



Dorset Council

Date: Thursday, 10 October 2024
Time: 6.30 pm
Venue: Council Chamber, County Hall, Dorchester, DT1 1XJ

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

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

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

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

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Agenda

Page No

1. APOLOGIES

To receive any apologies for absence.

2. MINUTES

5 - 36

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 18th July 2024.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

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

4. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

To receive any announcements from the Chairman of Council.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - QUESTIONS

A period of 30 minutes is allocated to receive and respond to questions and statements on the business of the Council in the following order:

- (a) Questions and statements from Town and Parish Councils;
- (b) Questions and statements from those living or working in the Dorset Council area;

A person or organisation can submit either 1 question or 1 statement at each meeting.

You are welcome to attend the meeting in person or via MS Teams to read out your question and to receive the response. If you submit a statement for Full Council this will be circulated to all members of the council in advance of the meeting as a supplement to the agenda and appended to the minutes of the meeting for the formal record but it will not be read out at the meeting. The first 8 questions and the first 8 statements received by Democratic Services will be accepted on a first come first served basis in accordance with the deadline below:

The full text of the question or statement must be received by 8.30am on Monday 7th October 2024. All submissions must be emailed to susan.dallison@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

When submitting your question or statement please note that:

Sub-divided questions will not be accepted;

Each question can consist of up to 450 words, including a pre-amble to set the context of the question;

When submitting a question please indicate who the question is for, i.e., the name of the Portfolio Holder;

You will need to include your full name, address and contact details;

All questions and statements will be published in full with the minutes of the meeting as a matter of public record.

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS

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

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

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

[Council Procedure Rules](#)

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

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

8. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

To receive questions submitted by councillors. The deadline for receipt of questions is 8.30am on Monday 7th October 2024.

9. DORSET COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN 2023-26, PAN DORSET REDUCING OFFENDING STRATEGY 2024-27 AND SERIOUS VIOLENCE STRATEGY 2024-25. 37 - 78

To consider a recommendation from Cabinet.

10. NOTICE OF MOTION - WINTER FUEL ALLOWANCE 79 - 80

To consider a Notice of Motion proposed by Cllr C Jones, seconded by Cllr S Flower.

11. NOTICE OF MOTION - PETS AS PRIZES 81 - 82

To consider a Notice of Motion proposed by Cllr T Coombs, seconded by Cllr R Bryan.

12. 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.

13. 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 xx of schedule 12 A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

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

There is no scheduled exempt business for this meeting.

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DORSET COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 18 JULY 2024

Present: Cllrs Stella Jones (Chair), Les Fry (Vice-Chair), Jon Andrews, Jindy Atwal, Mike Baker, Shane Bartlett, Belinda Bawden, Laura Beddow, Derek Beer, Matt Bell, Richard Biggs, Bridget Bolwell, Dave Bolwell, Louise Bown, Alex Brenton, Piers Brown, Ray Bryan, Andy Canning, Will Chakawhata, Simon Christopher, Simon Clifford, Barrie Cooper, Richard Crabb, Peter Dickenson, Neil Eysenck, Beryl Ezzard, Scott Florek, Spencer Flower, Alex Fuhrmann, Simon Gibson, Barry Goringe, Jill Haynes, Hannah Hobbs-Chell, Sally Holland, Ryan Holloway, Ryan Hope, Rob Hughes, Nick Ireland, Jack Jeanes, Sherry Jespersen, Carole Jones, Paul Kimber, Nocturin Lacey-Clarke, Robin Legg, Cathy Lugg, Rory Major, Craig Monks, David Morgan, Steve Murcer, David Northam, Louie O'Leary, Emma Parker, Mike Parkes, Andrew Parry, Val Pothecary, Byron Quayle, Belinda Ridout, Julie Robinson, Steve Robinson, Pete Roper, David Shortell, Andy Skeats, Duncan Sowry-House, Andrew Starr, Gary Suttle, Clare Sutton, Roland Tarr, David Taylor, Gill Taylor, Andy Todd, David Tooke, Bill Trite, James Vitali, Claudia Webb, Kate Wheller, Sarah Williams, Ben Wilson and Carl Woode

Present remotely: Cllrs Toni Coombs

Apologies: Cllrs Chris Kippax, Jon Orrell and Jane Somper

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

Kate Critchel (Senior Democratic Services Officer), Susan Dallison (Democratic Services Team Leader), George Dare (Senior Democratic Services Officer), Aidan Dunn (Executive Director - Corporate Development S151), Chris Harrod (Senior Democratic Services Officer), Jennifer Lewis (Head of Strategic Communications and Engagement), Jonathan Mair (Director of Legal and Democratic and Monitoring Officer), Matt Prosser (Chief Executive) and Lindsey Watson (Senior Democratic Services Officer)

19. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 May 2024 were confirmed and signed.

20. **Declarations of Interest**

Cllr S Bartlett declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in minute 23 because of his wife's employment status in relation the Queen Elizabeth Leisure Centre.

21. **Chair's Announcements**

The Chair reported the deaths of Honorary Alderman John Tory (former North Dorset District Councillor) and Jess Nagel (former Weymouth & Portland Borough Councillor). The Chair also advised that a short presentation from the Dorset Youth Council, would take place at the beginning of every council meeting going forward.

22. Public Participation - questions

There were seven questions received from members of the public and these are set out in Appendix 1 to these minutes. There were also 2 public statements and these can also be found in the appendix.

23. Public Participation - petitions and deputations

Petition – Queen Elizabeth Leisure Centre

Mr Steve Parlour presented a petition requesting Dorset Council to “stop the closure of the Queen Elizabeth Leisure Centre, Wimborne”. A copy of his full statement is attached at Appendix 2 to these minutes.

It was proposed by Cllr J Andrews and seconded by Cllr N Ireland that this matter be considered by Cabinet at its next meeting in September.

Some members expressed concerns around why this matter was not going to be considered by a scrutiny committee prior to a decision of Cabinet in September. The Director for Legal and Democratic Services advised that it was expedient to take the matter directly to Cabinet in September to avoid delay and for an early decision; he also confirmed that there was no requirement in the constitution, for a petition to be referred to a scrutiny committee prior to a decision made by any other committee.

Decision

That the petition be referred to Cabinet for consideration.

Deputation – Bibby Stockholm Barge

A deputation was submitted by Elaine White, Candy Udwin, Lucy Hardwicke, Sally Davidson and Giovanna Lewis on behalf of “Stand Up to Racism Dorset” in respect of the Bibby Stockholm Barge.

In response to the deputation, the Leader of the Council advised that Dorset Council remained opposed to the use of the Bibby Stockholm barge and to any extension of the contract between the Home Office and Portland Port. He confirmed that every opportunity would be used to engage with the new Government and new local MP to pursue the Council’s opposition. (A copy of the full response is attached at Appendix 3 to these minutes).

24. Announcements and Reports from the Leader of Council and Cabinet Members

The Leader of the Council reported that Dorset Council was shortlisted in the digital transformation category of the MJ Awards 2024 for a planning convergence and transformation project. Dorset Council was “highly commended” in this category.

The Council was also shortlisted for a Royal Town Planning Institute (Southwest) – 2024 Award. The Leader of the Council advised that the Judges were impressed with the “root and branch” scope of the service delivery and the high aspirational self-imposed targets to the creation of their new Unitary Authority Status.

Following the recent King’s Speech for the Opening of Parliament, the Leader of the Council confirmed that there was still much to be clarified in terms of devolution, planning changes and adult social care.

In response to a question, the Leader of the Council confirmed that the function of scrutiny was important to his administration. He also advised that the discussions with neighbouring councils regarding devolution options would be taking place shortly.

25. Questions from Councillors

There were seven Councillor questions, as appended to these minutes at Appendix 4.

26. Adoption of Purbeck Local Plan 2018-2034

The Cabinet Member for Planning and Emergency Planning presented a report seeking the adoption on the Purbeck Local Plan (2018-2034) as part of the development plan for the Purbeck Area.

In presenting the recommendation, the Cabinet Member advised that the Purbeck Local Plan was submitted by Purbeck District Council prior to the creation of Dorset Council in April 2019. The Planning Inspectorate found the plan to be legally compliant and sound. He further advised that the plan, if adopted, would provide the framework for making decisions on planning matters in the Purbeck area until the emerging Dorset Local Plan. Failure to adopt the plan would leave the Purbeck area open to developer-led planning applications which were not consistent with PLP1 development strategy through the presumption in favour of sustainable development.

Most members present acknowledged that, the current plan was significantly out-of-date and therefore the most appropriate action should be to adopt the plan.

It was proposed by Cllr S Barrett and seconded by Cllr J Andrews

Decision

That the Purbeck Local Plan (2018-2034) be adopted as part of the development plan for the Purbeck area.

27. **Youth Justice Plan**

The Cabinet Member for Children’s Services, Education and Skills presented the report and proposed the recommendation that the Youth Justice Plan be adopted.

The recommendation was seconded by Cllr R Legg

Decision

That the Youth Justice Plan 2024/25 be approved.

28. **Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Checking**

The Leader of the Council presented the report and proposed the recommendation from the Audit and Governance Committee of 8 July 2024.

The recommendation was seconded by Cllr R Biggs.

Decision

That the Disclosure and Barring Service Checks for Councillors Policy be adopted.

29. **Planning and Licensing Committees**

In proposing the recommendations of the Audit and Governance Committee on 8 July 2024, the Chair, Cllr G Suttle reported that recommendation 3 should read “2024” not 2025.

The recommendations were seconded by Cllr S Flower.

Decision

- (a) That the Officer Scheme of Delegation, be amended, in the Constitution to change the process for determining which planning applications are referred to the planning committees (as shown in Appendix 1 of the report).
- (b) That the Protocol for Members and Officers on Planning Procedures in the Constitution, be amended, at paragraph 8.2 (as set out in Appendix 1 of the report).
- (c) That any Officer Scheme of Delegation Change take effect on 25 July 2024.
- (d) That the Constitution be amended to rename Licensing Committee as the Licensing and Gambling Acts Committee, creating a separate General Licensing Committee and substituting Articles 8.28 and 8.29 of the Constitution with new Articles 8.28 – 8.31 (as set out in Appendix 2 of the report).

- (e) That the Chair, Vice-Chair and other Members of the Licensing and Gambling Acts Committee also be appointed to the General Licencing Committee.
- (f) That sub-committees of the two licensing committees will be formed as and when needed from the membership of the relevant licensing committee.

30. **Timing of Meetings**

The Leader of the Council presented a report requesting Council to approve a minor change to the time Cabinet meetings were held throughout the year and to allow Chairs of People & Health Overview Committee, People & Health Scrutiny Committee, Place & Resources Overview Committee, Place & Resources Scrutiny Committee and Audit and Governance Committee the ability to change the meeting times of their committees.

It was proposed by Cllr N Ireland and seconded by Cllr R Hope

Decision

- (a) That, as a change to the current Calendar of Meetings all future Cabinet meetings be held at 6.30pm.
- (b) That each of the Chairs of the 2 Overview Committees, the 2 Scrutiny Committees and the Audit and Governance Committee, in consultation with committee members, be given discretion to change the time of day at which their committee is to meet.

31. **Notice of Motion - The Nature Emergency**

Full Council received the following motion proposed by Cllr N Ireland, seconded by Cllr C Sutton and supported by Cllr David Taylor, Cllr Mike Baker, Cllr Belinda Bawden, Cllr Dave Bolwell, Cllr Sarah Williams, Cllr Simon Clifford, Cllr Steve Robinson, Cllr Richard Biggs, Cllr Gill Taylor, Cllr Claudia Webb, Cllr Scott Florek, Cllr Duncan Sowry-House, Cllr Kate Wheller, Cllr Louise Bown, Cllr Will Chakawhata, Cllr Andy Canning, Cllr Jack Jeans, Cllr Chris Kippax, Cllr Jon Orrell, Cllr M Bell, Cllr S Holland.

Motion narrative and action required

This council:

1. Declares that there is a nature emergency, recognising:
 - a. That nature is in long term decline and urgent action must be taken to reverse this, that the UK is one of the world's most nature-depleted countries - in the bottom 10% globally and the worst in the G7 - and with only about half its biodiversity left that it is far below the global average;
 - b. That a thriving natural environment underpins a healthy, prosperous society, that it benefits our physical and mental health, feeds us, cleans our air, moderates urban heat, alleviates flooding, absorbs carbon, makes

counties like Dorset beautiful and that its survival and diversity is essential to human life;

- c. That the nature crisis and the climate emergency are intrinsically linked and that the impacts of the climate crisis drive nature's decline, while restoring nature can help to tackle the climate crisis.

2. Notes the positive work already begun and planned by this council including:

- d. The strategic intent as encapsulated in its Natural Environment, Climate and Ecology strategy, alongside the council's role as responsible authority for the development of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy for the county of Dorset.
- e. The work already undertaken to promote biodiversity in the council's own country parks and greenspaces, farms, highway verges, watercourses, designated areas, woodland, local nature reserves and other natural areas.
- f. Hosting the Dorset National Landscape Partnership and supporting its nature recovery work with a wide range of stakeholders, including coordinating the Purbeck Heaths National Nature Reserve partnership and the West Dorset Rivers and Coastal Streams catchment, and making significant investments in nature through the Farming in Protected Landscapes programme.

3. Commits to embed nature's recovery at the heart of all strategic plans, including the forthcoming Dorset local plan, policy areas and decision-making processes, building upon the climate decision-wheel and the Nature Recovery Dorset brand.

4. Having declared a climate emergency in 2019, commits to tackling the climate and nature emergencies together and investing in nature-based solutions to the challenges posed by climate change, including mitigating greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to increased climate risk such as flooding and extreme summer heat.

5. Facilitate the development of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Dorset, working with farmers, landowners, businesses, organisations and NGO's so that there are agreed priorities, opportunities and reportable actions to recover nature across Dorset.

6. Set clear strategic and measurable goals for nature's recovery by 2030 and its contribution towards mitigating carbon emissions and increasing our resilience to climate change, for example:

- a. Contributing to the national commitment to protect 30% of land for nature by 2030, in line with the UK's international commitment to biodiversity and the Natural Environment, Climate and Ecology strategy and set out in the Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Dorset.
- b. Supporting the Dorset and Cranborne Chase National Landscapes to meet/exceed their apportionment of the Environmental Improvement Plan targets

- c. Making space for nature and the long-term maintenance and expansion of the Nature Recovery Network.
- d. Improving biodiversity on Dorset Council land including our farms, highway verge, country parks and other greenspace by, for example planting trees and hedgerows, lowering soil fertility on verges and encouraging community orchards and the establishment of allotments.
- e. Working with farmers, landowners, town & parish councils and other external partners to improve biodiversity, increase tree cover and woodland, and green our streets.
- f. Remove the use of glyphosate and chemicals damaging to ecosystems/nature where possible.
- g. Reducing pressure on wildlife and developing wildlife corridors.
- h. Improving doorstep access to nature, particularly for those from disadvantaged backgrounds and those wards already identified as having the worst access to nature.
- i. Supporting communities and businesses to make better decisions and take action to support nature's recovery.
- j. Developing a strategic perspective on natural flood management solutions, working with key partners and stakeholders.

In presenting the motion the Leader of the Council proposed and set out the following amendment and this was also seconded by Cllr C Sutton.

To Delete 6(f)

- f. ~~Remove the use of glyphosate and chemicals damaging to ecosystems/nature where possible.~~

And replace with

- f. *Remove or restrict the use of glyphosate and other chemicals damaging to ecosystems/nature and commit to a glyphosate reduction plan.*

And add new paragraph 6(k)

- k. Extend the ban on the use of neonicotinoid pesticides on Dorset Council owned land to include new tenancies of our county farm estate.

In accordance with the Procedure Rule 14.3 (a) the Notice of Motion (as amended) was debated and upon being put to the vote the amendment was **CARRIED**.

Following further debate of the substantive motion, it was proposed by Cllr R Bryan and seconded by Cllr S Flower "that this matter be deferred to a future meeting of Council, until after an all-member webinar had been held and a programme for the proposal had been fully costed."

Upon being put to the vote the motion to defer was **LOST**.

EXTENSION OF MEETING BEYOND 3 HOURS (Procedure Rule 8)

In accordance with the Constitution, it was agreed to continue the meeting beyond 3 hours.

The Chair invited members to continue the discussion on the substantive motion and upon being put to the vote the motion was **CARRIED**

Decision (substantive)

That this council:

1. Declares that there is a nature emergency, recognising:
 - (a) That nature is in long term decline and urgent action must be taken to reverse this, that the UK is one of the world's most nature-depleted countries - in the bottom 10% globally and the worst in the G7 - and with only about half its biodiversity left that it is far below the global average;
 - (b) That a thriving natural environment underpins a healthy, prosperous society, that it benefits our physical and mental health, feeds us, cleans our air, moderates urban heat, alleviates flooding, absorbs carbon, makes counties like Dorset beautiful and that its survival and diversity is essential to human life;
 - (c) That the nature crisis and the climate emergency are intrinsically linked and that the impacts of the climate crisis drive nature's decline, while restoring nature can help to tackle the climate crisis.
2. Notes the positive work already begun and planned by this council including:
 - (d) The strategic intent as encapsulated in its Natural Environment, Climate and Ecology strategy, alongside the council's role as responsible authority for the development of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy for the county of Dorset.
 - (e) The work already undertaken to promote biodiversity in the council's own country parks and greenspaces, farms, highway verges, watercourses, designated areas, woodland, local nature reserves and other natural areas.
 - (f) Hosting the Dorset National Landscape Partnership and supporting its nature recovery work with a wide range of stakeholders, including coordinating the Purbeck Heaths National Nature Reserve partnership and the West Dorset Rivers and Coastal Streams catchment, and making significant investments in nature through the Farming in Protected Landscapes programme.
3. Commits to embed nature's recovery at the heart of all strategic plans, including the forthcoming Dorset local plan, policy areas and decision-making processes, building upon the climate decision-wheel and the Nature Recovery Dorset brand.

4. Having declared a climate emergency in 2019, commits to tackling the climate and nature emergencies together and investing in nature-based solutions to the challenges posed by climate change, including mitigating greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to increased climate risk such as flooding and extreme summer heat.
5. Facilitate the development of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Dorset, working with farmers, landowners, businesses, organisations and NGO's so that there are agreed priorities, opportunities and reportable actions to recover nature across Dorset.
6. Set clear strategic and measurable goals for nature's recovery by 2030 and its contribution towards mitigating carbon emissions and increasing our resilience to climate change, for example:
 - (a) Contributing to the national commitment to protect 30% of land for nature by 2030, in line with the UK's international commitment to biodiversity and the Natural Environment, Climate and Ecology strategy and set out in the Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Dorset.
 - (b) Supporting the Dorset and Cranborne Chase National Landscapes to meet/exceed their apportionment of the Environmental Improvement Plan targets.
 - (c) Making space for nature and the long-term maintenance and expansion of the Nature Recovery Network.
 - (d) Improving biodiversity on Dorset Council land including our farms, highway verge, country parks and other greenspace by, for example planting trees and hedgerows, lowering soil fertility on verges and encouraging community orchards and the establishment of allotments.
 - (e) Working with farmers, landowners, town & parish councils and other external partners to improve biodiversity, increase tree cover and woodland, and green our streets.
 - (f) Remove or restrict the use of glyphosate and other chemicals damaging to ecosystems/nature and commit to a glyphosate reduction plan.
 - (g) Reducing pressure on wildlife and developing wildlife corridors.
 - (h) Improving doorstep access to nature, particularly for those from disadvantaged backgrounds and those wards already identified as having the worst access to nature.
 - (i) Supporting communities and businesses to make better decisions and take action to support nature's recovery.

(j) Developing a strategic perspective on natural flood management solutions, working with key partners and stakeholders.

(k) Extend the ban on the use of neonicotinoid pesticides on Dorset Council owned land to include new tenancies of our county farm estate.

32. Election of Vice-Chair Western & Southern Planning Committee

It was proposed by Cllr N Ireland and seconded by Cllr S Bartlett

Decision

That Cllr N Eysenck be elected Vice-Chair of the Western & Southern Planning Committee.

33. Urgent items

There were no urgent items to report.

34. Exempt Business

There was no exempt business to report.

Appendix 1 - Questions and statements from the public

Appendix 2 - Statement from Mr Parlour regarding Petition - Queen Elizabeth Centre

Appendix 3 - Deputation Statement and Response from the Leader of the Council

Appendix 4 - Councillor Questions and Responses

Duration of meeting: 6.30 - 9.38 pm

Chairman

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Full Council

18 July 2024

Public Participation – Questions from Members of the Public

Question 1: - Submitted by Richard Lonsdale

Dorset Council was formed by merging Weymouth & Portland, four District Councils and the County Council. As such Dorset Council took on the responsibilities of all those councils.

One of those responsibilities was to hear representations by members of the public concerning issues in their area. Now, those voices can only really be heard in Dorchester. There is an exception – the area planning committees.

Using petitions as an example, until today, only one petition has reached the threshold to be discussed at Full Council. That was on Weymouth Parking charges. Potentially another is coming up in a few minutes on an issue related to East Dorset. I doubt someone living in Alderholt has much opinion about Weymouth parking charges. Equally I doubt someone in Bridport is overly concerned about a leisure centre in Pamphill.

Could consideration be given to the formation of area committees, as with planning, to offer more local access and provide more flexibility over the nature of petitions, time for questions and statements and access to full council if necessary?

Answer – Cllr Nick Ireland

The creation of area boards was a topic of discussion in the Shadow Authority which preceded the creation of Dorset Council, and it was expected to be taken up by the newly elected administration after May 2019. I don't recall a formal decision being made on area boards after that date but instead it was quietly shelved.

When listening to our residents and parish councils over the past five years, many perceive a gap between the local representation desired and that Dorset Council provides. However, I should highlight the fact that Dorset has many town councils with populations of around 10,000 or more that already have the authority and resources to deal with many local issues, and to provide robust representation for their communities.

A key item of the Liberal Democrat manifesto for the elections this May was, and I quote ...

“Create a well-run council with vision and ambition; making decision-making as local and democratic as possible; listening more to local residents and creating a genuine partnership with town and parish councils.”

We have already commenced several strands of work towards achieving these outcomes.

Initial discussions have been held with DAPTC to understand how we may leverage their connections better.

We are changing the planning scheme of delegation tonight to ensure the views of parish and town councils, and their local ward members, are better considered.

We are running a series of eight Big Conversation engagement events across our area from late July to mid-September to give residents an opportunity to talk with local councillors and cabinet members in-person about the issues that really matter to them.

An independent study and review is currently underway by Graham Sansom, (Adjunct Professor at the UTS Institute for Public Policy and Governance) & Dr Graham Morris (Exeter University), investigating the interaction of our larger parishes and town councils with Dorset Council; this is due to report back later this year.

And finally, we have in place a work stream to look at how other authorities, both in the UK and elsewhere, collaborate more closely with their lower tier authorities and residents for the mutual benefit of all. It's too early to give any definitive outcome but it's probably fair to say one model across the entire DC area probably won't work due to the differences and demands of our urban and rural communities, and instead we're likely to end up with a hybrid solution. We plan to have a pilot scheme for Sherborne and its surrounding parishes up and running soon, hopefully before the end of this year once the details have been ironed out.

Question 2: - Submitted by Hannah Small

I am sure that the council members agree with Dorset Councils Social Care recommendations to "Be more active with exercises or activities for wellbeing," that access to physical activity is paramount to keeping the population fit, physically and mentally healthy and able to work. One of the most effective ways for people to recover from short term injury, support mental health, keep long term disabled people active and working, and help older people continue in good physical health for longer, is access to a swimming pool. Swimming is scientifically proven and promoted by the NHS and Dorset Council Website as one of the best ways to achieve this. Specialist exercise therapy classes in a gym studio environment are also vitally important and many people with health issues use a mixture of both to maintain fitness levels, prevent further issues occurring and gain social and community support from peers thereby improving mental health. The majority of people with long term health conditions are unfortunately some of the poorest in society due to lack of access to supported employment and higher costs as a direct result of their condition. They are also the most likely to need to use public transport and need Social Care support to access physical activities that are suitable for their condition. Closing the facilities at Queen Elizabeth Leisure Centre has had a negative impact on the disabled population of Wimborne and its surrounding rural villages, resulting in a loss of access to relevant therapies including Exercise Therapy and Aqua Therapy. There is no replacement service of the same accessibility and quality within a reasonable and affordable distance of QELC, and

no rural public transport links for those who cannot drive due to ill health. Those that are available are oversubscribed and lack important accessibility features such as steps, ramps, hoists, changing facilities and a multi depth pool for deep water therapy. This has vastly increased the health inequality that is already a huge problem for disabled and older community members. It has increased costs to Social Care who are having to fund non local therapies, and the poorest members of the community who are having to find extra money to travel to and access basic physical exercise therapies in multiple locations across East Dorset, BCP and into Ringwood Hampshire. In light of the previous council's decision to close Queen Elizabeth Leisure centre and the resulting health inequality for disabled and elderly people, does the council have a plan to address this disparity?

Answer - Cllr. Jon Andrews

Thank you for your question. I think we all appreciate the benefits of being active and how this can have a positive impact on our physical and mental wellbeing. As a Council, we are particularly keen to ensure that we have an equity of leisure provision across the Dorset Council area and target health inequalities. Active Dorset's physical activity strategy – A Movement for Movement which was adopted by Dorset Health and Wellbeing Board last year, provides excellent guidance on how to build in activity in everyday life. Whilst we appreciate that the Council's decision to exit the management agreement and the new way in which the school is operating their leisure centre will have an impact on some, we are still fortunate to have access to 8 public leisure centres within this catchment area. All of these facilities provide GP referral schemes for those in our community that have health issues and may need additional support. The Council also commissions Livewell Dorset which is free to all residents and offers help to anyone wanting to increase their activity levels, as well as advice on where to access activities.

Question 3 – submitted by Rebecca Ilghany

It was argued by the previous council that there is plenty of leisure provision within a 20 minute driving distance of Queen Elizabeth Leisure Centre. This raises concerns with the environmental impact this has and goes against government targets to reduce emissions. Furthermore, since the closure of QELC, other local fitness providers have been overwhelmed with people unable to get on to now over subscribed classes with waiting lists. Such lack of exercise provision will only impact on the NHS, Public Health Dorset and Council's Adult Social Care. With respect to the 82 newly democratically elected council members, in comparison, we are presenting the largest ever submitted to Dorset Council with around 7000 signatures from irate constituents opposing the closure of QELC, a facility that has served the public since 1976 and been at the heart of generations within our community. This petition is endorsed by our local MP. From figures obtained through the Freedom of Information Act, after much scrutiny, it is clear QELC was under marketed and under priced in line with other local leisure centres and when considering the increase in population to the area, the largest conurbation, if this was managed correctly, QELC would have been in a much better position financially. With this in mind, will the

newly elected councillors listen to the will of the people and agree to work with Initio (who have recently issued a statement requesting such) and the local community to find a way forward for a new leisure centre to be opened as soon as possible on the site of QELC?

Answer – Cllr Jon Andrews

Thank you for your question. National policy identifies an accessible leisure catchment area as being **within** a 10-mile radius or 20 min drive time and is the reason that this has been used as a reference. We are fortunate that within the catchment of QE Leisure Centre, there are 8 alternative public leisure facilities, and as someone who represents an area of North Dorset, it would be wonderful if other parts of the Council area also had this level of exercise provision.

Unfortunately, given the age of the QE facility and the high levels of local competition, the centre has understandably required a large revenue subsidy over the years.

During the two-year notice period, Dorset Council have worked with Initio Learning Trust to identify ways in which the school's leisure facilities can still be accessed by the school and local community. The Council has also provided £881,000 towards centre improvements and the replacement of the all-weather pitch and will continue to support the trust as it and looks to maximise community usage following the completion of the building works.

Question 4 – submitted by Felicity Frost

We would like to draw your attention to a case in which the Scottish Borders Council were found to be acting illegally by closing a day care centre in 2022 without properly conducting an equality impact assessment.

We understand that while an Equality Impact Assessment on the closure of the Queen Elizabeth Leisure Centre was drafted, it was not completed and signed off. We question whether suitable alternative provision is really available for disabled service users in the local area, resulting in further disadvantage and health inequality. Given the huge impact of the closure of QELC on disabled people can you clarify the situation regarding the Equality Impact Assessment?

<https://brodies.com/insights/government-and-public-sector/court-of-session-finds-councils-closure-of-day-care-service-unlawful/>

Answer – Cllr Jon Andrews

Thank you for your question. QE Leisure School and Leisure Centre is owned by QE School Foundation Trustees and managed by Initio Learning Trust. Prior to the 1st April this year, the Council operated the leisure centre under a dual use management agreement. As the operators of the site, the Council had the option to withdraw from the management agreement on the provision it gave notice of 2 years.

The Council took this decision in March 2022 following a public consultation. The conclusions of the consultation were that there are 8 alternative public leisure within a 10-mile radius of QE and this level of provision was much higher than all the other parts of the Dorset Council area. All these alternative facilities provide access for disabled users and operate a GP referral scheme for those with health issues. As part of the Equality Impact Assessment review, we identified a shortfall in Aqua therapy and as a result have provided funding for this to be delivered at another local centre.

Although the school have been unable to engage a new operator, the facilities remain open for school and community club use. We will continue to work with Initio to identify ways in which the facilities can be maximised for community usage.

Question 5 – submitted by Roger Hussey

Why are Officers still enforcing an outdated scaffolding policy on Dorchester's High Street?

As a Dorchester based architectural Practice we are presently working on Nos 51, 52, 53, 57 & 64 High West Street together with the Museum.

All of these buildings are Grade 2 Listed and sit within the Conservation Area.

With the exception of the Museum all of these buildings were once fine town houses, for many years they have been offices but now, with the lack of demand for office accommodation, they are slowly returning to their original purpose, albeit apartments and maisonettes rather than grand houses.

Very little gets spent on keeping commercial premises in good repair so it is inevitable as part of any conversion that significant external refurbishment of elevations and roofscapes is necessary. Such schemes of work require scaffold and here lies the problem.

Dorset Council has a policy that limits scaffold erection in the High Street to two hours each evening and Sundays. We understand this has been in place for over 30 years and we believe dates from when the High Street was the trunk road (A35).

This policy is long overdue a rethink. The High Street is no longer a trunk road. Focussing scaffold erection into Sundays in an area that is becoming increasingly residential is not pleasant for those already living there and hoping to enjoy a 'day off'.

Significantly, this legislation places huge increased scaffold cost on property owners – money that would be much better spent on the buildings themselves to preserve and enhance Dorchester's architectural heritage. As a real example scaffold is being erected on our own offices at No 57 in August – the increased cost of doing this over several Sundays and outside of normal working hours is £18,800 excluding VAT.

There is no good reason to continue to enforce this outdated policy. If Members will not relax it completely at the very least scaffold erection should be allowed to take place between, say, 9.30am and 4.00pm, thus avoiding any perceived 'rush hour'.

To continue as things stand in the face of escalating construction costs is unacceptable.

Answer – Cllr Jon Andrews

The policy regarding the restriction of scaffolding erection times is not exclusive to High West Street in Dorchester, it is implemented across the entire unitary area. Officers evaluate each situation on a case-by-case basis, with the primary concern being the potential impact on highway users. This approach aims to mitigate risks and minimise disruption to traffic by imposing conditions that mandate erection at times when the road is quieter.

Question 6 – submitted by Annie Webster

Re: 14. Notice of Motion - The Nature of Emergency

Proposer:- Cllr Nick Ireland

Re: No.6 f. - Remove the use glyphosate and chemicals damaging to ecosystems/nature where possible.

I request that glyphosate and chemical herbicides damaging ecosystems/nature are removed completely NOT 'just where possible'.

Addressing the ecosystem/nature first, glyphosate, a neonicotinoid, where upon, it is said that a single teaspoon is enough to kill 1.25 billion bees, is seriously disrupting and therefore killing out right, pollinators especially bumble and honey bees. Also disrupting the small insects at the base of the food chain with ever increasing devastating effects. We need to encourage pollinators to thrive not just to survive. Unless we stop using these chemicals because of loss of pollinators, we will suffer food chains breaking down.

Scientists throughout the world have long been concerned with the effects of glyphosate on humans. It is a neurotoxin and an endocrine (hormone) disrupters, which causes cancerous tumours, birth defects and other developmental disorders i.e. ADHD and autism. The WHO lists glyphosate as 'probably carcinogenic'.

The Monsanto Roundup lawsuits in America bears out just how dangerous glyphosate is, with settlement agreements to the tune of approx \$11 billion, with approx another 54,000 claims against Monsanto in the pipeline.

So, basically, glyphosate is a killer and therefore has no place in threatening the lives of any residents or any domestic animals in the Dorset areas. Roads, pavements, public gardens, playgrounds/areas need to be chemical free.

As other places in the country have already done, let's make Dorset a glyphosate and other chemical herbicide free county. And switch to non-chemical methods of weed control in all areas used by the public.

Question 7 – submitted by Caz Dennett

The Nature Emergency motion is a most welcome step towards acknowledging
“That nature is in long term decline and urgent action must be taken to reverse this”

However, the motion proposes to continue use of glyphosate. Glyphosate is a non-selective systemic herbicide, known commonly as weed-killer. Non-selective means it does not target specific species of plant, but kills all plant-life that is in the spray-zone.

Section 6 in the motion, lays out the goals for nature’s recovery by 2030, and says

- f. Remove the use of glyphosate and chemicals damaging to ecosystems/nature where possible.

The term “where possible” is too open. It doesn’t convey an ambition to prevent, reduce, restrict, or control glyphosate usage. I contacted nature expert, campaigner, and TV presenter Chris Packham for advice, and he sent me this message of encouragement for Dorset Council.

To the members of Dorset Council

I applaud that Dorset Council has a motion to declare a nature emergency- using the right language at critical time- a time when our wildlife locally and globally is suffering catastrophic declines. But to continue using Glyphosate across Dorset's urban areas is simply mind-boggling.

We know Glyphosate-based products have the potential to cause significant damage to human health and to the environment- why take that risk?

Wilder urban areas are better for nature and people- who can argue that our parks, streets and towns are only boosted by the presence of bees and butterflies.

In a biodiversity crisis we need leaders- this is a huge opportunity for the council to lead and demonstrate that emergency situations require ambitious, bold action.

I love Dorset, we’ve filmed many of the Spring/Autumn watches in Arne- let’s keep the buzz in Dorset!

I urge Dorset Council to be an ‘authority of action’ for nature, and rise to the challenge by reducing and restricting glyphosate usage.

Thank you



Chris Packham

TV Broadcaster and Environmental Campaigner.

14.07.24

To become a top performer in nature protection and restoration I ask this Council to commit to reducing and restricting glyphosate usage within an agreed timeframe. I recognize this is a challenge, we all recognize this is a challenge. However, the nature emergency demands we change our practices, because nature needs our critical care to recover, and to restore good health.

Q. Will Council members consider amending Item 6.f to:

Reduce and restrict the use of glyphosate and chemicals damaging to ecosystems/nature?

Answer to Qs 6&7 – Cllr Nick Ireland

The continued use of glyphosate, both by local authorities, and in other realms such as agriculture for example, is the cause of both continued debate and concern, not just in the UK but also in Europe and beyond. The WHO did indeed designate it as a possible carcinogen and our own **Dorset Council Pollinators Action Plan 2019 – 2024** states that “*research now appears to have found links between the use of this herbicide and the decline of bees*”. On the flip side, national governments have insisted that its use is safe when applied correctly, but we also know that they don't particularly have a great track record when it comes to past public health and nature issues.

Dorset Council's existing use of glyphosate is minimal when compared to agricultural use in Dorset where entire fields are sprayed before sowing. However, that doesn't mean that as a responsible authority, we shouldn't seek to reduce or even eliminate its application. Our current deployment of the herbicide is essentially in spraying sealed surfaces (aka pavements and kerbs) plus the very focused use on certain invasive species such as Japanese Knotweed and others where use is directed by Natural England to protect SSIs (and I'm aware that is counterintuitive).

We are working to reduce the use through various means such as removing soil and detritus from sealed surfaces combined with ensuring that when pavements and footpaths are replaced, the new surface is designed to be as weed resistant as possible.

Many other authorities in the UK have banned the use of glyphosates only to have to retract to various extents. We won't issue a ban now because for us it simply is not practical, but please be assured that Dorset Council is dedicated to tackling both the climate and nature emergencies and I will be amending the motion later to more accurately reflect what Dorset Council is both doing now and more importantly, committing to going forward.

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Full Council

18 July 2024

Public Participation – Statements from Members of the Public

Statement submitted by Ross Bowell, Director of Resources, Initio Learning Trust

Initio Learning Trust statement regarding Queen Elizabeth Leisure Centre (QELC)

Queen Elizabeth's School, Wimborne is continuing to provide excellent sports provision for students, community clubs and group hire on the refurbished artificial grass pitch and hard courts. However, we are acutely aware that the 31 March closure of the QELC facilities to the public, including the swimming pool, has been detrimental to our local communities. We disagree with the council's briefing note assertion that "the future subsidy at QELC could be in excess of £850K" per year. For example, we received correspondence in June 2024 from a credible local leisure provider advising that "Whilst we recognise that time may have passed and circumstances change; we still believe that given the right setup, investment and staffing levels, a successful leisure operation is possible on the premises." Accordingly it will be informative to provide further detail on the briefing note comment that "QE school had two years to find a new operator or arrange to manage the facilities directly themselves. They were unable to find another operator so have opted to manage the site under a different operating model." Supported by a specialist leisure consultant, in 2023 Initio ran an open tender for the continued running of QELC as a dual-use leisure centre and received two bids from regional leisure providers which indicated that with one-off capital investment to bring QELC up to modern standards the centre was potentially viable. In May 2023 we had asked Dorset Council to provide additional capital investment and £150,000 revenue support over 2 years to support the continued operation of the leisure centre. An extract of the response in June 2023 is below: "Thank you for setting out your formal request for additional funds to alter and improve the facilities at QE Leisure Centre. Your specific request of an additional £1.557m capital investment from Dorset Council and £150,000 revenue support for 24/25 and 25/26 was reviewed by the Portfolio Holder for Communities and Culture, the Director of Place Services and the Head of Environment and Wellbeing...Dorset Council is not able to provide any capital or revenue funding above what it has already committed to do." Initio Learning Trust invites the new Dorset Council leadership to reconsider its approach to QELC. Our market engagement suggests that with a one-off capital investment and little or no revenue subsidy the council could successfully and viably recommission QELC as a public leisure centre operated by a specialist third party leisure provider while protecting QE school's access to the facilities to support high quality educational provision to Dorset children.

Statement submitted by Peter Webb

Purbeck Local Plan

Council should seriously consider rejecting the proposal to adopt the Purbeck Local Plan 2018 – 2034

Other than some further consultations on a few relatively specific issues raised by the Inspector, the bulk of the work and evidence that has gone into the Plan was carried out and collected prior to 2018, with some dating back prior to 2015. That is nine years or more ago. The Plan was prepared using housing number projections that were universally seen as illogical given where Purbeck is and its attraction to those migrating from elsewhere in UK driving up prices and to the exclusion of local people

It would be wiser to stick with the currently adopted Purbeck Local Plan until the new Dorset Local Plan has been prepared.

While the extant Purbeck Local Plan has less weight than it did, the reality is that development in Purbeck is constrained by both Green Belt, Natural Landscapes and Environmental regulations. There will not be a free for all by developers on the parcels of land not constrained. They will await what the new Labour Government actually delivers. So should Dorset Council before preparing its Local Plan for the whole of Dorset, utilising new evidence collected and realistic housing projections.

Incorporating old evidence and consultation results for Purbeck while using new evidence for the rest of the County is both illogical and potentially unfair and distorting.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this petition to council this evening. The petition was set up to protest the proposed closure of Queen Elizabeth Leisure Centre in Wimborne and we continue to campaign for the reopening of the centre. While collecting signatures, I found that there is astonishment and dismay that it has come to this. We are grateful for the support of several local councillors and the new MP for Mid-Dorset and North Poole.

Wimborne is the fourth largest conurbation in Dorset and is growing rapidly but has no leisure centre or swimming pool. The growing population, with the right management, promotion and perhaps a public cafe means a well run health and fitness facility could be a profitable asset for the local community. Opportunities to market centre were missed; prices were kept the same for years. Run down dirty facilities and broken equipment meant it's not surprising that footfall decreased even prior to Covid.

The closure of QE will increase health inequality as those with additional needs are particularly affected. The closure of the pool means disabled people having to drive, if they can drive and have access to a car, as far as Blandford to access a suitable accessible pool. Surely this isn't realistic, as some people need to use the pool more than once a week to keep mobile? GPs can no longer refer people to leisure centre either, meaning more travel and inconvenience for those with health issues.

For those of us in good physical health, closing QE has meant the removal of all the many activities offered there. Being able to pop into the gym when it fits into your day, use the climbing wall, which is unmatched as far as Southampton, go for a swim or take part in a fitness class are things that we could enjoy and benefit from. Now we are told to find a suitable alternative, an additional 20 minutes from the centre that stands mainly unused. How does this line up with the Climate Emergency declared by the council? For the carless, health inequality rears its head. QE is a reasonable walk or cycle from the town and could be provided with a bus stop with only a small diversion from an existing bus route.

Our growing community with diverse ages and abilities could come together to benefit our physical and mental health at a reopened leisure centre. The community spirit was demonstrated in 1976 when the pool was partly funded by the people of Wimborne, who raised £7500 by public appeal and sponsored events. This petition shows that the community spirit is still strong.

The previous operators, Initio Learning Trust, are keen to engage with Dorset Council to reopen the Queen Elizabeth Leisure Centre and we would ask you to take this opportunity and refer the petition to Committee and find a way to reopen this valuable community asset.

Thankyou.

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Response from Cllr Nick Ireland, Leader of Dorset Council to a Deputation from Stand Up to Racism Dorset and the Portland Global Friendship Group

Thank you for coming as a deputation to the Dorset Council meeting this evening and for telling the Council about your concerns and suggestions.

Dorset Council remains opposed to the use of the Bibby Stockholm barge. We are also opposed to any extension of the contract between the Home Office and Portland Port, and we will use the opportunity of a new Government and a new local MP to pursue our opposition.

While the barge is here, the council will continue to work constructively with the Home Office and other partners to ensure the safe running of the vessel for everyone residing on it and to assist with effective integration with the local area and communities.

With appropriate council officers, I would like to meet you to discuss your concerns and proposals. I welcome such a conversation and want to continue to find a positive way forward.

In the meantime, the Multi Agency Forum (MAF), consisting of representatives from all agencies involved including local councils, Dorset Police and NHS, and chaired by Dorset Council, continues to meet regularly and provides a constructive way to engage and influence Home Office management of their project.

The Community Impact Group, also chaired by Dorset Council, meets weekly. Any issues are raised at these meetings and discussed with solutions identified and appropriate action.

Monthly updates from the MAF are posted on the Dorset Council website and shared with all partners and local communities and continue to be a trusted source of accurate information regarding all partners' involvement with the Bibby Stockholm.

I look forward to meeting with you when we can pick up the issues raised.

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Full Council – 18 July 2024

Questions submitted by Councillors

Question 1 & 2 – submitted by Cllr Hannah Hobbs-Chell

1. The ferndown regeneration plan was signed off in January 2017. We have since been successively promised funding and delivery on this, and social media posts and news reports have gone out as such, but to date have had no progress. The plan of 2017 is now outdated and not fit for purpose, and arguably became so 6months after formal adoption due to a large part of the land being sold to Torbay council in August 2017. Please can council confirm what funding, if any, was/is in place to bring this forward, and to work with the town council to develop a new action plan taking in to account the revised needs of the town and the residents, and any revised budgetary constraints or opportunities?

Response from Cllr Richard Biggs

The Leader of the Council wrote to Ferndown Town Council on 9th July 2024. The Leader made a commitment to continue to work with the Town Council on plans for regeneration of the town centre. The Leader made clear in his letter that no substantive work is currently being undertaken by Dorset Council officers on regeneration plans for Ferndown town centre and that there are currently no budget allocations for this work, nor were any budget allocations made for this purpose by the previous administration of Dorset Council. The Leader also acknowledged that the 2017 plan is out of date and needs to be reviewed in order to provide a basis for any future regeneration plans for Ferndown town centre.

Question 2

2. The tcf works, as agreed and signed off by the previous administration, have hit ferndown hard, and residents have been subjected to a lot of disturbance from roadworks etc. In particular, local businesses have been very negatively impacted, and it has caused business closures, most recently the fish and chip shop due to trading volumes. Businesses are reporting that they have not received any support during this time, either through compensation, direct consultation or business rate relief. Please can the council confirm what business support has been offered or not, and can we learn from this for future so that we support our essential business and commerce sectors in Dorset?

Response from Cllr Richard Biggs

The Transforming Cities Fund work undertaken in Ferndown under the previous Dorset Council administration aimed to provide safe routes for cycling and walking, particularly for children. It is not normal practice for local authorities to compensate businesses that claim they are affected by temporary highway and transport works. We can certainly consider how to best to help sustain local businesses in the continuing work that the Leader has made a commitment to with Ferndown Town Council.

Question 3 - submitted by Cllr Peter Dickenson

Weymouth recycling and waste centre is a much used facility but is in need of modernisation.

Expecting users to go up 8 steps then unload their waste or recycling is both unsafe and out of date.

I would like to request that this council look into up grading the facility as a matter of urgency.

Response from Cllr Jon Andrews

Dorset Council has 10 Household Recycling Centres (HRCs). Many of these sites lack split-level designs and rely on steps for residents to access the containers. If a new site is developed, it will consider the site's topography to ensure it can be made split level. Having a split-level site not only makes it easier for residents to deposit their waste but also improves health and safety by keeping plant machinery away from public areas.

For existing sites like Weymouth that still have steps to access the containers, site staff assist residents needing help. However, converting existing sites to split level would require significant funding and changes to planning conditions and environmental permits.

The council has limited resources to invest in new HRC infrastructure. Therefore, sites that are in most need of modernisation have been prioritised. Currently, replacing the Blandford HRC and transfer station is the top priority. The Wimborne and Dorchester sites are also high priority for review due to space limitations and the inability to separate materials adequately for recycling. Although Weymouth's steps are less than ideal, it's not currently a site targeted for immediate action.

Question 4 - submitted by Cllr Craig Monks

In a recent Council surgery, a local resident in Beaminster asked me about the proposed actions of this Council in response to the pledges made during the local and elections, expressing keen interest in seeing a concrete plan to tackle the issue of pollution in the river Brit and the wider Dorset's rivers and coastline.

With this commitment to the residents of Dorset in mind, the Council would need to consider within its plan's issues such as what legislation or other relevant powers it might intend to rely on to achieve its aim of cleaning up Dorset's rivers and coastline, Other organisations or stakeholders that the Council would need to collaborate with to implement any policy, Projected costs to the Council and clear set targets, including timeframes, to measure the policy's success?

So, my question to the Council is: Taking all these points into consideration can the council share with us what progress has been made so far to tackle this issue and will this work be a stand-alone commitment with its own budgets and timeframes of delivery or within the Councils proposed nature emergency declaration?

Response from Cllr Nick Ireland

The Council is committed to protecting and enhancing our environment and has declared a Climate Emergency. There is a decision to be taken this evening about declaring a Nature Emergency.

From the declarations, the Council will continue to deliver policies and actions that demonstrate our commitment.

In relation to river and coastal water quality, our responsibility is limited as the regulator is the Environment Agency. However, locally we have good working relationships with the Agency and other stakeholders involved in protecting waters.

The Council's Place & Resources Scrutiny Committee will be asked to consider this matter and I'm sure will invite stakeholders, including the water utility companies to participate. From this work, there are likely to be recommendations with the aim of further protecting these vital resources.

Question 5 – submitted by Cllr Piers Brown

Could the Portfolio Holder outline his preferred options from the 'Horton Road Safety Scheme PRE-FEASIBILITY REPORT', including the timeline for delivery & confirm that cost will not be the overriding factor in the decision-making process?

Response from Cllr Jon Andrews

In response to the Horton Road Safety Scheme pre-feasibility report, I have asked officers to expedite a new and improved signage scheme at this location. This will be part of a phased approach which will allow us to monitor the effectiveness of these improvements over time and if necessary, we will consider more extensive highway measures. Officers will be providing the local Member and me with an update next month on the details and timing of this scheme in addition to their plans for how they will monitor the improvements.

Question 6 – submitted by Cllr Robin Legg

It's at least a year since the unauthorised development of a coach park at Loscombe Cross in the parish of Bradford Abbas first appeared. The matter is of grave concern to both Bradford Abbas and the Queen Thorne Group parish councils because the access to the parking area gives on to the crossroads of the A30 dual carriageway where there have been four fatalities in as many years, most recently on 20th February. I am told that a planning enforcement case has been opened reference EN/2023/00402. On the 4th of January this year I received an email from Planning Enforcement saying, "I will ask the enforcement officer to provide updates should there be any significant changes to the enforcement case". To date I have received no updates. Local residents are becoming exasperated at the lack of action when

there is an obvious and continuing risk of death or serious injury at this location by the unregulated use of this site as a coach park. Please explain in detail what action is being taken to bring this use to an end with a specific timescale in which that will take place.

Response from Cllr Shane Bartlett

Whilst I share the councillor's and community's concerns about safety along this section of the A30, I must be clear that none of the Road Traffic Collisions were attributable to the unauthorised coach park at Loscombe Cross. Following these incidents a Traffic Regulation Order to restrict speeds to 60 miles per hour was successfully completed and put in place by the Road Safety Team. I can also confirm that the enforcement case regarding the coach park remains ongoing at this time. As with all enforcement cases, action should be proportionate to the breach and taken when it is expedient to do so. Officers have been liaising closely with highway colleagues in considering this case, and are in discussion with the property owner regarding the material change of use of the land, who has sought the services of a planning agent to act on their behalf. A retrospective planning application has been submitted (as is their right) but did not meet validation requirements and the enforcement team are following this up with the owner/agent in order to seek a resolution. Further updates can be provided by officers once more precise timescales are known.

Question 7 – submitted by Cllr Robin Legg

The ground floor frontage of a late medieval timber house is located on the corner of Long Street and Cheap Street, Sherborne. The structure was first listed in 1950 but has been neglected for many years and is in a sorry state of repair. Last week the structure was damaged in a wanton act of vandalism. One of the oak panels was kicked in. What action will the authority take, including the use of statutory powers, to ensure that this historic structure is repaired and protected to be enjoyed by future generations?

Response from Cllr Shane Bartlett

Our records indicate that the Structure is Grade II Listed in 1973 and comprises part of a timber fronted house which previously was largely demolished. The building has been protected recently when works were carried out to the listed Buildings around the corner in Long Street, above the takeaway. The Structure has also been protected historically when works have taken place.

When considering buildings at risk, and any intervention through the use of statutory powers, the Local Planning Authority needs to have regard to the current state of repair, degree of risk to the building and that the owner is responsible for maintaining the structure in the first instance. Interventions by Dorset Council therefore need careful consideration and inevitably those buildings at greatest risk have to be prioritised. At present there does not appear to be a case for justifying the use of statutory powers, but I have asked officers to keep the situation under review.

Question 8 – submitted by Cllr Richard Crabb

Barton Farm Estate, Sherborne

The Barton Farm Estate in Sherborne a development of 344 houses by Persimmon is the subject of many failures of planning enforcement, incomplete roads, pavements and lighting and breaches of obligations under the Section 106 Agreements. I understand talking to colleagues that similar problems have occurred on Persimmon developments in Shaftesbury and elsewhere. How many breaches of planning conditions, Section 106 obligations and road making agreements remain outstanding on Persimmon developments across Dorset and please will you list those estates? What measures will the authority be taking in future to ensure proper compliance by this developer with its obligations and will that include ensuring that maintenance of public areas is under the control of residents?

Response from Cllr Shane Bartlett

Dorset Council is aware of the residents concerns over Barton Farm. Officers from the Planning and Highway Authority have met with the developer Persimmon Homes to agree a way forward to address the ongoing concerns. These meetings have been very positive and can I suggest that Cllr Crabb discusses the detail of his question with the Corporate Director for Planning. Can I also ask that members with a specific concern about a possible breach of planning control to contact our enforcement team, which can be done via the Council's online enforcement portal, so that it can be investigated.

Question 9 – submitted by Cllr Louie O'Leary

In July 2023 the previous council passed a motion condemning the Bibby Stockholm barge and calling for its removal from Portland harbour. This request fell on deaf ears by both the previous government and the Port. There is a new Labour government now and a Labour MP in South Dorset who was elected on the promise of removing this barge. The renewal of the contract for the barge is coming up shortly. Therefore will this Council re-affirm its stance and once again call on this barge which is a disgrace to Dorset and a blot on the Jurassic coast and call for this barge to be removed as soon as possible.

Response by Cllr Nick Ireland

My response to the Deputation received earlier detailed this council's position, which is unchanged from that of the previous administration, and I will be speaking to new SD MP Lloyd Hatton to see how how can assist us.

Recommendation to Dorset Council 10 October 2024

From Cabinet of 10 September 2024

Dorset Community Safety Plan and Pan-Dorset Reducing Reoffending Strategy

For Decision

Cabinet Member and Portfolio:

Cllr G Taylor, Health & Housing

Local Councillor(s): All

Executive Director:

J Price, Executive Director of People- Adults

Report Author: Andy Frost
Job Title: Service Manager for Community Safety
Tel: 01305 224331
Email: andy.frost@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Report Status: Public

Recommendation:

That the Community Safety Plan 2023-2026 (2024-25 refresh), Pan-Dorset Reducing Reoffending Strategy 2024-2027 and Serious Violence Strategy 2024-25 be approved.

Appendices and background papers

[Report to Cabinet 10 September 2024 - Dorset Community Safety Plan and Pan-Dorset Reducing Reoffending Strategy](#)

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People & Health Overview Committee

23 July 2024

Community Safety Plan 2023-2026 (2024-25 refresh), Pan-Dorset Reducing Reoffending Strategy 2024-2027 and Serious Violence Strategy 2024-25

For Decision

Cabinet Member and Portfolio:

Cllr G Taylor, Health and Housing

Local Councillor(s):

All

Executive Director:

J Price, Executive Director of People - Adults

Report Author: Andy Frost

Job Title: Service Manager for Community Safety

Tel: 01305 224331

Email: andy.frost@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Report Status: Public

Brief Summary:

Dorset Council is under a legal duty to work with partners through the Dorset Community Safety Partnership (CSP) to identify and tackle community safety issues.

CSPs are required to produce three-year community safety plans (that are refreshed annually), and strategies to reduce reoffending. These should be formally adopted by the local authority for the area.

Certain partners are also required to produce strategies to tackle Serious Violence. In Dorset, partners have chosen to co-ordinate this work through the Dorset CSP. Serious Violence Strategies should also be formally adopted by the local authority for the area.

This report presents the latest Community Safety Plan, Reducing Reoffending Strategy and Serious Violence Strategy and recommends they are adopted by Dorset Council.

Recommendation:

That the Community Safety Plan 2023-2026 (2024-25 refresh), pan-Dorset Reducing Reoffending Strategy 2024-2027 and Serious Violence Strategy 2024-25 be recommended to Cabinet and Dorset Council for adoption.

Reason for Recommendation:

To ensure Dorset Council meets its duties as set out in relevant legislation.

1. Background

1.1 Dorset Council is under a legal duty to work with the following partners (responsible authorities) to identify and tackle community safety issues in its area:

- Dorset Police
- NHS Dorset
- Dorset & Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Authority
- Probation Service

1.2 It does this through the Dorset Community Safety Partnership (CSP) a statutory partnership under the Crime & Disorder Act 1998.

1.3 CSPs are required to produce three-year community safety plans (that are refreshed annually), and strategies for reducing reoffending.

1.4 These should be formally adopted by the local authority for the area. Adoption must be by Full Council.

1.5 The serious violence duty under the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 came into effect for the following partners on 31 January 2023:

- Police
- Probation
- Youth Offending Teams
- Fire & Rescue Authorities
- NHS

- Local Authorities
- 1.6 The duty requires partners to produce an evidence based analysis of serious violence and develop and implement a strategy in response. In Dorset, partners decided to lead their response to the duty through the CSP.
- 1.7 Serious Violence Strategies should also be formally adopted by the local authority for the area. Adoption must be by full Council.
2. **Community Safety Plan 2023-2026 (2024-25 refresh)**
- 2.1 The Community Safety Plan 2023-26 (refreshed for 2024-25) is attached at appendix 1. The Plan was agreed by the CSP on 19th March 2024, subject to any changes from the Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) process (the EqIA has since been signed off).
- 2.2 The Plan sets out partners' priorities and how they will be tackled in broad terms based on an assessment of community safety issues in the area. The priorities included in the latest refresh of the plan are:
- Domestic Abuse and Stalking
 - Sexual Offences
 - Serious Violence
 - Anti-social Behaviour
 - Rural Crime
 - Fraud
- 2.3 They are complemented by the following cross cutting issues:
- Mental health
 - Substance misuse
 - Complex cases / multiple need
 - Violence against women and girls
- 2.4 The plan includes references to members of the public's views on community safety issues. As with previous plans, it is complemented by more detailed delivery plans.
- 2.5 The CSP and Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) are legally required to have regard to each other's priorities when setting their plans. The

PCC's current Police & Crime Plan has been considered when writing and refreshing the community safety plan.

- 2.6 The Plan is being presented to the Council for adoption in its second year to allow for the incorporation of work relating to partners' duty to tackle serious violence.

3. **Pan-Dorset Reducing Reoffending Strategy 2024-2027**

- 3.1 In accordance with the Policing and Crime Act 2009, CSPs are responsible for developing reducing reoffending strategies.
- 3.2 Locally, partners have traditionally developed pan-Dorset reducing reoffending strategies, given that many organisations and issues are common across the area.
- 3.3 The latest strategy is attached at appendix 2. It has been developed by partners through the Reducing Reoffending Strategy Group helping ensure close links to both CSPs (Dorset and Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole) and the pan-Dorset Criminal Justice Board. The Strategy was agreed at the Dorset CSP on 19th March 2024 subject to any changes from the EqIA process (the EqIA has since been signed off).
- 3.4 The strategy sets out partners' vision for reducing reoffending which is:

'To cut crime, reduce harm and protect victims by reducing re-offending through joint working and rehabilitation'.
- 3.5 It contains information on the reasons for reoffending and the services and programmes operating in Dorset to address issues and includes several strategic principles and objectives.

4. **Serious Violence Strategy 2024-25**

- 4.1 The Serious Violence Strategy 2024-25 is attached at appendix 3. It was agreed by the Dorset CSP on 21st December 2023 and published on 30th January 2024, in line with Government expectations.
- 4.2 The Strategy has been informed by an assessment of serious violence issues in Dorset. It sets out partners' priorities and aims which include approaches to tackle high-harm offending, supporting victims, ensuring

children and young people understand the risks and drivers for serious violence, tackling serious violence in the community, tackling organised crime and undertaking work to further develop our local understanding of serious violence issues.

4.3 Legislation and statutory guidance recognise there are parallels between the requirement for partners' to have a Community Safety Plan and Serious Violence Strategy.

4.4 In recognition of that, partners have ensured their response to tackling serious violence, through their Serious Violence Strategy, forms an integral part of their Community Safety Plan.

4.5 Central government funding has been made available to partners to deliver the serious violence duty. This has been used to ensure partners comply with their legal obligations and fund initiatives to tackle issues.

5. **Financial Implications**

5.1 The Dorset CSP does not receive funding directly, however partners' plans and strategies clarify where they will focus their time and effort and their broad activity to meet priorities.

5.2 Central government has made available funding for responsible authorities to deliver the serious violence duty.

5.3 From time to time, central government makes available one off funding opportunities to support community safety work such as tackling domestic abuse. When possible, partners apply for such funds.

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

None.

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

6.1 Tackling crime and the fear of crime has a significant impact on health and wellbeing.

8. **Other Implications**

7.1 Community safety as set out in the report.

9. **Risk Assessment**

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

Current Risk: Low

Residual Risk: Low

10. **Equalities Impact Assessment**

10.1 EqIAs have been completed and signed off on both the Community Safety Plan and Reducing Reoffending Strategy.

10.2 The EqIA process identified opportunities which will help steer the delivery of the Plan and Strategy.

10.3 The EqIA for the Community Safety Plan aimed to cover serious violence issues drawing on findings from the serious violence needs assessment work. Given that, a separate EqIA has not been completed for the Serious Violence Strategy.

10.4 Opportunities identified through the EqIA process will be used to help steer the delivery of the Serious Violence Strategy.

11. **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Dorset Community Safety Plan 2023-2026 (2024-25 refresh)

Appendix 2 – Pan-Dorset Reducing Reoffending Strategy 2024-2027

Appendix 3 – Serious Violence Strategy 2024-25

12. **Background Papers**

None.

13. **Report Sign Off**

12.1 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 Cabinet Member(s).

Community Safety Plan 2023-2026

2024/25 Refresh

Dorset Community Safety Partnership



Introduction

The Dorset Community Safety Partnership (CSP) aims to:

- Reduce crime and the fear of crime;
- Address risk, threat and harm to victims and local communities; and
- Facilitate the strengthening of Dorset's communities in the delivery of local initiatives.

It also acts as Dorset's Local Domestic Abuse Partnership Board required under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and leads partners' response to meeting their duties relating to serious violence under the Police, Crime, Courts and Sentencing Act 2022.

Find out more about the CSP here: [Dorset Community Safety Partnership](#)

CSPs are required to have three-year Community Safety Plans that are refreshed annually. This is the latest refresh of the 2023-26 Plan and sets out partners' priorities based on the most recent assessment of community safety issues. The Plan is complimented by the [Dorset Domestic Abuse Strategy](#) and [Dorset Serious Violence Strategy](#).

The Plan sets out activity to address priorities in broad terms. Further details regarding delivery and performance are contained in partners' various work plans which are developed, assessed and revised over the course of each year.

Crime in the Dorset Community Safety Partnership Area

Crime in the Dorset CSP area is low compared to many other places in the Country. During the five years from 2018, the crime rate for Dorset (per 1,000 population) was approximately half that seen nationally. The number of recorded crimes in Dorset has also steadily decreased since 2018 by 6%.

Crime in Dorset follows an annual cycle, which peaks each year in July/August and reaches its lowest in January/February, though exceptions were seen during 2020 when the Covid-19 related lockdowns were in place. Crime levels in Dorset vary according to location.

Consultation and Engagement

Partners use the findings of consultation and engagement exercises to help inform their understanding and work to tackle community safety issues.

A public consultation was undertaken with residents specifically for the CSP in early 2023. This included members of the Council's People Panel (a group of residents who volunteered to give responses on a range of questions relating to living in Dorset) who were asked a series of questions on what they thought about crime in their local community.

90 surveys were completed. However, the majority of these (94%) were submitted by Dorset residents aged 55 or over, a factor which should be considered when interpreting the data.

Consultees were asked which crime categories they thought were a problem where they live. The four categories which registered the highest concern were:

1. **Anti-social Behaviour** (46% of respondents). This was especially noted among Dorchester-based respondents (7 of 9) and those from Wareham (3 of 4) and Verwood (4 of 4).
2. **Rural Crime** (39% of respondents). Concern over rural crime was expressed by many respondents who lived in the countryside, but also by some town dwellers (Blandford, Dorchester and Ferndown).
3. **Vehicle Crime** (38% of respondents). Vehicle crime was seen as locally problematic among respondents throughout Dorset, with widespread concern expressed in both Dorchester (5 of 9 respondents) and Ferndown/West Moors (4 of 7).

4. **Drug Dealing** (37% of respondents). Respondents from throughout the county expressed concern over local drug dealing, but in particular in Weymouth, Bridport and Blandford.

The 3 categories of least concern were Slavery/Human Trafficking, Hate Crime and Knife Crime.

Panel members were also asked if crime was an issue where they live and if they had been a victim of crime and / or anti-social behaviour in the last 12 months.

The data illustrated slightly increasing concern with crime in their areas during the previous three years and 3% of the Peoples' Panel respondents stated that crime is a big issue in their lives.

The proportion of respondents who had experienced crime in the past year had almost doubled since the last survey (up from 8.5% to 14.8%). In contrast to crime, the proportion of respondents stating that they had had experience of anti-social behaviour during the past twelve months had declined. This trend was a continuation of that seen between 2021 and 2022.

The resident survey conducted by Dorset Council in the winter of 2021/22 included questions on how safe residents felt in their local area. 2,659 surveys were completed. Perceptions regarding community safety were:

- 13% felt unsafe when outside after dark in their local area. This was slightly higher than the 10% in 2020.
- 71% felt either fairly or very safe, down from 76% the previous year.
- 2% felt fairly or very unsafe when outside during the day in their local area. This was a slight rise from 1% in 2020.
- 91% felt either very or fairly safe a drop of 5% from the previous year.
- Just over 84% did not feel that crime had any or much impact on their daily lives with just over 15% believing it was either a problem or a serious problem.
- Just over 81% did not feel that anti-social behaviour had any or much impact on their daily lives with just over 18% believing it was either a problem or a serious problem.

Further research and consultation exercises, including with children and young people, will be undertaken over the course of the next few years, the outcomes of which will be used to inform future revisions of this plan. In advance of this work, an audit of existing consultation processes and data will be conducted across partner agencies, followed by a gap analysis of its findings. The results of this will be used to determine a partnership-wide consultation and engagement programme which will be delivered through subsequent partnership plans.

Community Safety Priorities

Partners carry out an annual Partnership Strategic Assessment (PSA) using information and data from a variety of sources to assess crime and disorder issues in the area. The assessment is used to set and review partners' priorities. When setting and reviewing priorities consideration is also given to the local Policing objectives in the area. Priorities are reviewed regularly.

The following priorities were agreed by partners for the 2023-26 Plan and remain in place during 2024/25:

- Domestic Abuse and Stalking
- Sexual Offences
- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Rural Crime
- Fraud
- Serious Violence

They are complimented by the following cross cutting issues:

- Mental health
- Substance misuse

- Complex cases / multiple need
- Violence against women and girls

There is a strong correlation between the CSP’s priorities and those set out in the Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner’s (PCC’s) Police and Crime Plan 2021/29 which commits to tackling, amongst other issues, rural crime, violent crime and anti-social behaviour.

Reducing re-offending remains a cross cutting area of work for partners. Details are set out in the [Pan-Dorset Reducing Reoffending Strategy 2024 to 2027](#).

In accordance with recent legislation, there are separate partnership arrangements, plans and strategies for dealing with substance misuse through the pan-Dorset Combating Drugs Partnership.

Although CSP’s are legally required to undertake annual needs assessments to set their priorities, in recent years new legislation has been placed on specific partners directing them to tackle domestic abuse and serious violence. In Dorset, partners have chosen to use the CSP as their partnership mechanism to meet these duties and ensured their [Domestic Abuse](#) and [Serious Violence](#) Strategies compliment this Plan.

Partnership work to tackle community safety issues takes many forms. Some partnership activities and service arrangements have been in place for several years and have become business as usual. Well established multi-agency partnership arrangements, including local Partnership Co-ordinating Groups, are in place to tackle shorter term, area specific issues.

Below is a description of broad partnership activity against priorities. This is supported by partners’ various work plans which are developed, assessed and revised over the course of each year.

Domestic Abuse and Stalking	
Activities	Broad Performance Measures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop initiatives that focus on prevention, early help and education including working with children and young people (for example on healthy relationships). • Develop interventions for perpetrators to reduce offending and prevent risk and harm. • Further develop the whole systems approach to domestic abuse to ensure services are working together effectively based on evidence, informed by research and the views of the community. • Continue to develop partners’ response for high risk victims including implementing learning from the High Risk Domestic Abuse (HRDA). • Implement learning from Domestic Homicide Reviews. • Undertake regular communication campaigns to raise awareness of issues and support services. • Ensure training is available for staff and professionals to help them identify and respond to issues. • Continue to implement the recommendations of the Dorset Domestic Abuse Strategy 2021-2024, including 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A reduction in the annual proportion of all domestic abuse events which have identifiable ‘repeat’ victims. • A reduction in the number of domestic abuse related stalking crimes reported annually. • A reduction in the percentage of domestic abuse events committed annually by ‘repeat’ perpetrators. • The proportion of people who commit further domestic abuse within twelve months of starting a local domestic abuse perpetrator programme is decreased annually.

<p>those relating to children and young people, and carry out a review of the Strategy for 2025-2028.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake research to better understand the needs of our diverse communities, including LGBTQ+ people and those with protective characteristics, and how we can ensure those needs are best met. 	
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Sexual Offences	
Activities	Broad Performance Measures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with partners in the criminal justice system and at the regional and national levels to take action to increase the positive outcome rate for sexual offences. • Continue awareness raising campaigns including in schools. • Undertake regular, targeted communications campaigns to raise awareness and understanding of the support available. • Ensure the information and advice being provided to children and young people is fit for purpose and meets their needs. • Continue to support projects and initiatives that aim to address issues of sexual offences related to the night time economy. • Conduct work to understand why victims drop out of the criminal justice process at the early stages. • Ensure strong links between the CSP and local Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An annual reduction in the number of sexual offence crimes recorded by the Police. • An annual reduction in the percentage of sexual offence crimes recorded by the Police in which alcohol was identified as a factor. • An annual reduction in the proportion of sexual offence victims who enter criminal justice proceedings and withdraw from the process.

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)	
Activities	Broad Performance Measures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise awareness of issues and support targeting priority localities at peak times. • Develop effective working arrangements with housing associations to help understand and tackle ASB issues. • Assess and address the impact of repeat ASB cases / callers including where mental health is a key factor. • Work closely and share data / information with youth outreach services to help direct provision. • Work with local businesses to address shoplifting that impacts directly on ASB including ‘designing out crime’. • Work with Trading Standards to help direct test purchasing work in areas where ASB is an issue. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An annual reduction in the number of antisocial behaviour crimes recorded by the police. • An annual reduction in the number of antisocial behaviour crimes recorded by the police in priority locations. • A reduction in the proportion of victims of ‘personal’ antisocial behaviour that are identified as ‘repeat’ victims. • A reduction in the proportion of antisocial behaviour perpetrators that are identified as ‘repeat’ offenders. • A reduction in the percentage of all ASB crimes which are linked to alcohol.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop close working relationships with partners in the Voluntary and Community Sector including youth centres, to develop joint approaches to tackle ASB. • Work with young people’s forums and groups to better understand issues and inform effective interventions, including the Dorset Youth Association and 0-19 Youth Forum. • Support the work of the Dorset Combating Drugs Partnership’s Prevention sub-group including around education in schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A reduction in the percentage of all ASB crimes which are linked to drugs. • A reduction in the percentage of all ASB crimes which are linked to mental health.
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Rural Crime	
Activities	Broad Performance Measures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage with communities on rural crime and improve trust in partners’ response to issues. • Identify repeat offenders and work together to disrupt and reduce offending. • Tackle cross border organised crime affecting rural communities. • Work to better understand the relationship between organised rural crime and other crimes. • Work with rural businesses to prevent crime, develop innovative crime prevention tactics and ensure agencies understand the unique impact that crime can have on rural victims. • Work together to prevent and detect fly-tipping issues. • Support the introduction of new approaches to dealing with fly-tipping in hotspot locations. • Increase awareness of wildlife offences and support schemes that are proven to reduce incidents. • Work together to identify and reduce crime affecting our heritage assets. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A reduction each year in the total number of rural crimes, as defined by Dorset’s Rural Crime Unit. • A reduction each year in the total number of rural crimes, as defined by Dorset’s Rural Crime Unit, in hotspot locations. • An annual reduction in the volume of reported incidents of fly tipping.

Fraud	
Activities	Broad Performance Measures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support awareness raising activities to ensure people understand how to spot potential fraud. • Support and promote ‘Friends Against Scams’ including dissemination of advice and information across organisations. • Incorporate scams advice into Safe & Well visits by the Fire & Rescue Service. • Focus on actions and initiatives that aim to protect the most vulnerable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growth of the Friends Against Scams initiative. • Financial savings realised through prevention work.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Champion the Trading Standards Trader Approved Scheme 'Buy With Confidence'. 	
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Serious Violence	
Activities	Broad Performance Measures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and deliver approaches to tackle high-harm offending. Develop and champion activity that supports victims of serious violence. Ensure children and young people better understand the risks and drivers for serious violence to prevent them from becoming drawn into crime. Take action that tackles serious violence in the community, to improve the safety of our streets. Robustly tackle organised crime, including county lines and rural organised crime. Undertake work to further develop our understanding of serious violence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An annual reduction in the number of recorded violent crimes throughout the Dorset Council area. An annual reduction in the number of recorded violent crimes in hot spot areas. A reduction in the proportion of victims of serious violence that are identified as 'repeat' victims. A reduction in the proportion of perpetrators of serious violence that are identified as 'repeat' offenders.

Performance Management

Partners use performance information and data coupled with an assessment of progress against their agreed actions at each meeting, to determine whether they are delivering against their priorities.

Partners intend to gather a wide range of information and data to complement Police statistics and develop a comprehensive understanding of community safety issues.

Governance

The Dorset CSP is the statutory Community Safety Partnership for the local area. In addition, the CSP fulfils the functions of the Local Domestic Abuse Partnership Board as required under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and coordinates partners' response to meeting their statutory duties relating to serious violence under the Police, Crime, Courts and Sentencing Act 2022. It brings together senior officers and elected members from:

- Dorset Police
- Dorset Council
- Dorset & Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Authority
- Probation Service (Dorset)
- NHS Dorset

Many other partners such as the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, the Dorset & Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service, the Dorset Domestic Abuse Forum and the Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service are also members of the CSP.

At a local level, there are locality based community safety groups that come together to identify solutions to local issues. These groups feed into the Dorset CSP.

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Pan-Dorset Reducing Reoffending Strategy 2024-2027



Contents

INTRODUCTION	3
VISION.....	3
BACKGROUND	4
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES.....	8
STRATEGIC PRINCIPLES.....	9
PROVISION OF SERVICES & INITIATIVES.....	10
PERFORMANCE MEASURES.....	15
PATHWAYS TO REDUCING REOFFENDING	16
PAN-DORSET REOFFENDING SUCCESSES	18
GOVERNANCE	19

INTRODUCTION

The Pan-Dorset Reducing Reoffending Strategy is a comprehensive and collaborative effort aimed at reducing reoffending rates among adult and young offenders in the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP) and Dorset Council areas.

Section 108 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009 places a statutory duty on Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) to formulate and implement a strategy to reduce reoffending by adult and young offenders. There are two CSPs covering the pan-Dorset area; each is a statutory partnership and is responsible for ensuring that legal duties and requirements placed on CSPs are met.

The Reducing Reoffending Strategy demonstrates direct alignment with two of the main priorities set by the BCP CSP of tackling violent crime in all its forms, and tackling issues related to Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG), including domestic abuse (DA). Additionally, the statutory duty aligns with the six priority areas outlined by Dorset CSP, including domestic abuse and stalking, sexual offences, anti-social behaviour, rural crime, fraud, and violent crime. The focus on reducing reoffending addresses multiple facets of these priority areas, demonstrating a concerted effort to create a safer environment and meet the specific needs of the Dorset community.

The Reducing Reoffending Strategy Group (RRSG) is a sub-group of the CSP's and the Dorset Criminal Justice Board (DCJB) and is responsible for developing plans and strategies and delivering initiatives that reduce reoffending.

Addressing the fundamental reasons behind criminal behaviour and reoffending, whether linked to substance misuse, mental health issues, adverse childhood experiences, homelessness, or other factors within both the youth and adult demographic, is essential to addressing community safety priorities and achieving the ambitions of both CSPs. This strategy leverages established best practices, available resources, and expertise to not only strengthen, but also underpin our efforts to rehabilitate individuals involved in criminal activities.

This strategy cannot be delivered in isolation and will seek to work collaboratively through CSP's and the DCJB (working with other relevant partnerships and groups), bringing together the police, local authorities, fire authorities, health services, probation services and the youth justice service to tackle crime and community safety issues in their area. This joint strategy is owned by the CSPs in the BCP and Dorset Council areas and runs from 2024 to 2027.

VISION

The overall vision of the Dorset reducing reoffending strategy group is:

TO CUT CRIME, REDUCE HARM AND PROTECT VICTIMS BY REDUCING RE-OFFENDING THROUGH JOINT WORKING AND REHABILITATION.

BACKGROUND

The information and data used in this section has come from the main agencies responsible for managing those people who offend and are subject to court orders or out of court disposals; HM Prison Probation Service, Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service and The Ministry of Justice.

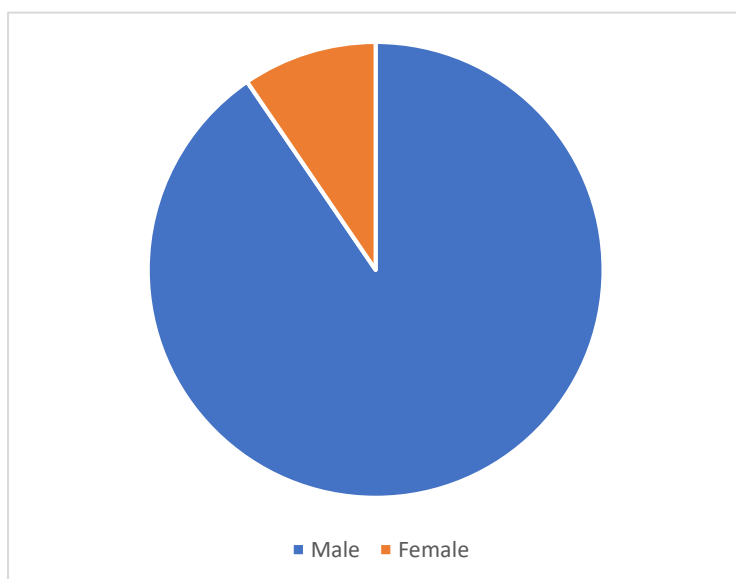
Nationally, recent statistics¹ from January to March 2022 show the following:

- The overall proven reoffending rate was 25.5%, with adults having a proven reoffending rate of 25.1% and children (aged 10-17), 34.2%.
- Male offenders reoffended at a higher rate of 26.1% compared to female offenders who reoffended at a rate of 21.1%.
- The age group with the highest reoffending rate was 15 to 17 year-olds, at 33.4%, followed by the 10 to 14 year-old offenders, with a reoffending rate of 28.8%.

Dorset Adult Offending and Reoffending

Analysis of data in Dorset gives a more detailed and specific understanding of offending and reoffending patterns within the local area, allowing partners to identify local needs and highlight which targeted interventions are most in need, providing comprehensive support to individuals.

Graph 1. Shows the gender split of adult offenders in the pan-Dorset area.



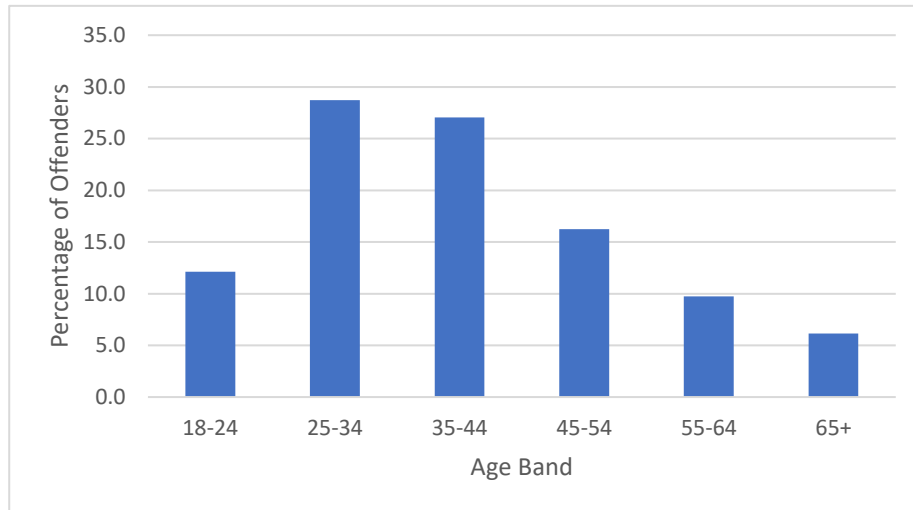
In Dorset, there is a notable gender disparity among adult offenders, with a significantly higher number of males who offend compared to females, as seen in Graph 1.

* Custody and Community Caseload January 2024

¹ [PRSQ Bulletin January to March 2022.pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

Additionally, Graph 2 demonstrates the age distribution of adult offenders in the pan-Dorset area, highlighting the largest group of offenders are in the 25-34 age ranges, followed by the 35-44 age bracket.

Graph 2. Shows the age profile of adult offenders in the pan-Dorset area.



* Custody and Community Caseload January 2024

Table 1. shows needs of offenders assessed in Dorset.

Criminogenic Needs		
Total cases	1651	%
Relationships - family, partner, domestic violence etc.	1052	77%
Thinking and behaviour - temper control, problem solving, etc.	927	68%
Lifestyle - criminal associates, easily influenced etc.	914	67%
Pro-Criminal Attitudes - pro-criminal, anti-authority, discriminatory etc.	855	62%
Education, Training & Employment	539	39%
Accommodation	520	38%
Drug Use	477	35%
Alcohol Use	417	30%

Needs data extracted from October 2023, shows a caseload of 1651, and of these 83% were assessed. The average number of needs per individual was 4.77.

This indicates that for the majority of individuals, relationships inform their offending, followed by the way they think and then lifestyle.

Of note is that 35% were assessed as having needs in relation to drugs, compared to 30% for alcohol, suggesting a substantial focus on addressing substance-related issues in the assessment process.

Overall, this background information serves as a crucial foundation for the reducing reoffending strategy, equipping partners with a data-driven understanding of the current landscape, and informing the targeted initiatives needed to address reoffending in the pan-Dorset area.

Pan-Dorset Youth Offending and Reoffending

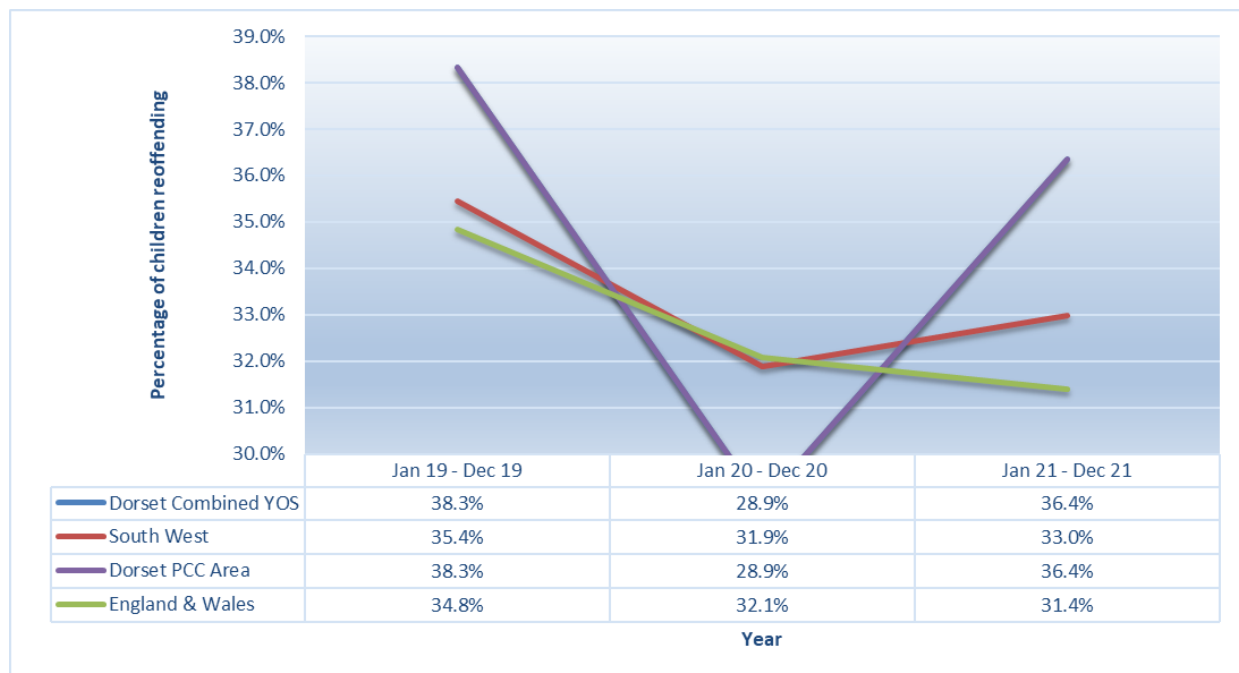
The analysis provided offers valuable insights, facilitating a comprehensive understanding of the challenges inherent in the youth justice system, and pinpointing specific areas that require targeted focus.

An examination of the gender breakdown among first-time entrants to the youth justice system (ages 10-17) reveals a relatively stable pattern, with approximately 17-18% of these individuals being female.

Furthermore, the analysis delves into the age demographics of first-time entrants into the youth justice system, revealing notable variations. The data highlights that the majority of first-time entrants fall within the 14-16 age brackets, closely followed by 17-18 year olds, with the lowest incidence observed among 10-13 year olds. This nuanced breakdown sheds light on the critical periods in which interventions may have the most significant impact, guiding the development of strategies tailored to specific age groups.

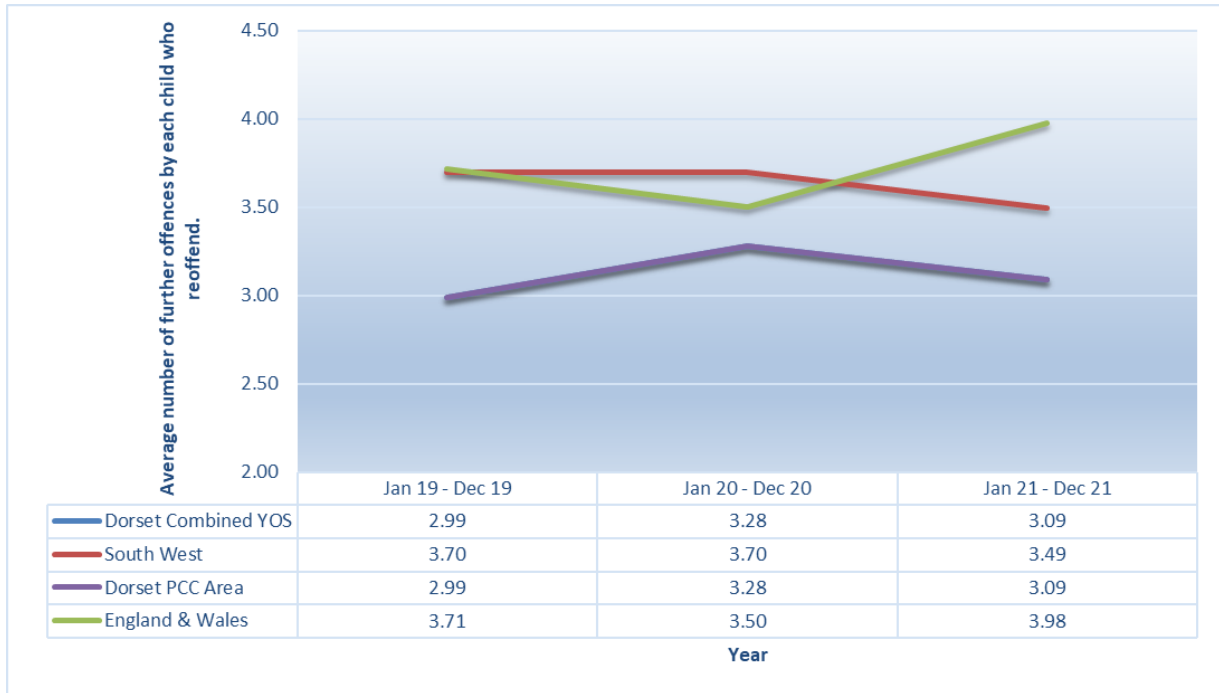
The below graphs identify the child reoffending rates and number of offences per child that reoffends. Graph 3 highlights that in 2021 the pan-Dorset area was above the national average for England and Wales for those reoffending (36.4% in the pan-Dorset area, compared to 31.4% in England and Wales). This also shows a 7.5% increase from the Year 2020, when we were below the National average in England and Wales.

Graph 3. Shows the most recently available data for Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service (DCYJS) binary reoffending rate (i.e. what percentage of children reoffended) among those worked with in a specific period compared to Regional and National percentages:



Graph 4 highlights that in 2021 the pan-Dorset area was below the national average for the number of further offences by each child who reoffends (3.09 in pan-Dorset area compared to 3.98 in England and Wales). This also shows a 0.19 decrease from the year 2020 when we also remained below the National average in England and Wales.

Graph 4. Sets out the average number of further offences by each child who re-offended in the pan-Dorset area compared to Regional and National numbers:



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Early Intervention and Targeted Support:

Identify at risk individuals: Probation and DCYJS will initiate proactive measures to identify at-risk of reoffending individuals early and offer tailored interventions to prevent reoffending, with a particular emphasis on children.

Specialised support for vulnerable groups: Provide tailored interventions for vulnerable groups and families, breaking the cycle of criminal behaviour, and addressing intergenerational offending. Efforts will be directed towards facilitating multi-agency identification of offenders and their families. This aims to enhance communication among agencies, enabling them to recognise instances where multiple agencies are working with the same family.

Efficient Resource Allocation and Integrated Approach:

Focus resources for impact: Partners will focus resources on areas and individuals where interventions can have the most significant impact in reducing reoffending.

Multi-agency needs assessment for accommodation: Accommodation impacts hugely on the success of other interventions aimed at reducing reoffending. Partners will undertake and respond to a multi-agency needs assessment to help better understand issues, determine current provision, and identify gaps in relation to accommodation for adults and children.

Outcome-Oriented Monitoring:

Data analysis: Partners will develop a greater understanding of reoffending in the pan-Dorset area through data analysis, whilst continuously assessing the effectiveness of interventions, particularly in relation to accommodation, and employment support and supervision which have been identified as key factors. Through this analysis partners will be able to enhance rehabilitation programmes to better address the underlying causes of criminal behaviour and support successful reintegration into society.

STRATEGIC PRINCIPLES

Partners' approach to reducing reoffending is based on a number of strategic principles.

The principles recognise the importance of understanding the negative influences on the lives of offenders and their needs to prevent them reoffending. When delivering the objectives, the pan-Dorset area will strive to employ these principles:

- **Localised** - delivering at a local level supported by countywide agencies, to reintegrate offenders back into their local communities.
- **Integrated** - working together to reduce re-offending using co-commissioning where possible, to increase joint accountability.
- **Targeted** - effort and resources are used efficiently and are targeted to where they can make the most impact.
- **Holistic** - working with not just those who offend, but their families and the communities in which they live, which is crucial in supporting offenders to stop offending.
- **Restorative** - adopting a restorative approach designed at repairing relationships, fostering social responsibility and shared accountability.
- **Evidence-based** – local re-offending priorities will be based on evidence of local issues. Work to reduce re-offending should use evidence-based interventions and practice methods.
- **Preventative** - supporting preventative approaches including evidence based early years intervention and parenting to reduce the impact of adverse childhood experiences on offending and reoffending behaviour.

The principles enable a focus on offenders but recognise that there will also be a positive benefit to victims. They also allow for a preventative as well as a reactive approach.

PROVISION OF SERVICES & INITIATIVES

There are numerous services, programmes and initiatives operating in the pan-Dorset area that specifically aim to tackle reoffending based on the pathways to reduce reoffending. These include:

The Probation Service

The Probation Service² is a statutory criminal justice service that manages offenders throughout their time in the criminal justice system, while protecting the public. The service is responsible for sentence management in both England and Wales, along with Accredited Programmes, Unpaid Work, and Structured Interventions.

In sentence management their focus is on strengthening the probation practitioner's relationship with people on probation, using the right key skills, activities and behaviours to achieve the most effective outcomes and enable offenders to make positive changes to their lives. This includes more consistent management and delivery of sentence plans, better assessment and management of risk and more balanced caseloads and an improved case allocation process to support this.

For Unpaid Work, Accredited Programmes and Structured Interventions they aim to make placements and programmes available locally, with a thorough assessment and induction process, regular reviews of active cases and ongoing professional development for staff delivering interventions.

Other interventions that meet rehabilitative and resettlement needs are delivered by Commissioned Rehabilitative Service providers with cases managed according to the risk, need and sentence type. For resettlement, they have an enhanced pre-release system. A community responsible officer leads on all the pre-release activities, undertaking a comprehensive assessment and developing a sentence plan aligned to need, risk, and victim issues. This applies to offenders prior to release during the final phase of prison, through to transition, and post-release.

Integrated Offender Management (IOM)

Integrated Offender Management (IOM)³ brings a cross-agency response to the crime and reoffending threats faced by local communities. The most persistent and problematic offenders are identified and managed jointly by partner agencies working together.

IOM helps to improve quality of life in communities by:

- reducing the negative impact of crime and reoffending
- reducing the number of people who become victims of crime.
- helping to improve the public's confidence in the criminal justice system.

² [About us - Probation Service - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/about-us-probation-service)

³ [Integrated offender management \(IOM\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/integrated-offender-management-iom)

The Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service

The Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service (DCYJS)⁴ works across the pan-Dorset area to provide statutory youth justice services, including advice to police and courts, and supervision of youth out of court disposals and youth court orders. The service aims both to prevent offending and to reduce reoffending and protect communities from crime. DCYJS is a multi-agency partnership between the local authorities, Dorset Police, the Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner, the Probation Service, NHS Dorset, and Dorset HealthCare University H+NHS Foundation Trust.

DCYJS prioritises building positive, pro-social relationships with children who have committed an offence. DCYJS is a multi-agency partnership which includes a health team comprising of Speech and Language Therapists, a Psychologist and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) nurses. Specialist assessments and advice from these health workers enable team members to adapt their work to meet children's individual communication needs and their experiences of past traumatic events.

The multi-disciplinary DCYJS team also includes education specialists and parenting workers, enabling the service to support the child to access suitable education and to provide support for parents and carers. Restorative Justice practitioners work with victims to keep them informed, offer them restorative justice opportunities, and pass on their views to inform the service's work with the child who harmed them.

In recent years DCYJS has been developing its work to build on children's strengths and to support them into pro-social activities. This remains a development priority, with plans to strengthen links with community organisations and to develop positive activities and employability activities for children working with the Youth Justice Service (YJS).

The activity of the YJS, including its work to reduce reoffending, is overseen by the YJS Partnership Board, comprised of senior leaders from the YJS partner agencies.

Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangement (MAPPA)

Multi-agency public protection arrangements (MAPPA) are in place to ensure the successful management of violent and sexual offenders. There is a Statutory Strategic Management Board (SMB) which oversees the joint management of risk between partners. Dorset MAPPA report 2022-2023⁵.

Police, National Probation Service and Prisons are responsible authorities. Other agencies have a duty to co-operate and can become involved in cases, for example Youth Justice Services in the case of young offenders, Health, including mental health and Specialist Services, Housing, Children's, and Adults Services provided by the Local authorities.

Management of Sexual Offenders & Violent Offenders (MOSOVO)

The MOSOVO Team are part of Dorset Police. They manage registered sex offenders (RSOs), violent offenders under MAPPA and offenders who are identified by Dorset police as being potentially dangerous persons (PDPs). The Team works closely with partner agencies, especially the Probation Service.

⁴ [About the Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service \(bpcouncil.gov.uk\)](https://www.bpcouncil.gov.uk)

⁵ [Dorset MAPPA Annual Report 2022 to 2023.docx \(live.com\)](#)

Out of Court Disposal

Out of Court Disposals (OoCD)⁶ allow the police to deal quickly and proportionately with low-level, often first-time offending which could more appropriately be resolved without a prosecution at court. Using out-of-court disposals allows offenders to be directed into rehabilitative or educational services to tackle the causes of offending behaviour and reduce the likelihood of re-offending.

Youth out-of-court disposals provide the opportunity to assess and put in place interventions to prevent further offending.

Perpetrator Programmes

There are several established programmes working with perpetrators of domestic abuse across the pan-Dorset area⁷. They include Up2u, Choose2Change, and Time to Change.

Up2u - Family Practice Model

Is a therapeutic 'behaviour change' programme to support individuals in recognising and managing thoughts and feelings and having healthier relationships. It is aimed at parents/carers who have unhealthy relationships with children, partners, family members, professionals or other adults.

Up2u - Creating healthy relationships

Is a programme for people who use domestically abusive behaviours in their intimate partner relationships. This can be tailored to work with both males and females from the age of 16 and can be delivered to people who use domestically abusive behaviours in same sex relationships.

Time to Change

Is a 1:1 behaviour change programme working with females who are responsible for domestic abuse and/or violence towards their male partners and ex-partners.

Choose2Change

Is a group work behaviour change programme working with males who are responsible for domestic abuse or violence towards their female partners and ex-partners.

High Harm Perpetrator Panel

Is a multi-agency tasking forum to discuss and share information relating to high risk VAWG offences. It also consists of management of high-harm offenders, focusing on the most severe and recurrent cases of domestic abuse, stalking, and individuals who have consistently exhibited sexually harmful behaviours (SHB).

⁶ [Out of Court Disposals \(cpccouncil.gov.uk\)](http://cpccouncil.gov.uk)

⁷ [Domestic abuse guidance for professionals - Dorset Council](#)

Substance Misuse Treatment Services

Local substance misuse treatment services can offer multi-disciplinary interventions to people who use alcohol and drugs involved in the criminal justice system, managing them from the point of arrest (drug testing on arrest / out of court disposals/ arrest referral/ support to probation court officers / pre-sentence planning) to release (assertive support on release from custody and prison/ working with prisons for the smooth transition of individuals back to the local area) and on to specific programmes aiming to reduce alcohol and/or drug related crime throughout treatment.

There are a variety of different options for treatment on offer across the pan-Dorset area, based on substance, dependency, and age. Treatment services can assist and support family members as well. Treatment services can offer several specific interventions for offenders (adults and children) with substance misuse issues either through an out of court disposal, via a Court order or on release from prison. Substance Misuse services will also work with offenders not on orders who would like to address their substance misuse issues voluntarily.

As part of a Community Sentence, courts can impose either a Drug Rehabilitation Requirement (DRR) or Alcohol Treatment Requirement (ATR)⁸ instead of receiving a custodial sentence. If a court order is given, the offender must engage with both the probation service and the nominated treatment service. Failure to comply with this order results in the individual going back to court to be re-sentenced.

Services also engage with multidisciplinary work such as Integrated Offender Management (IOM) and MAPPA meetings as required and attend weekly meetings with Probation Officers.

The Dorset Combating Drugs Partnership (CDP) co-ordinates partners' work to tackle substance misuse issues. The CDP has several sub-groups including one dedicated to treatment.

Restorative Justice

Restorative justice⁹ brings together people harmed by crime or conflict with those responsible for the harm, to find a positive way forward. The approach gives victims the chance to tell offenders the real impact of their crime and get answers to their questions. Restorative justice holds offenders to account for what they have done. It helps them understand the real impact, take responsibility, and make amends.

The Safe Schools and Communities Team not only provides restorative justice interventions but also engages officers trained as restorative justice practitioners. These professionals actively participate in restorative justice conferences addressing issues such as bullying, shoplifting, and drug possession. Additionally, they contribute to retail and drugs workshops as integral components of the rehabilitative measures associated with youth conditional cautions. The DCYJS offer restorative justice to the victims of all offences committed by children who work with the YJS. The YJS team includes Restorative Justice Practitioners who are trained and accredited in facilitating Restorative Justice Conferences, including for complex and sensitive cases such as offences involving domestic abuse or sexual harm. Most children working with the YJS also undertake reparative activity to help repair the harm from their offence.

⁸ [Pathways between probation and addiction treatment in England: report - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/444444/pathways-between-probation-and-addiction-treatment-in-england-report.pdf)

⁹ [Restorative Justice - Dorset Police & Crime Commissioner \(pcc.police.uk\)](https://www.pcc.police.uk/restorative-justice)

Restorative Justice Dorset (RJ Dorset)¹⁰ operates under the umbrella of Restorative Solutions CIC and have been commissioned by the Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to facilitate restorative justice processes for victims of crimes in the Dorset region, involving adult offenders (18+). In 2022, RJ Dorset effectively managed and processed more than 250 referrals. The activities encompass both direct and indirect restorative justice interventions. These interventions span a wide spectrum, including cases associated with out-of-court disposals and post-conviction situations. They cater to individuals who may be in custody or serving community sentences, ensuring that the restorative principles are consistently applied.

NHSE Non-Custodial Services

The prevalence of health and social problems among those in contact with the criminal justice system (CJS) is high. Many individuals involved in the criminal justice system have underlying issues, such as physical and/or mental health problems, neurodiversity needs or substance abuse, that contribute to their criminal behaviour. NHSE non-custodial services aim to support individuals to address these underlying issues, that may otherwise have reduced the effectiveness of other rehabilitative interventions.

Liaison and Diversion (L&D)¹¹ services identify people who have mental health, learning disability, substance misuse or other vulnerabilities when they first encounter the criminal justice system, usually in Police custody or at Court. The service can then refer to, and help people to attend, appropriate health or social care and support services, to reduce the likelihood that people will reach a crisis-point and improve their overall health outcomes, thereby reducing the on-going incidence of reoffending by that individual.

Mental Health Treatment Requirement (MHTR)¹² is an adult community order sentenced by a Court that requires an individual to undertake 12 sessions of cognitive based therapy support provided by a specialist delivery service. This is co-commissioned by NHS England, Dorset Council, BCP Council, the Dorset PCC, and the Probation Service. MHTRs will:

- Support a reduction in the mental health inequalities faced by an increasing number of vulnerable people in the criminal justice system.
- Provide an effective mental health treatment and evidence based sentencing option as an alternative to custodial sentences.
- Support rehabilitation and the move to a pathway of recovery and reduce reoffending.

Reconnect¹³ is a 'care after prison service' providing a referral, assessment, liaison, and support service to improve the continuity of care of vulnerable people (those with physical or mental health needs) leaving prisons in Dorset or returning to the pan-Dorset area after being released by other prisons across England. Reconnect will work with an individual for up to 12 weeks before they leave prison and support them, for up to 6 months, with their transition from prison to community-based health and support (specifically mental health, physical health, substance misuse, GP registration and dentistry) to maximise the opportunities for an individual to get the help they need to reduce their reoffending.

¹⁰ [Home » Restorative Justice Dorset \(rjdorset.org.uk\)](#)

¹¹ [Dorset HealthCare:: Criminal Justice Liaison and Diversion Service](#)

¹² [NHS commissioning » Mental Health Treatment Requirements \(MHTRs\) \(england.nhs.uk\)](#)

¹³ [NHS commissioning » RECONNECT \(england.nhs.uk\)](#)

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

The success of the Pan-Dorset Reducing Reoffending Strategy will be measured through key performance indicators that reflect the strategy's core objectives. The following performance measures have been established to gauge the effectiveness of the strategy.

Employment Status:

- **The proportion of adult offenders employed six weeks after release:** Monitor the percentage of released individuals who secure employment within six weeks.
 - **Target:** 19% or higher.
- **The proportion of adult offenders employed six months after release:** Monitor the percentage of individuals maintaining employment six months post- release:
 - **Target:** 38% or higher.

Housing Stability:

- **The proportion of adult offenders housed on the night after release:** Monitor the percentage of individuals with housing arrangements on the night immediately following their release.
 - **Target:** 90% or higher.
- **The proportion of adult offenders in settled accommodation 3 months after leaving prison:** Monitor the percentage of individuals residing in stable and settled accommodation 3 months post-release.
 - **Target:** 80% or higher.

Continuity of Care:

- **The proportion of adult offenders engaged in treatment after release from prison:** Monitor the percentage of individuals who have a substance misuse treatment need who successfully engage following release from prison.
 - **Target:** 75% or higher.

Youth Justice System:

- **The proportion of children who reoffend:** Monitor the percentage of children who go onto reoffend following their involvement in the Youth Justice System.
 - **Target:** Less than National average (March 2022 – 34.2%)

Regular monitoring and analysis of these metrics can guide adjustments to the strategy and highlight areas for the improvement within the services and initiatives offered.

PATHWAYS TO REDUCING REOFFENDING

To reduce reoffending, it is imperative that we look at the 'criminogenic needs' of the offender, to address the core root of their criminal behaviour, providing the best possible support for individual needs, thus progressing their recovery back into the community.

Women in contact with the criminal justice system are amongst the most vulnerable in society. Many experience trauma, domestic abuse, mental health problems or have a history of alcohol and drug misuse. Factors that can lead men and women to commit crime, and to reoffend, can vary significantly.

The pan-Dorset area will focus on the following key social factors that need to be addressed for adults in order to reduce reoffending.

Accommodation – Having a clean, dry, and safe place to sleep at night provides a solid base to start reintegrating back into society. Accommodation allows offender managers to provide the vital building blocks for a range of support services and employment. Many ex-prisoners will have long-standing, complex housing problems and will need considerable help if they are to establish somewhere stable to live on release.

Education, training, and employment – Access to stable employment and educational opportunities can provide individuals with skills, purpose, and a legitimate source of income, reducing the risk of reoffending. Education, work, and training should provide an integrated service too, based on needs.

Finance (including benefits and debt) – For many offenders, having the necessary finances to cover their living essentials and debt is an issue. Individuals who have the means to support themselves through legal means are less likely to return to crime. Around half of prisoners report a history of debt, which gets worse for about a third when they are in custody. More than 80% of prisoners claim benefits upon release. Accessing advice on these areas is key.

Relationships – Maintaining strong relationships with families and children can play a major role in assisting prisoners make and sustain changes that help them avoid reoffending. Women, often as the main carers for their dependants, should be given support and information to assist them in understanding the effects of their imprisonment on their separated children. This should include how to tell their children of their imprisonment and how to support them.

Health – Offenders are disproportionately more likely to suffer from physical or mental health problems than the general population. These issues can often be undiagnosed and needs unmet.

Alcohol, Drugs and Addictions – Around two-thirds of prisoners use illegal drugs in the year prior to imprisonment. Intoxication by alcohol is linked to a significant proportion of crime, particularly crimes of violence (almost 50%), whilst drug misuse is linked to significant proportions of theft and acquisitive crimes, such as burglary, vehicle crime and shoplifting. There is also a clear relationship between problem or disordered gambling and crime.

Attitudes, thinking and behaviour – Offenders can struggle with negative social attitudes and poor self-control. Successfully addressing such attitudes, thinking and behaviour can help reduce reoffending.

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) – ACEs are traumatic events that affect an individual whilst growing up, such as suffering child maltreatment or living in a household affected by domestic violence, substance misuse or mental illness. There are strong links between substance misuse and previous experience of trauma and a strong correlation between drug and/or alcohol misuse, previous abuse, and self-harm. Support and interventions for those offenders disclosing abuse and/or domestic abuse is essential.

Sexual Exploitation including Prostitution and Trafficking - Individuals should be given every support if they ask for help to build a new life away from sexual exploitation. Promoting awareness about available resources and encouraging a culture where individuals feel comfortable seeking help can play a pivotal role. This should also include staff receiving awareness training on the issues that face sex workers. It is important to note that not only women are vulnerable to sex working, and all offenders should receive support if disclosing this need.

These pathways are all interdependent and successful rehabilitation is likely to require the provision of support along several, if not all of these pathways. Services must be integrated in order to ensure that individual specific needs are addressed effectively.

PAN-DORSET REOFFENDING SUCCESSES

The successes for reducing reoffending within the pan-Dorset area are reflected in the transformative outcomes achieved through partners adopting a whole systems approach and the effectiveness of the implemented measures in fostering rehabilitation.

Some highlights include:

- 70% of the IOM cohort relate to the index offence of dwelling burglary; in 2022/23 when the IOM focus was on dwelling burglaries there was a direct correlation of 6% decrease compared to in 2019/20 when the IOM focus was on domestic abuse.
- There has been 0% reoffending among the IOM cohort who were tagged on release from September 2022 to July 2023.
- Dorset (66%) and BCP (50%) are both above the National average (48%) and significantly higher than the regional average (41%) for Continuity of Care (Prisoners released with substance misuse issues that engage in community treatment).
- Dorset continues to demonstrate high performance against the MAPPA Key Performance Indicators. During 2022-2023, overall attendance by the Duty to Cooperate agencies was 99%, significantly higher than the target of 90%.
- DCYJS has seen a reduction in its rate of children entering the justice system. The combined rate for the two local authorities has dropped from 288 per 100,000 under 18s in the year to September 2020, down to 239 in the year to September 2022, and down to 195 per 100,000 in the year to September 2023.

Below are case studies of three individuals previously identified as reoffenders, along with the costs associated with their criminal activities. Since their involvement in IOM and RJ interventions, significant positive shifts have been observed in their behaviours, along with a substantial reduction in associated criminal activity costs:

Individual A:

Committed 6 dwelling burglaries, 3 attempted dwelling burglaries, and 1 instance of going equipped, totalling £39,933 in the cost of crime.

Post intervention: Committed an affray (the specific cost is not included in the available figures yet but will presumably be lower than previous offences).

Individual B:

Involved in 3 dwelling burglaries, 1 fraud case, and 1 breach of community order, totalling £13,065 in the cost of crime.

Post intervention: Has remained free from any charged offences since the intervention date of March 1, 2023.

Individual C:

Engaged in 1 shoplifting, 1 burglary dwelling, 5 fraud cases, and 1 handling offence, totalling £14,953 in the cost of crime. (Handling not listed in available figures.)

Post intervention: Has remained clear of any charged offences since the intervention date of October 1, 2022.

These successes indicate a remarkable reduction in criminal activity post intervention for all individuals. Notably, the absence of new charges for Individual B & C signifies a positive shift in their behaviours, emphasising the effectiveness of IOM & RJ strategies in the pan-Dorset approach to reducing reoffending.

GOVERNANCE

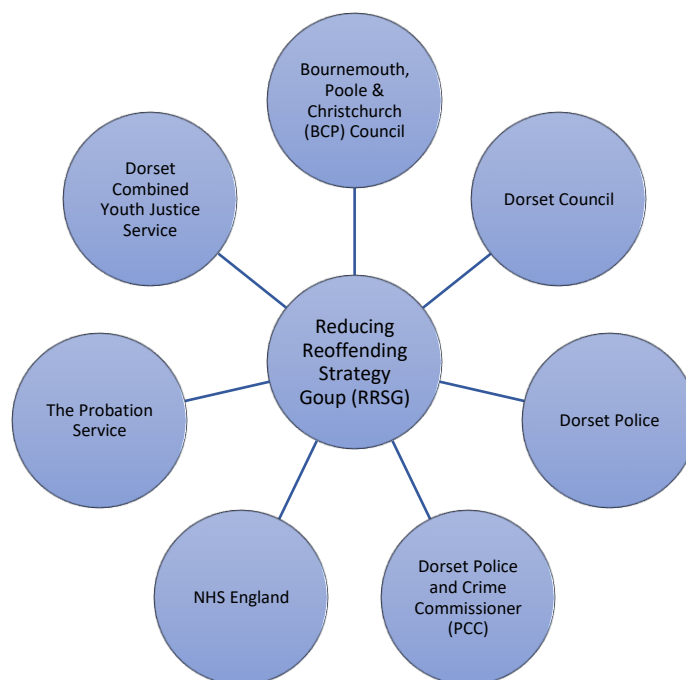
Section 108 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009 places a statutory duty on CSPs to formulate and implement a strategy to reduce reoffending by adult and young offenders. This strategy is owned by the two CSPs covering the pan-Dorset area and runs from 2024 to 2027.

The Reducing Reoffending Strategy Group (RRSG) is a sub-group of the CSPs and Dorset Criminal Justice Board (DCJB) and is responsible for developing plans and strategies and delivering initiatives that reduce reoffending.

Underpinning this strategy is a robust governance structure led by the Reducing Reoffending Strategy Group (RRSG).

The RRSG shoulders the day-to-day implementation and oversight. This governance framework, rooted in statutory obligations, ensures accountability and concerted action across all involved parties.

Figure 1. Identifies the partners involved in the development and delivery of the Reducing Reoffending Strategy.



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Dorset CSP Serious Violence Strategy

Foreword

This strategy paper arises from the serious violence strategic needs assessment undertaken in 2023 in response to the Serious Violence Duty. Implementation of the Duty's statutory responsibilities and actions is being delivered through the existing structures of the Dorset Community Safety Partnership (CSP), in line statutory guidance for the Duty published in January 2023. This includes ensuring our strategic response to the Serious Violence Duty is an integral part of the CSP's Community Safety Plan 2023 - 2026.

Serious violence detrimentally impacts the lives of children, adults and the elderly, can have a devastating impact on the lives of the vulnerable and can be destructive to the lives of individuals, families and whole communities. Serious violence has a human, financial and societal cost, and there are often ongoing physical, emotional and mental health problems experienced by the victims of violence.

"Offending, particularly committing serious crime. It's a massive problem in as much as how wide reaching it is, so it's very rarely just the victim that's affected, is it? It's their relatives and friends and colleagues. It doesn't ever really go away." (Survivor)

Tackling serious violence in any community requires a comprehensive and multi-faceted approach. The Dorset CSP is committed to understanding the nature, volume and impact of serious violence across the partnership area, and to establishing strong and clear responses. Using a locally developed innovative risk based approach, we are committed to identifying where resources are most effectively targeted, and to supporting collaborative approaches to reducing crime.

Dorset CSP has a long and credible history of working to improve community safety for all residents of and visitors to Dorset. Working in a place-based way, we will deliver on the Serious Violence Duty using a public health approach. This will better support our communities and help us to achieve sustainable change.

What is Serious Violence

The national Serious Violence Strategy sets out specific types of crime of particular concern, including homicide, violence against the person which may include both knife crime and gun crime, and areas of criminality where serious violence or its threat is inherent, such as in county lines drug dealing. March 2023

Statutory guidance requires each area to define serious violence for its own location. Serious violence in the Dorset CSP area is defined as activity:-

- causing threat, danger, or harm to the person;
- demonstrating disregard for the safety and wellbeing of others;
- involving gangs, grooming, coercion or manipulation of those more vulnerable; and
- those involving coordinated and organised illegal activity by groups or gangs.

Serious Violence in Context

National Context

Since 2014, incidents of serious violence have increased across England and Wales. An example of this is an 84% increase in violent offences involving knives or other sharp implements between June 2014 and June 2020. Home Office analysis demonstrated a rapid increase in the identification of county lines throughout 2020, which in turn drove a significant increase in the referral of children and young people for criminal exploitation. Numbers of sexual offences across England and Wales have risen significantly in recent years. Robbery was recorded as increasing by 13% in 2022 compared to 2020.

Dorset Context

Crime rates for Dorset show reductions in a number of crime areas, and Dorset is noted as the 6th safest county. However, there are criminal activities which impact the lives of residents and visitors which should be addressed under the serious violence duty. Serious violent crime has increased since 2020/2021, where local data mirrored trends seen across the country. Rates for 2021/2022 and 2022/23 have remained fairly static.

Reviewing serious crime data for the last 3 years and recognising that in each case these still remain lower than regional and national comparative rates, crimes relating to violence against the person, violence and sexual offences and violent domestic abuse are shown to be the priority areas. These crime areas will drive our focus for responsive action.

While weapons enabled crimes are low for the Dorset area compared with regional and national figures, data shows an increase in the tendency to carry knives and other sharp weapons, particularly amongst young people, making it a priority area for early intervention. Additional areas for early intervention and preventative work include a focus on rates of reoffending, cases of coercion and exploitation, and young people as victims.

Our strategic needs assessment also identifies the need for further research and analysis in the areas of rural domestic abuse where Dorset rates suggest underreporting of these crimes, and sexual offences where rates suggest this growing area of criminal activity needs to be better understood.

Our Approach

Through using a public health approach, the strength and commitment to partnership working demonstrated across the Community Safety Partnership and wider partners will provide a framework to deliver on the Duty.

Using our local risk based approach enables us to understand not only the areas where we need to focus activity, but also the drivers and influencing factors that impact on serious violent crime.

“Prevention is always better than the cure - there was lots of occasions in my journey where I could have been picked up by support organisations when in police custody it never happened.” (Perpetrator)

The voice of victims, communities and specifically young people has been sought, as a part of our approach to develop responses that meet the needs and expectations of our residents in a human sense as well as reducing crime rates. We have also sought the views of a number of perpetrators of serious violence, to provide a counterbalance and enable us to consider how to develop not only impactful but also sustainable responses.

This means we will:

- Benefit from the strong partnership and governance of the Community Safety Partnership to deliver this multi-agency strategy
- Deploy integrated approaches, ensuring partners drive the agenda, are accountable for their individual contributions and new developments can integrate into overall strategic direction.
- Develop an ongoing understanding of the risk of crime, the causes and influencing factors that underpin crime within our communities.
- Use continuous learning to ensure our responses, solutions and impacts reflect the dynamic and evolving lives of our residents.
- Use an evidence based approach to developing and delivering interventions and target them where they are most needed.
- Work with our communities and partners to address the risk factors particularly impacting on those who are vulnerable to and from serious violence.
- Use prevention and early intervention to reduce the draw into serious violence for young people.
- Engage with young people and communities to establish routes to attitudinal and cultural change in matters relating to serious violence.
- Work with young people and communities to shape and deliver our responses to serious violence.
- Develop medium and long term responses, that can shape ongoing and lasting solutions.
- Integrate out work from this period of implementation for the Duty into related strategies and services to ensure development and achievement have a connected and long-term route for impact.
- Work collaboratively and smartly to reduce duplication and make the best use of resources.

Our Priorities

Developing strategic priorities will provide a framework for tackling the complex issue of serious violence effectively. To deliver our strategy we will work collective on six priority areas:

- SV01: Develop and deliver approaches to tackle high-harm offending
- SV02: Develop and champion activity that supports victims of serious violence
- SV03: Ensure children and young people better understand the risks and drivers for serious violence to prevent them from becoming drawn into crime
- SV04: Taking action that tackles serious violence in the community, to improve the safety of our streets
- SV05: Robustly tackle organised crime, including county lines and rural organised crime.

SV06: Undertake work to further develop our understanding of serious violence.

SV01: Develop and deliver approaches that tackle high-harm offending

Our aims are to:

- Improve intelligence sharing between agencies, leading to an increase in the identification and apprehension of high-risk individuals involved in violent activities over two years.
- Implement focused deterrence strategies in high-risk neighbourhoods, aiming for a reduction in violent crime rates within targeted areas over five years.

SV02: Develop and champion activity that supports victims of serious violence

Our aims are to:

- Deliver services and support to those identified specifically as high-risk and most vulnerable through cross-cutting themes of violence against women and girls (VAWG), mental health, substance misuse, and homelessness, with the goal of addressing underlying issues linked to violent behaviour.
- Develop services and support that respond to the drivers of vulnerability, with the goal of providing appropriate and timely interventions for those in most need.

SV03: Ensure children and young people better understand the risks and drivers for serious violence to prevent them from becoming drawn into crime

Our aims are to:

- Increase the awareness and understanding of violence triggers and prevention strategies through targeted work and engagement with young people and communities, to achieve a reduction in community-reported violence incidents over three years.
- Implement evidence-based violence prevention programmes through schools, targeted youth work, young people's provision and partners youth focused activities, focusing on conflict resolution, relationships and respect, and social skills development, aiming for a decrease in youth-related violence incidents.

SV04: Taking action that tackles serious violence in the community, to improve the safety of our streets

Our aims are to:

- Establish community engagement in high-risk neighbourhoods, fostering collaboration between local organisations and the police, leading to an increase in community-led violence prevention initiatives over three years.
- Empower front-line practitioners in communities to organise and deliver events and initiatives to tackle serious violence, aiming for an increase in youth-led programmes.

SV05: Robustly tackle organised crime, including county lines and rural organised crime.

Our aims are to:

- Develop and deliver programmes of work specifically aimed at vulnerable young people, with a view to reducing the impact of extra familial harm, coercion and exploitation particularly in relation to county lines.

- Understand and respond to established and emerging organised crime in rural areas, specifically related to exploitation of vulnerable adults.

SV06: Undertake work to further develop our understanding of serious violence.

Our aims are to:

- Implement DiiS data collection system to monitor violence patterns through presentation at emergency departments, aiming for an improvement in data accuracy and reporting efficiency.
- Conduct further research and analysis in key areas, as identified by our initial strategic needs assessment and by future needs analyses, with the goal to review and refresh our serious violence strategy over time and in response to current and emerging need.

Measuring Impact

There will be the need to realise some short-term outcomes, due to the nature of the funding and implementation of the Duty. However, much of this work needs to establish more medium and long-term goal in order to understand and tackle the root causes of serious violence.

With this in mind, we will measure impact through:

- regular evaluation and reflection on the effectiveness of all of our work related to serious violence, including data analysis and the voice of our young people and communities.
- Modifying our strategies and approaches based on evaluation results, emerging trends and community needs to ensure ongoing effectiveness.

“I’m living a kind of half-life. ... I was a very independent (professional) person. ... life is very different now. I think it's just because every normal stuff becomes such a challenge, doesn't it? When you're traumatized. Normal things are a challenge.” (Survivor)

Ways of Working

The effective mapping of existing and newly emerging strategies that have interdependencies with implementing and delivering on the Duty will ensure better collaboration and cohesion across all of the work we are doing. Combined with our strong history of partnership working and collective approach to finding and delivering on solutions also provides a good foundation for this work without duplicating activity, structures and governance arrangements.

“From my experiences, synergy between partner organisations is vital to ensure that people do not slip through the net or get trapped in a vacuum of crime and violence.” (Perpetrator)

This initial strategy paper has been developed in line with the requirements of the Duty. It is produced to supplement and add further detail to the Dorset CSP’s Community Safety Plan 2023-2026, which provides our overall approach to community safety including serious violence.

Implementing this Strategy

Implementation of the Serious Violence Strategy in Dorset is integral to our work on community safety and will be overseen by the Dorset CSP. The governance and delivery arrangements for the CSP will ensure our work on serious violence is coherent and comprehensive, and incorporated into existing structures in line with the statutory guidance.

“Whether it is perceived or real fear. With social media and press media (you can’t tell) what’s hype and what’s real. It’s not being portrayed in the right way. It impacts on mental health and physical wellbeing. Living in fear takes a toll (creates) anxiety.” (Focus Group)

FULL COUNCIL MOTION ON NOTICE

Date of Council Meeting: - 10 October 2024

Title of Motion: - Changes to the Winter Fuel Allowance – disproportionately affecting Dorset and the Charities that support older people in poverty

Proposer: - Cllr Carole Jones

Seconder: - Cllr Spencer Flower

Supported by: - Cllrs A Parry, B Ridout, L O'Leary, J Somper, L Beddow, P Dickenson, J Robinson, B Trite, V Potheary, C Lugg, C Monks, B Quayle. B Goringe, S Murcer, A Skeats

Motion Narrative and Action Required

The recent Government's decision to restrict the Winter Fuel Allowance to those pensioners receiving Pension Credit, despite having a fully costed plan, will mean at least 2 million pensioners across the UK, who are fractionally over the £218.15 weekly limit, will have to make difficult choices this winter, often choosing between heating and eating. Analysis shows that energy bills this winter will be the highest on record for elderly people, particularly with a near 10% increase in the cap expected in the autumn.

The demographics in Dorset with 30% over the age of 65, compared with the national average of 19%, will mean that the loss of the Winter Fuel Allowance will have a disproportionate impact on thousands of elderly and vulnerable pensioners across Dorset, in turn placing a huge additional burden on the already overstretched NHS and Adult Social Care budgets. Those who are just above the cut-off for pension credit will suffer the most and it's not fair.

To move that:

1. Dorset Council encourages those not on Pension Credit, who could be eligible to apply, to do so, offering help to complete of necessary forms, which for many could be a barrier. through a pro-active publicity campaign
2. Dorset Council sign up to the '*Save Winter Fuel Payment for Struggling Pensioners*', petition being run nationally by Age UK.
3. Dorset Council work with those local charities, which support the most vulnerable in our communities, offering guidance to gain access to the resources they need, particularly in support of those who qualify to benefit from the Cost-of-Living Support Fund, to help cope effectively with their

heating needs during the cold Winter months.

4. Dorset Council again writes to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, urging a review of the decision to means test the Winter Fuel Payment and asking the government to ensure that vulnerable pensioners, particularly those who do not claim pension credit, are protected from fuel poverty with an assurance that energy companies will treat the vulnerable with a degree of leniency in respect to energy debt. Additionally, ask Government to provide data of those who are eligible in the Dorset Council Area.

FULL COUNCIL MOTION ON NOTICE

Date of Council Meeting: - 10 October 2024

Title of Motion: - Pets as Prizes

Proposer: - Cllr T Coombs

Seconder: - Cllr R Bryan

Supported by: - Cllrs S Bartlett, B Bawden, P Brown, S Christopher, N Lacey-Clarke, S Florek, S Gibson, J Haynes, S Jespersen, D Morgan, E Parker, D Shortell, D Sowry-House, G Suttle, K Wheller

Motion Narrative and Action Required

The number of cases reported to the RSPCA each year, regarding pets given as prizes via fairgrounds, social media, and other channels is a matter of concern. It is unethical for animals to be given as prizes.

Local authorities implementing local bans can help eliminate the giving of pets as prizes on council owned land.

This council has considered a similar motion in the past but did not implement a formal ban and press government for appropriate legislation, therefore we ask you to support the following motion:

1. That Dorset Council recognises that many cases of pets being as prizes may go unreported each year and supports a move to ban the giving of live animals as prizes, in any form.
2. That this Council agrees to:
 - a. Ban outright the giving of live animals as prizes, in any form, on Dorset Council land.
 - b. Write to the UK Government, urging an outright ban on the giving of live animals as prizes on both public and private land.

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