regularly as he was also needing regular focussed activities to support this area due to his special educational needs.
9	Off Grid energy discretionary support vouchers (Oil & Calor Gas).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A total of 169 off-grid £150 grants issued by Citizen's Advice. Including 37 households with children; 88 households with a disability; 42 with a state pension age person; 12 Gypsy Roma Traveller and 23 park home residents

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locations include Bridport 15; Dorchester 40; East Dorset & Purbeck 47; North Dorset 26; Sherborne 18; Weymouth & Portland 23
10	School readiness programme 'Ready to Thrive'.	<p>School readiness programme 'Ready to Thrive'.</p> <p>Working alongside HomeStart to deliver the Big Hopes Big Futures to a target audience of parents and children who started school in September 2023.</p> <p>75 children engaged with the HomeStart 2023 School Readiness programme. Families told us</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • they were less anxious sending their children to school • the sessions helped parents overcome common fears • there was an improvement in toilet trained children starting school • they felt more confident in supporting her child with school ready activities over the summer. <p>The 'Ready to Thrive' project also included funding school uniform and other opportunities to increase children's preparation for the transition into school. This supported parents who struggled to pay for school uniform because of the cost-of-living increases.</p> <p>We know that our girls in school are not achieving as well as boys in maths. To support the work of the Dorset Education Board and help our girls to be 'ready to thrive' we funded a Maths programme for early years settings. This is being rolled out from January 2024 and we will be able to provide evidence of impact at the end of the EYFS year for those children.</p> <p>In Chesil there was collaboration between our Activity & Parenting Workers and Home-Start Facilitator, along with dedicated volunteers, which significantly contributed to the success of the program. This included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • supporting and celebrating the development and strengthening of parent-child relationships in preparing children for school. • offering children with play activities aligned with key school readiness areas.

		<p>Weekly focus groups for families discussing the significance of each area and discovering alternative ways to explore these topics at home</p> <p>We will expand on this work this year in preparation for school starters in September 2024 and include partners in the Library Service, Health, and Education providers.</p>
11	Homelessness prevention	<p>As the cost of living continues to affect residents, our homelessness teams are seeing significant increase in residents not being able to afford private rents/mortgages and therefore at risk of losing their homes and falling to our homelessness teams to rehouse them. Many of these are in the private rented and homeowners fall outside if the Discretionary Housing Allowance criteria so cannot be supported under this programme.</p> <p>The funding agreed last year helped 179 households avoid homelessness.</p>

People and Health Scrutiny Committee

7th March 2024

SEND Delivery Strategy

For Review and Consultation

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

Local Councillor(s): All

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

Report Author: Amanda Davis
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Report Status: Public

Brief Summary: This paper provides an update on the SEND Capital Strategy within the broader context of the SEND Strategy.

Recommendation:

Our current SEND Strategy is due for formal review this year. We are clear on where we have made good progress for children and young people and where we need to strengthen practice overall. The SEND Capital Strategy is key to delivering our priorities and in meeting the needs of our children and young people. This paper offers a high-level overview of the delivery of our SEND Strategy and the SEND Capital Strategy.

It is recommended that:

- members consider progress made and provide support and challenge to our ongoing work for children and young people with additional needs.

Reason for Recommendation:

The number of children and young people requiring SEND support continues to increase. Since 2022 there has been a national increase of pupils in schools with

education health and care needs of 9.5% and a 4.7% increase in children and young people requiring Special Educational Needs support. In Dorset, 4.8% of our children have an Education Health and Care Plan, compared to 4.4% in 2022.

It is imperative that our local area partnership strategy and our council capital strategy continues to deliver for children and young people needing additional support and specialist provision to realise our ambition for our children and young people to have the best start in life.

1. **Background**

HM's Government's Special Educational Needs (SEND) and Alternative Provision (AP) Improvement Plan (March 2023) has highlighted the need for comprehensive improvement in services for our children and families, to ensure they can access the right help, in the right place and at the right time. Meeting needs closer to home means less education travel required, which reduces the impact SEND has on climate change.

Our Dorset SEND strategy has upheld this ambition since 2020 and we have made good progress as a partnership, in meeting the needs of our children and families. There remains more to do, not least because many of our children have been adversely impacted by the pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis, which can be particularly problematic for families with a child with additional needs.

Our SEND Strategy priorities 2020 – 2024:

- Early Identification and Support
- Inclusion
- SEND Pathway
- SEND Provision and Sufficiency
- Transitions and Preparations for Adulthood
- Managing Money and Resources

The need for continued effort in all priorities is broadly agreed across the partnership, with good progress made in each area.

1.1 **Partnership**

The wellbeing of our children and young people is reliant on effective working relationships. We have a strong approach with jointly commissioned posts and combined workforce development. We also have a framework that supports our commitment to working together.

Through recent changes in the integrated health system, we have sustained effective relationships to enable continuity in key elements of our strategy.

Dorset Council also provides leadership to SEND in the region and hosts the Southwest Regional SEND Coordinator, Dr Vikki Jervis. This enables best practice to be shared within the Southwest and a local approach to some national challenges and those unique to our region.

Our partnership is deeply committed to co-production of services with our children, young people and families and we continue to commission independent advocacy for families through Dorset SEN and Disability, Information and Advice Service (SENDIASS).

We work together to understand the needs of local children, young people and their families, so that we can commission and provide services that are inclusive and make a positive difference.

1.2 **Governance**

Our partnership work is now overseen by our SEND Partnership Board which had its inaugural meeting in summer 2023. The board has membership from across the partnership to enable mutual accountability. The board also reports to the Dorset Education Board. When appropriate, there is additional oversight through the Strengthening Services Board.

1.3 **Early Identification and Support**

Our partnership commitment to *Early Identification and Support* has enabled early and timely support for many children and young people. Our multi-disciplinary locality teams and commitment to providing early help has enabled us to offer support at an early point, with positive impact on children and families.

There is an increasing number of requests for children for an Education Health and Care Needs Assessment. This assessment helps the local authority decide whether we should issue an Education Health and Care Plan.

Our track record for meeting the 6-week deadline of deciding whether to issue a plan is consistently strong and better than regional and national performance.

Our panels that enable decisions to be made in a timely way and authorise spend within the Scheme of Delegation include membership from Dorset Council and the NHS. We are also introducing education settings to decision making panels.

The SEND Partnership Board has provided support and challenge to the partnership, seeking further work on meeting needs early, to include strengthening the offer for babies and children under five and ensuring that children awaiting diagnosis are provided with earlier support. There are initiatives such as “Waiting Well” that are proving to make a difference to families in other areas, and therefore we support these being developed in Dorset.

1.4 **Inclusion**

We also wish to continue the work we have undertaken to improve children and young people’s experiences of *Inclusion*. Our summer conferences on the theme of “Belonging” last summer provided a clear mandate for nurturing a sense of belonging in communities and in educational settings, with guest speakers detailing their own lived experience of how a system can enable belonging to enhance learning and emotional wellbeing.

Mary Myatt gave a keynote speech on the importance of an aspirational curriculum for all children, including those with SEND. In Dorset, academic outcomes for children with SEND is broadly positive. In Key stages 1 and 2, outcomes for CYP with SEND are continuing to improve and sit generally above average levels when compared to national data.

We know that we need to improve outcomes in Writing and Maths at KS2 for children and young people with SEND and their peers.

We have worked closely with our schools to promote belonging and inclusion. Our officers have facilitated collaborative workshops in each locality, to consider ways of meeting increasing needs for our children whilst reducing spend in the High Needs Block. More schools have offered to host Inclusion Hubs because of this work. Having local provision in

inclusion hubs means that children do not have to travel so far and so reduces the impact on the climate in Dorset and beyond.

Our Local Alliance Groups have each held a fund of £100,000 from general funds to support local projects that promote and facilitate inclusion, in its broadest sense. This has enabled innovative projects for communities, often with schools and settings as lead partners. This has led to projects such as walking buses in Weymouth, family cooking sessions, and an improved learning environment at Dorchester Hospital School. This fund will continue next year due to the evidence of positive impact made.

We are exploring ways of developing good quality provision in each area, that will enable our ambition for children and young people, where appropriate, to attend their local setting, close to home. This work is being reported into Schools Forum and the SEND Partnership Board to ensure transparency and robust oversight of the projects emerging from this collaboration. Measures have also been agreed to ensure we track impact on children and families as well as on spend. Reducing travel times, travel cost and environmental and climate impact are also achieved with this approach.

1.5 **SEND Pathway**

We have developed and refined our *SEND Pathway* for children and young people, to ensure help can be accessed at the right time and in the right place. Our leadership of the review of Child Adolescent and Mental Health Services (CAMHS) will enable swifter access to services through our integrated front door, for example. There is now more Mental Health in Schools support and this continues to grow.

We feel this will be further bolstered through the enhanced staffing in our locality teams, to include additional youth workers who will be working closely with schools and our enhanced front door to include the Dorset Education Advice Line.

We have also ensured our officers can focus on Education Health and Care Plan (EHCPs) and the Annual Reviews that are instrumental in celebrating children's achievements and ensuring they have the right provision.

Our partnership working is further strengthened by current transformation programmes including the Speech, Language and Communication Needs Service and the All-age Neuro-developmental Review.

1.6 **SEND Provision and Sufficiency**

Our priority for increasing *SEND Provision and Sufficiency* has enabled 809 places to be considered for development. Of these, 579 are being delivered by Dorset Council and 230 are being delivered by the Department for Education.

We anticipate that in ensuring there are contingencies, we will achieve a better range of provision in Dorset, fit to meet the emerging and changing needs of our children and young people. These are the places agreed through the £40 million authorised through Cabinet, and further places to enhance inclusion in our settings and develop higher quality provision.

Of the 500 agreed as part of the Safety Valve, 281 places have been delivered. These are at The Harbour School, Coombe House School, Ferndown Upper School, Gillingham School, St Mary's Bridport, Yewstock, Beaucroft, Westfield and Bincombe Valley.

We expect to deliver the full 500 required by the Safety Valve by academic year 2024/25. This includes the Department for Education free school at Osprey Quay, which has experienced delays but is now expected to be delivered by September 2025.

The SEND programme goes further than the Safety Valve requirements of 500 places, to have 809 additional places in train across Dorset. The impact of having more local places in inclusion hubs as well as increasing special schools in areas of high need, will reduce the impact of SEND on the climate.

To help realise our partnership ambition for even more inclusion hubs and better learning environments, we submitted a bid for capital funding from the Department for Education, for £13.6 million, for 116 places in January 2024.

1.7 **Transitions and Preparations for Adulthood**

This priority is largely managed and planned through the Birth to Settled Adulthood Programme, that has provided separate reports to committee.

We have a good opportunity to enhance education provision in our further education settings through the merger of Weymouth College and Kingston Maurward. Weymouth College manage a range of programmes that young people with SEND benefit from, including an outreach programme and dedicated provision at the college.

Kingston Maurward has a designated Higher Education base that could potentially be developed further to reach more students and offer exciting higher education options within our county.

We want to enhance skills and increase the employment opportunities for our young people with additional needs. Dorset currently sees a higher proportion of our young people remaining in education than in other similar local authorities and we would like to broaden the range of opportunities young people can pursue as they move into independence and adult life.

1.8 Managing Money and Resources

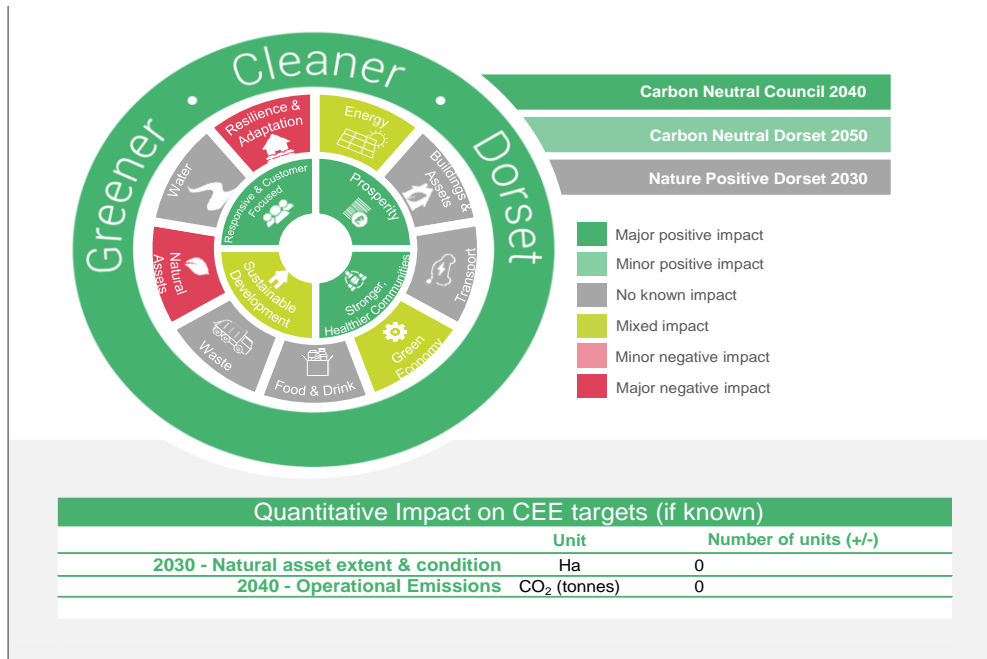
This priority remains a challenge within a broader context of our schools being some of the lowest funded in the country and the national increase in SEND related costs for local authorities. However, our deep collaboration with our settings and the combination of robust financial management, savings realised through our transformation projects and investment through the Families First for Children Pathfinder and Family Hubs has enabled us to remain steady and enhance our early support to families.

The Department for Education and IMPOWER (independent consultants with specialism in SEND) have stated that our plans to reduce spend are suitably ambitious and detailed. IMPOWER have provided support to our Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators in schools in the West of the county and are now working with schools in the East to expand the successful approaches to supporting children and families at an early point.

2. Financial Implications

There are no new financial implications for the council as capital funding was previously agreed to support the projects described. Our bid to the Department for Education will enable further growth in specialist places if we are successful.

3. Natural Environment, Climate & Ecology Implications



Please see SEND Capital Strategy 2020 – 2025 (Appendix 2) to see detail on capital builds.

The impact of having more provision and more *local* provision, will impact on the travel needed to access these places and so reduce the impact on the environment.

In the development of each project environmental and climate impact is considered. For example, pursuing new build options over remodelling and refurbishment means that the future impact of the building is minimised and the use of renewable sources of energy can be included. With new build it is easier to minimise future energy consumption by the building and its operation.

The impact of constructing new build can be mitigated by adopting Modern Methods of Construction and off-site approaches that improve the quality of the completed building and reduce environmental and climate impact.

4. Well-being and Health Implications

The purpose of the SEND Strategy is to enhance the health and wellbeing of our residents and to ensure their needs are met, wherever possible, within our county and close to home.

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**

The purpose of the SEND strategy is to have a positive impact on our residents and to enhance equity and equality.

8. **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – SEND Strategy 2020 - 2024

Appendix 2 – SEND Capital Strategy 2020 - 2025

9. **Background Papers**

[Partnership Framework](#)

[Children, Young People and Families Plan 2023 – 2033](#)

[The SEND and Alternative Provision Improvement Plan](#)

10. **Report Sign Off**

11.1 This report has been through the internal report clearance process and has been signed off by the Director for Legal and Democratic (Monitoring Officer), the Executive Director for Corporate Development (Section 151 Officer) and the appropriate Portfolio Holder(s)

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Dorset
Council



Dorset

Clinical Commissioning Group



Dorset Parent-Carer Council

DORSET COUNCIL

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES STRATEGY

2021 – 2024

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Our Vision for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) in Dorset

Our vision is clear and focused:

“We want our children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) to be healthy, happy and safe, and able to achieve their potential to lead a fulfilling life. We want them to have, and to expect, the same opportunities in life as other children and young people.”

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

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

Our Commitment

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

- Embed co-production across all aspects of our work so that parent carers and children and young people with SEND are recognised as equal partners and are fully involved in decision making;
- Work in partnership to promote transparency and consistency in decision making and delivery of support;
- Embrace new ways of working to support and enable innovative practice;
- Commit to identify and understand the challenges faced by our families who have children with SEND;
- Commit to providing good quality services with clear and accessible information;
- Prepare young people for adult life and independence from the earliest years; and
- Ensure that moves between services or changes in provision and support across all ages are smooth, seamless and supportive.

Improving our Services – what our Children, Young People and Families say:

We work in partnership with Dorset Parent Carer Council and listen to our families with children and young people with SEND. We will continue to be ambitious and continuously

improve our services so they can positively impact the lives of our children and young people.

In January 2021 we issued a SEND parent carer survey and families told us that:

What we do well - our parents and carers have told us the following:

- Families who are supported by locality teams have had positive experiences;
- Positive experience from families working with our wider SEND system including Education, Health and Care, who support SEND families;
- Families who are supported have had positive experiences through the EHC Plan process within their educational settings;
- Families have had positive experiences of the EHC Plan annual review process within their educational settings;
- Positive experiences from families through the graduated approach at SEN support within their educational settings;
- Positive experiences from families with their SEND travel arrangements; and
- Our newsletters and advice letters realise good take up and engagement from SEND families.

However, for others there are areas of our SEND system which can be difficult, and their experiences are that:

- understanding how the system works is difficult, this means that they can feel lost and sometimes find it difficult to find out what is available for their child
- they worry their child will struggle to 'fit in' or make friends and cannot always access services e.g. out of hours school provision or after school clubs
- there is too long a wait for some assessments and therapies e.g. Speech and Language Therapy and Educational Psychology and not enough of these services;
- some feel that getting an EHC Plan is the only way of accessing the support their child needs
- services are often not joined up, don't always work together and families have to give the same information repeatedly, to different teams
- they worry the County hasn't got the right range of educational provision to meet their child's or young person's needs, and sometimes that there is not enough of it;
- they worry about how their children are supported in mainstream schools;
- their child with SEND, their siblings and themselves as parent carers, are facing increasing levels of anxiety and poor mental health; and
- they are concerned about their child's future, and the 'cliff-edge' of adult services.

Improving our strategy means that our children and their families in the future will say that:

- we are listened to and respected;
- our needs are understood, acknowledged, and provided for;
- our voice and views are at the heart of all decision making for our child;
- we are involved in co-production of services and support at all levels of the system;
- we have access to good quality and impartial information, advice, and support;
- we have regular communication that is tailored to specific needs;
- our needs are identified early;
- the pathways to access help are transparent and equitable;
- we have more help from a range of agencies for our children and young people on SEN Support;
- we can access a variety of short breaks and after school activities;
- the professionals that work in partnership with parents are well trained and empathetic, and work flexibly around us with a person centred approach;
- we are welcomed and included, and we are accessing education, social and leisure opportunities within our local community;
- we are no longer excluded from schools; and
- we know what to expect and when moving from children's to adult's services; planning for adult life starts early is person-centred and aspirational.

The National Context

Since the introduction of the Children and Families Act reforms in 2014, we have used data to better understand our SEND children and young people so that we are able to commission the right education, health and care services. New strategies have been formed to ensure that provision is improved and more of our children can and will remain in their local communities, an example of such is the Capital SEND strategy 2020-2025.

Dorset is committed to inclusion in mainstream and we firmly believe every teacher is a teacher of special needs. Therefore, building the capabilities of our mainstream schools to support more children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities will ensure more children can attend a local school.

Strengthening the capacity of our whole school system, maintained and academies support more children in mainstream and meeting need at every is at the core of our strategy. However, we recognise that whilst most children and young people will be supported in a mainstream school, some need more specialist support in specialist provision.

The Dorset Council Plan 2020-2024 sets out that the Council will provide more specialist education for children with complex communication and learning needs. The published

Children and Young People Plan 2020-2023 develops the strategy further within its key priority area: Best Education for All. This priority area is supported by the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Capital Strategy 2020-25, which will create approximately 500 places across Dorset, including 280 places at the former St Mary's site, places will start to be available from January 2022.

There are currently two Free School (Special School) projects underway with the Department for Education (DfE) to expand specialist provision for Dorset. The first of these is Harbour School, which is set to create 160 places for children and young people aged 9 – 19 years old. They plan to have 96 places for children and young people with Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC) and 64 places for children and young people with high functioning Social, emotional and mental health needs. The school is currently open with a small number of students in temporary accommodation while the DfE build a new school on the old Bovington Middle School site. The project has a planned completion date of September 2022.

The second project is a planned 75 place free school which was granted a capital allocation in 2019. The DfE have undertaken a long-term feasibility study on a site and are now working toward the opening of a new Special Free School in Osprey Quay in September 2023 which will support children and young people with SEND in the 14-19 age range.

Over the last 12 months we have worked with Dorset Parent Carer Council, our early years settings, schools, and other education providers to identify the changing needs of our SEND population. We have listened to what we need to improve in our local services so that we can meet the needs of our SEND children and families. The introduction of our Locality teams brings together colleagues from across Early Years, Early Help, Children's Social Care, Educational Psychology, SEND and Inclusion services under the leadership of new Heads of Locality and Strategy that link together with our CCG Health partners. We are explicit that "SEND is everyone's business".

Through the new integrated structure, colleagues work in multi-agency integrated teams with a line manager for their locality. Everyone in the team has access to the specialist expertise they need to support children and young people early. The key outcome for our SEND children and young people, is that the practitioner support they are receiving through our graduated approach is based locally, in a team that have closer familiarity with the educational settings, communities and with coordinated across education, health and care.

Specifically, within early years, we have recently changed our approach to Early SEND Support funding, and this is now open for all children not only those who are accessing 2, 3 or 4-year-olds funding.

Portage Consultants support children where concerns are related to social communication and associated difficulties that are not age appropriate, significant global developmental and / or physical delay or disorder, difficulties associated with a diagnosed medical condition or syndrome which may indicate long term, complex needs or continued lack of progress despite targeted interventions having been put into place.

Our approach allows us to understand more about children's needs earlier and to use that information to inform our planning for the next stage in the child's life in preparation for moving onto school.

This year, Adults and Children's Social Care in partnership with Dorset's Education Service commissioned a report into the Birth to Settled Adulthood offer (summer 2021). The review identified the need for an improvement programme. Activity to refresh the joint vision and priorities across the Dorset partnership, as well as focused work on earlier co-production to ensure that those young people who require support as they transition to adulthood are able to be fully involved in their journey.

Progress in Dorset since 2017

Between 23 January and 27 January 2017, Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) conducted a joint inspection of the Dorset local area to judge its effectiveness in implementing the special educational needs and disability (SEND) reforms set out in the Children and Families Act 2014. As a result of the findings of the inspection, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector (HMCI) determined that a Written Statement of Action was required to address four areas of significant weakness in the local area's practice. The former Dorset County Council (DCC) and the NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) are jointly responsible for submitting the written statement.

As part of Ofsted's revisit in February 2019, inspectors were of the opinion that local area had made sufficient progress in two of the four areas identified, however the local area had not made sufficient progress to improve the two remaining areas of weaknesses and sustained the Written Statement of Action.

The Department for Education met with the Local Area the on 11 January 2021 to discuss progress against the Local Area's Accelerated Progress Plan. In response to the progress made by the Local Area, the Department for Education stated that:

- "We are reassured that the strength and commitment of current leaders within the LA and CCG will continue improvements across the SEND system throughout Dorset."
- "Based on the evidence provided, the Department and NHS England have concluded that you have demonstrated clear and sustained progress. This means that Dorset no longer requires formal monitoring of its SEND system."

The consensus of the Department for Education's view with that of the Local Area's own self-assessment of the progress made since monitoring began, demonstrates the strength and commitment of the local area leadership to continue improvements across the SEND system throughout Dorset.

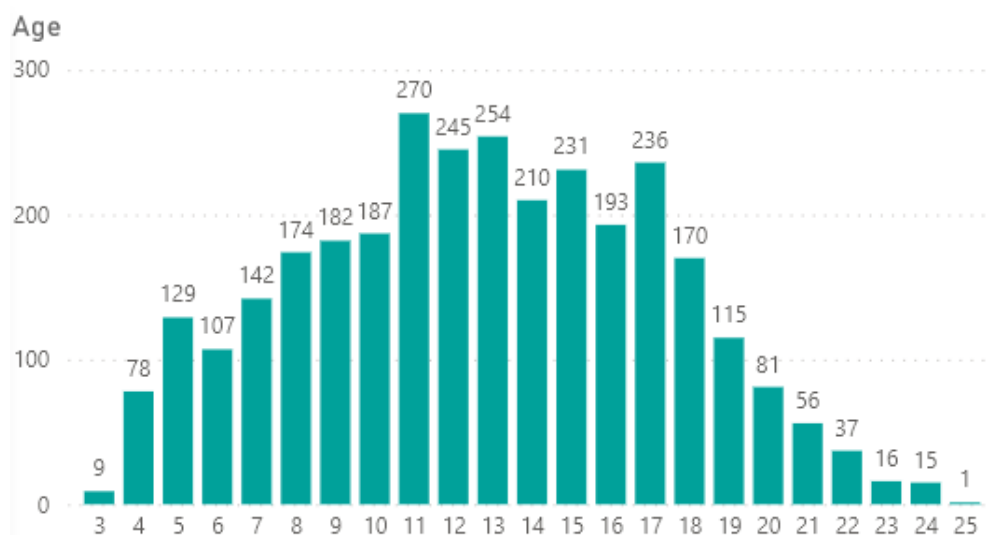
The Local Context – SEND Statistics and Dorset

The total population of Dorset is 378,508 (2019 mid-year estimate), this includes 74,765 children and young people aged 0-19 representing 20% of the total population (89,573 aged 0-24).

We have 159 schools in Dorset - 1 All through School, 36 First Schools, 2 Infant Schools, 2 Junior Schools, 10 Middle Schools, 80 Primary Schools, 4 Pupil Referral Units, 15 Secondary Schools, 6 Special Schools and 3 Upper Schools. There are 34 different languages spoken in Dorset schools. 5% of school age children are from black and minority ethnic communities compared to 35% nationally.

Early years age children – SEND profile (January 2020)

From school census data 2020/21 the most common primary need for children under 5 is speech, language, and communication needs (639 children, 10% have an EHCP in place) followed by Social, Emotional and Mental Health (102 children, 15% have an EHCP in place). The majority of these children receive SEN Support.



In the January 2021 early years census, 78 children under 5 were able to access further support through Disability Access Funding in their local setting. A total of 5,945 children accessed 2, 3 and 4-year-old early education funding.

In 2020-21, 205 children were supported to access early education and childcare through their early years setting applying for Early SEND Support funding. 29% of this cohort are boys who have communication and language needs and 7% are girls. 5% of the cohort are boys with PSED and 2.5% are girls.

School Age children and Young People – SEND Profile Statistics (July 2021)

The profile of SEND and educational outcomes in Dorset shows that

4% of our children in Dorset Schools have an Education, Care and Health plan with a further 14% accessing SEN Support. These figures are in line with the National profile for EHCPs at: 4%, the SEN Support national average is 12% meaning that Dorset is slightly higher in this regard. The table shows how this picture has changed over time.

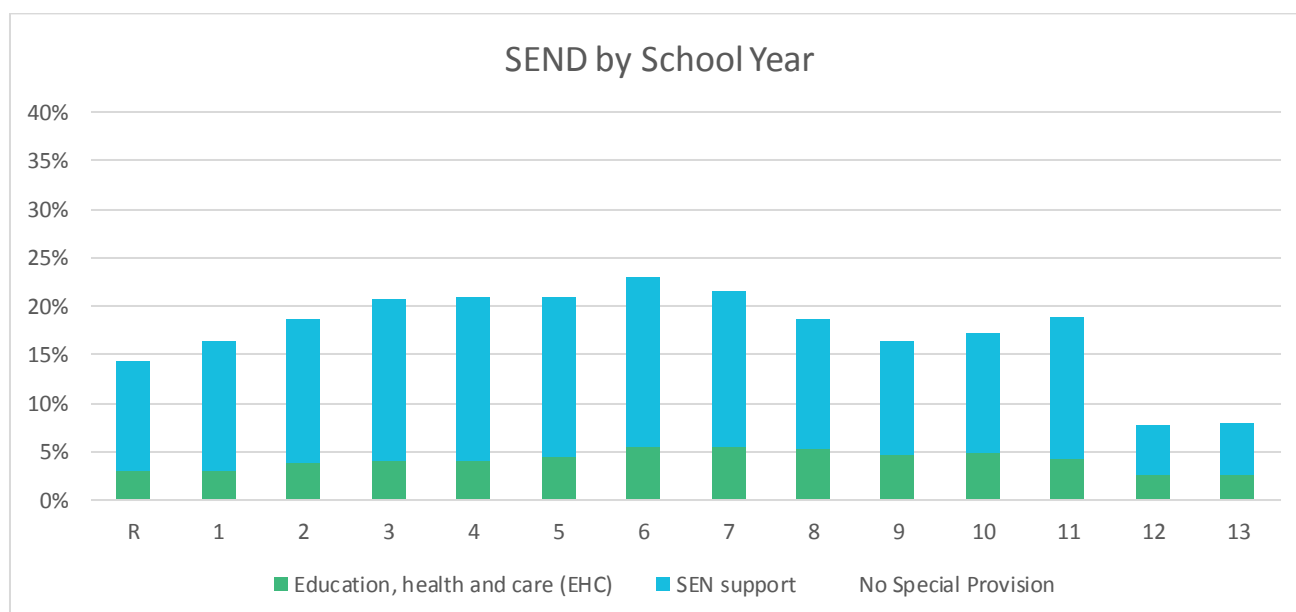
Total SEN	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Dorset	16%	16%	18%	17%	15%	18%
South West	15%	15%	16%	15%	16%	17%
National	14%	14%	15%	15%	15%	16%

Gender: Children with SEND are more likely to be boys; 64% of Dorset SEND are boys (62% SEN Support and 73% EHCP) – this is in line with National and South West. There are variations by primary need: for Autism Spectrum Condition it is 75% and for Speech and Language Difficulties it is 72%.

Free School Meals: 18% of children are FSM Eligible in Dorset, 30% of SEN Support are and 36% of EHC. As with Gender there are differences by primary need: 41% of SEMH children are eligible for FSM.

Deprivation: The Income deprivation indicator affecting children index (IDACI) splits all areas in the country into 10 deciles. Whilst Dorset is amongst the least deprived areas in the country there are areas of deprivation within the county. SEND children tend to come from areas with higher deprivation – 19% of PMLD children live in the 2 most deprived deciles, compared to 7% of non-SEND children; for SEMH children it is 13%.

The table below shows our SEND children and young people by school year.



For our Post 16 learners at FE College or Specialist post 16 institutions the following applies:

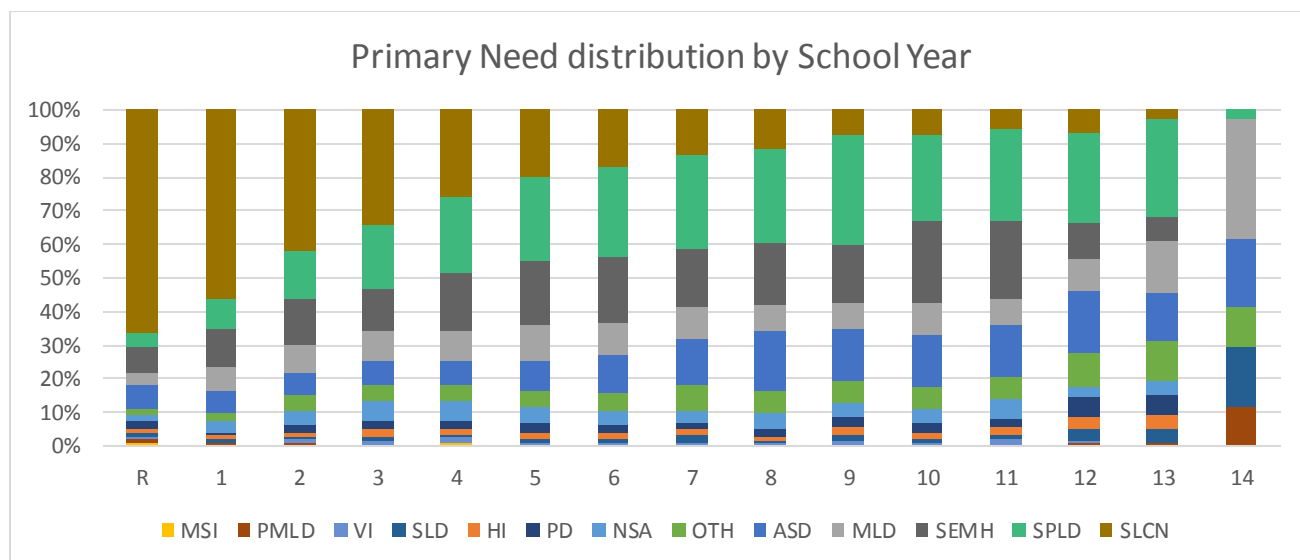
- Number 16-24 year old Dorset residents with EHCP learning at FE Colleges - 325
- Number 16-24 year old Dorset residents with EHCP learning at Special Post 16 institutions – 134.

We celebrate the work of our sixth forms and colleges and are continuing to build on our strong relationships with them to look at how we can enhance their provision.

Areas of Need

The first most common primary need in Dorset is Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC) (28% of the EHCP cohort); the national average is 30%. The second most common primary need is Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) at 21% of the EHCP cohort; the national average is 14%. The third most common primary need is Speech, Language and Communications needs (SLCN) - 16% of the EHCP cohort; the national average is 15%. Together these primary needs make up 65% of the cohort.

The table overleaf shows how primary need changes by school year. It demonstrates that Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) are distributed more towards primary years, whilst specific learning difficulties are towards the older years.



Educational settings for children and young people with an EHCP

Dorset's profile for education placements for our children young people is broadly similar to the profile in the South West. We have 41% of our children and young people with SEND accessing education in mainstream settings, compared with 43% in the South West and 40% nationally. A further 34% are placed in special schools compared to 31% in the South West and 36% nationally. 13% of our young people are in receipt of education through

Further Education colleges compared to 16% in the South West and 17% nationally, Dorset currently has 3% accessing Alternative Provision which is a higher profile when compared with the South West at 1% and the national profile at 1%, our Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET) cohort currently stands at 2% and is below the South West average at 4% and national average at 2.5%.

The remaining percentages constitutes those who are either within Early Years Provision or being Electively Home Educated or Educated Elsewhere. The profile for these placements follows national and South West trends.

This means that a focus is needed to reduce the number of children and young people in Alternative provision through an increase in focus on inclusive education in our mainstream settings. We must also focus on ensuring that more of our young people can access Further Education in their communities to support their future plans.

Educational Outcomes for children and young people with SEND (data is 2019 due to delays from COVID Education data sets)

Nationally and in Dorset children and young people with SEND do not achieve academically in line with their peers across all phases of education. This is a key area of focus for the Council. The information below provides an overview of Dorset's current educational outcomes:

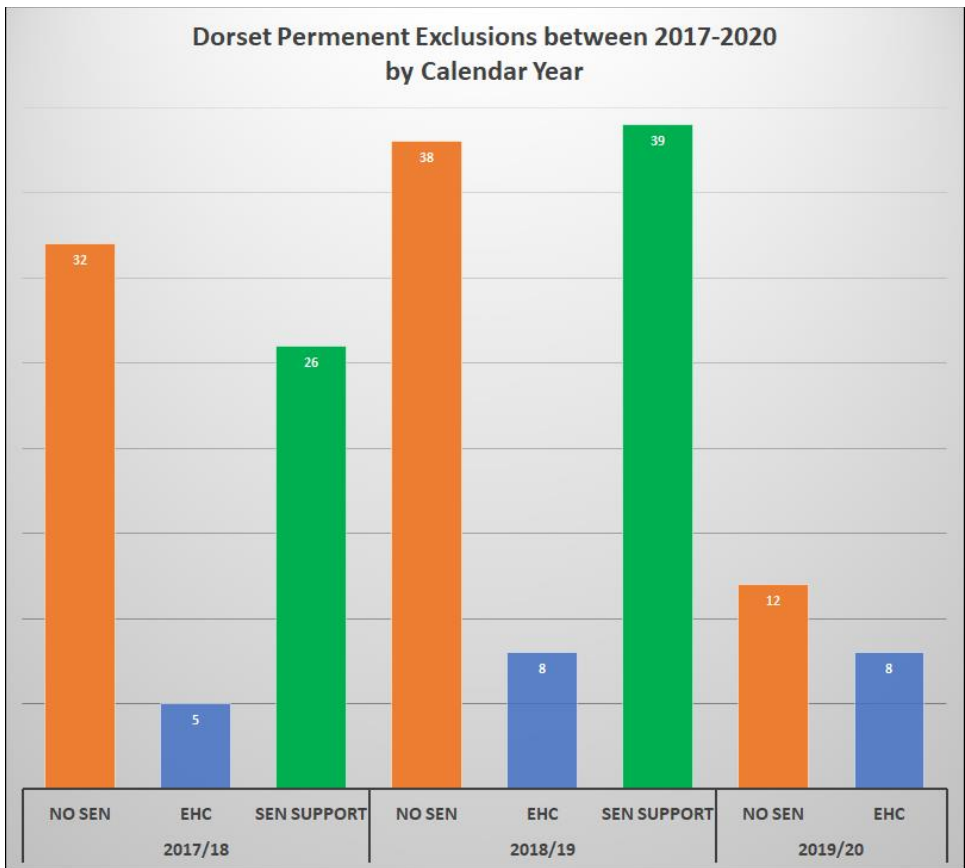
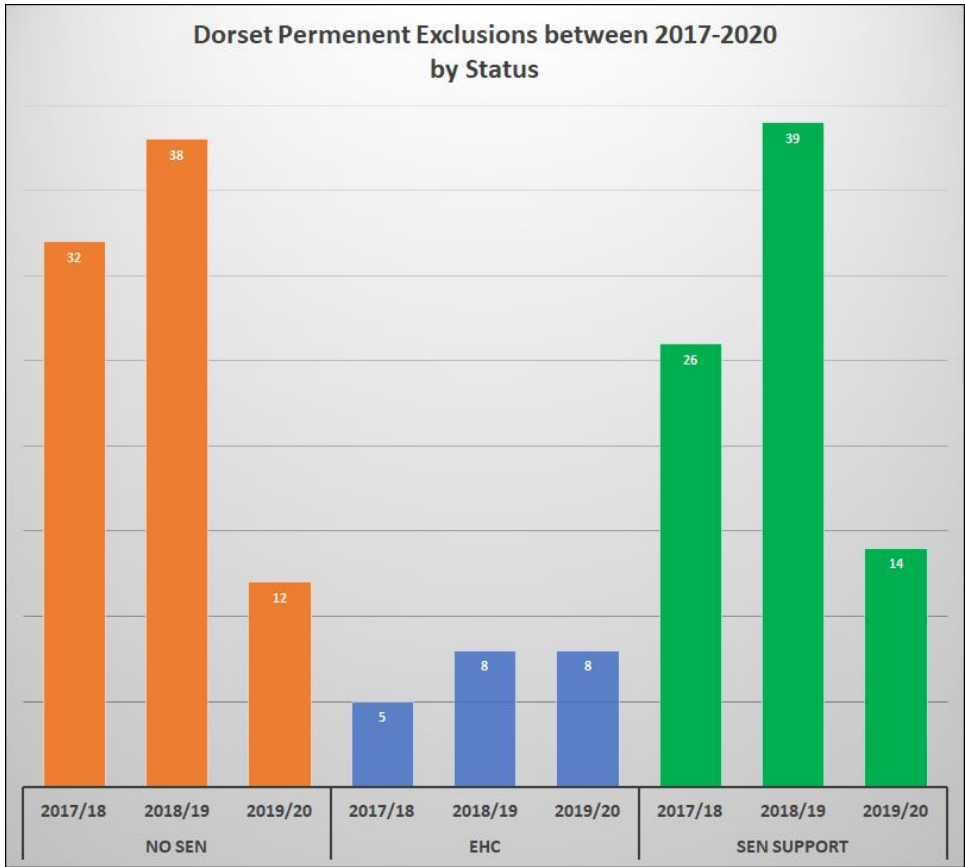
- At the end of reception year 4% of EHCP children achieve a 'Good Level of Development, this compares to 5% nationally. Positively 38% of our SEN Support children achieve this level, compared to 29% nationally.
- For the year 1 phonics assessment the pattern is similar. 13% of EHC children in Dorset (20% nationally) and 52% of SEN Support (48% nationally) achieve a pass.
- At Key Stage 1 both groups outperform the national picture, in Maths for example 18% of EHC and 40% of EHC achieve the expected standard; compared to 14% and 36% nationally.
- At Key Stage 2 All Dorset children tend to underperform compared to the national, and this is also true for SEND children. Progress from Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 2 is below average and 20% of SEND children achieve the expected standard in reading, writing and mathematics, compared to 20% nationally.
- Key Stage 4 based on centre assessed grades at LA level were released for 2020. These are detailed below. The table below shows percentage achieved for Any SEN at Grade 4 or higher and then provides the percentage achieved for our EHCP and SEN support cohort.

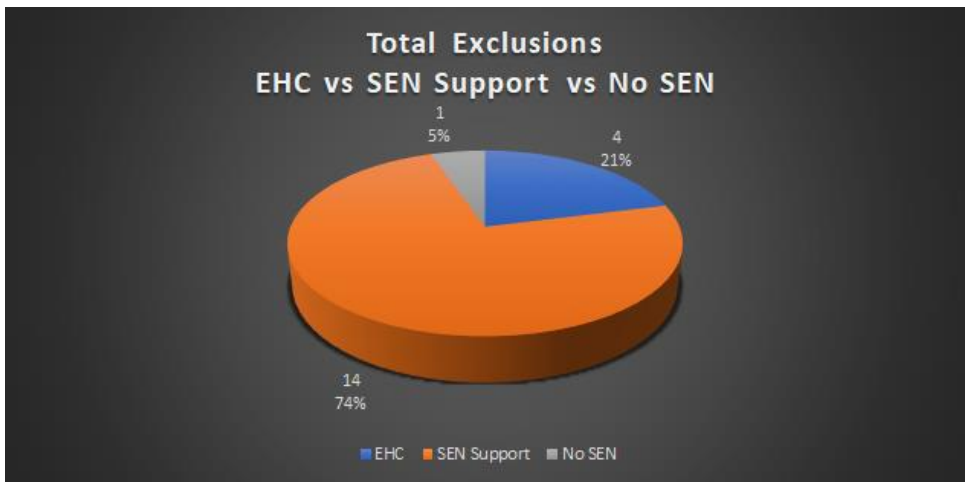
2020	Grade 4 or higher in GCSE English & Maths		
	Dorset	South West	National
No SEN	79%	79%	78%
Any SEN	31%	35%	33%
SEN State EHC	12%	15%	14%
SEN Support	37%	41%	40%

- Whilst non-SEN children achieved grade 4 or higher in GCSE English & Maths in line or higher than the national this is not matched by SEND pupils.
- Key Stage 5 performance (based on SEND status in year 11) based on the percentage of 19 year olds qualified to Level 2 with English & Maths shows that all SEN children overall outperform the national (37% compared to 31%), although this is driven largely by good performance of SEN Support children: EHC children in Dorset achieved 12% compared to national 15% have the highest rates of exclusion (DfE, 2016).

Exclusion Data for Children with SEND

The tables below show the exclusion levels for children and young people with SEND in Dorset. Please note that this data covers the COVID period where many of our SEND children and young people were not at school and therefore this affects the numbers significantly.





It is clear from the information above that more must be done to support inclusive practice for our SEND children and young people as they are disproportionately over represented when compared with children without SEND.

Health's Commitment to Children and Young People with SEND in Dorset

Dorset Clinical Commissioning Groups (DCCG) Statement of Intent commits to:

- Commissioning services in partnership with our Local Authorities for children and young people aged 0-25 years old with SEND.
- Contributing to the Local Offer to include information about health care services.
- Working in partnership with Parent Carer Forums, support groups representing young people with SEND, Health Watch, the voluntary sector and community groups.
- Ensuring there is health care provision as specified in the Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) as part of our commissioning role.

Our NHS Health organisations commit to:

- Supporting the identification of children and young people requiring SEND provision.
- Responding to requests for advice for EHCPs within the required time frame and to review EHCPs when invited to.
- Work with the Local Authorities to contribute to the local offer of services available.
- Working closely with Parent Carer Forums, support groups representing young people with SEND, Health Watch, the voluntary sector and community groups.
- Contributing to regular reviews of children and young people with EHCPs.

Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group works in partnership with Local Authorities, providers and Parent Carer Forums to continually develop a shared vision and strategy to ensure the development of integrated, Child and young person focussed pathways. Our shared vision and strategy for children and young people with SEND are in line with the NHS long term plan and has a focus on improved outcomes for children and their families

The NHS long term plan sets out a vision for the future of the NHS noting that children and young people represent a third of our country. A key message from stakeholders during the development of the long-term plan was that the needs of children are diverse, complex and need a higher profile at a national level. Dorset CCG have heard similar messages from our local stakeholders, that the needs of Dorset CYP need a higher profile at a local level.

The national CYP transformation programme has been established to oversee the commitments of the NHS long term plan with a focus on integrating services, improving the quality of care to CYP with long term conditions, such as (obesity and asthma) identifying local system priorities and reducing inequalities.

Dorset CCG will work with partners to align areas of improvement, The NHS long term plan and the SEND reforms are interdependent, for example there is a higher percentage of SEND CYP seen in obesity groups in Dorset and by working together with partners the Dorset system can support inclusion and enable access for all, including supporting parents/carers.

Children with SEND are often supported by a variety of health professionals, including universal services available to all such as GP and pharmacies as well as specialised services that may include Paediatricians, Physiotherapists, Occupational Therapists and Speech and Language Therapy. There is scope for improved joint commissioning, delivery of services and working between health and all partners to improve outcomes for children and young people.

Dorset CCG is committed to the development of our workforce who working directly with our children and young people. Additional training and support for health providers to understand the range of need and provide high quality, timely contributions to the EHC process has been developed with our partners and will contribute to improving outcomes.

Dorset CCG aims to support all people in Dorset to lead healthier lives, this reflects a need to prevent illness and also reduce health inequalities for our population. A key part of reducing health inequalities for our Children and Young People is via the Learning Disability register, which enables reasonable adjustments to be noted and the availability of Annual Health checks which are available to all people with a diagnosed Learning Disability from age 14 onwards.

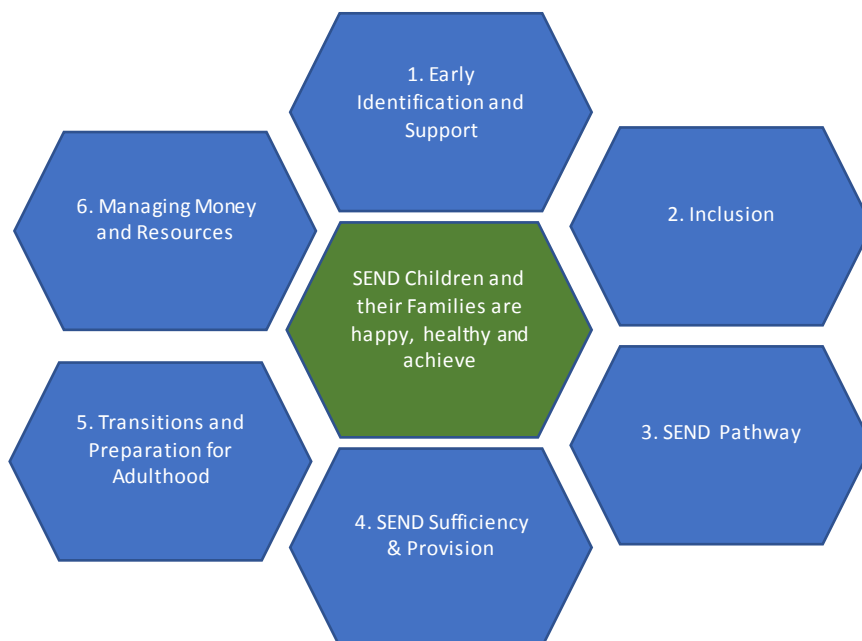
The 2021-22 data for quarters 1 and 2 indicates an increase in the uptake of Annual Health checks, compared to 2020-21. There is a Dorset wide commitment to further increase this uptake by raising awareness of the register and checks amongst young people, considering alternative ways of offering the checks, such as within the school setting for example and creating young people training and resources for GP practices.

Our Priorities

Working with Dorset Parent Carer Council and Dorset's Strategic Alliance Group we have identified a set of strategic priorities for the next two years for the Local Area partners including Education, Health.

These strategic priorities build on the work and progress which has taken place over the last 18 months and are designed to strengthen our SEND system further, at pace.

Progress against the priorities and associated actions will be reported through the Best Education for All Sub-group of the Children and Young Peoples' plan. This will take the form of a quarterly report from the Local Authority and DCO from Health.



Priority One: Early Identification and Support

Vision:

We will ensure that children's needs are identified, assessed and supported both early in life and when issues arise.

Outcomes:

- Our early help and intervention support results in families being supported at first need with fewer needing an Education Care and Health needs assessment.
- Parent carers and young people know when SEN Support is in place and are involved in creating and reviewing their SEN Support Plan.
- The Graduated approach is understood and used by all parents, carers and professionals when supporting families. Parents understand the system better and know how to access support.
- A Parent/Carer friendly version of the Graduated Approach in Dorset is in place.
- There will be an increased awareness of Early Help, intervention and inclusion across the county in all key professional roles.
- Children, young people and their families are able to access immediate advice and support.
- There will be a consistent offer and range of services and interventions for emotional health and wellbeing, applying the iThrive Framework. THRIVE is a framework for emotional health and Mental Health developed by the Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families and the Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust. The THRIVE framework is an integrated, person centred, and needs led approach to delivering mental health services for children, young people and their families. It conceptualises need in five categories; **Thriving, Getting Advice and Signposting, Getting Help, Getting More Help and Getting Risk Support**. This approach has been used to develop whole school approaches for emotional health and wellbeing – I Can Problem Solve, Academic Resilience Approach, Mental health Support Teams in Schools

Priority Number	Action:
P1/001	Launch the Dorset Education and Advice Line so that children, young people and their families can access immediate support to discuss their worries and concerns. We will monitor key themes or concerns and adapt the Local Offer as required to improve access to support and advice.
P1/002	Ensure that all Education Health Care Needs Assessments are responded to within the statutory expected timeframes and that a tracker system is in place and consistently used keeping parents informed of progress.

P1/003	During Academic Year 2021/22 carry out regular SENCO briefings on the Graduated Approach and provide focused training support where needed for all Early Years, Schools and Further Education settings and use the Graduated Approach in their daily practice. This will mean that parents and carers feel better supported.
P1/004	Work with Early Years settings to develop guidance for applications for delayed entry to school and applications to place children out of year group that fully considers the longer-term implications for children with SEND.
P1/005	Work with Dorset Parent Carer Council to ensure that co-production takes place for all key services pertaining to early help and identification i.e. policy changes and is represented at all key decision-making points with a focus on improving the Local Offer.
P1/006	Achieve an increased awareness in early years, education, health and care settings of inclusion issues and strategies / interventions. This will support vulnerable children and young people and adults with LD. It will be delivered through an inclusion training offer from the Outreach Inclusion team alongside our education and early help teams and close working with the Paediatric Team, Mental Health Support teams in schools, ID-CAMHS (SWIFTS) and the Dorchester Opportunity Early Years Setting. Local data will be used to focus on high need areas,
P1/007	To ensure that all early years and school SENCOs and SENCO leads are aware of the need to review their SEN support plans as well as all Education Health and Care Plans; this will be delivered as part of SENCO support and Graduated Approach training.
P1/008	Utilising locality trend data on attendance, absence and exclusions we will work with schools to ensure that children's SEN and care status are fully considered in relation to school policies, including behaviour and safeguarding practice.
P1/009	All interventions and services that provide support for emotional health and wellbeing use the Thrive Framework in their approach and documentation.
P1/010	The Mental Health teams in Schools will work in partnership with education settings to meet the needs of children and young people with mild to moderate presentations via advice, support and whole school approaches in line with the Thrive Framework. Clear information is available on the service offer and pathways for access to CAMHS as well as referral criteria. Investment in expanding access to community based mental health services. View seeking work on mental health services for children and

	young people has been completed with stakeholders, including service users and parents/carers.
P1/011	A new model of speech, language and communication provision will be delivered in Dorset. The new model will promote improved early identification through the provision of high-quality materials and information to parents, carers and the wider workforce about general child development and specific speech, language and communication development. The model will also include strong universal and targeted provision to ensure that every child and young person receives the level of support matched to need.
P1/012	The All-age Autism Pathway review will bring about rapid improvement across the whole system, strengthening the pathways and support offer for children and young people with neurodevelopmental disorders. The outputs from the review will include a pathway that provides early assessment of need, rather than diagnosis, support, pre, during and post assessment, transition and an education and training model to support a better understanding of Autism across the system,
P1/013	To increase the uptake of Annual Health Checks for young people over the age of 14 years of age with a diagnosis of a learning disability by raising awareness of the register and checks amongst young people, considering alternative ways of offering the checks, such as within the school setting for example and creating young people training and resources for GP practices.
P1/014	To continue to develop high quality health pathways for Early Years to enable early identification of needs and improved outcomes for. Priority areas include continuation of partnership working between SALT, Public Health Nursing, (Health Visiting) Portage and all partners in Early Years settings.

Priority Two: Inclusion

Vision:

We will ensure that across Dorset that there is a commitment to deliver inclusive services and support for and with children, young people and adults with SEND.

Dorset is committed to inclusion in mainstream settings and we firmly believe every teacher is a teacher of special needs. Therefore, building the capabilities of our mainstream schools to support more children and young people with SEND will ensure more children can attend a local school. Strengthening the capacity of our maintained school system to support more children in mainstream and meeting need at the lowest level is at the core of our strategy.

Outcomes:

- Working with our Early Years and Schools settings we will agree an approach for a future Inclusion Fund for Early Years and School settings to support practice innovation in increasing the numbers of our SEND children in mainstream settings.
- There will be a reduction in the number of children and young people with SEND placed in specialist provision and out of county high cost placements.
- Our early years, schools' and Further Education Colleges' confidence to work with and support our children and young people with SEND grows.
- We will focus on those children with a EHCP and without a school place and ensure provision is secured.
- We will realise a reduction in the number of children and young people accessing Alternative Provision arrangements and those who are Not in Employment Education or Training (NEET).
- There will be no permanent exclusions of children and young people with SEND and a reduction in fixed term exclusions.

Priority Number	Action:
P2/001	Working with Schools to develop and agree an Education and Inclusion strategy. To co-produce and promote, including with early years settings and schools, a Dorset wide self-assessment tool for Inclusion. This will cover best practice for children and young people with SEND and across all categories of need this will consider how health services can support inclusion.
P2/002	Ensure that 100% of Annual Reviews of Education Health and Care Plans take place each year and that there is an improved focus on co-produced SMART outcomes and that this is embedded across all key statutory partners. This includes the timeliness of any amendments within the plan.

P2/003	Introduce and embed a revised Multi-Agency Quality Assurance process across the partnership reviewing the quality of Annual Reviews so that each agency is held to account for local service improvements and that the experience of the child is understood.
P2/004	To embed processes and tracking systems to ensure that there are no children and young people with SEND without a school place or provision for more than 6 weeks and that those known to the service are reviewed through the Children Missing Out on Education processes.
P2/005	To co-produce a multi-agency training package for Social Care staff on SEND and Inclusion and for SEND teams on Social Care. This will enable better understanding and delivery of services to families across the system this will include all services from Early Years through to specialist services.
P2/006	To review the services to our NEET children and ensure that this priority group are supported within SEN services (Education and Advocacy) and Adult Social Care.
P2/007	To review the current use of Alternative Provision arrangements and reduce these where possible. To review the Alternative Provision framework and recommission this service with a revised framework.
P2/008	Working with Inclusion Teams to ensure that the voice and experience of the child is understood in the context of inclusion and share at the Best Education for All Board.
P2/009	To ensure that the Local Offer provides up to date, relevant information regarding universal and specialist services for parents and carers to easily access.
P2/010	To carry out SEN reviews in priority schools where the achievement gap for children with SEN is the greatest and higher levels of exclusion.
P2/011	Launch the Local Area Partnership agreement and ensure that all stakeholders are committed to this agreement and focus on ensuring the needs of our SEND children and young people are considered at key decision points.
P2/012	Set Up Innovation Inclusion Fund for SEND working in collaboration with Schools and EY settings.

Priority Three: SEND Pathway

Vision:

We will ensure that children and young people with SEND, and their families can access the right support from services - easily and quickly.

Outcome:

- Joint working and joint commissioning arrangements are in place that recognises the value of working together to provide a seamless and effective service which will benefit the community and prevent children and young people falling through the gaps.
- We will have clear partnership and decision-making arrangements to jointly commission services for children and young people, with mechanisms for agreeing priorities for the commissioning of services.
- The Local Offer will be improved and enable families in understanding and navigating their needs.
- There will be a reduction in the duplication of meetings and families will only need to tell their story once using technology to broaden access and coordination of our work.
- Short break and respite opportunities for children and adults are available and meet the needs of families.
- Children and Young People with an EHCP will have their primary need clearly and accurately identified as a result of evidence gathered in professional advice.
- Health Advice will be high quality and provided in a timely way to contribute to the EHC process that includes the Annual Review.
- Health commissioned services for SEND will meet statutory requirements and the needs of the local area by delivering integrated effective and quality pathways. Children and Young People with SEND will have their health needs met at the right time, in the right place, by the right person through integrated pathways.
- There are clear pathways to support joint working between partner agencies and families to enable early and appropriate identification of SEND across all settings.
- The system will understand the impact of services/provision on the outcomes for children and young people through agreed system measures and outcomes across the partnership.

Priority Number	Action:
P3/001	A new model of speech, language and communication provision will be delivered in Dorset based on a joint commissioning strategy. The new model will promote improved early identification. The model will also include strong

	universal and targeted provision to ensure that every child and young person receives the level of support matched to need.
P3/002	We will review the Short Breaks offer that is available to Dorset families with the aim of increasing the amount and variety of provision to meet the individual needs of children.
P3/003	Working with Dorset Parent Carer Council and Dorset CCG to agree the necessary changes on the Local Offer. To relaunch the Local Offer and ensure that reach and performance data is reviewed quarterly at Best Education for All meeting. To ensure that the Local Offer remains well resourced, updated and is reported as high priority asset for our SEND parents and carers.
P3/004	Dorset Council to develop its Workforce strategy with partners, ensuring that all key delivery roles working with children and young people with SEND have access to and receive appropriate training.
P4/004	To ensure that Health are represented at key panels e.g., Locality and Multi Agency Resource Panel (MARP) so that joint decisions are made in a consistent, timely and efficient manner.
P5/005	Dorset Council's Getting to Good SEND plan is delivered against and key statutory measures and operational metrics are improved for each locality in Dorset.
P5/006	The profile of SEND in the wider community will be raised by developing a SEND Communications Strategy with partners. This will use a 'values'-based approach to engage with providers and the community on the positive impact disabled people can make on the workforce and society.
P5/007	All staff within the Virtual School will work closely with the locality SEND teams and Children in Care teams to ensure that all Children in Care are attending school and are appropriately supported.
P5/008	Every School will have a nominated Educational Psychologist to support each setting in identifying whole school and individual case specific approaches for supporting SEND pupils in their mainstream setting.
P5/009	We will ensure that we keep our SEND children at the heart of our decisions and that the local pathway and provision is understood across all services e.g. Early Help, Social Care teams. All new Social Workers and Early Help Workers will have an induction programme with the SEND teams.
P5/010	To deliver the Mental Health Teams model across all Schools, offering advice, support and whole school approaches to support Children and Young People with mild to moderate emotional and mental health needs.

P5/011	Analyse the high SEMH profile (primary area of need) in Dorset and review the pathway through focused audits to identify what areas of improvement are needed across the system and align with the Pan-Dorset Emotional Health and Wellbeing strategy.
P5/012	The CCG will improve its data systems to predict need and to plan effectively how we will meet the needs of children and young people in Dorset, considering both clinical and non-clinical factors.

Priority Four: SEND Sufficiency and Provision

Vision:

To ensure that the Education provision for all children and young people with SEND is increased so that our children can stay in Dorset and thrive in their local communities. This includes access to Health services, Early Years, Post-16, and adults with Learning Disabilities (LD).

Outcomes:

- A joint commissioning strategy for children and young people with SEND and adults with LD will be in place.
- We will have a clear evidence base that supports the allocation of funding to further develop our specialist provision and services.
- There is a reduction of delays in families accessing Health services such as initial assessments for neuro diverse presentations.
- There is an improvement in the waiting times for specific health services where there is the greatest demand and a timely response for Children, Young People, their families and carers.
- More of our young people are accessing further education opportunities in mainstream settings.
- There is a reduction in the number of specialist out of county placements.

Priority Number	Action:
P4/001	Deliver against the Dorset Council SEND Capital Strategy 2020-2025 to ensure that there is an increase in local provision in key areas and that efficiencies of spend are realised.
P4/002	To open St Mary's and ensure that this new provision meets the expected service level standards and reduces the need for out of area placements with a reduction in the average placement cost for these children or young people.
P4/003	Dorset Council's Children's Commissioning team and Dorset CCG will contribute towards the Children's Chapter for the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment chapter on Children with Disabilities. The chapter will be in place and linked to Health and Well Being Board, Strategic Alliance and Joint Commissioning Board.
P4/004	To develop our SEMH offer to support children to stay in mainstream provision. Working with Inclusion Leads and our Educational Psychologists we will engage specialist support to work at an earlier stage with children to stabilise placements and prevent exclusion.

P4/005	To develop the emotional health and wellbeing pathway in line with the THRIVE framework and the EHWP strategy, with a focus on expanding access to community based mental health services including the development of a Dorset Gateway Service, developing services to meet the needs of 16–25-year-olds and the development of a crisis offer to support admission avoidance.
P4/006	To conclude the Pan Dorset Health review of the specific Health services that are currently under pressure due to sufficiency issues e.g., Speech and Language Services and Autism Spectrum Condition diagnosis and support. Our future vision is for greater access and improved support for all, with or without a diagnosis (2022).
P4/007	Dorset Council to collate accurate data by locality for all SEND educational and/or residential packages to ensure analysis by setting or categorisation of need to drive improvement areas to reduce high cost and out of area placements.
P4/008	Dorset CCG to embed an agreed minimum data set for SEND Key Performance Indicators to ensure a clear line of reporting into the organisation, with clear links to future commissioning intentions
P4//009	For Health and the Local Authority to work together within and across partners, to secure cost-effective commissioning of placements outside of Dorset reviewing placement profiles to develop local provision where possible. With a recognition that placements outside of Dorset may still be required for a small number of children in exceptional circumstances.
P4/010	Services within Health, and particularly those significantly impacted by COVID, e.g., Direct Therapies such as Physiotherapy and Speech and Language, are undergoing Reset and Recovery programmes.
P4/011	To work with Adults Commissioning to support the birth to settled adulthood programme ensuring that tracking systems are in place across children's and adults services to ensure person centred support focused on outcomes.

Priority Five: Transitions and Preparation for Adulthood Vision:

Transitions:

We will ensure that transitions between phases of education or changes in provision and support across all ages are smooth and supportive.

Preparation for Adulthood:

We expect that young people with SEND should have **equal life chances** as they move into adulthood. This includes employment and higher education, housing options and independent living, good health, friends, relationships, community inclusion and choice and control over their lives and support.

Outcomes:

- For children or young people moving from one phase of education to another transition will be timely, well planned and person centred.
- The Multi-agency independently led Dorset Birth to Settled Adulthood Board will lead the improvement programme that will deliver a vision and ambitious change for those young people who need additional support as they move into adulthood.
- A 14 to 25 co-produced pathway that includes Education, Health and Care will be in place which ensures a person-centred approach based on individual outcomes.
- We will have increased employment and training opportunities for young people and adults with SEND through improved engagement in our communities measured by a reduction of young people who are Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET) with an EHCP.
- An increase of our young people accessing mainstream provision thereby increasing their potential to build strong community ties.

Priority Number	Action:
P5/001	To ensure that 100% of Annual Reviews for children in transition years are held by end of Autumn Term each year and are attended by a Provision Lead from the Council.
P5/002	To ensure that 100% of Year 9 Annual Reviews have taken place by end of Spring* term.
P5/003	To provide training to all SENCOs across Dorset for Year 9 Annual Reviews to ensure that School lead Annual Reviews are of high quality and focus on future goals and preparation for adulthood outcomes.

P5/004	To continue to build our strategic relationships with Further Education Colleges to ensure that more of our SEND young people can successfully access courses and independent learning in their local community and are engaged with their future plans by the end of the Spring term.
P5/005	To contribute towards the development of the birth to settled adulthood service review and ensure that key transition points are understood across SEND teams. We will ensure that Annual Reviews after year 9 focus on developing a young person's plan towards adulthood with a person-centred approach.
P5/006	Our SEND Services and Children who are Disabled (CWAD) Social Care services work together with Health and Adult Social Care to develop clear plans for the four key areas of Preparation for Adulthood through the Birth to Settled Adulthood Strategy; namely; Education and Employment, Independent Living, Community Inclusion and Health.
P5/007	To ensure that all young people are included in the Adult Social Care Transitions Tracker (as part of Preparation for Adulthood/ Birth to Settled Adulthood) mechanism to ensure that key parties are engaged at the earliest opportunity to support the pathway to adult life.

Priority Six: Managing Money and Resources

Introduction to Finance and the budget for supporting our SEND children in Dorset

The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for 2021-22 for Dorset is £280.2m., this is the money we receive to support Education in Dorset. The DSG comprises four blocks of grant:

1. The Schools Block which is funding for mainstream schools;
2. the Early Years Block which is funding for 3 and 4 year olds and the 40% most deprived 2 year olds entitlement to 15 or 30 hours of free nursery education;
- 3. the High Needs Block, which for 2021-22 is £42.3m for pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities; and**
4. the Central Schools Service Block which provides funding of some local authority services for schools to support maintained schools.

The High Needs Block has been overspending for five years; this is a similar picture nationally. As at 2020-21 the cumulative deficit totalled £39.1m. Dorset Council has been spending a higher proportion of its budget on Independent or non-maintained special schools (INMSS) than its statistical neighbours. Despite this cost pressure, all statistical neighbours are incurring significant deficits.

This scenario has brought a continued focus and urgency to the implementation of Dorset Council's High Needs Block Management Strategy.

Vision:

To ensure the effective and efficient management of SEN funding available through the Dedicated Schools Grant, to maximise the impact of the available resource and the best outcomes for our children and young people.

Outcomes:

- To reduce the costs to the Dedicated Schools Grant and associated Council revenue budgets through the completion of the SEND Capital Strategy in partnership with all stakeholders.
- To establish a High Needs Block locality budget tracking system to support local teams in better understanding spend and subsequently to identify new opportunities for refocusing investment on early help or more local provision.
- Increased multi-agency oversight of transition to adulthood (including health, housing, education, community safety, children and adult social care).

Priority Number	Action:

P5/001	Develop a joint commissioning protocol with Health that ensures commissioning decisions on specialist placements outside of the LA area will be made with all agencies supporting the child or adult with Learning Disabilities. These placements will only be made on the evidence that the child or adult's needs cannot be met locally and agreed at the Multi Agency Resource Panel.
P5/002	To work collaboratively with schools and colleges to agree a consistent way of funding schools/settings where the number of high needs pupils attending cannot be reflected adequately in their formula funding.
P5/003	To review the commissioning arrangements for Learning Centres and Resource provision to ensure cost efficiencies are realised.
P5/004	To refine the DSG forecasting processes to ensure that the system is dynamic and responsive to changes throughout the year.
P5/005	Place children in Coombe House School in Shaftesbury in order to support more local places and a reduction in associated high cost out of county placements.
P6/006	To deliver the expansion of Beaucroft Special School to realise an additional 80 places with a particular focus on those in post-16 education.
P6/007	To review future feasibility projects for the expansion of existing special schools and other specialist resource provision.
P6/008	To support the development of new Free School provision in the County for specialist provision e.g. Harbour School and future Free School applications.
P5/009	To establish a financial tracking system for SEND across the system at a localities level and to further explore alternative ways to manage the High Needs Block for EHC Plans.
P5/010	To introduce a new commissioning framework for Alternative Provision.
P5/011	Childrens and Adults to coproduce a financial dashboard to ensure robust transition planning for this cohort alongside clear financial forecasts.

How we will make sure this is delivered

The progress of this strategy will be reviewed at the Best Education for All Steering Group and the Dorset Birth to Settled Adulthood Board. A quarterly progress report detailing evidence and impact of action points will be presented for each of the priority areas. This information will be presented by the Strategic Lead for SEND within Dorset and the Designated Clinical Officer (DCO) from the CCG.

A SEND performance dashboard will be created which will focus on quantitative measures such as timeliness of needs assessments, annual review and exclusion data and a place for discussion against progress against transformation processes, for example, All-Age Autism Review and Birth to Settled Adulthood process. The scorecard and reporting structure will be co-produced with Dorset Parent Carer Council to ensure that we are presenting the right level of information to our communities.

We will use the same indicators as in our Local Partnership Agreement to review progress and ensure continued co-production in the delivery of this strategy. We will also monitor and evaluate to ensure that effective co-production is happening:

- **Evidence**

All partners who have engaged in co-production should be able to see their work within whatever is produced or undertaken. This includes detailing the contributions in service specifications, policies and procedures.

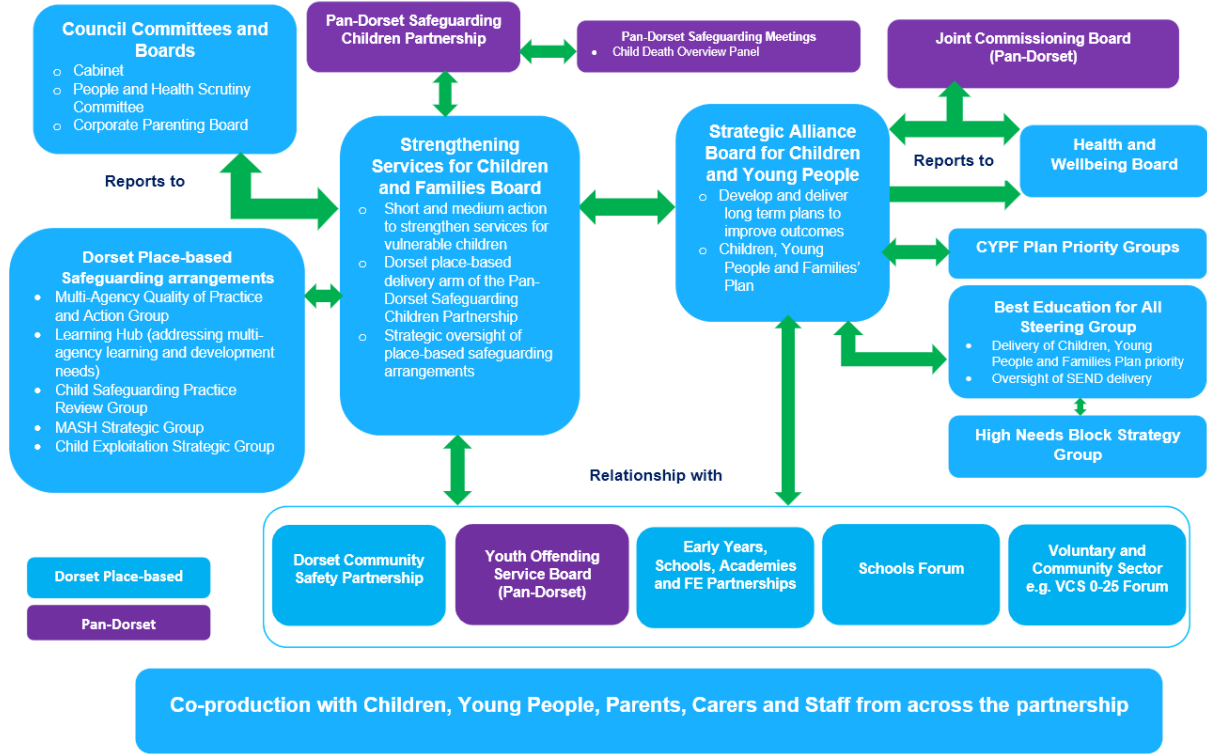
- **Evaluate**

We will gather feedback to ensure that all stakeholders feel that their voices have been heard and that they have been able to make a difference. This will take the form of an Annual Conversation survey and focus group for SEND children, families and their carers.

- **Audit**

All services and teams working with children, young people and young adults with SEND will complete an annual participation audit with a focus on improving participation. We will also ensure that there is a clear audit trail of impact through the Multi-Agency Quality assurance processes for SEND.

DORSET CHILDREN'S STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP GOVERNANCE



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DORSET COUNCIL
SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND
DISABILITIES CAPITAL STRATEGY
2020 – 2025
Executive Summary

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose of this document

The purpose of this strategy is threefold;

- to outline the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) landscape in Dorset Council (the “Council”) alongside national trends to provide a greater understanding of the demographic of the SEND cohort;
- to describe the position of the Council’s existing SEND provision; and
- to provide evidence that can support the Council’s decision making as it seeks to fulfil its sufficiency duty investing in and maintaining its educational estate.

This strategy is a dynamic document that responds to change, and the Council will continue to work with its schools, partners and stakeholders to ensure financial resilience, and long-term planning, providing the best education for all in line with the Children and Young People’s plan 2020-2023.

This Strategy will be updated annually, to reflect any changes in the education and pupil place landscape, incorporating any lessons from the current period, and reflecting on any more significant changes that may have taken place.

The council are in the process of redesigning services to meet the needs of the population in a time of significant financial challenges. The Children and Young People’s Strategy and associated transformation plans will focus on intervening early in the lives of children and families, to reduce the long-term impact on children’s lives, and the way services are delivered will evolve over the coming years to support an Inclusion Strategy.

1.2 Limitations of this strategy

This strategy is limited to the SEND cohort of children with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP), of which there are approximately 2,800 as at August 2020, for which the Council has specific statutory obligations to secure educational provision.

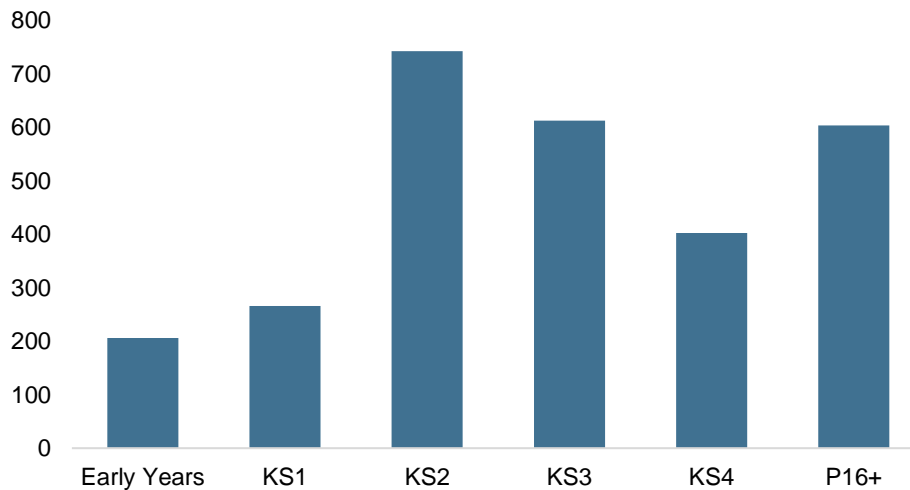
Apart from recent detailed feasibility studies, the analysis provided in this strategy has been conducted as a desk-based activity as a result of the restrictions in visiting educational settings during the Covid-19 pandemic. Further work may therefore be required to validate the information relating to the position of the Council’s existing SEND provision when it is feasible to do so.

2. DORSET SEND EHCP COHORT

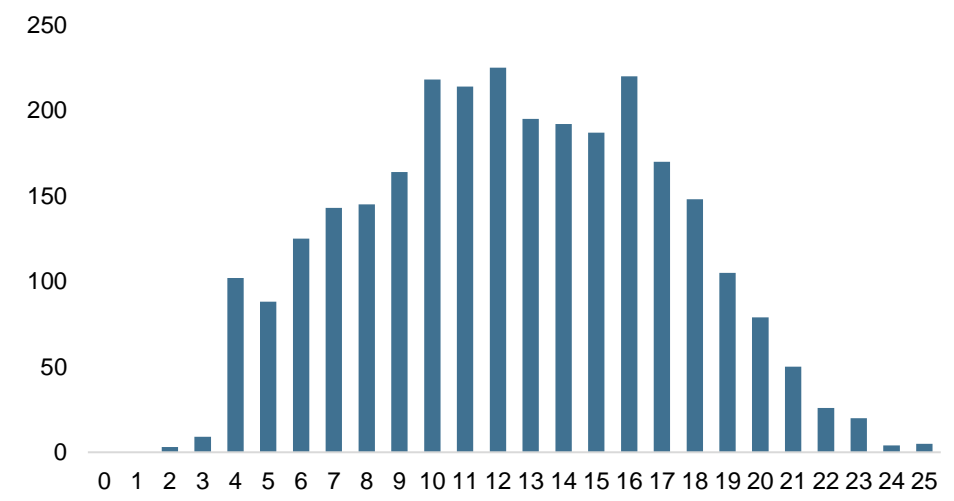
2.1 Current SEND EHCP Cohort

The SEND cohort includes 2,800 children and young people who are supported through an EHCP¹. The majority of children with EHCPs across the cohort are in Key Stage 2 (743 pupils – 26% of the cohort), which presents a rising pressure as this cohort move into Key Stage 3 (613 pupils – 22% of the cohort) and Key Stage 4 (403 pupils – 14% of the cohort).

Dorset SEND EHCP cohort by phase of education



Dorset SEND EHCP cohort by age



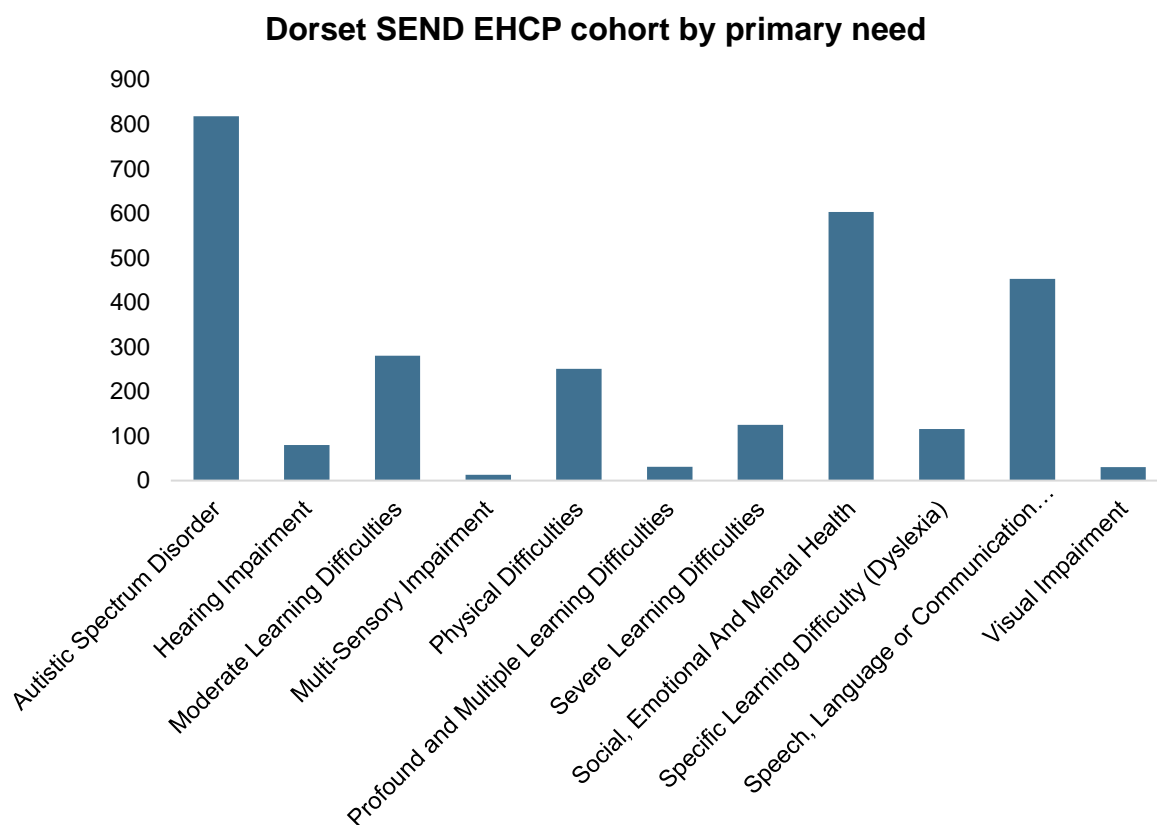
¹ As at August 2020.

16% of children and young people with EHCPs are placed out of the County. With the majority of children placed in either Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council, Hampshire County Council and Somerset County Council Areas.

2.2 Primary Needs

The first most common primary need in Dorset is Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) (28% of the EHCP cohort); the national average is 30%. The second most common primary need is Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) - 21% of the EHCP cohort; the national average is 14%. The third most common primary need is Speech, Language and Communications needs (SLCN) - 16% of the EHCP cohort; the national average is 15%. Together these primary needs make up 65% of the cohort.

The data demonstrates that the Council’s SEMH cohort is significantly out of step with the national average. Whilst no immediate conclusions can be drawn, this may warrant further research to understand the demographic of this cohort.



2.2.1 Mainstream schools' pupil numbers on roll by primary need (as at August 2020)

KEY TO DESIGNATED EHCP CATEGORY	Mountjoy School	Beaucroft School	Westfield Arts College	Wyvern Academy	Yewstock School & College	TOTAL NOR DORSET SEN2 Data
	Pupil Numbers On Roll					
ASC	17	36	78	31	43	205
SLCN	16	14	33	7	27	97
PD	5	11	16	13	8	53
MLD	9	19	47	1	27	103
SLD	13	5	3	26	21	68
SpLD	1	2	2	0	2	7
PMLD	2		1	8	4	15
MSI	1		2	1		4
SEMH	4	3	18	1	8	34
Unclassified	1			1	1	3
Other	0				1	1
VI	1		3	0	2	6
HI	4	2	5	2	4	17
SCHOOL TOTAL NOR	74	92	208	91	148	613

2.2.2 Dorset Special Schools calculated pupil places by year groups / NOR (as at August 2020)

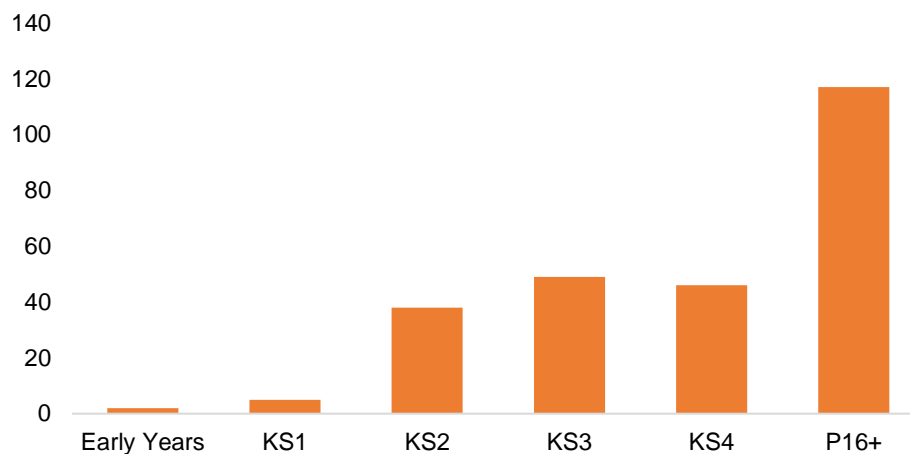
EXISTING DORSET SPECIAL SCHOOLS		Nursery	Pre-Sch P/T 3	Pre-Sch F/T 3	R P/T 4	R F/T 4	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5	Yr 6	Yr 7	Yr 8	Yr 9	Yr 10	Yr 11	Yr 12	Yr 13	Yr 14	TOTAL NOR (Jan 2020)	In-County	Out of county
NOR Teaching Groups		EARLY YEARS				KS1			KS2				KS3			KS4		POST 16					
4-19	Beaucroft					4	4	9	10	9	16	12	17	12	16	14	17	7	10	9	166	92	74
4-19	Westfield					1	6	8	6	13	17	15	30	23	20	14	18	16	16	6	209	208	1
10-14	The Harbour										2	4	8	2	5						21	21	0
3-19	Mountjoy				1	9	6	8	3	7	11	7	6	6	4	5	10	3	2	5	93	74	19
2-19	Wyvern					7	9	8	6	7	11	7	3	7		5	2	3	9	3	87	91	0
2-19	Yewstock				1	2	7	8	9	15	6	8	19	18	13	14	17	10	9	4	160	148	12
Total Pupils attending Dorset Special Schools		0	0	0	2	23	32	41	34	51	63	53	83	68	58	52	64	39	46	27	736	634	106
NOR Based on Two Tier System		PRE - SCHOOL			PRIMARY SCHOOL AGE PUPILS							SECONDARY SCHOOL					POST 16			NUMBER ON ROLL (NOR) WITHIN EXISTING DORSET SPECIAL SCHOOL SETTINGS (JAN 2020 CENSUS DATA)			
Existing Numbers on Roll (NOR)		0			299							325					112						
NOR Based on Teaching Groups		EARLY YEARS				KS1			KS2				KS3			KS4		POST 16					
Existing Numbers on Roll (NOR)		25				73			201				209			116		112					

2.3 Current SEND EHCP Cohort in Independent Specialist Placements and Non-Maintained Special Schools

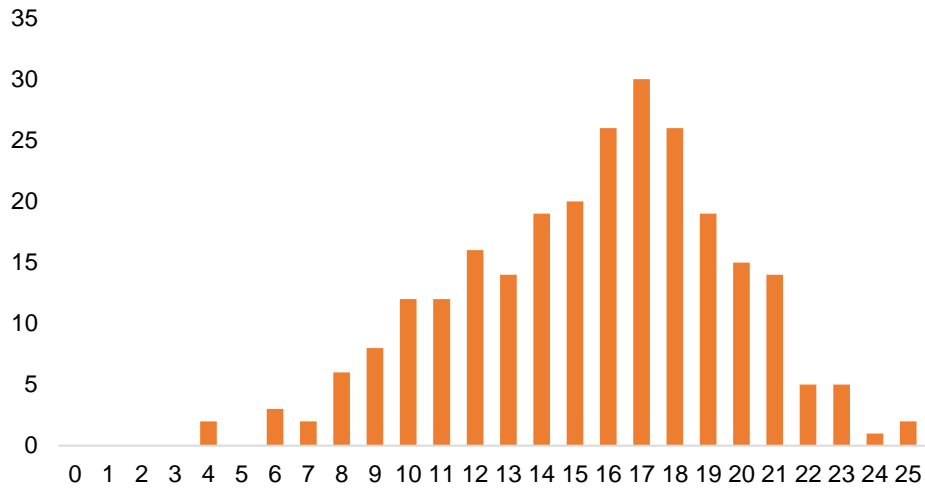
Where the Council is unable to meet needs within state school provision (such as maintained schools, academies or Free Schools), children and young people may be placed in Independent Specialist Placements (ISP) and Independent or Non-Maintained Special Schools (INMSS). These are typically expensive placements and would otherwise be supported through state provision, had there been sufficient provision and as a result place pressure on the High Needs Block Grant. In some extremely complex cases, the Council is not always best placed to be an efficient provider of education and ISP and INMSS settings are necessary to meet particular needs.

There are 257 children and young people in ISP and INMSS settings (with a mix of non-residential and residential placed) which creates an overall budget pressure of c£14m.

Dorset SEND EHCP ISP & INMSS cohort by phase of education



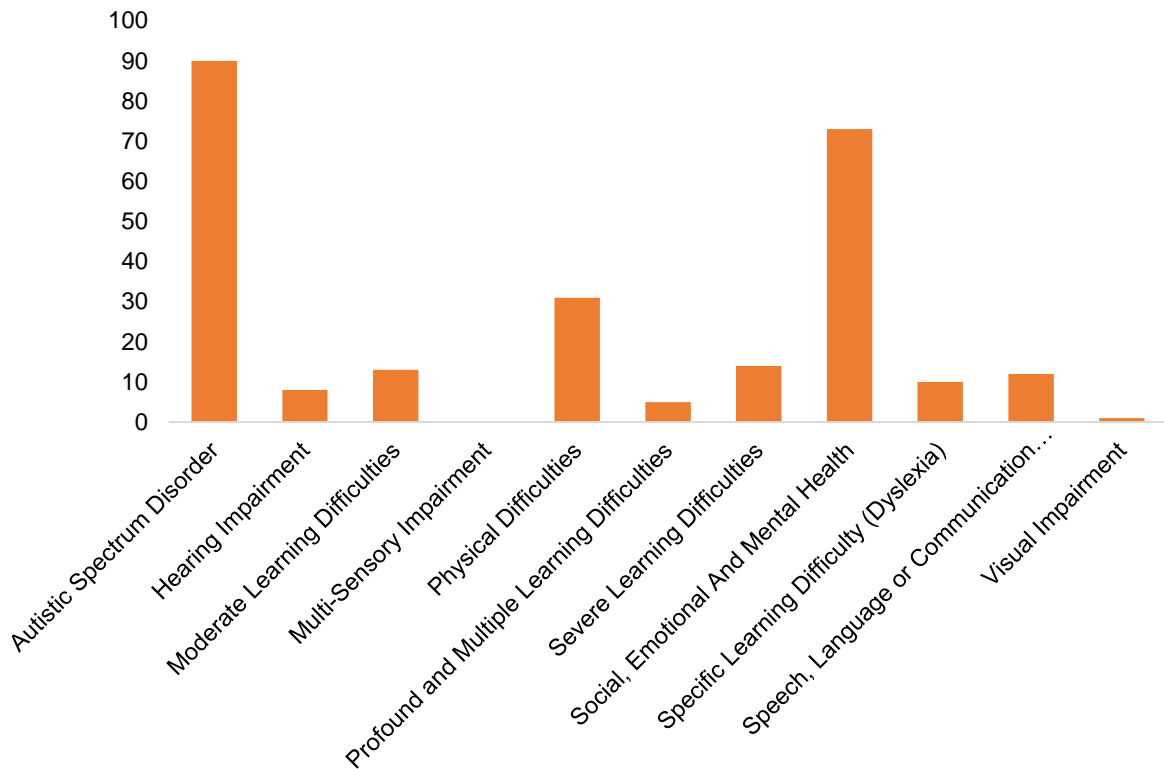
Dorset SEND ISP & INMSS EHCP cohort by age



The most common primary need in the ISP and INMSS cohort is ASD (35% of all cases). The second most common primary need is Social, Emotional and Mental Health (28% of all cases). The third most common primary need is Physical Disability (12% of all cases).

54% of children and young people with EHCPs in ISP and INMSS are placed out of the Council. With the majority of children placed in either Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council, Hampshire County Council and Somerset County Council.

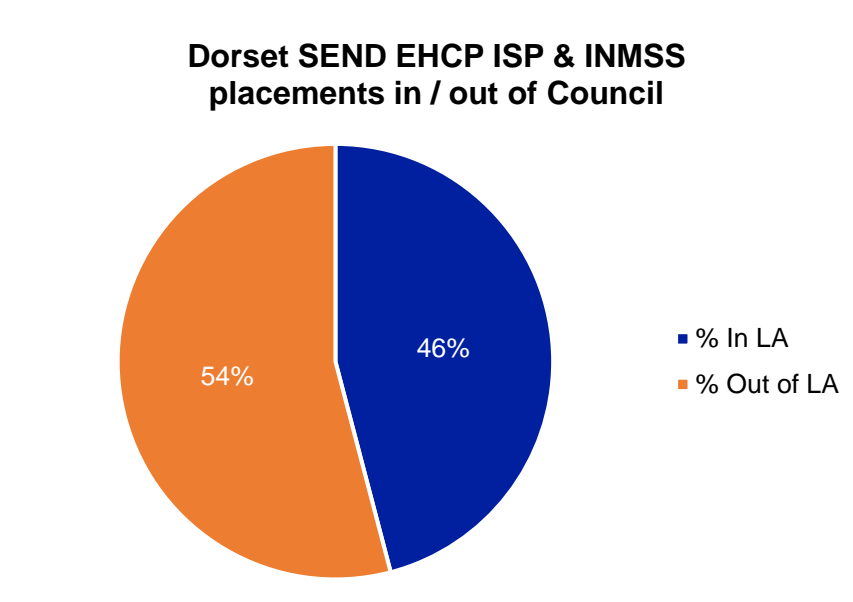
Dorset SEND EHCP ISP & INMSS cohort by primary need



Whilst most children and young people with special education needs supported by an EHCP can have their needs met from within mainstream settings, there are insufficient specialist provision places for those with the most complex needs.

ISPs and INMSS placements can meet the needs of our children and young people, it is not typically the most cost-efficient method of delivering provision and puts financial pressure on the High Needs Block, reducing the overall amount of funding available for the wider cohort.

This means our children and young people in ISP and INMSS are often educated out of the Council area.



2.4 Locality SEND populations

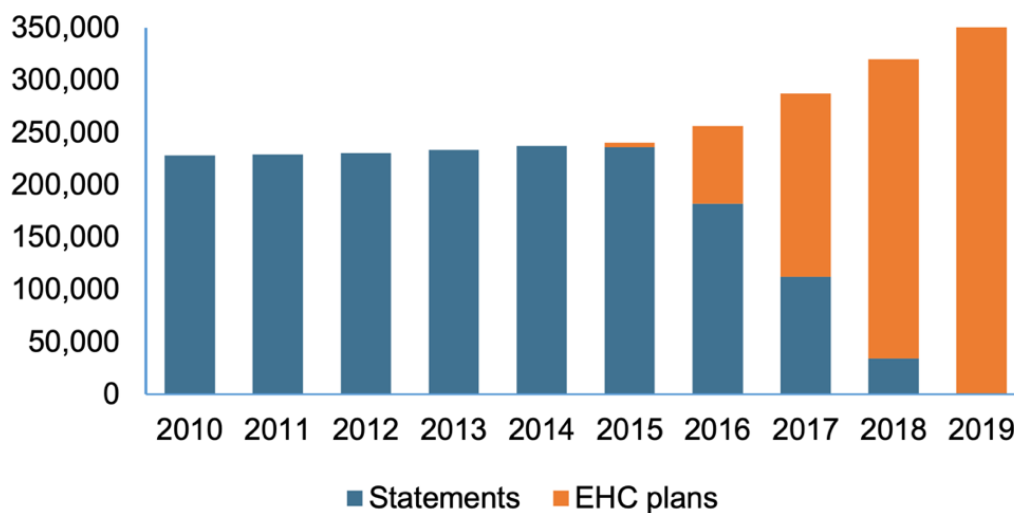
Locality	Approximate number of children and young people supported by an EHCP
Chesil	750
Dorchester	350
East	500
North	600
Purbeck	300
West	300
Total	2,800

2.5 National picture

At a time of significant pressure for local government, the SEND cohort of children with Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plans has continued to increase year on year since 2010. Nationally there were 354,000 children and young people with EHC plans maintained by local authorities as at January 2019.

This is an increase of 34,200 (11%) from 2018. This is driven by increases across all age groups, with largest percentage increases in the 0-5 (13%) and 20-25 age groups (32%).

Statements and EHC plans, January 2019



The growing SEND cohort nationally and locally within Dorset brings financial pressure to the Council's revenue budget. With adequate long-term evidence-based planning, the Council can mitigate the impact on its revenue budget through invest to save capital investments that develop the SEND estate and create capacity within our education system to continue to meet children and young people's needs.

The council will work in partnership with all education providers and develop relationships to support every child across Dorset. The aim is to allow children to access appropriate education in their local area, whilst at the same time providing best value for any investment. This will include work with Academies, Federations, Learning Centres, Maintained schools, Special Schools and schools in the independent sector.

The council has a duty to provide best value for its residents and aims to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy (costs), efficiency (throughputs) and effectiveness (outcomes). This is particularly relevant during the current time, where we are facing significant financial challenges.

2.6 Key trends and variable to factor into the forecasting of the SEND cohort

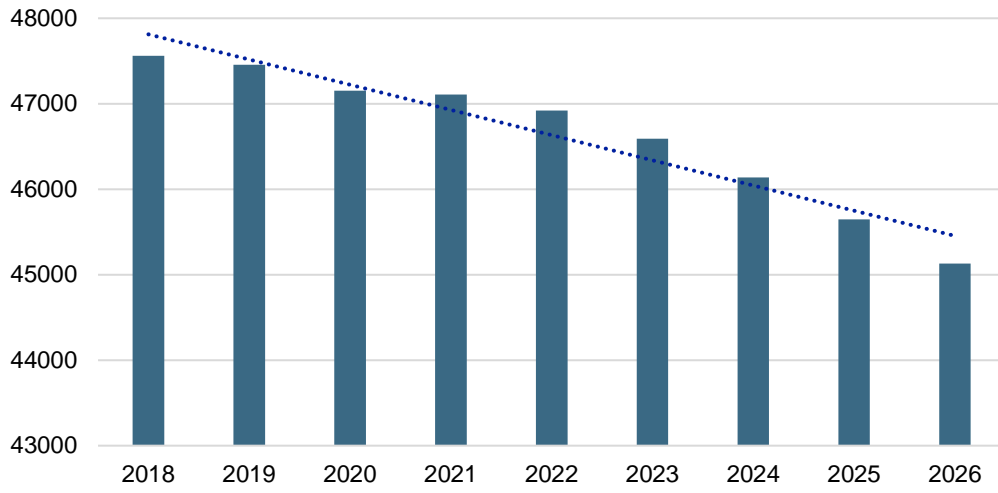
Predictive modelling of the size of the cohort in the field of SEND is limited for a number of reasons. Whilst the forecasting of the wider education cohort can be informed by data such as birth rates, early years trends and housing development, to name a few variables, there are not similar data available for the entire SEND cohort.

Furthermore, since the introduction of the Children and Families Act 2014, the SEND EHCP cohort has grown rapidly each year meaning that any trends are difficult to extrapolate.

Despite this, there are several assumptions and trends where assertions can be made which should be factored into the forecasting of the SEND cohort. These are:

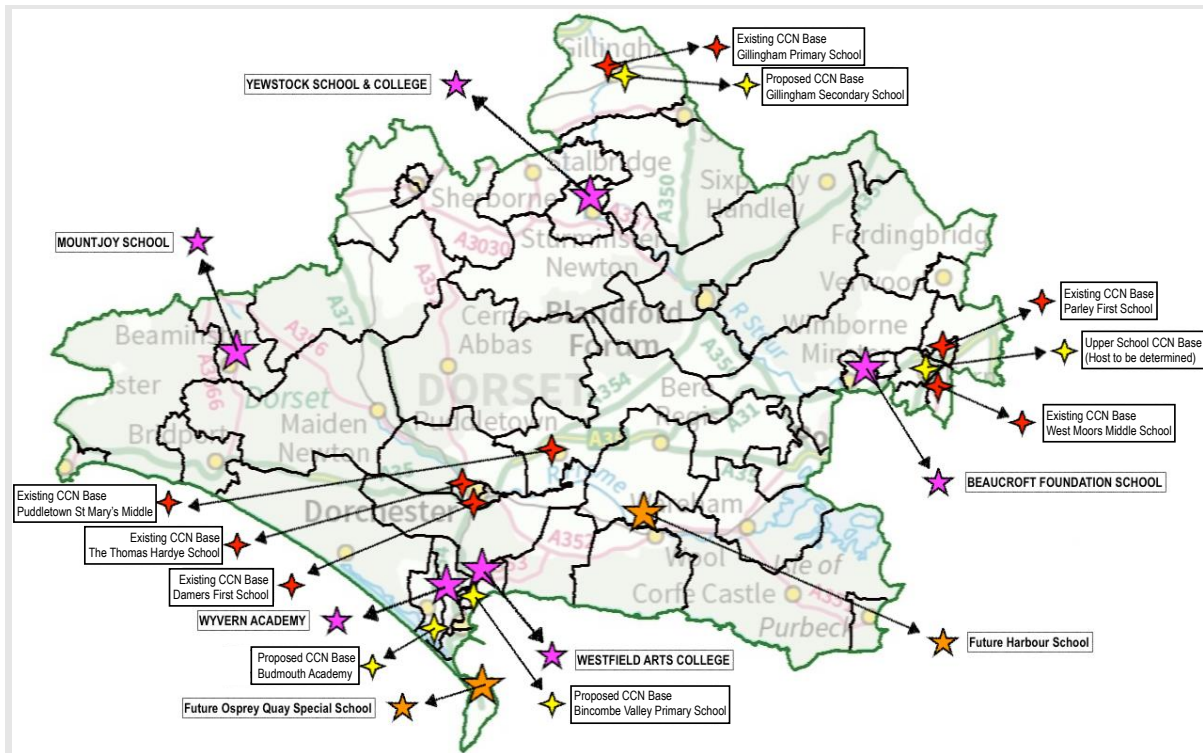
- Whilst the size of the SEND cohort continues to rise rapidly, it is expected that number of children with an EHCP is reaching a saturation point (over the next 5 years) whereby the number of children that require an EHCP will be broadly equal to those no longer requiring one.
- The number of children diagnosed with ASD as the primary need has continued to rise at a greater pace than the wider cohort, as medical professionals, educational settings and parents improve identification and the impact on learning.
- Stronger early identification may result in a rise in the identification of SEND in the early years, KS1 and KS2.
- Whilst the impact of Covid-19 on the learning of children and young people is still not fully known, we can anticipate that it may give rise to an increase in requests for EHCPs with primary needs in Social, Emotional and Mental Health, Speech, Language or Communication Difficulty and Moderate Learning Difficulties. Whilst schools will be expected to support children and young people to reintegrate and transition back to their educational environment when they reopen, it is possible that some students will require further support through SEN support or an EHCP.
- General pupil numbers in Dorset are forecast to decrease between 3% - 4% from 2020 to 2025 (not taking into consideration any substantial house building programmes).

Dorset pupil number forecasts



3. SEND PROVISION CAPACITY

3.1 Mainstream Special Schools – desk-based capacity analysis



The Department for Education Building Bulletin 104 (BB104) sets out non-statutory area guidelines for SEND buildings and alternative provision and specially resourced provision and units.

To establish the capacity of the existing mainstream special schools, a desk-based exercise, as set out in section 1.2, was undertaken to validate the capacity of the SEND estate and identify any available capacity or significant pressures.

When the Council received its Local Area SEND inspection in 2017, many parents who gave their views during the inspection cited delays in assessments and lack of provision to meet the needs of their child. This inspection required the Local Authority to produce a Written Statement of Action. Since then, the expansion of special school provision has had only a limited impact on meeting the demand of the existing and growing cohort of children and young people.

3.2 Special Schools – summary of capacity

3.2.1 Wyvern Academy (NOR 91)

- Operates on a relatively constrained site
- Limited opportunities for expansion
- Calculated Capacity based on teaching accommodation:
- Non-ambulant PAC 60
- Ambulant PAC 84 (no nursery)
- No separate dining facility provided – recommended to meet BB104 guidelines

3.2.2 Westfield Arts College (NOR 209)

- Formal PE facilities have been provided
- Constrained sloping site
- Calculated capacity based on teaching accommodation: PAC 182
- No separate dining facility provided – recommended to meet BB104 guidelines
- Off-site post-16 provision previously located at Weymouth College is no longer available to the school, creating a shortfall in teaching accommodation and associated ancillary areas.
- Additional general teaching spaces required to maintained current NOR within BB104 guidelines

3.2.3 Mountjoy School (NOR 90)

- Constrained Site
- No separate indoor PE facilities provided
- Limited opportunities for expansion
- Calculated capacity based on teaching accommodation: PAC 60
- No specialist teaching areas identified – required to meet BB104
- Current teaching facilities do not adequately meet BB104 min requirements for secondary and post 16 pupils
- No separate dining facility provided – recommended to meet BB104 guidelines

3.2.4 Yewstock School & College (NOR 160)

- Site accommodation split over two sites
- Limited formal PE facilities provided on both sites
- Calculated capacity based on current teaching accommodation: PAC 165
- No separate dining facility provided – required to meet BB104 guidelines. Note: main school hall has recently been extended to provide additional dining space
- Limited opportunities to expand on the main school site only

3.2.5 Beaucroft Foundation School (NOR 166)

- No separate indoor PE facilities provided
- Constrained site
- Limited opportunities for expansion
- Calculated capacity based on teaching accommodation: PAC 182
- No separate dining facility provided – recommended to meet BB104

3.3 Mainstream Special Schools – calculation of capacity against NOR

With the exception of Beaucroft Foundation school, all of the special schools are operating at capacity (based on a desk-based analysis). In practice, BB104 is advisory guidance and not a statutory requirement and therefore the existing schools have used their professional judgement, with support from the property team to maximise the use of their buildings.

Future capacity in the Harbour School and the unnamed new SEN School project will focus heavily on the preparation for adulthood agenda as create provision for children and young people aged 10 and above.

Capacity has been based on a pupil/class base ratio of 1:8, however some schools will be operating a high ratio of teachers to pupils to widen their admissions, where this has been conducive to children and young people achieving their outcomes.

Age Range (years)	School Name	Published Admission Capacity	Existing NOR (Jan 2020 Census)	Future Pupil Places	BB104 Calculated Pupil Capacity	Difference in Capacity data '+ / - (BB104)
2 to 19	Wyvern Academy	PAC: 85	87	91	60	-31

4 to 19	Westfield Arts College		209	209	182	-27
3 to 19	Mountjoy School	PAC: 86	93	93	60	-33
2 to 19	Yewstock School	PAC: 149	160	160	160	0
4 to 19	Beaucroft Foundation		166	166	182	16
EXISTING Pupil Places (Jan 2020 Census Data)			715			
FUTURE Pupil Places				719		
Pupil Place Capacity Data - capacity data calculated using BB104 guidance					644	
Difference NOR / calculated capacity utilising BB104 guidance						-75
PLANNED FUTURE SPECIAL SCHOOLS						
10 to 14	The Harbour School (DfE – Under construction)		21	160	160	0
14 to 19	Future SEN School (Proposed DfE development)		0	75	75	0
PUPIL CAPACITY TOTALS:			736	954	879	-75

3.4 Complex Communication Needs (CCN) units existing capacity

A review was carried out in 2018 to assess the pressure and demand for places in specialist provision across the county for children with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) including all types of education, from mainstream schools, who cater for children of all levels of need, to Resourced Provision and special schools where our most complex children are educated.

Part of this work identified the need to expand Resourced Provision in mainstream, helping to reduce demand for as many external and internal special school places in the future and Special Schools in Dorset, which cater for children with complex needs. This work led to 82 additional Resourced Provision places, and an additional 194 places in Special Schools in Dorset, which ensured more children could continue to be educated close to their family, home and community.

At present, CCN bases have provision for 63 places for children and young people that are experiencing significant communication difficulties impacting on social interaction and social inclusion.

There will be evidence of:

- Complex difficulties with social communication skills
- Complex difficulties in social interaction
- Significant functional difficulties in communication (e.g. the individual may have good verbal skills/vocabulary but is not able to use these effectively to communicate due to their significant social communication difficulties)

The child/young person is able to access a mainstream curriculum (suitably differentiated appropriate)

Existing CCN bases cost approximately £1.2m and are funded from the High Needs Block. CCN bases are part of the wider strategy for keeping children in mainstream schools. Increasing provision on mainstream sites for a whole range of provision is desirable as this helps to sustain children in long term sustainable places. Therefore, an ongoing strategy of working closely with schools to identify where we can support this is key to ensuring that progression opportunities are available.

RESOURCED UNITS WITHIN MAINSTREAM SCHOOLS EXISTING AND PROPOSED CCN BASES				
EXISTING CCN Bases - On Site & Operational		Existing	Future	Age Range
WEST (Dorchester)	Damers First	10	10	4 to 9
WEST (Dorchester)	Puddletown Middle	5	10	9 to 13
WEST (Dorchester)	Thomas Hardye - Upper	9	9	13 to 18
EAST (Ferndown)	Parley First	10	10	4 to 9
EAST (Ferndown)	West Moors Middle	10	10	9 to 13
NORTH (Gillingham)	Gillingham Primary	9	14	4 to 11
Current CCN Base Totals:		53	63	

3.5 Dorset Alternative Provision (AP) Schools – capacity analysis

Dorset AP schools support children and young people with behaviour and learning difficulty, including those with Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) primary needs.

Dorset Alternative Provision (AP) Schools Published Admission Capacity Data (including dual registered pupil numbers)				
School Name	Published Admission Capacity	Existing NOR including dual registered pupils (Jan 2020 Census)	Spare AP Capacity IN Dorset against PAC(s)	Age Range (years)
AP (Behaviour) Pupil Totals	193	188	5	
The Forum Centre (Behaviour)	30			
The Forum Centre SRP for Pupils with Social, emotional and Mental Health Needs	16	57	-11	5 to 16
DLC - Dorchester Learning Centre (Behaviour)	43			
DLC - SRP for Pupils with Social, emotional and Mental Health Needs	24	58	9	5 to 16

Dorset Alternative Provision (AP) Schools Published Admission Capacity Data (excluding dual registered pupil numbers)						
Pupils with EHC Plan		Pupils with NO EHC Plan but with SEN		Pupils with No Special Provision		Pupil TOTALS excluding dual registered pupils (Jan 2020 Census)
with EHC Plan	% all Pupils	with SEN Support	% all Pupils	No special provision	% all Pupils	
64	43%	69	46%	16	11%	149
1						
14	33%	31	67%	0	0%	46
2						
19	33%	14	67%	7	0%	42

The Compass (Behaviour)	40			
The Compass SRP for Pupils with Social, emotional and Mental Health Needs	24	52	12	11 to 16
Harbour Vale School (Behaviour)	32	21	11	11 to 16
AP (Health) Pupil Numbers				
KLC - Kingfisher Ward at Dorset County Hospital (Health)	8			4 to 18

8						
18	59%	17	39%	1	2%	44
2	12%	7	41%	8	47%	17
<p><i>Note: Kingfisher Ward - located within Dorset County Hospital. The centre is linked to Dorchester Learning Centre and helps children with complex medical and health needs whilst in hospital.</i></p>						

3.6 Physical Disability (PD) units existing capacity

Pupils with physical disabilities should be educated at their local school. However, for some pupils with mainstream ability but with complex physical disabilities often associated with additional medical needs there are 3 PD Bases in mainstream schools in the Dorchester area. All three bases are commissioned for up to 10 places each and are in the Dorchester area due to close proximity of the 3 schools to Dorset County Hospital.

**SPECIALIST RESOURCED UNITS WITHIN MAINSTREAM SCHOOLS
EXISTING PD BASES**

EXISTING PD Bases - On Site & Operational		Existing	Future	Age Range
DORSET	Prince of Wales First	10	10	4 to 9
DORSET	Dorchester Middle	10	10	9 to 13
DORSET	Thomas Hardy - Upper	10	10	13 to 18
Current PD Base Totals:		30	30	

4. APPROVED AND PROSPECTIVE SCHEMES

4.1 Background and context

To ensure there is appropriate capacity in the system in the relevant areas, Dorset Council regularly engages in consultation and discussion with a range of local stakeholders and will look to use the existing capacity within the system to address the basic need of providing enough school places.

Dorset Council will regularly undertake options appraisals, to establish the viability of any projects, and works with local councillors, community groups, and others to ensure there is the most appropriate and cost-effective solution to providing local education for children.

The Council have increased local specialist places and provision over the past three years by 227 places:

- New Bases opened for CCN at West Moors and Parley schools in September 2018 with 20 places.
- Dorchester Learning Centre relocated and opened in September 2018
- SEMH Bases opened in 3 Learning Centres in Sept 2018 with a total of 64 places
- Capacity increased at Mountjoy and Yewstock special schools in 2018 by 24 places
- Capacity increase at Beaucroft by 10 places in September 2019
- New special school opened in Bovington September 2019 (temporary accommodation 2019 – 25 places, growing to 160 places by 2023 / 24).
- Base provision for complex communication needs: 2019; 54 CCN places, 2020; 64 CCN places, 2021; 106 CCN places planned across the county.
- We are part of a SW regional consortium developing a shared ISP Framework (Bristol leading). Amongst other positives this will ensure more robust quality assurance of the independent schools used, focus on value for money and keep price increases down.

4.2 Department for Education approved schemes

There are two schemes which have been approved by the Department for Education and will add capacity to Dorset's special school provision over the next 2-3 years.

4.2.1 The Harbour School

The Harbour School on completion will be a 160-place ambulant Special School catering predominately for pupils with ASC and SEMH between the ages of 10 to 14 years. The project is currently under construction and operating from a smaller temporary building.

4.2.2 New Dorset Special School

This school is intended to be a 75-place ambulant Special School catering for a wide range of needs such as MLD / SLD & ASC for young people aged 14 to 19 years.

An existing building has been identified and the Department for Education have initiated feasibility study to assess scheme.

4.3 Possible schemes to expand existing special school provision

There are several of schemes ranging from high level proposals which have been presented by our schools, to more detailed projects where a feasibility study has been undertaken and indicative schemes and costs are available.

4.3.1 Beaucroft School (Wimborne)

Current position

Beaucroft School is currently 166 place Outstanding 4 – 19 Foundation Special School serving children and young people with EHCPs with a range of needs, primarily:

- ASD - Autistic Spectrum Disorder; and
- MLD - Moderate Learning Difficulty primary needs

Summary of proposal

The proposal is to increase their capacity by up to 75 additional places.

Feasibility study complete?	No
Timescale to complete a feasibility study	3 months (subject to resourcing)
Cost of delivery	Subject to feasibility study
Complexity of delivery	Medium

4.3.2 Mountjoy School (Beaminster)

Current position

Mountjoy School 93 place Good 3 – 19 Community Special School serving children and young people with EHCPs with a range of needs, primarily:

- MLD - Moderate Learning Difficulty;

- SLD - Severe Learning Difficulty; and
- PMLD - Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulty

Summary of proposal

The proposal is to increase the capacity of the school; however, the additional places would need to be determined through the feasibility study.

Feasibility study complete?	No
Timescale to complete a feasibility study	3 months (subject to resourcing)
Cost of delivery	Subject to feasibility study
Complexity of delivery	High (site not owned by Dorset Council)

4.3.3 Westfield Arts College (Weymouth)

Current position

Westfield Arts College is a 209 place Outstanding 4 – 19 Foundation Special School serving children and young people with EHCPs with a range of needs, primarily:

- ASD - Autistic Spectrum Disorder; and
- MLD - Moderate Learning Difficulty

Summary of proposal

The proposal is to increase the capacity of the site by moving sixth form provision off site and expanding the other year groups. The additional places would need to be determined through the feasibility study.

Feasibility study complete?	No
Timescale to complete a feasibility study	3 months (subject to resourcing)
Cost of delivery	Subject to feasibility study
Complexity of delivery	Medium

4.3.4 Wyvern School (Weymouth)

Current position

Wyvern School is an 87 place Good 2 – 19 Special Academy serving children and young people with EHCPs with a range of needs, primarily:

- SLD - Severe Learning Difficulty

Summary of proposal

The proposed extension to the school would have increased capacity in the Early Years provision by an additional 16 places.

Feasibility study complete?	Yes
Timescale to complete a feasibility study	n/a
Cost of delivery	£1.7m - £2m
Complexity of delivery	High (potential planning issues and consideration of shared land)

4.3.5 Yewstock School (Sturminster Newton)

Current position

Yewstock School is a 160 place Outstanding 2 – 19 Community Special School serving children and young people with EHCPs with a range of needs, primarily:

- SLCN - Speech, language and Communication;
- ASD - Autistic Spectrum Disorder
- MLD - Moderate Learning Difficulty
- SLD - Severe Learning Difficulty

Summary of proposal

The proposal is to increase the capacity of the site by moving sixth form provision off site and expanding the other year groups. The additional places would need to be determined through the feasibility study.

Feasibility study complete?	No
Timescale to complete a feasibility study	3 months (subject to resourcing)
Cost of delivery	Subject to feasibility study
Complexity of delivery	High

4.4 Possible expansion of existing CCN bases

When the recommendation was agreed in April 2018 by Dorset County Council to establish CCN bases an initial capital allocation of £2.094m was set aside to create 8 bases. However, as the programme has progressed it has become evident that that sum was insufficient to deliver all the proposed projects. Of the 8 referred to in the 2018 report only 4 have been delivered, with 2 more being provided through repurposing existing specialist base provision with minimal capital investment at two additional sites. To complete the initial provision of the 8 bases identified additional capital funding would be required.

The cost for the provision at Gillingham School is estimated to be in the region of £■■■■■, as is the cost for the provision at Bincombe Valley Primary School in Weymouth. Similar costs could be expected for the Secondary provision in the East as well as the Secondary provision in Weymouth. Funding for the Bincombe Valley scheme was part of an approved capital bid in 2020, so funding has already been identified to support this project, so additional funding of approximately £■■■m would be required to complete the original planned schemes.

The potential need for additional bases has subsequently been identified in the West of the County as well as the Purbeck area. Schools would need to be identified to host this additional provision but a further capital allocation of approximately c. £■■m depending on the complexity of each scheme, may be required to provide those facilities.

Without completing the provision in the Gillingham and East Dorset school pyramids there is a gap in provision for those pupils who currently benefit from the CCN provision in the Primary phase of their education.

4.5 New capital investment

Once the expansion of existing provision has been exhausted and other means of meeting need have been considered the only way to continue to meet increasing demand would be to provide additional new capacity. This could through new provision on potentially new sites or existing authority owned sites.

In terms of capital investment required for new provision, benchmarking data is available in the National School Delivery Cost Benchmarking report (June 2019), which is a study undertaken by Hampshire CC in conjunction with East Riding of Yorkshire Council and the Department for Education. Dorset County Council were also a participant in the survey.

The benchmark data shows that the average gross cost m² for SEND provision, either through new build or extensions to existing buildings is £2,821 (exc VAT), with the average cost per pupil place being £65,739. Therefore, an indicative cost for a 280 place all through SEN provision, with a floor area of approx 5251m² (based on BB104 guidelines) could cost between £14.8m based on the benchmark figure of £2,821/m² and £18.4m based on the average cost per pupil place benchmarking figure. Individual project costs will vary depending on size and complexity of school to be provided, in terms of need. They would need to be determined through the completion of a feasibility study to take such matters into

account along with site costs and site development issues, such as sloping or constrained sites.

5. FUTURE DIRECTION

5.1 Sufficiency strategy

The Council has a need for more SEND provision to meet the needs of the existing SEND cohort, which is demonstrated by the significant in-year deficit in the High Needs Block and cohort analysis.

Much of this demand can be delivered through the expansion of existing provision through capital investment or identification of alternative sites from which provision can be delivered (such as sixth form provision). However, the Council may choose to expand provision through the creation of a new specialist provision.

The future growth of the cohort, which is unlikely to slow in line with both regional and national trends may further increase the demand for provision through an EHCP in Dorset.

The Council strategy should be informed by three key conditions:

1. The urgency of the need to act to create capacity to alleviate the pressure on the High Needs Block in the short term;
2. the targeting of increased provision in key areas where the pressures exist, taking into consideration the age profile and primary special needs of children and young people; and
3. the need to work closely with our schools to promote inclusion and ensure more children and young people can have their needs met in mainstream schools either through specialist units or provision.