



People and Health Overview Committee

Date: Thursday, 13 June 2024
Time: 10.00 am
Venue: Council Chamber, County Hall, Dorchester, DT1 1XJ

Members (Quorum: 3)

Beryl Ezzard (Chair), Will Chakawhata (Vice-Chair), Jindy Atwal, Louise Bown, Carole Jones, Stella Jones, Cathy Lugg, Steve Murcer, Jon Orrell and Andy Todd

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

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

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

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Agenda

Item		Pages
1.	APOLOGIES	
	To receive any apologies for absence.	
2.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
	To disclose any pecuniary, other registrable or non-registrable interest as set out in the adopted Code of Conduct. In making their disclosure councillors are asked to state the agenda item, the nature of the interest and any action they propose to take as part of their declaration.	
	If required, further advice should be sought from the Monitoring Officer in advance of the meeting.	
3.	MINUTES	5 - 10
	To confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 6 February	

2024.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

All submissions must be emailed in full to george.dare@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk by 8.30am on Monday, 10 June 2024.

When submitting your question or statement please note that:

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

5. COUNCILLOR QUESTIONS

To receive questions submitted by councillors.

Councillors can submit up to two valid questions at each meeting and sub divided questions count towards this total. Questions and statements received will be published as a supplement to the agenda

and all questions, statements and responses will be published in full within the minutes of the meeting.

The submissions must be emailed in full george.dare@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk by 8.30am on Monday, 10 June 2024.

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

6. URGENT ITEMS

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

7. COMMITTEE'S WORK PROGRAMME AND CABINET'S FORWARD PLAN 11 - 36

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

Please note that the Cabinet Forward Plan for July to October 2024 is due to be published on 11 June. It will be available using the following link: [Link to Cabinet Forward Plans](#).

8. YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2024/25 37 - 98

To consider a report by the Head of Service, Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service.

9. EXTRA CARE HOUSING STRATEGY & ACCOMMODATION WITH SUPPORT PROGRAMME 99 - 244

To consider a report by the Programme Manager – Accommodation with Support.

10. EXEMPT BUSINESS

To consider passing the following recommendation:

Recommendation

That in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the public from the meeting for the business specified in item No 9 because it is likely that if members of the public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of schedule 12A to the Act and the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information to the public.

The public and the press will be asked to leave the meeting whilst the

item of business is considered. (Any live streaming will end at this juncture).

Reason for taking the item in private

Paragraph 3 - Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).



PEOPLE AND HEALTH OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 6 FEBRUARY 2024

Present: Cllrs Mike Parkes (Chairman), Tony Alford, Pauline Batstone, Jean Dunseith, Ryan Holloway, Stella Jones and Rebecca Knox

Present remotely: Cllrs Beryl Ezzard

Apologies: Cllrs Cathy Lugg and Howard Legg

Also present: Cllr Shane Bartlett, Cllr Byron Quayle and Cllr Jane Somper

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

Vivienne Broadhurst (Executive Director - People Adults), George Dare (Senior Democratic Services Officer), Amanda Davis (Corporate Director for Education and Learning), Paul Dempsey (Corporate Director - Care & Protection), Julia Ingram (Corporate Director for Adult Social Care Operations), Theresa Leavy (Executive Director of People - Children), Jonathan Price (Corporate Director for Commissioning), Lisa Reid (Corporate Director for Quality Assurance & Safeguarding Families), Jennifer Lowis (Head of Strategic Communications and Engagement), Kelly Henry (Interim Head of Placement Commissioning), Matthew Turnbull (Democratic and Electoral Services Apprentice), Carol Hosking (Project Manager - Family Hubs) and Rebecca Watson (Project Lead - Family Hubs)

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

Liz Crocker (Service Manager for Libraries)

51. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Cathy Lugg and Howard Legg.

Cllr Ezzard attending the meeting virtually.

52. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

53. Minutes

Proposed by Cllr Holloway, seconded by Cllr Alford.

Decision

That the minutes of the meeting held on 30 November 2023 be confirmed and signed.

54. Public Participation

The Committee received a question, and the Portfolio Holder provided a written response.

The question and response are attached to these minutes.

55. Councillor Questions

There were no questions from councillors.

56. Urgent Items

There were no urgent items.

57. Committee's Work Programme and Cabinet's Forward Plan

There were no comments from the committee on the work programme.

The next meeting on 19 March 2024 would be cancelled if there was no sufficient business planned for it.

58. Families First for Children Pathfinder Update

The Corporate Director for Care and Protection introduced the update report and gave a presentation to the committee. He outlined the 4 key areas of reform, the progress since the last update, the £4.9 million funding for the pathfinder and the investment areas for the funding, and the approach to the new model becoming live. The presentation is attached to these minutes.

Committee members discussed the report and asked questions of officers and the Portfolio Holder. The following was discussed:

- Officers were working with senior officials at the Department for Education and the pathfinder was very important for transformation of children's social care. There was an acceptance that there needed to be a new settlement for local government children's services. Other local authorities would need funding in order to deliver the reform.
- The process to become a special guardian was currently not a good experience for families. The council was looking at bringing the service in house to offer a better assessment process with enhanced support.

- There were representatives of 2 voluntary sector organisations on the programme board and there would also be a representative on the Safeguarding Partnership Board.
- The Family Hubs Programme has engagement with the voluntary sector on a local level.
- Due to the funding, Dorset Council was in a better position than other local authorities to deliver the work.
- Children's services was an attractive place for people to work so it was likely the new family help posts would be recruited.
- The Department for Education had commissioned an evaluation partner which would evaluate the experience of children and families, as well as costs.
- There were resourcing challenges for partners, particularly Dorset Police.

Members noted the update.

59. **Childrens Sufficiency Strategy 2024-2027**

The Corporate Director for Care and Protection introduced the Children's Sufficiency Strategy and gave a presentation, which is attached to these minutes. He explained the sufficiency duty and what the sufficiency strategy was for. The seven priorities of the strategy and measures to see whether it was successful were outlined.

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

- There was no work done on the 20 self-contained units for care leavers. Officers were open to suggestions of appropriate places for them.
- There were currently 5 care leavers in B&B accommodation.
- There were commercial arrangements with B&B's however young people would receive wraparound support from multi-disciplinary professionals.
- The increase in children's home places were from additional provision from existing children's homes and through residential providers.
- Some care leavers will be receiving a service from the council whereas others will only have contact with the council when needed. Not all 309 care leavers receiving a service from a Personal Advisor were in staying put arrangements.

Proposed by Cllr Batstone, seconded by Cllr Holloway.

Decision:

That the Sufficiency Strategy and related action planning be recommended to Cabinet for approval.

60. **Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Strategy**

The Chairman read the following statement:

“As agreed with senior officers and with Cllr Jill Haynes, Portfolio Holder for Corporate Development and Transformation, the EDI Strategy and Action Plan will be deferred for discussion at a People and Health Overview committee to be held later in the year.

The reason for this is that officers have recommended waiting for the Department for Education’s current consultation on “Gender questioning children: draft schools and colleges guidance” to be completed and their report published, so we can consider the finalised guidance and align Dorset Council’s position appropriately”.

61. **Family Hub Network Development**

The Family Hubs Programme Lead introduced the report and gave a presentation to the committee, which is attached to these minutes.

Members considered the report and asked questions of the officers. The following points were made:

- Officers were aware of the issues in the East of the county. They were working with the VCSE to develop financial model.
- The most appropriate sites for family hubs in some areas have been identified as the existing children’s centre.
- Specific requirements, such as confidential spaces, in hubs would require some adaptations to be made in some buildings.
- There were 4 hubs currently open, and it was aimed that 8 hubs would be open by September.
- Library buildings were varied so the offer in each one would be varied. Work to look at assets was not yet completed.
- Library sites would have a core offer which is trained staff being able to signpost to services. Options to enhance offers at libraries were being looked at where possible.
- The Beaminster Library was not good for this type of service, but there was another Dorset Council building nearby that would be more suitable. The member sought assurances that this alternative building was being looked at. It was requested that further details be provided for Cabinet about intentions going forward.

Proposed by Cllr Alford, seconded by Cllr Dunseith.

Decision:

That the proposed development of Dorset’s Family Hub Network be recommended to Cabinet for approval, with the additional information requested on libraries.

62. **Exempt Business**

There was no exempt business.

Duration of meeting: 10.00 - 11.46 am

Chairman

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People and Health Overview Committee Work Programme

Meeting Date: 13 June 2024

Report Title	Aims and Objectives	Lead Officers / Members	Other Information
Youth Justice Plan 2024/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of the annual Youth Justice Plan. • To make any recommendations to Cabinet and Council. 	<p>David Webb – Head of Service, Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service</p> <p>Cllr Clare Sutton – Cabinet Member for Children’s Services, Education and Skills</p>	Report to be considered by Cabinet on 9 July and Full Council on 18 July
Extra Care Housing Strategy and the Accommodation with Support Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of the strategy and to make any recommendations ahead of consideration by Cabinet. 	<p>Adam Fitzgerald – Programme Manager, Building Better Lives</p> <p>Cllr Gill Taylor – Cabinet Member for Public Health, Environmental Health, Housing, Community Safety and Regulatory Services</p>	Consideration by Cabinet on 9 July

Meeting Date: 23 July 2024

Report Title	Aims and Objectives	Lead Officers / Members	Other Information
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Community Safety Plan and Reducing Reoffending Strategy	Review of the Community Safety Plan and Reducing Reoffending Strategy ahead of consideration by Cabinet. Recommending any improvements or amendments to Cabinet.	Andy Frost – Service Manager for Community Safety Cllr Gill Taylor – Cabinet Member for Public Health, Environmental Health, Housing, Community Safety and Regulatory Services	Report to be considered by Cabinet and Full Council
Commissioning for a better life, Day Opportunities in Dorset	To review the report and make any recommendations ahead of consideration by Cabinet.	Mark Tyson – Corporate Director for Adults Commissioning Cllr Steve Robinson – Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care	Consideration by Cabinet on 10 September.
Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Strategy and Action Plan	To review the refreshed EDI Strategy and to make any recommendations to Cabinet.	James Palferman-Kay – Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Officer Cllr Ryan Holloway – Cabinet Member for Corporate Development, Transformation, Digital & Change	Consideration by Cabinet on 10 September.

Meeting Date: 24 September 2024

Report Title	Aims and Objectives	Lead Officers / Members	Other Information

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Meeting Date: 29 October 2024

Report Title	Aims and Objectives	Lead Officers / Members	Other Information

Meeting Date: 21 January 2025

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Report Title	Aims and Objectives	Lead Officers / Members	Other Information

Meeting Date: 20 March 2025

Report Title	Aims and Objectives	Lead Officers / Members	Other Information

Unscheduled Committee Items

Report Title	Aims and Objectives	Lead Officers / Members	Other Information

Informal Work of the Committee:

Date	Topic	Format	Members	Lead Officers / Members	Other Information



The Cabinet Forward Plan - June to September 2024 (Publication date – 10 MAY 2024)

Explanatory Note:

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

Definition of Key Decisions

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

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

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

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
2024					
June					
<p>Quarter 4 Financial Monitoring 2023/24</p> <p>Key Decision - No Public Access - Open</p> <p>Do not consider the Quarter 4 Financial Monitoring Report 2024/25.</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 11 Jun 2024</p>			<p><i>Sean Cremer, Corporate Director for Finance and Commercial</i> <i>sean.cremer@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, Corporate Development - Section 151 Officer (Aidan Dunn)</i></p>
<p>BCP Local Plan consultation response</p> <p>Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open</p> <p>Proposed for change set out in an invest to save business case.</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 11 Jun 2024</p>			<p><i>Terry Sneller, Strategic Planning Manager</i> <i>terry.sneller@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, Place</i></p>
<p>Cost of Living Support</p> <p>Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open</p> <p>Consideration of the recommendation from the People and Health Scrutiny Committee on cost-of-living support.</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 11 Jun 2024</p>			<p><i>Laura Cornette, Business Partner - Communities and Partnerships</i> <i>Laura.cornette@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Jennifer Lowis, Head of Strategic Communications and Engagement</i> <i>jennifer.lowis@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, Corporate Development - Section 151 Officer (Aidan Dunn)</i></p>

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
<p>Children's Safeguarding Partnership Review</p> <p>Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open</p> <p>To consider the Children's Safeguarding Partnership Review.</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 11 Jun 2024</p>			<p><i>Lisa Reid, Corporate Director for Quality Assurance & Safeguarding Families</i> <i>lisa.reid@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, People - Children (Theresa Leavy)</i></p>
<p>Dorset Local Area SEND Inspection Letter</p> <p>Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open</p> <p>To consider a report on the publication of the Dorset Local Area SEND Inspection Letter including SEND Self-Assessment and updated action plan (in response to inspection).</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 11 Jun 2024</p>			<p><i>Amanda Davis, Corporate Director for Education and Learning</i> <i>amanda.davis@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, People - Children (Theresa Leavy)</i></p>
<p>July</p>					

<p>Youth Justice Plan 2024/25</p> <p>Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open</p> <p>Annual approval of the Youth Justice Plan.</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 9 Jul 2024</p>	<p>People and Health Overview Committee 13 Jun 2024</p>		<p><i>David Webb, Manager - Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service</i> <i>david.webb@bcpcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, People - Children (Theresa Leavy)</i></p>
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Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
<p>Ofsted ILACS Annual Conversation including Self-Assessment</p> <p>Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open</p> <p>To receive the ILACS Annual Conversation, Self-Assessment and Annual Test of Assurance)</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 9 Jul 2024</p>			<p><i>Richard Belcher, Service Manager - Strategic Partnerships richard.belcher@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Alice Deacon, Corporate Director for Commissioning and Partnerships alice.deacon@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Lisa Reid, Corporate Director for Quality Assurance & Safeguarding Families lisa.reid@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, People - Children (Theresa Leavy)</i></p>
<p>Extra Care Housing Strategy & Accommodation with support programme</p> <p>Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open</p> <p>To present the Extra Care Housing Strategy, seek endorsement from Cabinet, and to brief members on the Accommodation with Support programme.</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 9 Jul 2024</p>	<p>People and Health Overview Committee 13 Jun 2024</p>		<p><i>Adam Fitzgerald, Building Better Lives Programme Manager adam.fitzgerald@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, People - Adults</i></p>

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
<p>Productivity Plan</p> <p>Key Decision - No Public Access - Open</p> <p>Response to the government's request, as outlined in the Local Government Finance Settlement, to produce and submit a productivity plan.</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 9 Jul 2024</p>			<p><i>Steven Ford, Corporate Director for Transformation, Innovation, Digital, and Environment steven.ford@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Chief Executive (Matt Prosser)</i></p>
<p>Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Strategy</p> <p>Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open</p> <p>To approve the EDI Strategy and Action Plan.</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 9 Jul 2024</p>			<p><i>Jennifer Lewis, Head of Strategic Communications and Engagement jennifer.lewis@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, James Palfreman-Kay, Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Officer james.palfreman-kay@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, Corporate Development - Section 151 Officer (Aidan Dunn)</i></p>
<p>September</p>					
<p>Quarter 1 Financial Monitoring 2024/25</p> <p>Key Decision - No Public Access - Open</p> <p>To consider the Quarter 1 Financial Monitoring Report 2024/25</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 10 Sep 2024</p>			<p><i>Sean Cremer, Corporate Director for Finance and Commercial sean.cremer@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, Corporate Development - Section 151 Officer (Aidan Dunn)</i></p>

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
<p>Draft Contaminated Land Strategy</p> <p>Key Decision - No Public Access - Open</p> <p>Draft Contaminated Land Strategy and report of consultation findings on the draft strategy.</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 10 Sep 2024</p>	<p>Place and Resources Overview Committee 11 Jul 2024</p>		<p><i>Steven Horsler, Environmental Health Officer steven.horsler@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Janet Moore, Service Manager for Environmental Protection Janet.Moore@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Lead for Place Directorate (Jan Britton)</i></p>
<p>Strategic Asset Management Plan 2024 - 2030</p> <p>Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open</p> <p>present the Strategic Asset Management Plan 2024-2030 and seek endorsement.</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 10 Sep 2024</p>			<p><i>Tim Hulme, Corporate Director of Assets and Reneration tim.hulme@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Julian Wain, Strategic Property Advisor Julian.wain@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Lead for Place Directorate (Jan Britton)</i></p>
<p>October</p>					
<p>Waste Strategy for Dorset 2024</p> <p>Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open</p> <p>To consider and approve the Waste Strategy for Dorset.</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 15 Oct 2024</p>	<p>Place and Resources Overview Committee 12 Sep 2024</p>		<p><i>Gemma Clinton, Head of Commercial Waste and Strategy gemma.clinton@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Lisa Mouny, Service Development Manager lisa.mouny@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Lead for Place Directorate (Jan Britton)</i></p>

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
<p>Growth & Economic Regeneration Strategy</p> <p>Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open</p> <p>To consider and agree a refresh of the Council's strategy for economic growth. This will encompass the functions to be taken over by the Council from Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership in accordance with devolution and promote the needs and actions required to drive forward the economy in the Dorset Council area.</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 15 Oct 2024</p>	<p>Place and Resources Overview Committee 12 Sep 2024</p>		<p><i>Jon Bird, Service Manager for Growth and Economic Regeneration jon.bird@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Nick Webster, Head of Growth and Economic Regeneration nicholas.webster@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Lead for Place Directorate (Jan Britton)</i></p>
<p>10 November 2021</p>					
<p>Quarter 2 Financial Monitoring Report 2024/25</p> <p>Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open</p> <p>To consider the Quarter 2 Financial Monitoring Report 2024/25</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 19 Nov 2024</p>			<p><i>Sean Cremer, Corporate Director for Finance and Commercial sean.cremer@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, Corporate Development - Section 151 Officer (Aidan Dunn)</i></p>
<p>Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) and budget strategy - update</p> <p>Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open</p> <p>To receive a budget update for 2025/26.</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 19 Nov 2024</p>			<p><i>Sean Cremer, Corporate Director for Finance and Commercial sean.cremer@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, Corporate Development - Section 151 Officer (Aidan Dunn)</i></p>

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

Private/Exempt Items for Decision

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

1. Information relating to any individual.
2. Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual.
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).
4. Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under, the authority.
5. Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.
6. Information which reveals that the shadow council proposes:-
 - (a) to give under any enactment a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person; or
 - (b) to make an order or direction under any enactment.
7. Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.

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Shareholder Committee for Care Dorset Holdings Ltd Forward Plan For the period 1 JULY 2024 to 31 OCTOBER 2024

Explanatory Note:

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

Definition of Key Decisions

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

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

Committee Membership 2023/24

Cllr Nick Ireland – Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Governance, Performance, Communications, Environment, Climate Change and Safeguarding

Cllr Richard Biggs – Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Property & Assets, Economic Growth & Levelling Up

Cllr Ryan Holloway - Portfolio Holder for Corporate Development, Transformation, Digital & Change

Cllr Steve Robinson – Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care

Cllr Gill Taylor - Portfolio Holder for Public Health, Environmental Health, Housing, Community Safety and Regulatory Service

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
July				
Review of the Committee's Terms of Reference Key Decision - No Public Access - Open	Decision Maker Shareholder Committee for Care Dorset Holdings Ltd	Decision Date 1 Jul 2024	Councillor Nick Ireland	<i>Jonathan Mair, Director of Legal and Democratic and Monitoring Officer jonathan.mair@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, People - Adults</i>
Dorset Council Delegated Decisions (as required) Key Decision - No Public Access - Part exempt	Decision Maker Shareholder Committee for Care Dorset Holdings Ltd	Decision Date 1 Jul 2024	Councillor Steve Robinson	<i>Jonathan Price, Executive Director of People - Adults and Housing jonathan.price@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, People - Adults</i>
Dorset Council Organisational Update Key Decision - No Public Access - Part exempt	Decision Maker Shareholder Committee for Care Dorset Holdings Ltd	Decision Date 1 Jul 2024	Councillor Steve Robinson	<i>Jonathan Price, Executive Director of People - Adults and Housing jonathan.price@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, People - Adults</i>
Care Dorset Update Key Decision - No Public Access - Part exempt	Decision Maker Shareholder Committee for Care Dorset Holdings Ltd	Decision Date 1 Jul 2024	Councillor Steve Robinson	<i>Jonathan Price, Executive Director of People - Adults and Housing jonathan.price@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, People - Adults</i>
October				

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
<p>Dorset Council Delegated Decisions (as required)</p> <p>Key Decision - No Public Access - Part exempt</p>	<p>Decision Maker Shareholder Committee for Care Dorset Holdings Ltd</p>	<p>Decision Date 7 Oct 2024</p>	<p>Councillor Steve Robinson</p>	<p><i>Jonathan Price, Executive Director of People - Adults and Housing jonathan.price@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Corporate Director of Commissioning, People - Adults</i></p>
<p>Dorset Council Organisational Update</p> <p>Key Decision - No Public Access - Part exempt</p>	<p>Decision Maker Shareholder Committee for Care Dorset Holdings Ltd</p>	<p>Decision Date 7 Oct 2024</p>	<p>Councillor Steve Robinson</p>	<p><i>Jonathan Price, Executive Director of People - Adults and Housing jonathan.price@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, People - Adults</i></p>
<p>Care Dorset Update</p> <p>Key Decision - No Public Access - Part exempt</p>	<p>Decision Maker Shareholder Committee for Care Dorset Holdings Ltd</p>	<p>Decision Date 7 Oct 2024</p>	<p>Councillor Steve Robinson</p>	<p><i>Jonathan Price, Executive Director of People - Adults and Housing jonathan.price@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Chris Best, Interim Managing Director chris.best@caredorset.co.uk Executive Director, People - Adults</i></p>
<p>Care Dorset Five Year Business Plan</p> <p>Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Fully exempt</p>	<p>Decision Maker Shareholder Committee for Care Dorset Holdings Ltd</p>	<p>Decision Date 7 Oct 2024</p>	<p>Councillor Steve Robinson</p>	<p><i>Jonathan Price, Executive Director of People - Adults and Housing jonathan.price@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, People - Adults</i></p>

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
Annual Reports				
Annual Performance Update for Council Key Decision - No Public Access - Open	Decision Maker Shareholder Committee for Care Dorset Holdings Ltd	Decision Date	Councillor Steve Robinson	<i>Executive Director, People - Adults</i>
Care Dorset Business Plan - 6 month review and update Key Decision - No Public Access - Open For the Shareholder Committee to consider progress in delivering the 5 year business plan, and any review of the plan as necessary.	Decision Maker Shareholder Committee for Care Dorset Holdings Ltd	Decision Date	Councillor Steve Robinson	<i>Jonathan Price, Executive Director of People - Adults and Housing jonathan.price@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Mark Tyson, Corporate Director for Adult Commissioning & Improvement mark.tyson@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, People - Adults</i>

2023-28

Private/Exempt Items for Decision

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

1. Information relating to any individual.
2. Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual.
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).
4. Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under, the authority.
5. Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.
6. Information which reveals that the shadow council proposes:-
 - (a) to give under any enactment a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person; or
 - (b) to make an order or direction under any enactment.
7. Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.

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**The Shareholder Committee for the Dorset Centre of Excellence (DCOE) Forward Plan -
For the period 10 JUNE 2024 to 30 SEPTEMBER 2024
(Publication date – 13 MAY 2024)**

Explanatory Note:

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

Definition of Key Decisions

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

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

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

Committee Membership 2024/25

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
Standing items for consideration				

June

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

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
Public Access - Part exempt	Excellence (DCOE)			
September				

Dorset Council Delegated Decisions Key Decision - No Public Access - Open	Decision Maker The Shareholder Committee for the Dorset Centre of Excellence (DCOE)	Decision Date 11 Mar 2024	Councillor Byron Quayle	<i>Executive Director, People - Children (Theresa Leavy)</i>
Dorset Council Commissioning Report Key Decision - No Public Access - Part exempt	Decision Maker The Shareholder Committee for the Dorset Centre of Excellence (DCOE)	Decision Date 11 Mar 2024	Councillor Byron Quayle	<i>Executive Director, People - Children (Theresa Leavy)</i>
DCoE - Report of the Chair of the Board Key Decision - No Public Access - Part exempt	Decision Maker The Shareholder Committee for the Dorset Centre of Excellence (DCOE)	Decision Date 11 Mar 2024	Councillor Byron Quayle	<i>Executive Director, People - Children (Theresa Leavy)</i>
Annual Reports				

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

Private/Exempt Items for Decision

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

1. Information relating to any individual.
2. Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual.
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People and Health Overview Committee

13 June 2024

Youth Justice Plan 2024/25

For Recommendation to Cabinet

Cabinet Member and Portfolio:

Cllr C Sutton, Children's Services, Education & Skills

Local Councillor(s):

All

Executive Director:

T Leavy, Executive Director of People - Children

Report Author:

David Webb

Job Title:

Head of Service, Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service

Tel:

01202 794321

Email:

david.webb@bcpcouncil.gov.uk

Report Status: Public

Brief Summary:

The Crime and Disorder Act (1998) sets out a statutory requirement for local authority youth offending teams to publish an annual Youth Justice Plan which must provide specified information about the local provision of youth justice services. This report summarises the Youth Justice Plan for 2024/25, with a copy of the plan appended. The Youth Justice Plan needs to be approved by the full Council.

Recommendation:

For the Overview Committee to endorse the Youth Justice Plan so that Cabinet can recommend its approval to Full Council.

Reason for Recommendation:

Youth Justice Services are required to publish an annual Youth Justice Plan which should be approved by the Local Authority for that Youth Justice Service. Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service works across both Bournemouth,

Christchurch and Poole Council and Dorset Council. Approval is therefore sought from both Dorset Council and from Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council.

1. **Report**

- 1.1 The Crime and Disorder Act (1998) requires Youth Offending Teams (now more widely known as Youth Justice Services) to publish an annual Youth Justice Plan. The Youth Justice Board provides detailed and prescriptive guidance about what must be included in the Plan. The draft Youth Justice Plan for the Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service is attached at Appendix One. A brief summary of the Youth Justice Plan is provided in this report.
- 1.2 The Youth Justice Plan provides information on the resourcing, structure, governance, partnership arrangements and performance of the Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service. The Plan also describes the national and local youth justice context for 2024/25 and sets out our priorities for this year.
- 1.3 Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service was rated 'Good' in its most recent inspection report, which was published in January 2023. An action plan was produced, in response to the inspection recommendations. All actions have been completed, with the exception of ongoing partnership work to establish new arrangements and procedures for working with children who experience harm outside the home. The new Extra-Familial Harm working arrangements are well developed and will be completed during 2024.
- 1.4 The Youth Justice Board continues to publish data for three 'key performance indicators' for youth justice. National performance data is published as a combined figure for the two local authorities within the Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service partnership.
- 1.5 The first indicator relates to the rate of young people entering the justice system for the first time. Overall local performance in this area, across both local authorities, improved significantly in the past year. The latest national data, relating to the 12 months to December 2023, shows a combined pan-Dorset rate of 161 per 100,000 10 to 17 year-olds entering the justice system for the first time. This represents a 30% reduction on the previous year, when the rate was 229 per 100,000 10 to 17 year-olds

in the previous year. For context, the local rate for the year 2019/20, before the pandemic, was 309 per 100,000 10 to 17 year-olds.

- 1.6 Data on the Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service (DCYJS) case management system enables us to monitor numbers of first-time entrants in each local authority area. This local data shows a mixed picture for 2023/24, with an increase in the number of Dorset Council first-time entrants offset by a reduction in the number of Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole children entering the justice system. A total of 56 Dorset children received a formal justice outcome for the first time in 2023/24, compared to 39 children in 2022/23. Closer analysis indicates that delays in dealing with offences committed in 2022/23 led to some Dorset Council children receiving their justice outcome in 2023/24. The total number of first-time entrants for Dorset Council across these two years is consistent with the numbers in the previous two years. The Youth Justice Plan provides more detail about the children who enter the justice system and about work to divert children from the youth justice system, including local implementation of the Ministry of Justice 'Turnaround' programme.
- 1.7 The other two national indicators relate to reducing reoffending and minimising the use of custodial sentences. The reoffending rate fluctuates, partly because of the current counting rules for this measure. Our local reoffending rate has for the most part remained close to the national rate. Local analysis, summarised in the Youth Justice Plan, shows some of the patterns underlying the reoffending data. The Youth Justice Plan sets out some of the actions that have been taken and future plans to address these issues.
- 1.8 DCYJS has low rates of custodial sentences, below the national average. Young people who are sentenced to custody have often experienced significant trauma in their earlier life, affecting their current behaviour. Analysis in the Youth Justice Plan shows some of the common characteristics of the children who have been sentenced to custody.
- 1.9 Although the numbers remanded or sentenced to custody are low, these outcomes usually reflect serious offences causing significant harm to victims. Reducing youth violence, and harm to victims, is a priority for the Youth Justice Service and for other local strategic partnerships, such as the Community Safety Partnership and the Safeguarding Children's Partnership. In 2023 the government introduced the Serious Violence Duty, which requires specified local partners, including youth offending teams, to work together to share information and target interventions to

prevent and reduce serious violence. Local implementation of the Serious Violence Duty is coordinated by the Community Safety Partnership.

- 1.10 One of the priorities for the Youth Justice Service, in reducing youth violence, and other offending, is to work with the Police and CPS to speed up investigations and outcomes for alleged offences by children. Delays in bringing cases to court can make it harder to support children into more positive behaviour and to repair the harm caused to victims. Other activities include work by the YJS Nurses, Psychologist and Speech and Language Therapists to identify children's communication needs and trauma histories, to help us to understand the child's behaviour and to respond to their individual needs.
- 1.11 The Youth Justice Service Partnership priorities for 2024/25 align with the strategic priorities of other services and partnerships, including the Community Safety Partnership and the Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership. More work is planned to divert children from the justice system and to ensure their needs are identified and met, using the Ministry of Justice 'Turnaround' programme; further work will be undertaken to improve the education outcomes of children in the youth justice system; additional action will be taken to address risks of some groups of children being over-represented in the youth justice system. The Youth Justice Plan also outlines plans for a project to identify and support the speech, language and communication needs of children who are at risk of school exclusion. This project will commence in June 2024, aimed at reducing school exclusions and thereby reducing the risk of future offending.

2. **Financial Implications**

The Youth Justice Plan reports on the resourcing of the Youth Justice Service. Like all local authority services, the YJS is subject to significant resource pressures. Although there was an increase in the national Youth Justice Grant in 2023/24, taking it to £764,718, this did not restore it to the allocation of £790,000 in 2014/15. At the time of writing this report, in late April, the Youth Justice Grant allocation for 2024/25 has not yet been announced.

The creation of the pan-Dorset youth offending service in 2015 increased the service's resilience and ability to adapt to reduced funding and increased costs. The management of vacancies, and the deletion of some posts, enabled a balanced budget to be achieved in the years to 2023. Budget pressures from pay awards, without a corresponding increase in

budget contributions, means that staffing costs will be reviewed in 2024/25.

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

No adverse environmental impact has been identified. The Covid-19 pandemic led to changes in the working arrangements of the Youth Justice Service. These changes included significant reductions in staff travel, both to and from work and to visit service users, with more activities being carried out remotely. Although staff travel has increased, with the return to more face-to-face work, team members continue to undertake some tasks remotely.

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

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

5. **Other Implications**

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

6. **Risk Assessment**

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

Current Risk: Low
Residual Risk: Low.

7. **Equalities Impact Assessment**

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

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

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

8. **Appendices**




Appendix One: Youth Justice Plan 2024/25.

9. **Background Papers**

None.

10. **Report Sign Off**

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

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



Service	Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service
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YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2024/25

Head of Service	David Webb
Chair of YJS Board	Theresa Leavy

Contents

1. Executive Summary
2. Introduction, vision, strategy, and local context
3. Governance, leadership, and partnership arrangements.
4. Update on the previous year.
 - 4.1. Progress on priorities in last year's plan
 - 4.2. Performance
 - 4.3. Risks and Issues
5. Plans for the year ahead.
 - 5.1. Child First practice
 - 5.2. Resources and Services
 - 5.3. YJS Partnership Board Development
 - 5.4. Workforce development
 - 5.5. Evidence-based practice and innovation and evaluation
 - 5.6. Standards for work with children in the youth justice system
 - 5.7. Response to inspections, reviews and audits.
6. Local and National Priorities for 2024/25
 - 6.1. Over-representation
 - 6.2. Prevention
 - 6.3. Diversion
 - 6.4. Education, Training and Employment
 - 6.5. Health Needs of Children in the youth justice system
 - 6.6. Restorative justice and victims
 - 6.7. Serious violence and exploitation
 - 6.8. Policing and Detention of children in police custody
 - 6.9. Transitions to Probation
 - 6.10. Remands
 - 6.11. Custodial Sentences and Resettlement
 - 6.12. Working with Families
 - 6.13. DCYJS Priorities and Plans for 2024/25
7. Sign off, submission and approval.
8. Appendix 1 – Service Structure Chart
9. Appendix 2 – Budget Costs and Contributions
10. Appendix 3 – New Youth Justice Key Performance Indicators

Youth Justice Plan 2024/25

1. Executive Summary

Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service (DCYJS) works across the Dorset Council and BCP Council areas in a multi-agency partnership between the local authorities, Dorset Police, NHS Dorset and the Probation Service.

DCYJS helps children to make positive changes, keeping them safe, keeping other people safe, and repairing the harm caused to victims. When possible, we do this work outside the formal justice system, to avoid criminalising the child.

During the past year, DCYJS has made progress on our partnership priorities, including:

Keeping children out of the formal justice system: the number of children across Dorset and BCP who received a first caution or court order dropped from 118 in 2022/23 to 108 in 2023/24. There was a notable reduction this year in the BCP area (down from 79 to 52).

Reducing over-representation of minority groups in the youth justice system: local children from ethnic minorities are not over-represented among those entering the justice system but may progress further through the system. Children in Care and children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities are over-represented locally and nationally. Action is being taken to reduce over-representation of these groups.

Reducing youth violence and child exploitation: there was a slight reduction in the number of children receiving justice outcomes for violent offences in 2023/24, compared to the previous year. The number of children being arrested locally has dropped in the past two years.

Improve education outcomes for children in the justice system: DCYJS worked with Upton Country Park to provide a project supporting young people to become ready for college or employment.

DCYJS applies the 'Child First' principles that are promoted by the Youth Justice Board. A parent said that 'The YJS worker was really empathic. My son felt heard and listened to.....he's just got an apprenticeship....we wouldn't change anything about the service we received'.

The DCYJS Partnership Strategic Priorities for 2024/25 include:

- Continuing to divert children from the formal justice system.
- Reducing over-representation of minority groups.
- Improving education outcomes.
- Earlier identification of speech, language and communication needs for children at risk of school exclusion.
- Developing restorative responses to offences without a direct victim, such as possession of drugs or weapons, to help children understand the impact on the community.

2. Introduction, vision, strategy, and local context

Foreword

This document is the Youth Justice Strategic Plan for the Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service (DCYJS) for 2024/25. It sets out the key priorities and targets for the service for the next 12 months as required by the Crime & Disorder Act 1998. This Plan adheres to the Youth Justice Board's document 'Youth Justice Plans: Guidance for Youth Justice Services'.

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

The Youth Justice Strategic Plan:

- summarises the DCYJS structure, governance and partnership arrangements.
- outlines the resources available to the DCYJS.
- reviews achievements and developments during 2023/24.
- identifies emerging issues and describes the partnership's priorities.
- sets out our priorities and actions for improving youth justice outcomes this year.

*Theresa Leavy, Executive Director People – Children, Dorset Council
Chair, Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service Partnership Board.*

Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service Statement of Purpose

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

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

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

Who We Are and What We Do

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Local Context

Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service (DCYJS) is a partnership working across two local authorities: Dorset Council and Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council.

Dorset Council covers a large geographical, predominantly rural area with market towns and a larger urban area in Weymouth and Portland. Dorset Council has a population of about 380,000.

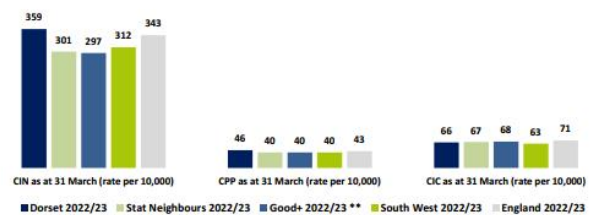
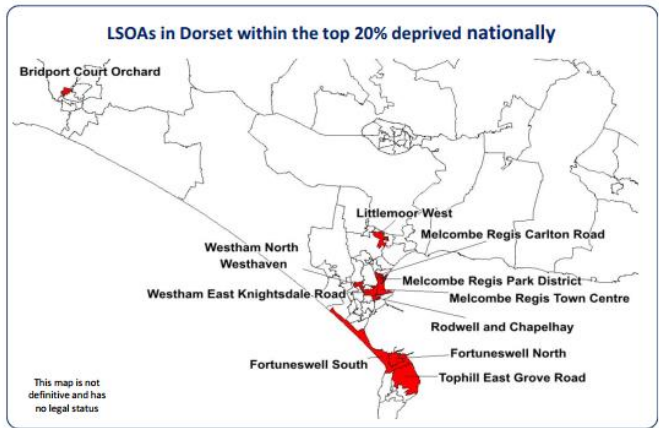
Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole together form a conurbation with a population of 400,000.

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

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



Population	Age 10-17
Number of Children ¹	33,287
Male ¹	51%
Female ¹	49%
Pupils eligible for Free School Meals ²	21.3%
Pupils with SEN Support ²	14.4%
Pupils with an EHC Plan ²	6.2%
Pupils from Non-white Minority Ethnic groups ³	5.1%
25% children living in Poverty after housing costs ⁴	
Safeguarding	Age 10-17
Number of Children in Need ⁵	597
Male ⁵	51.4%
Female ⁵	48.2%
Indeterminate ⁵	0.6%
Number of Children with a Child Protection Plan ⁷	111
Number of Children in Care ⁶	314
Male ⁶	61.9%
Female ⁶	38.7%
Indeterminate ⁶	0%
Number of children and young people at risk of exploitation ⁷	
Significant	16
Moderate	36



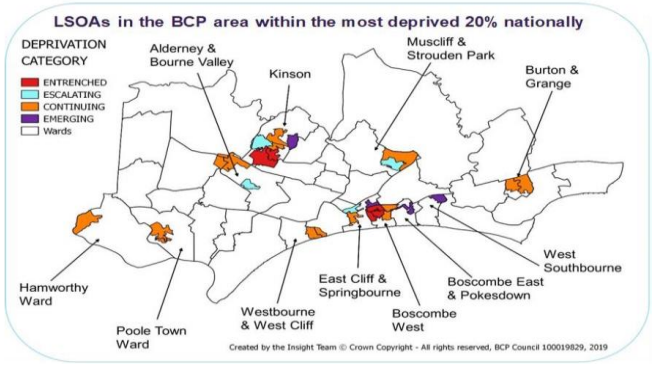
1. Dorset mid-year 2022 population estimates (published November 2023).
 2. October 2023 School Census (includes all pupils at a Dorset School aged 10-17; ages as at 31 August 2023).
 3. January 2023 School Census (all non-white pupils at a Dorset School, excluding 'Refused' and 'Information not yet obtained').
 4. Local child poverty indicators 2021/22. Based on the DWP/HMRC statistics 'Children in low income families: local area statistics' (March 2023).
 5. From MOSAIC, as at 29 February 2024. Excluding CP and CIC. Gender figures exclude Unknown and Unborn.
 6. From MOSAIC, as at 29 February 2024. Gender figures exclude Unknown and Unborn.
 7. From MOSAIC as at 29 February 2024.

** Good+ Local Authorities are: Cornwall, East Sussex, Norfolk, Shropshire, Somerset, Suffolk, Wiltshire and Worcestershire

Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole



Population ¹ :	Age 10-17
Number of Children ¹	34,372
Male ¹	52%
Female ¹	48%
Pupils Eligible for Free School Meals ²	19.9%
Pupils with SEN Support ²	14.5%
Pupils with an EHC Plan ²	4.8%
Pupils from Nonwhite Minority Ethnic groups ³	15.4%
24% children living in poverty after housing costs ⁴	
Safeguarding	Age 10-17
Number of Children in Need ⁵	450
Male ⁵	56.7%
Female ⁵	42.7%
Indeterminate ⁵	0.7%
Number of Children with a Child Protection Plan ⁷	203
Number of Children in Care ⁶	369
Male ⁶	61.5%
Female ⁶	38.2%
Indeterminate ⁶	0.3%
Number of children and young people at risk of exploitation ⁷	
Suffering	9
Risk of harm	16
Potential concerns	24



1. Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole population estimates (published November 2023).
 2. January 2024 School Census (includes all pupils at a BCP School aged 10-17; ages as at 18 January 2024).
 3. January 2022 School Census (all non-white pupils at a BCP School, excluding 'Refused' and 'Information not yet obtained').
 4. Local child poverty indicator 2021/22. From DWP/HMRC 'Children in low income families: local area statistics' (March 2023).
 5. From MOSAIC, as at 29 February 2024. Excluding CP and CIC. Gender figures exclude Unknown and Unborn.
 6. From MOSAIC, as at 29 February 2024. Gender figures exclude Unknown and Unborn.
 7. From MOSAIC as at 29 February 2024.

** Good+ Local Authorities are: Cornwall, East Sussex, Norfolk, Shropshire, Somerset, Suffolk, Wiltshire and Worcestershire

Although the two local authorities differ in geographical size and demography, they have very similar population sizes for 10-17 year-olds. Dorset Council has slightly higher numbers of children eligible for free school meals and slightly higher numbers of children identified as having special educational needs and disabilities. Both local authorities have 1,022 children aged 10-17 who have an allocated social worker.

The proportion of 10-17 year-olds identifying as being from non-white ethnicities is higher in BCP Council (15.4%) than in Dorset Council (5.1%).

3. Governance, leadership, and partnership arrangements

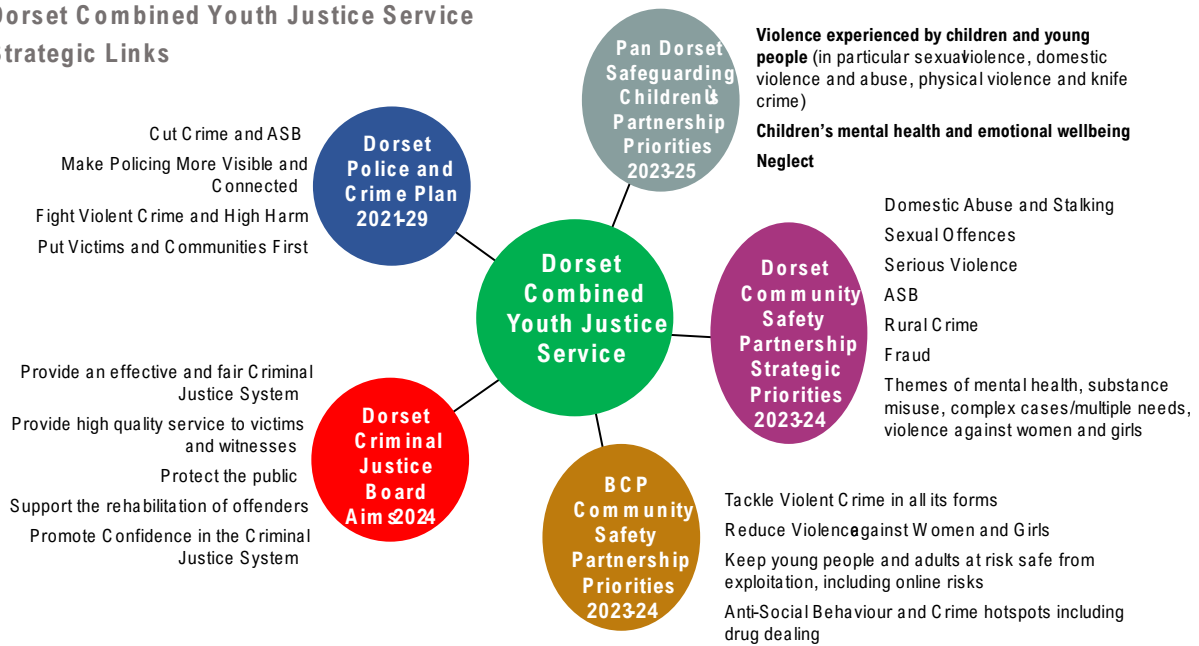
The work of the Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service is managed strategically by a Partnership Board. The Partnership Board consists of senior representatives of the statutory partner organisations, together with other relevant local partners.

Membership:

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

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

Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service Strategic Links



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

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

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

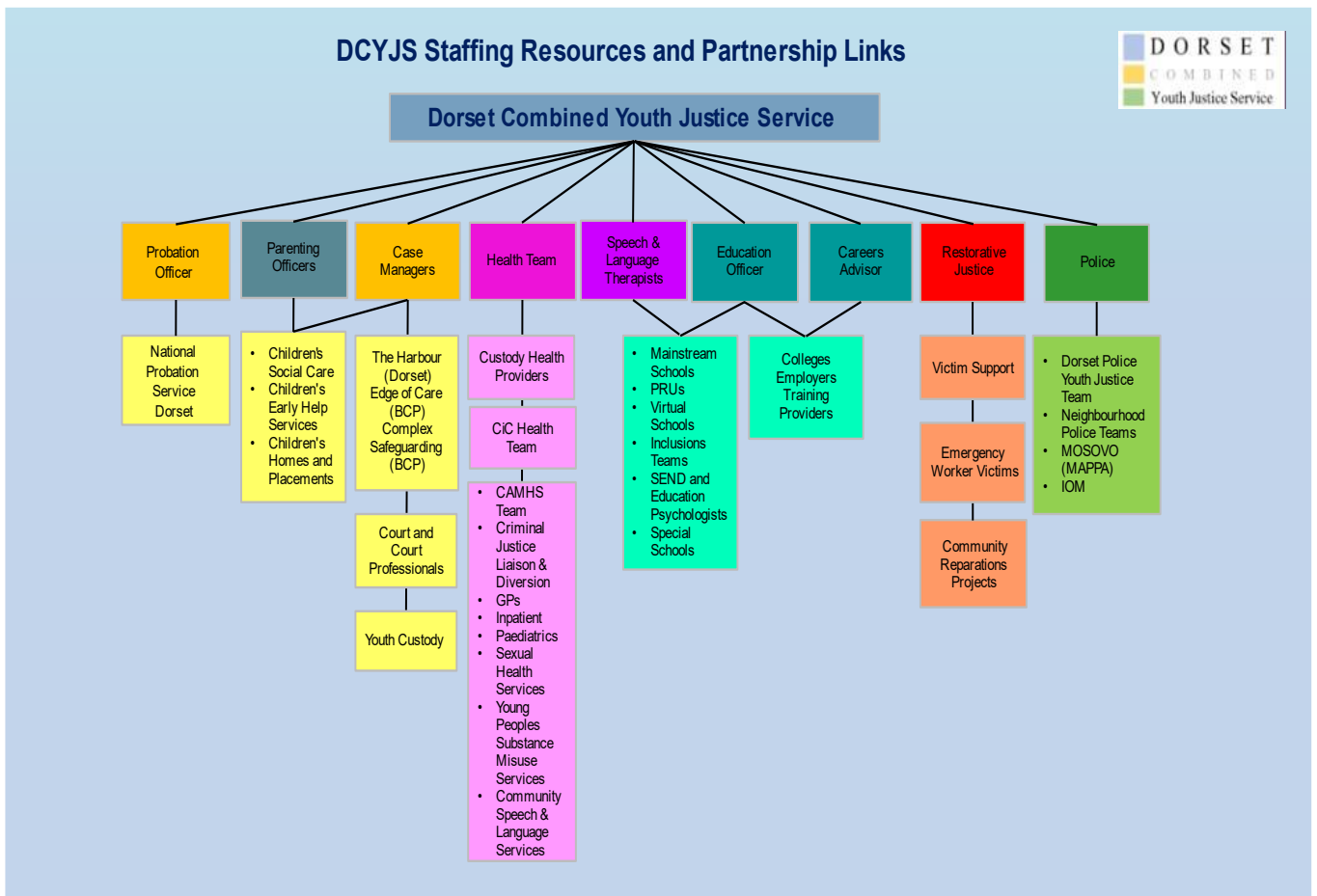
The Partnership Board also provides oversight and governance for local multi-agency protocols in respect of the criminalisation of children in care and the detention of children in police custody. The DCYJS Manager chairs multi-agency operational groups for each protocol and reports on progress to the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

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

Appendix One includes the structure chart for DCYJS and structure charts showing where the YJS sits in each local authority.

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

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



4. UPDATE ON THE PREVIOUS YEAR

4.1. Progress on priorities in last year's plan

The DCYJS Youth Justice Plan for 2023/24 identified strategic priorities and listed some of the actions that would be taken to support these priorities.

Last year's priorities are listed below with a brief summary of progress made:

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

- There was an 8.5% reduction in the rate of first-time entrants in 2023/24 compared to 2022/23, and a 41% reduction compared to 2019/20.
- Recruitment of local authority workers and a Speech and Language Therapist completed for the local implementation of the Ministry of Justice 'Turnaround' programme, to divert children from the justice system.

- Use of the police crime disposal option 'Outcome 22' for children with low level offences who receive assessments and interventions through the Turnaround programme.
- Use of Outcome 22, with YJS support, for children who are ineligible for the Turnaround programme criteria, such as children in care and children on a child protection plan.
- Case decision comparison exercise with another south-west YJS to check consistency and share good practice for Out of Court Disposal.
- Agreement from our YJS Board to fund a two-year scheme from 2024 to complete speech and language assessments for children at risk of school exclusion.

A planned action in last year's Youth Justice Plan, to use data analytics to identify children at risk of future offending, has not progressed. A different approach will now be taken, focusing on the speech, language and communication needs of children at risk of school exclusion (more information about this new approach is included later in this document).

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

- Local children from minority ethnicities are not over-represented in the youth justice system.
- Analysis of police custody solicitor access by ethnicity shows no bias by ethnicity.
- DCYJS Manager represents DCYJS and other local YJS Managers in the Local Criminal Justice Boards' 'Wessex Disproportionality Group' and has agreed a dataset for youth justice ethnicity monitoring (rates of first-time entrants and numbers in custody, by ethnicity).
- YJS performance data reporting is broken down by disadvantaged groups to check for any over-representation.
- Review of the local protocol for reducing the criminalisation of children in care, including continued active multi-agency work to monitor how the protocol is applied in residential settings across Dorset and BCP.
- Use of YJS Speech and Language assessments to help ensure that children's communication needs are understood and responded to in settings like schools and courts.
- Audit of YJS parenting work, focusing on parents of children from ethnic minorities.
- Agreement to focus the 2024 case audits on YJS work with girls and with black and mixed heritage children.

Reduce child exploitation and serious youth violence:

- There was a slight reduction in the number of children receiving justice outcomes for violent offences in 2023/24, compared to 2022/23 (it is recognised though that numerical data does not tell the full story for the harm caused by youth violence).
- DCYJS has contributed to Serious Violence Duty activities in both local authorities, including needs assessment and action planning, to support the multi-agency response to youth violence.
- Case audit of YJS work with children who committed weapon offences, including conversations with children and parents, leading to an action plan for improvements.

- Team workshops to share good practice and agree improvements for assessment and planning for risk of harm to others.
- DCYJS 'Trauma Champion' role extended from service budget after the YJB funding expired.
- Increased number of DCYJS case managers have referred to or observed Enhanced Case Management trauma formulations led by the DCYJS Psychologist.
- DCYJS managers have participated in partnership work in each local authority to develop arrangements for addressing extra-familial harm, including attendance at Dorset Council's new weekly Extra-Familial Harm panels and BCP Council's fortnightly Missing, Exploited and Trafficked panel.

DCYJS partners have not yet resolved the issue of delays to investigations for children suspected of serious violence or sexual offences. DCYJS has offered voluntary interventions to children who are released on bail or under investigation for serious offences. A proposed monthly meeting between DCYJS, Dorset Police and the CPS to track delayed investigations has been delayed and is now due to start in April 2024.

Improve education outcomes for children in the youth justice system:

- Worked with Upton Country Park to jointly develop and run the 'Discover You' project to support young people to become ready for college or employment.
- 17 young people have attended the Discover You project at Upton Country Park, with 10 of them attending more than 5 times. These young people have accessed online learning, gained AQA awards, worked with the Ranger on conservation volunteering activities, engaged in career planning, designed and built animal habitats, bird feeders and play resources for younger children.
- Implemented the use of AQA awards to certificate learning by young people during YJS activities.
- Used the improved DCYJS education data recording to identify children who need support with their education provision and attendance.
- Strengthened links with the local authority Virtual Schools, SEND teams and Inclusion services to resolve child-level issues about suitable education provision and attendance.

Develop the collection and use of performance information:

- Additional work has been undertaken to meet the new YJB Key Performance Indicator reporting requirements.
- Monthly data and performance reports are shared internally among YJS staff to monitor performance and to track relevant changes in the profile and needs of children on the YJS caseload.
- Work has started with the BCP Council Data and Analytics team to enhance the automation and presentation of DCYJS data reports, with promising initial results.
- Joint work with the Dorset Council Business Intelligence team has enabled us to establish a regular method for exchanging caseload information to facilitate services to meet children's needs.

4.2. Performance

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

In 2023/24 the YJB added a new set of youth justice Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), joining the three existing performance measures for youth justice services. The three previous measures related to:

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

The YJB publish quarterly performance data for youth justice services, compiled nationally, in relation to these three indicators. The information reported below is drawn from the data published in March 2024 for the period ending December 2023.

Reporting of the new KPIs for youth justice remains a work in progress. Information about the new KPIs is included below.

First Time Entrants

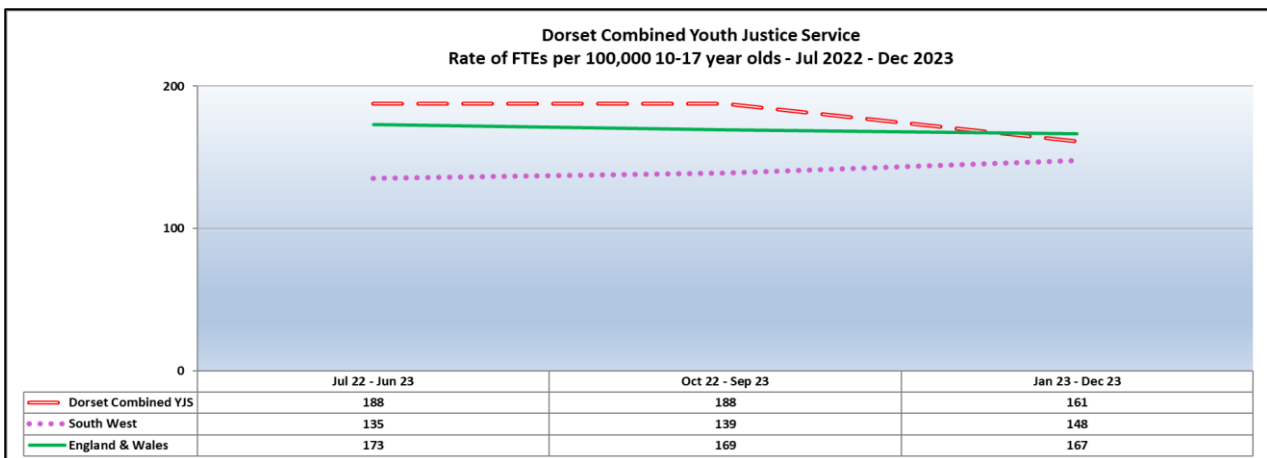
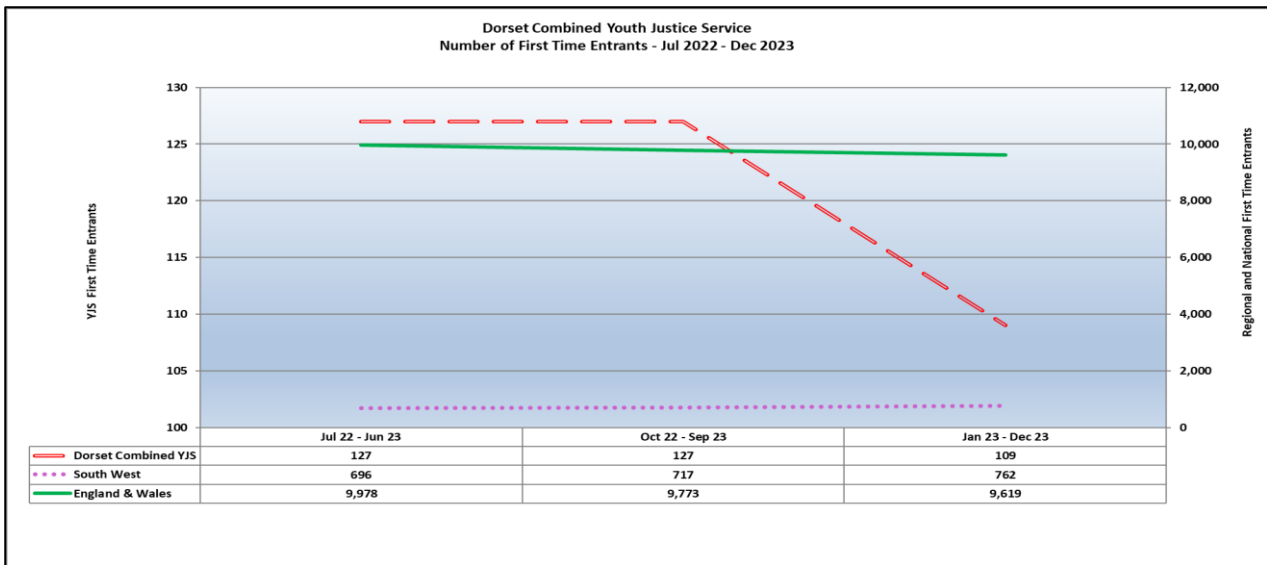
A 'First Time Entrant' is a child receiving a formal criminal justice outcome for the first time. A Youth Caution, a Youth Conditional Caution or a court outcome count as a formal criminal justice outcome. There are also options for diverting children from the justice system, by using informal justice outcomes.

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

National performance data for First Time Entrants used to be drawn from the Police National Computer (PNC) but this changed during 2023. The national data is now drawn from the YJB's uploads of information from YJS case management systems.

In recent years DCYJS has consistently had a higher rate of First Time Entrants than the national and regional averages. It is pleasing to note that there has been a consistent reduction in local First Time Entrants, with DCYJS now having a lower rate than the national average.

The following charts show the last three quarters of national First Time Entrants data. The number and rate of local First Time Entrants has reduced in the most recent quarter. For context, the national data for local First Time Entrants in the previous year, to December 2022, showed a total number of 152 (compared to 109 in 2023) and a rate per 100,000 10-17 year-olds of 229 (compared to 161 in 2023).



DCYJS tracks data on its own case management system to monitor the extent and characteristics of children entering the justice system. Local data shows a significant reduction in the number of children entering the justice system compared to the year before the pandemic:

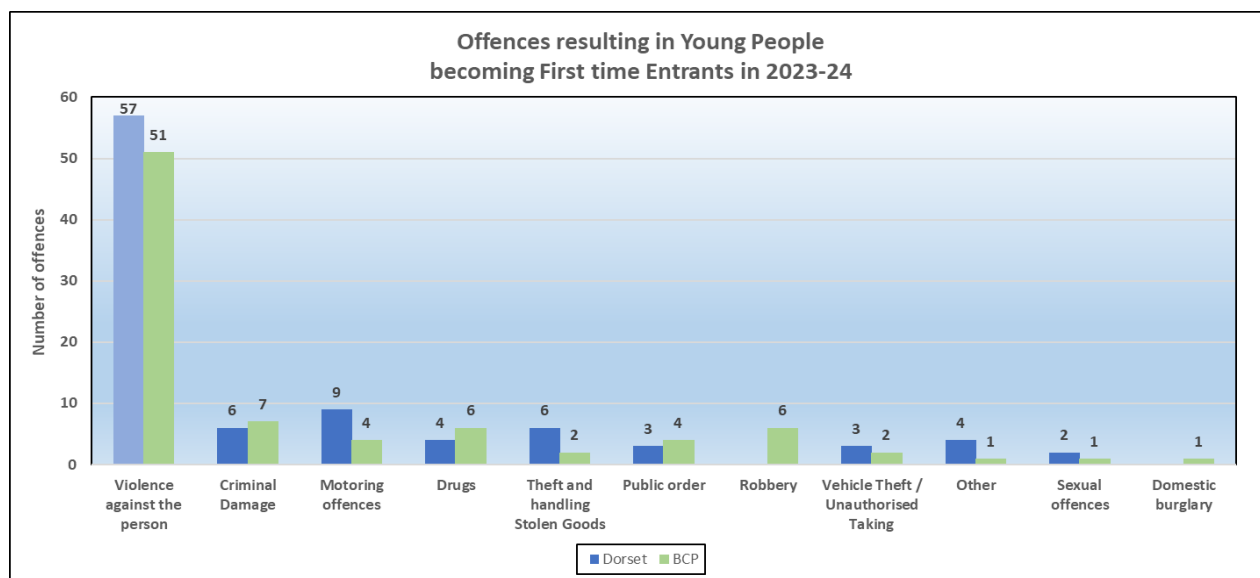
Year	BCP First-Time Entrants	Dorset First-Time Entrants	Total DCYJS First-Time Entrants
2019/20	104	78	182
2020/21	78	48	126
2021/22	77	47	124
2022/23	79	39	118
2023/24	52	56	108

There was a notable reduction in First Time Entrants in BCP this year. Although there was an increase in Dorset, it should be noted that there was a marked increase in April

and May 2023 relating to older offences which could have been dealt with during the previous year.

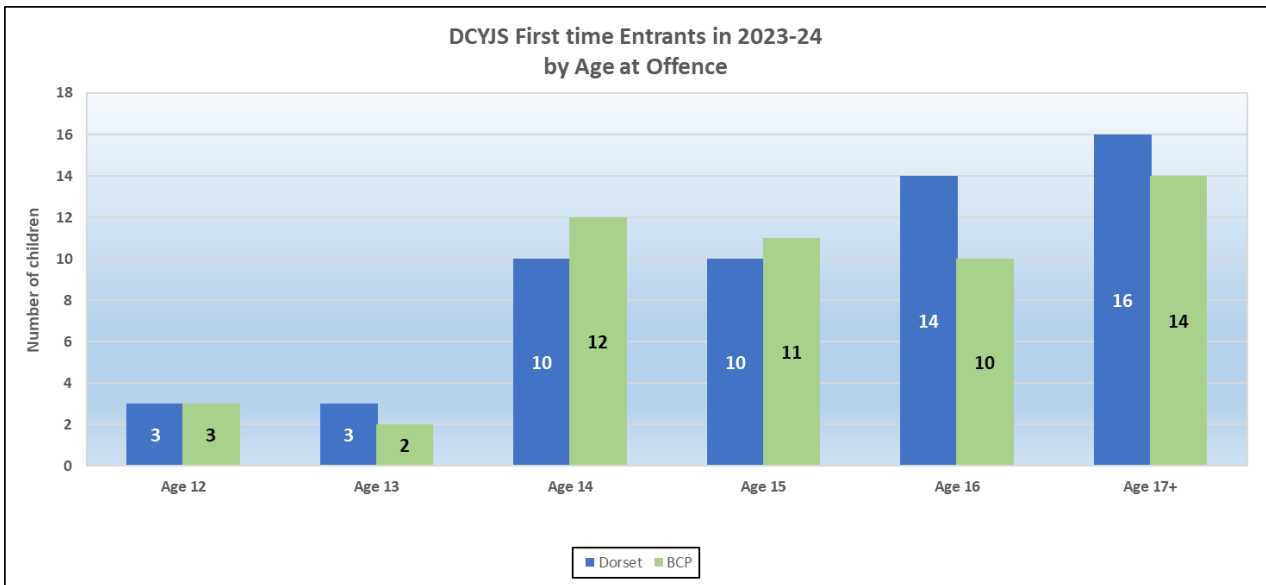
Information about the ethnicity and gender of First Time Entrants is included later in this document, in section 5.1 on 'Over-Representation'.

Decisions about whether to offer a diversion option, instead of a caution or court appearance, depend to some extent on the nature of the offence committed by the child. The following chart shows the offences which led to children becoming First Time Entrants during the past year:



Offences involving possession or use of a weapon, or assaults on emergency workers, are included in the 'Violence against the Person' category and in almost all cases result in a caution or court disposal. Diversion options for these offence types are only considered in exceptional circumstances.

Previous analysis has shown that children who enter the justice system before the age of 14 are likely to have complex needs and may go on to commit further, more serious offences. Only 6 children under the age of 13 entered the justice system in 2023-24, though a further 22 First Time Entrants were aged 13. The age distribution in the following chart shows that First Time Entrants in BCP tend to be slightly younger than those in Dorset. 32.7% of BCP First Time Entrants were aged 14 or younger when they committed their offence, compared to 28.5% of Dorset's First Time Entrants.

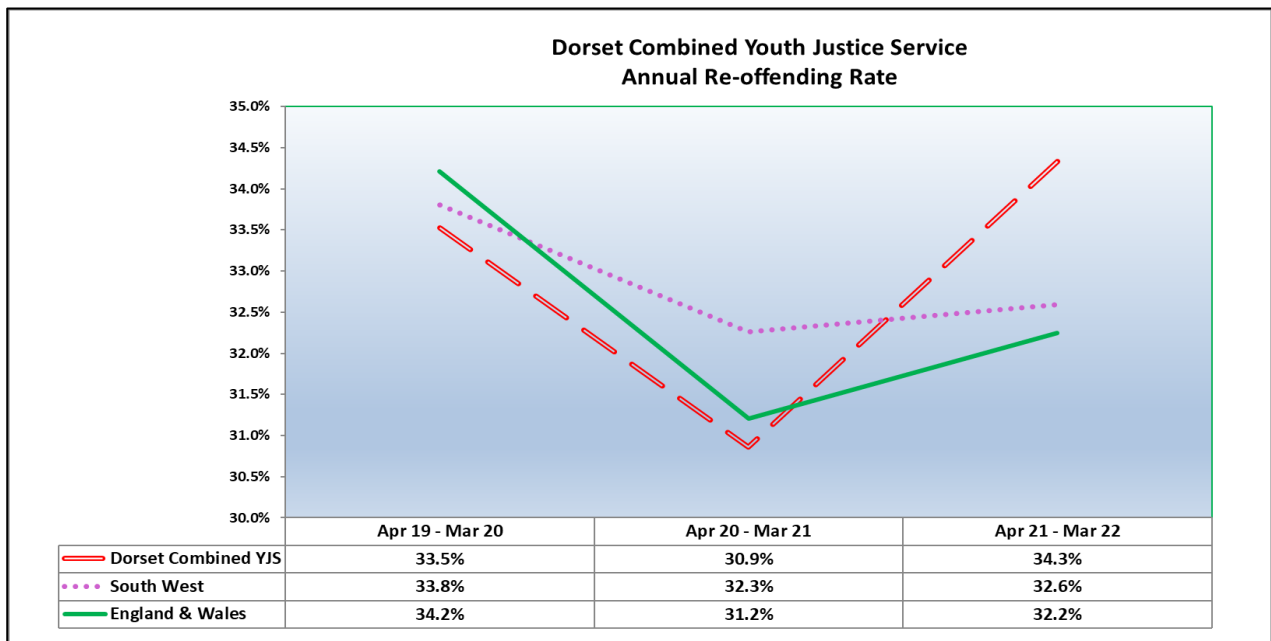


Rate of Proven Reoffending

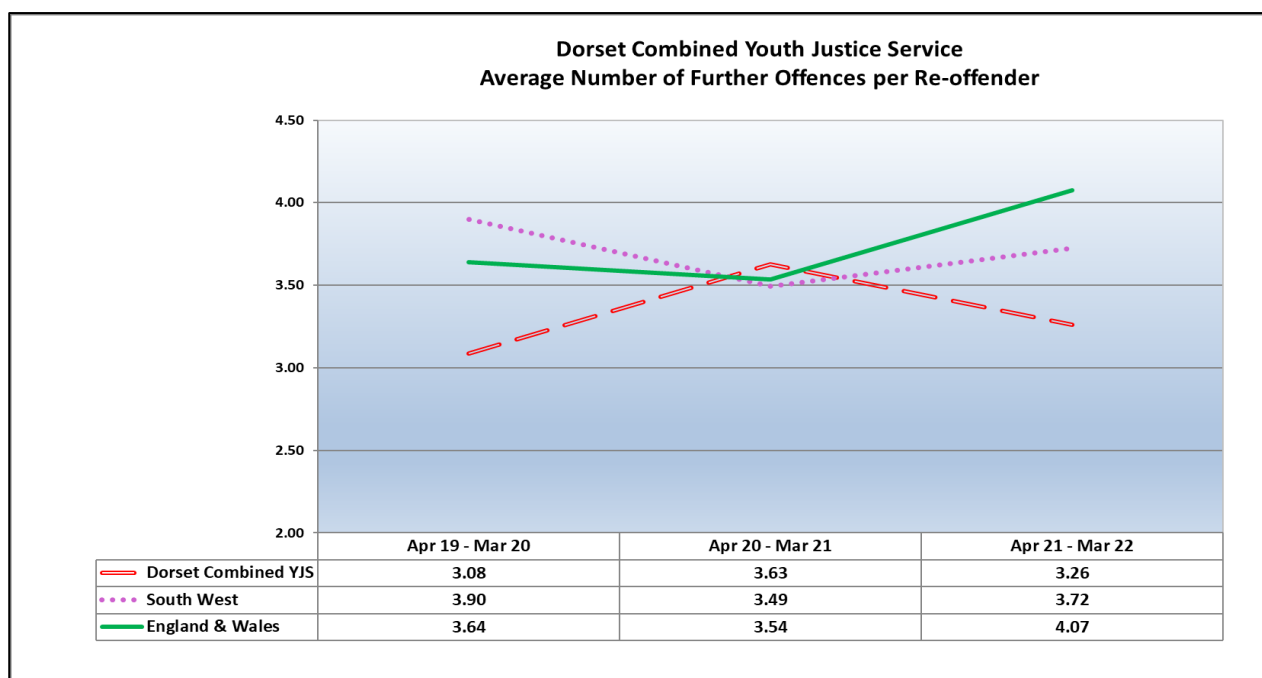
National re-offending data is published in two formats: the 'binary' rate shows the proportion of children in the cohort who go on to be convicted for subsequent offences in the 12 months after their previous justice outcome; the 'frequency' rate shows the average number of offences per reoffender.

Reoffending data is necessarily delayed in order to allow time to see if the child is reconvicted and for that later outcome to be recorded. The following data therefore relates to children with whom the service worked up to March 2022.

Reoffending rate (Reoffenders/Number in cohort)



Reoffences/Reoffenders



DCYJS has remained close to the regional and national averages for both measures. The latest data shows a slightly higher rate of reoffending than the national average but a lower number of offences per reoffender.

Local data, stored on the DCYJS case management system, can also be scrutinised to show information about reoffending. Our most recent analysis looked at children on the DCYJS caseload between January 2022 and December 2022, giving us a more detailed understanding of reoffending by local children:

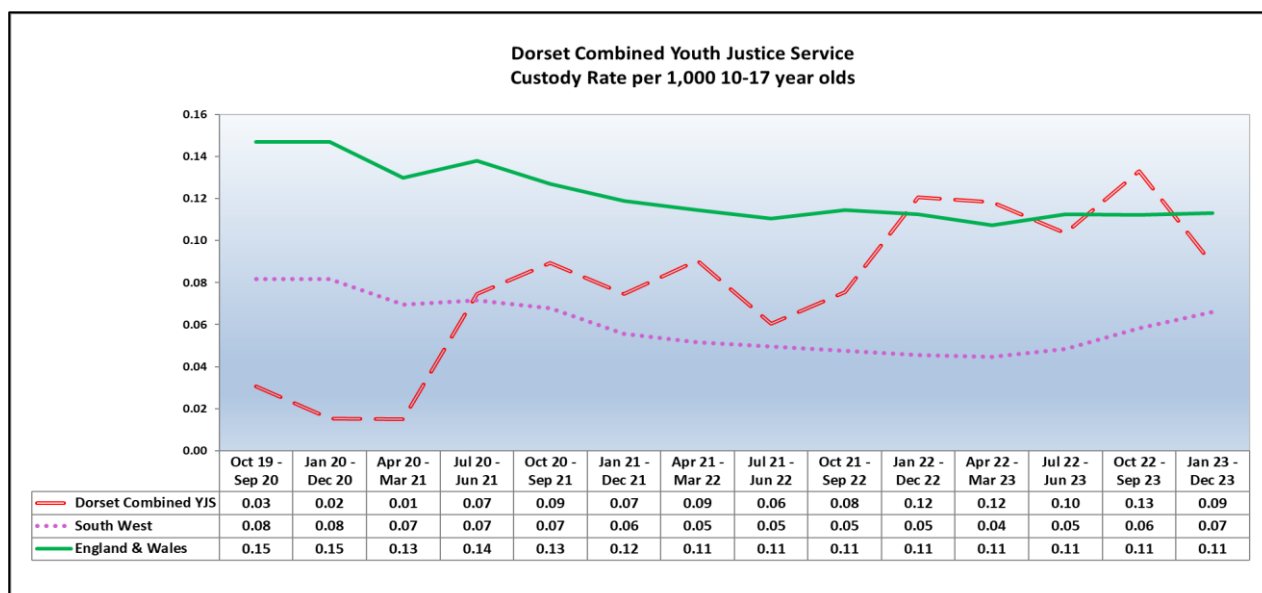
- 14 year-olds are the age group most likely to reoffend.
- Boys are more likely to reoffend than girls but girls who reoffend tend to commit a higher number of offences.
- Black and mixed heritage children show a higher reoffending rate than white children, but the numbers of black and mixed heritage children are low, meaning each child has a greater impact on the percentage rates.
- Children in the BCP Council area had a higher reoffending rate than children in the Dorset Council area.
- Children who were currently or previously in care were more likely to reoffend than children who had not been in care.
- Children on court orders were more likely to reoffend than children on out of court disposals.
- Children who committed arson, criminal damage, robbery, motoring offences or vehicle thefts had higher rates of reoffending than children who committed other types of offence.
- 43% of reoffenders committed less serious further offences, 45% committed offences of the same seriousness and 11% committed more serious offences.

Analysis of local reoffending data helps the YJS to focus its work and to identify groups who may need additional attention.

Use of Custodial Sentences

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

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



During the most recent period on the above chart, January 2023 – December 2023, a total of 6 children received custodial sentences (3 from each local authority).

The trauma-informed approach to youth justice work encourages us to ask “what happened to you?” rather than “what’s wrong with you?”. In this context, it is interesting to look at some of the common experiences of these 6 young people.

Analysis of the 6 children who received custodial sentences in 2023 shows that:

- All 6 were male.
- 5 of the 6 defined their ethnicity as White British, one identified as Mixed Heritage.
- At the time of sentence, 2 were aged 17, 3 were aged 16 and 1 was aged 15.
- All 6 were previously known to Children’s Social Care (4 had been children in care, 1 had been both Child Protection and Child in Need, the other had been a Child in Need).
- All 6 had been referred to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM), with 3 having been assessed as showing Conclusive Grounds for exploitation and 3 having an initial finding of Reasonable Grounds while the referral is assessed.
- 5 out of 6 were identified as having Speech, Language and Communication Needs, following assessment by the DCYJS Speech and Language Therapist.
- 5 out of 6 had been permanently excluded from school.
- 2 out of 6 had an Education, Health and Care Plan.

The pattern of being known to Children’s Social Care, having experienced child exploitation, having been excluded from school and having speech, language and

communication needs shows the need for effective multi-agency working. DCYJS works closely with other children's services to provide community sentences which have the confidence of our local courts so that custodial sentences are only used as a last resort, for the most serious or persistent offending.

[New Youth Justice Key Performance Indicators](#)

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

- Accommodation – the percentage of children in suitable accommodation.
- Education, training and employment (ETE) – the percentage of children attending a suitable ETE arrangement.
- SEND – the percentage of children with SEND who are in suitable ETE with a current, formal learning plan in place.
- Mental healthcare and emotional wellbeing – the percentage of children identified as needing an intervention to improve their mental health or emotional wellbeing and the percentage being offered and attending interventions.
- Substance misuse – the percentage of children identified as needing an intervention to address substance misuse and the percentage being offered and attending interventions.
- Out of Court Disposals – the percentage of out of court disposals that are completed or not completed.
- Management Board attendance – the attendance of senior representatives from partner agencies and if partners contribute data from their services to identify ethnic and racial disproportionality.
- Wider services – the percentage of YJS children who are currently on an Early Help plan, on a Child Protection Plan, classified as a Child in Need or a Child in Care.
- Serious Violence – the rates of children convicted for a serious violence offence on the YJS caseload.
- Victims – the percentage of victims who consent to be contacted by the YJS; of those, the percentage who are engaged with about restorative justice opportunities, asked their views prior to out of court disposal decision-making and planning for statutory court orders, provided with information about the progress of the child's case (when requested) and provided with information on appropriate support services (when requested).

The new KPIs have required significant additional work to adapt recording systems and to adjust recording practices. The YJB have started to publish quarterly reports showing the new KPIs for each Youth Justice Service. The consistency, accuracy and usefulness of this data remains a work in progress. The most recent summary KPI tables published by the YJB are copied in Appendix Three, for illustrative purposes.

4.3. Risks and issues

Like other youth justice services, DCYJS operates in a context of system challenges and resource pressures.

Current issues and future risks being faced by DCYJS include the following:

Issue/risk facing DCYJS	Actions being taken in response
Delays in the youth justice system, linked to pressures in the wider criminal justice system, make it harder to work effectively with young people to prevent future offending and harder to provide timely support to victims and to engage them in Restorative Justice.	Proactive review of children released under investigation or on bail, to offer voluntary interventions by DCYJS. Work with Dorset Police, as part of their Child Centred Policing Strategy, to reduce investigation delays and to coordinate investigations for children with multiple outstanding offences.
The shortage of suitable placements for children in care, and placement moves, can disrupt key factors such as education, health care and positive peer networks, and can make it harder to propose credible bail packages and community sentences for children at risk of custody.	Work with colleagues in Children’s Services to assist in providing information for placement searches. Allocated DCYJS case managers are active in visiting children in care who are placed out of area and in maintaining positive relationships with those children.
Permanent exclusions from school, and difficulties finding suitable alternative provision.	New project to provide Speech and Language assessments and support to schools for children at risk of school exclusion.
Funding and resources – real terms reductions since DCYJS was formed in 2015, uncertainty about future funding and delays each year to the announcement of the YJ Grant (the 2023/24 grant allocations were not announced until July 2023).	The combined service, working across two local authorities, provides resilience and savings of scale which has enabled the service to maintain high practice standards in the context of reducing resources.
YJB directive to replace the local assessment tool used for Out of Court Disposals with a national tool – concerns over quality of the new tool and loss of ability to innovate and adapt to local learning.	Implementation plan for the new assessment tool to include opportunities for sharing good practice within the team and from other services. Additional work to ensure the quality of risk of harm assessments is maintained, building on the work we have done to meet the inspection recommendations for this area of our work.

5. PLANS FOR THE YEAR AHEAD

5.1. ‘Child First’ practice

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

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

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

The Child First approach has four tenets, listed below.

The ABCD of Child First practice	Examples of how DCYJS implements this in our work
As children: recognise how children are developmentally different from adults and require different support.	DCYJS uses Speech and Language assessments and trauma formulations to help identify each child’s communication needs and developmental stage and the appropriate support for the child.
Building pro-social identity: promote children’s individual strengths and capacities to develop a pro-social identity, focusing on positive child outcomes rather than just trying to manage offending.	DCYJS have worked with Upton Country Park to provide the ‘Discover You’ project, aimed at building children’s skills, confidence and employability.
Collaborating with children: involve children meaningfully to encourage their investment, engagement and social inclusion.	Children are actively involved in developing the plans for our work with them, as part of the DCYJS commitment to working restoratively. Case records are now written ‘to the child’ to be more inclusive and to help shift the worker’s perspective.
Diverting from stigma: promote supportive diversion from the criminal justice system where possible, or minimising stigma within it, as we know that stigma causes further offending	The ‘Turnaround’ programme has been used to divert children from formal justice outcomes. YJS Speech and Language assessments are written on Dorset HealthCare documentation, without reference to the YJS, to avoid stigmatising the child.

The strategic priorities in the DCYJS Youth Justice Plan for 2024/25 are aligned with the YJB’s Child First principles, reflecting work to strengthen the local implementation of the four tenets of Child First practice.

Voice of the child

DCYJS works collaboratively with children to hear their voice during their contact with our service. The team’s Speech and Language Therapists complete assessments so that each child’s communication needs can be understood and responded to, not just by other workers in the team but also by the child, their carers and other professionals working with the child. Case records are addressed to the child and quote their words, to ensure the child’s voice is prominent.

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

Spontaneous comments from service users about their experience of our service are recorded and analysed, using a data report from our case management system.

The following advice from a young person about how we should respond to weapon offences is a helpful guide for all our work and for other professionals:

- Don't tell us how dangerous knives are. We already know that.
- Pick up on all the good things kids do, there will be things if you look for them.
- Worksheets are a waste of time.
- Listen, including to what's not being said.
- Don't keep asking the same thing if you've already been given the answer.
- Young people need to find a replacement for the activity they are stopping.

Other examples of recent comments from service users include:

The YJS Case Manager "is that all too rare combination of someone who presents as professional, knowledgeable, non-judgemental, warm and helpful yet still able to have those tough conversations, put in the boundaries and maintain them".

The child's Mum was "very happy with the intervention, explained that her son can sometimes be difficult to engage, but he got on well with his YJS worker, described her as friendly and easy to talk to. Mum felt she was kept informed of progress with the intervention and didn't have any concerns. She feels her son is now in a good place - working and got an apprenticeship - is on the right track and both he and his mum think he will maintain this."

The child's parent said that "it worked for us. The YJS worker was really empathic. My son felt heard and listened to. It was scary at the start coming in as we had had no previous contact with services. Will he be judged? But it was not like that at all, would it be harsh? It was not like that. It was sad when it came to an end." I asked what her son was up to now "He's just got an apprenticeship, we are really pleased, he's done so well, he starts in 10 days. The YJS worker backed up the messages that we have tried to give him about using what has happened in a good way....We wouldn't change anything about the service we received".

Each year the YJS undertakes a case audit on a priority area of YJS work. In 2023 the audit focused on our work with children who had committed weapon offences. As part of the audit, we contacted the children and parents in the audit sample. 6 children and 4 parents responded to our request for their views.

All 6 children said they felt safer – not all gave reasons for this – one child said they no longer carry a blade, one said they are no longer offending, one felt it had given them a chance to change.

The 6 children were asked what had gone well:

Working with me looking at my anger. I feel my anger has got better.

Helped me out a lot, not got into trouble for a year – always ask for X as worker as she understands me.

Child feels that worker was really good, that he felt involved, that his views were gained.

I like the meetings I think they are sound.

All 4 parents/ carers said they knew what YJS were suggesting they did to support their child following the offence.

The YJS also seeks the views of victims about their contact with our service. Sometimes victims also offer views about their experience of the justice system prior to the YJS involvement.

As a result of victim feedback about the Out of Court Disposal decision-making process, managers in the YJS and Dorset Police reviewed and amended the process for incorporating victim views into the decision-making arrangements.

5.2. Resources and Services

The funding contributions to the DCYJS partnership budget are listed in Appendix Two, showing the figures for 2023/24. Indicative budget contributions for 2024/25 from local partners have been agreed, with no increase on the 2023/24 contributions, but the Youth Justice Grant allocation has not yet been announced.

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

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

The Youth Justice Board Grant is paid subject to terms and conditions relating to its use. The Grant supports the front-line delivery of essential youth justice services for children. The Grant may only be used towards the achievement of the following outcomes:

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

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

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

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

5.3. YJS Partnership Board Development

HMI Probation's Joint Inspection of Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service was published in January 2023. The inspection included scrutiny of the Board's work. The inspection report rated the service's Governance and Leadership as 'Good'.

As well as identifying many strengths, the inspectors suggested possible 'Areas for improvement':

- *The board chairing arrangements are not rotated. For the partnership board to be challenged in its ambition to drive the performance of the service forward, a level of independence is required that holds all partnership agencies to account.*
- *While the seniority of the board membership is appropriate, attendance is not consistent.*
- *Although new board members meet with the YJS service manager and chair of the board as part of their induction, there is no formal induction pack which ensure consistency.*

The Board included all these points in its work in 2023/24:

- The Board reviewed and confirmed its chairing arrangements.
- The attendance of Board members is monitored at each meeting and has improved since the inspection.
- An updated induction process for new Board members has been agreed and has been used with new Board members.

The Board has also allocated extra meeting time each year to review its effectiveness and to agree areas for development. At its meeting in January 2024, the Board agreed to use its meetings in the coming year for thematic discussions, focused on the Partnership's strategic priorities. The Board is also looking to widen its membership to include the voluntary sector and the business community.

5.4. Workforce Development

The DCYJS Workforce Development Policy identifies core training for different roles in the team. As well as refresher training in child safeguarding, extra-familial harm and information governance, team members are also trained in Motivational Interviewing, AIM3 Harmful Sexual Behaviour assessments and Restorative Justice with complex and sensitive cases. Team members will continue to attend training and development activities in these approaches in 2024/25.

In January 2024 the whole service participated in training for 'Working Restoratively'. The aim of this training was to refresh the team's knowledge, skills and commitment in restorative practice, both for working with our service users and as a way of being with each other. This reflects our commitment to being a restorative organisation and will be a priority for us in 2024/25.

As well as attending external training courses, DCYJS runs internal workshops on relevant practice topics, building on issues identified in quality assurance and learning exercises. The main focus for good practice workshops in 2023/24 was on improving our work in assessing and responding to the risk of harm posed by some young people. This followed our inspection recommendation about risk of harm assessments and our case audit of our work with children who had committed weapon offences.

In addition to the core training courses, which will continue to be attended and updated in 2024/25, the service's development plans require staff training in the following areas:

- Prevention and Diversion Assessment tool – to support the YJB's directive for all Youth Justice Services to use this tool from April 2024.
- Extra-Familial Harm – train with colleagues from other local services to embed the use of new multi-agency assessment and planning processes.
- AQA awards – train additional team members in the provision and certification of activities with children for AQA awards.

DCYJS also supports individual career progression plans for team members. Plans for 2024/25 include:

- a Youth Justice Worker continuing with his social work qualification through the Social Work Apprenticeship with BCP Council and Solent University.
- a Youth Justice Worker studying for the Level 5 Youth Justice Practitioner Apprenticeship.
- a performance analyst studying for the Advanced Data Fellowship.
- a Youth Justice Officer working towards her Practice Educator qualification.

DCYJS hosts student placements for students studying for social work qualifications and for trainee Speech and Language Therapists.

5.5. Evidence-based practice, innovation and evaluation

Evidence shows that the key determinant for positive change is a pro-social relationship with a trusted adult. The primary focus for effective practice in DCYJS is therefore the quality of workers' relationships with children on the caseload, alongside positive relationships within the team and with other professionals. The approach also builds on previous feedback from young people on the DCYJS caseload about what was most

important to them in their experience of the service. The whole service training in 'Working Restoratively' in January 2024 was aimed at supporting this key aspect of our evidence-based work.

Employment and training support for 16-17 year-olds

The service has continued to focus on improving young people's employment and training prospects.

DCYJS has partnered with Upton Country Park to provide the 'Discover You' project. Using Lottery Heritage funding, the project aims to improve young people's self-esteem, practical skills and employability, to increase their chances of accessing employment and training.

17 young people attended the project during 2023/24. Some of the positive outcomes for these young people included:

- Access to online learning within different subject areas e.g. Food Hygiene, First Aid, Health & Safety in the workplace, Manual Handling, Customer Service, Fire Safety and Barista Training.
- AQA Certificated Learning –most young people complete around 5-10 awards, depending on how long they attend and what they engage in.
- Work Experience options around Upton Country Park within the Welcome Centre and Café.
- Conservation Volunteering Activities – Working with the Ranger onsite to complete practical activities around the site like planting trees, taking out hedgerows, coppicing, painting, creating woodwork items (different things available at different times of the year).
- Team Building – different opportunities like den building and orienteering.
- Life skills – budgeting/managing money, dealing with bills, communication skills.
- ETE and Careers – Careers Information Advice and Guidance – Career Action Planning, CV work, Applications for College and Jobs, Interview Skills.
- Other Support towards qualifications - CSCS Practice, Maths and English Assessments.
- Completing practical tasks for Upton Country Park, e.g. animal habitat, bird feeders, designing and building play resources for school/nursery groups.

The Lottery Heritage funding for the Discover You project expires at the end of March 2024. We are seeking funding to continue and develop the project in 2024/25.

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner also continued to provide funding for young people to work with training providers to gain their 'CSCS' card to increase their chances of work in the construction sector.

Early identification of speech and language needs for children at risk of school exclusion

Our local Youth Justice Partnership has strategic priorities to reduce school exclusions, to prevent offending and to meet the speech, language and communication needs of children who may otherwise enter the youth justice system. The DCYJS Partnership Board has allocated funding for a two-year project to identify and support the speech, language and communication needs of children at risk of school exclusion. The project is

modelled on a successful scheme run by Milton Keynes Youth Justice and Support Service.

Recruitment for an additional Speech and Language Therapist and a Speech and Language Assistant has been successfully completed in March 2024. Their roles will be to assess the communication needs of children who are at risk of school exclusion and to support schools to respond to the child's specific needs.

The project is expected to commence in June 2024. The project design will include collaboration with schools, local authorities, children and families. Evaluation will be an important part of the project.

5.6. Standards for work with children in the youth justice system

All Youth Justice Services are required to comply with the Youth Justice Board's 'Standards for work with children in the youth justice system' (2019). The Youth Justice Board oversees a programme of self-assessments to monitor compliance.

In 2023, all services were directed to audit their work under 'Standard 2: Work in Court'. The YJB provided an audit tool, comprising 22 questions. The DCYJS self-assessment rated our work in court as Good, with most of the audit questions being rated Good or Outstanding.

Two questions were rated as 'Requires Improvement'. One of these questions related to the need to produce a policy document for our work to minimise the use of custodial remand for children. This action is underway, and also links to the recent thematic inspection by HMI Probation on 'work with children subject to remand in youth detention'.

The other question rated as Requires Improvement related to whether our court processes take all possible steps to promote fair treatment of particular groups of children. Our auditors noted that "the analysis of care status and neurodiversity needs is stronger than the analysis and narrative about ethnicity and gender or other protected characteristics". Team members have worked on this aspect of our practice, adjusting the format of Pre-Sentence Reports to strengthen the analysis of diversity issues and their impact on the young person.

The positive outcome from our audit of court work reflects the strong partnership between DCYJS and our local youth courts. The chair of the Dorset Magistrates Youth Panel sits on the DCYJS Partnership Board. This has enabled other partners to hear the views of magistrates, with concerns being raised during 2023/24 about the length of time between offences being committed and the child appearing in court, and about the adequacy of education provision for some children who appear in court.

Youth magistrates worked together with the DCYJS Speech and Language Therapist and a DCYJS court officer to produce a booklet to help prepare young people for attending court. This booklet, 'You are going to Youth Court in Dorset', was featured as an example of good practice in the Magistrates Association magazine in June 2023.

The YJB is yet to decide on National Standards audit requirements for 2024/25.

5.7. Response to inspections, reviews and audits.

Inspection reports, learning reviews and case audits all contribute to our service planning.

The most recent inspection of our service was published in January 2023, rating the service as 'Good'. The inspectors made 6 recommendations, which we followed up through an action plan, overseen by the YJS Partnership Board. Actions have been completed for all but one of the recommendations. The remaining recommendation relates to strengthening the local partnership work in respect of child exploitation. Both local authorities have been working with their partners to refresh their working arrangements in this area, under the broader heading of 'extra-familial harm'. Implementation of the revised arrangements will include dissemination and training for staff in all relevant agencies, including DCYJS, during 2024/25.

In November 2023, HMI Probation published 'A joint thematic inspection of work with children subject to remand in youth detention'. The DCYJS Partnership Board reviewed this report, and its recommendations, in January 2024. Actions to support these inspection recommendations are included in our plans for 2024/25. More information about the use of secure remand for local children can be found in section 6.11X.

DCYJS has contributed to a Child Safeguarding Practice Review in Dorset, due for publication in May 2024, and to local learning reviews in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole. These reviews relate to incidents of significant harm being experienced by, or caused by, young people who are known to the YJS. Learning from these reviews is included in the team's development plans, and is reported to the YJS Partnership Board.

DCYJS undertakes thematic case audits, linked to the service's priorities. The focus in 2023 was on work with children who have committed weapon offences. Areas for improvement in our practice were addressed in workshops with the team and in adjustments to our working practices. The themes for our case audits in 2024/25 are on DCYJS work with girls and with black or mixed-heritage children.

6. Local and National Priorities for 2024/25

This section of the Plan reviews issues of local and national priority for youth justice which contribute to our service priorities for 2024/25.

6.1. Over-representation

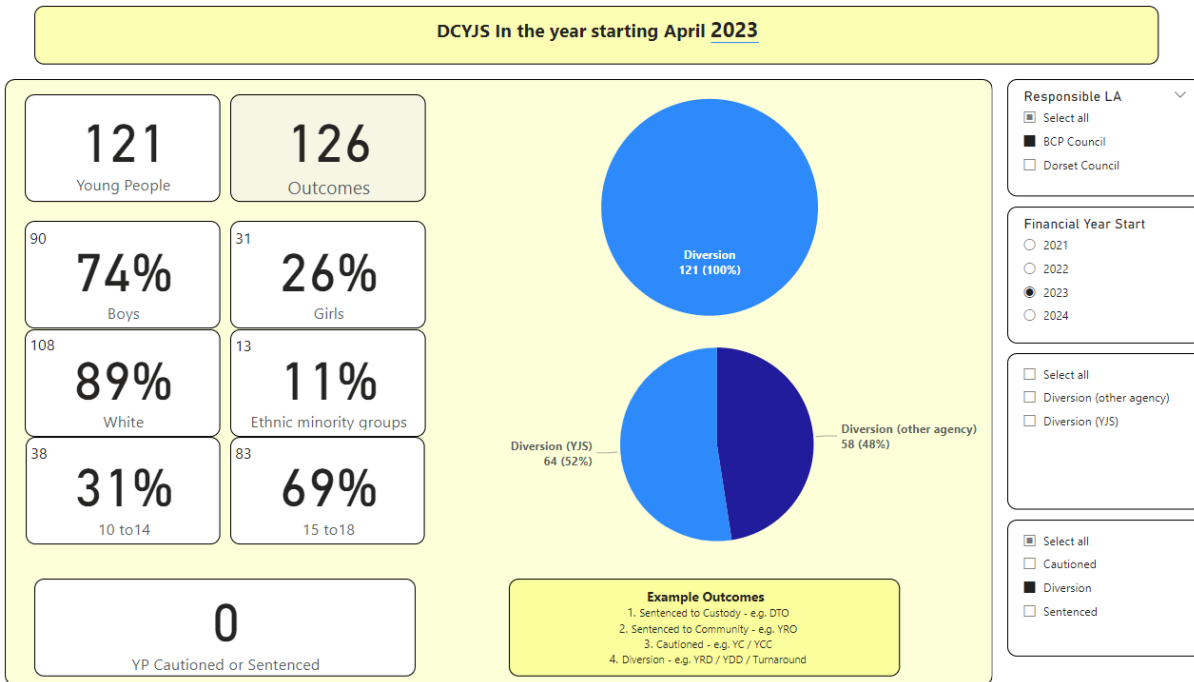
National data shows that some groups of children, such as those with diverse ethnic heritage, children in care and children with Special Educational Needs are over-represented in the youth justice system. DCYJS monitors caseload information for children from minority and disadvantaged groups.

Data from the 2021 census shows ethnicity information for 10-17 year-olds in our two local authorities. 12.9% of 10-17 year-olds in the BCP Council area identify as not having a white ethnicity. The equivalent figure for the Dorset Council area is 5.4%. This data

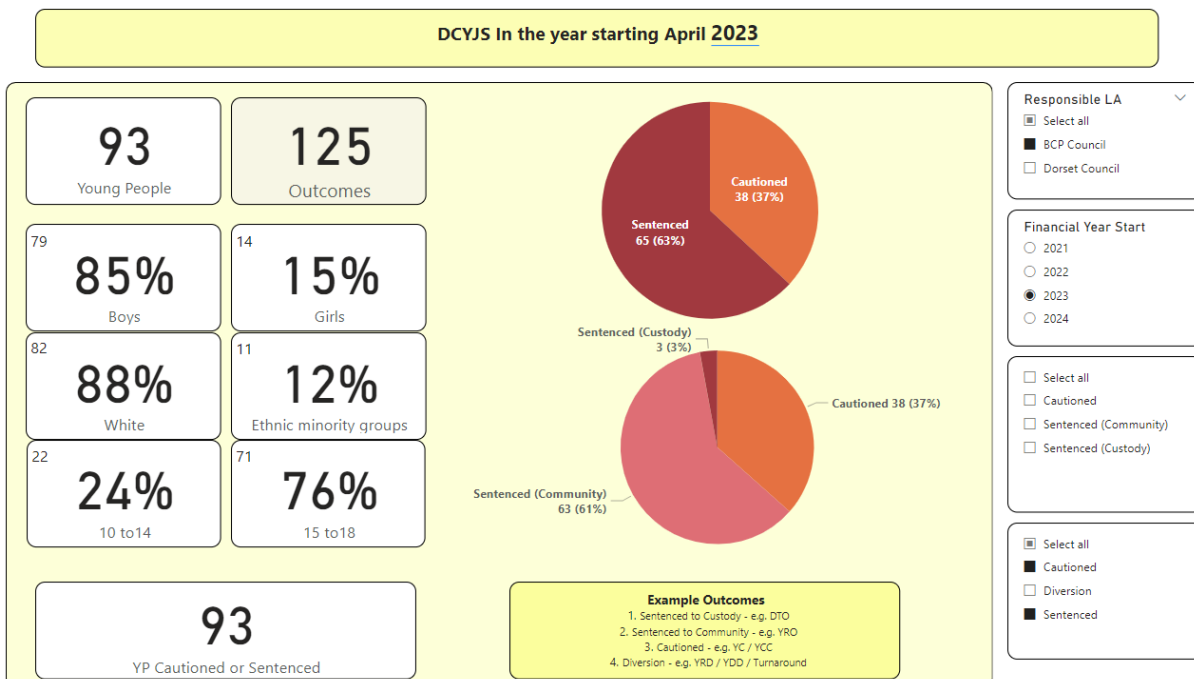
helps us compare the rate of children on our caseload from different ethnicities with proportions in the local population.

One of our development activities in 2023/24, which will continue in the coming year, is to improve our presentation and use of caseload information. The following charts provide information about the children in the youth justice system in each local authority, separating them by children who were diverted and children who were cautioned or sentenced.

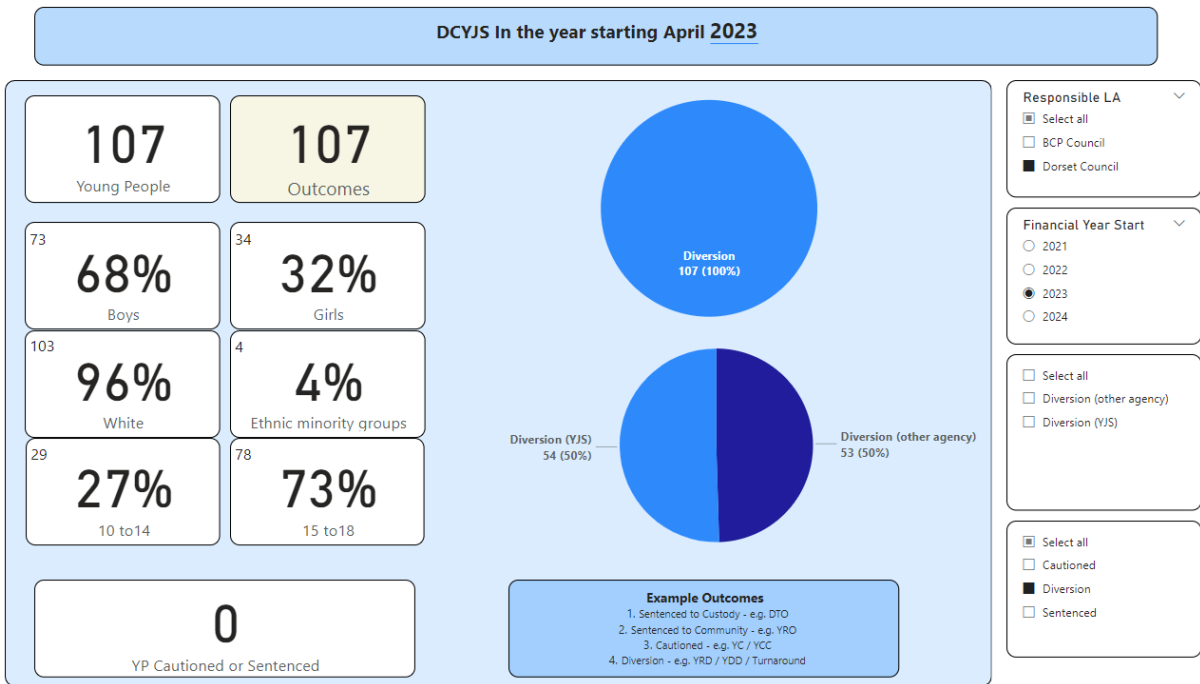
BCP Council children who were diverted from the justice system in 2023/24



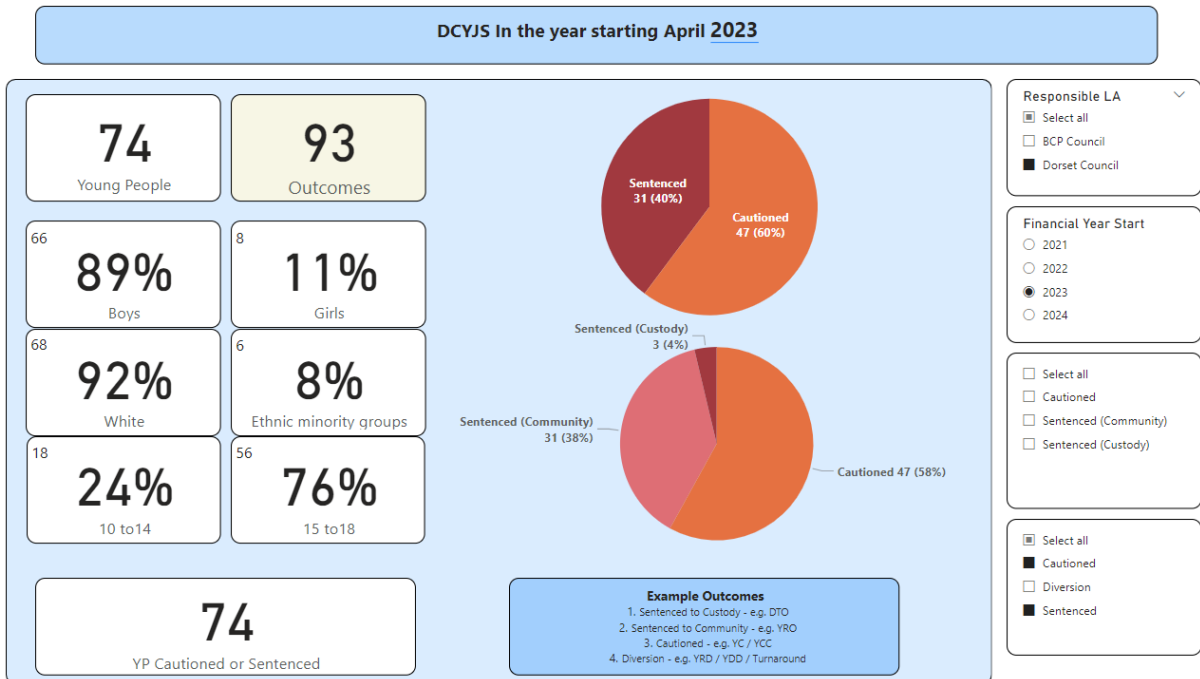
BCP Council children who were cautioned or sentenced in 2023/24



Dorset Council children who were diverted from the justice system in 2023/24



Dorset Council children who were cautioned or sentenced in 2023/24

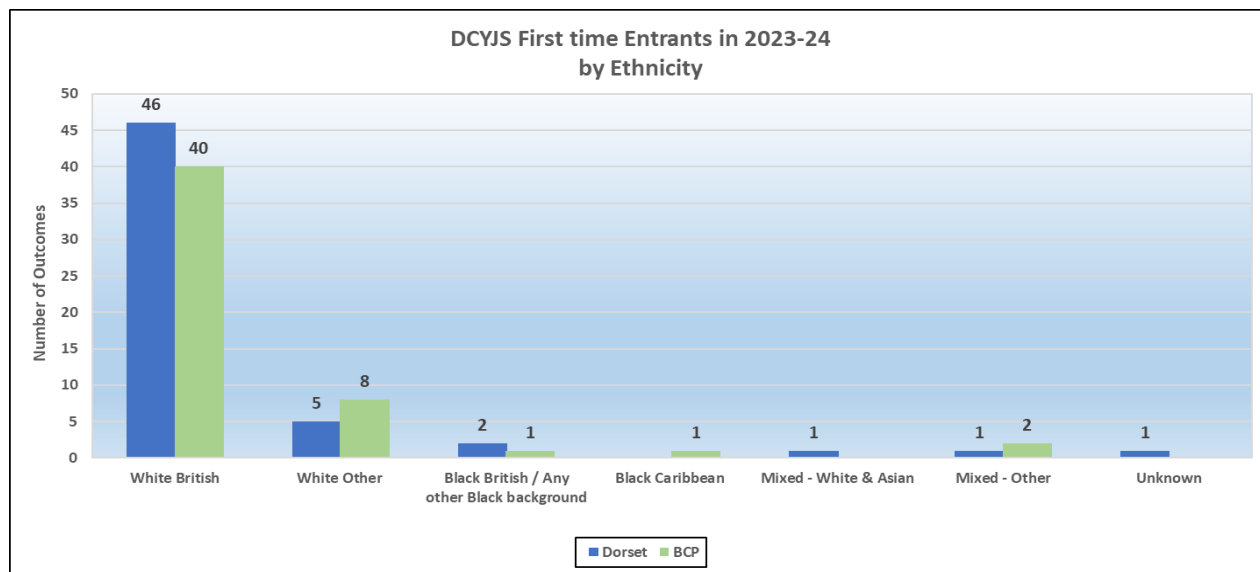


Comparison of these charts shows that:

- There is a notably higher proportion of girls among the children diverted from the justice system compared to the proportion of girls in the groups who were cautioned or sentenced.

- The proportion of children with non-white ethnicity is lower among the children who were diverted than among the children who were cautioned or sentenced.
- Children who do not identify as white are not over-represented in BCP, or among children in Dorset who are diverted, but they are over-represented among children sentenced or cautioned in Dorset.
- In both local authorities, there is a higher proportion of younger children among those who were diverted.

Last year’s Youth Justice Plan noted that we had not seen over-representation of minority ethnicities among children entering the justice system. This has remained the case in 2023-24 for the overall area, as shown in the following chart:

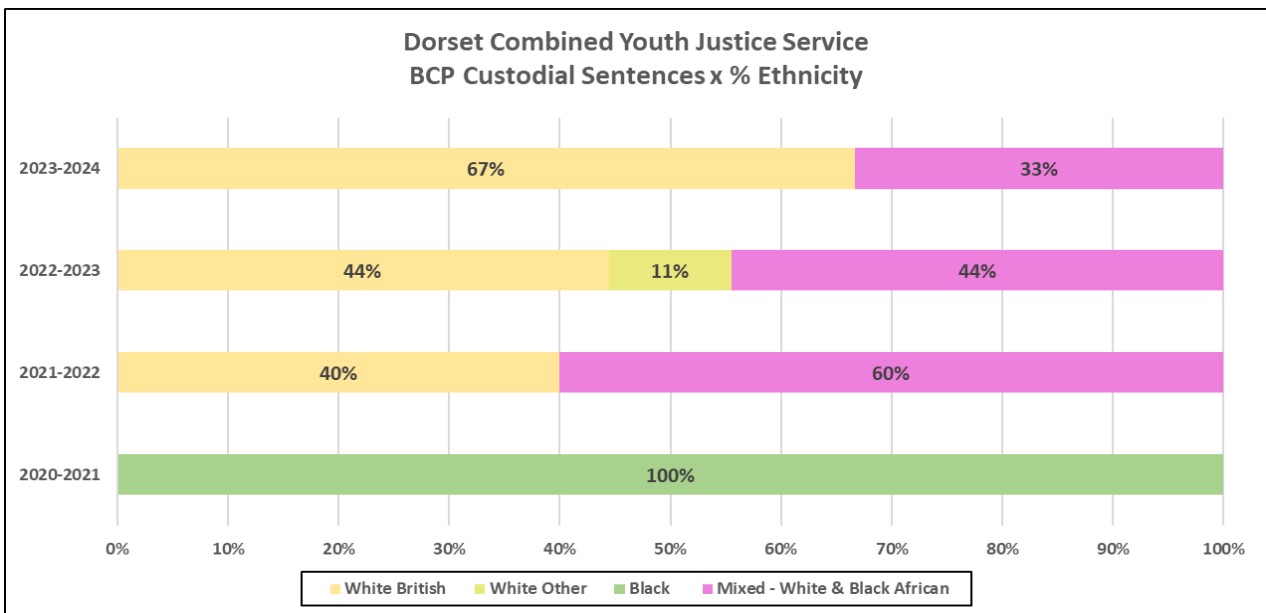
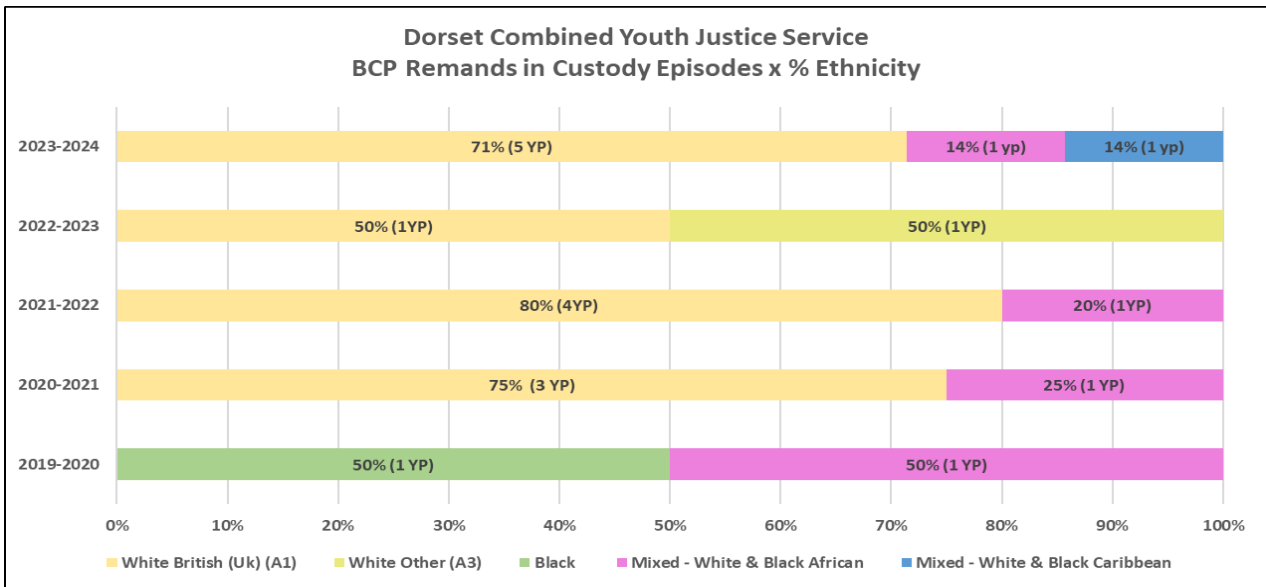


4 out of 56 first-time entrants in Dorset did not define themselves as having white ethnicity. At 7.1% this is slightly above the rate in the overall population, but a decrease of 1 child would have brought the percentage into line with the population rate.

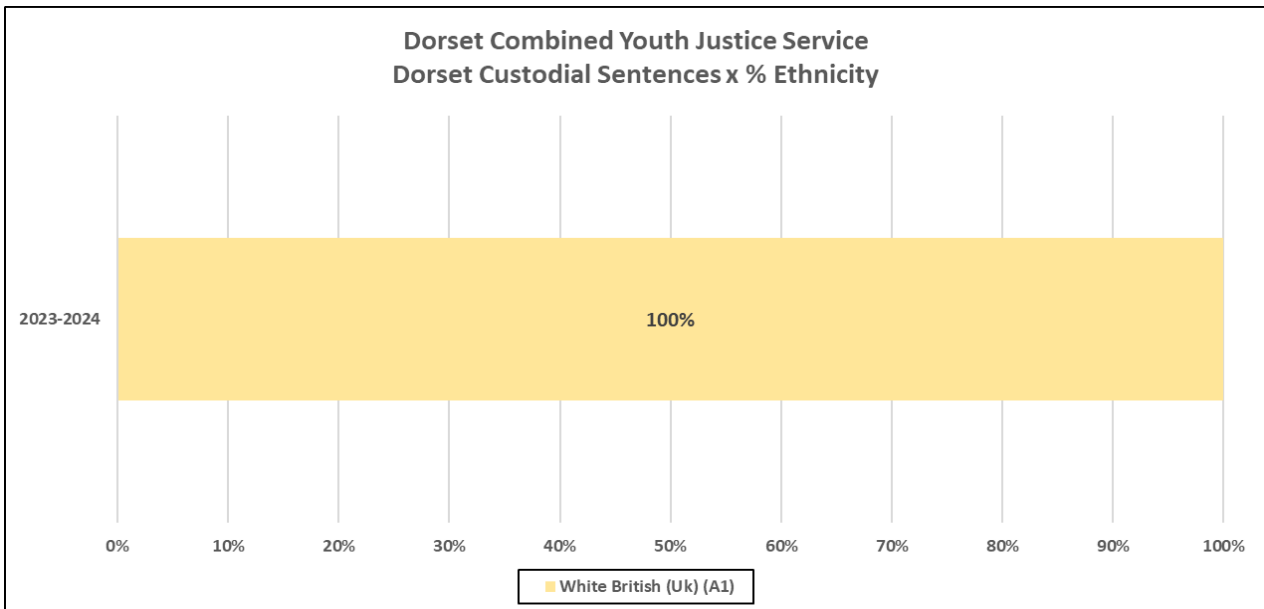
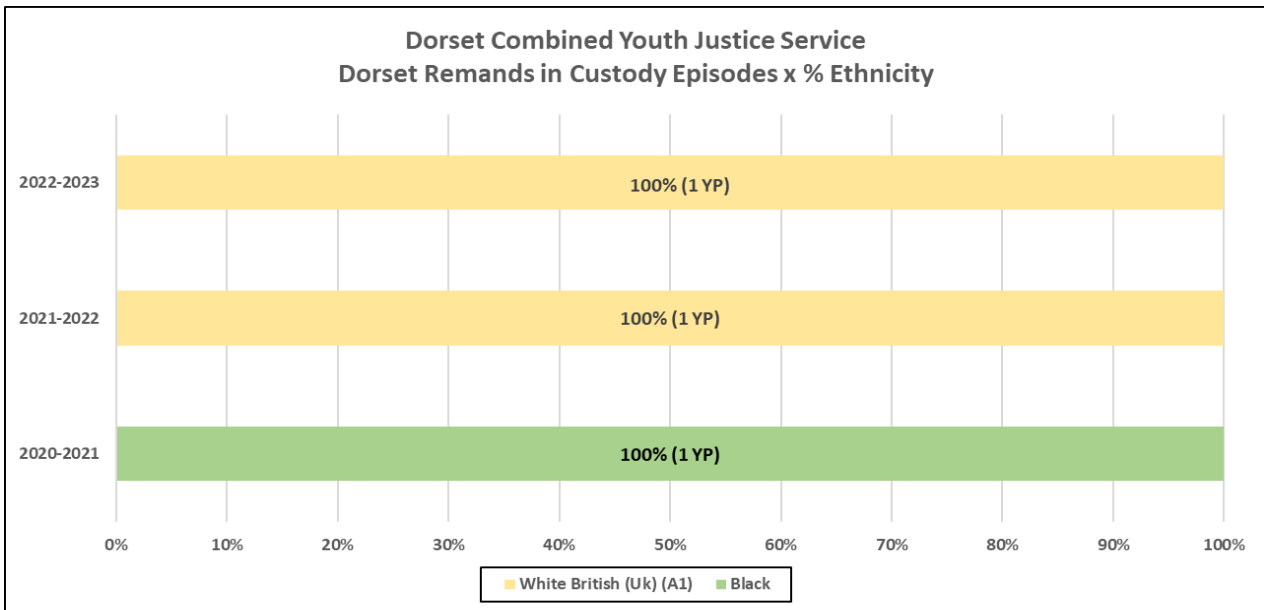
4 out of 52 first-time entrants in BCP did not define themselves as having white ethnicity. At 7.7%, this is below the population rate of 12.9%.

Although we do not see over-representation among first-time entrants, we also track how far children ‘progress’ into the youth justice system.

The following charts show ethnicity for children remanded or sentenced to custody in each local authority in recent years.



The low numbers of local children being remanded or sentenced to custody makes it difficult to provide sound statistical analysis of possible over-representation of young people with diverse ethnic heritage. Amongst the BCP Council children who have been remanded or sentenced to custody, there is evidence of over-representation of children who do not identify as white, although this appears to be reducing in recent years.



For Dorset Council, there is no evidence of over-representation of children from minority ethnicities among those who were remanded or sentenced to custody in recent years.

In summary, there is a nuanced and varied picture locally for over-representation by ethnicity. Overall, local children from global majority ethnicities are not more likely to be criminalised and are not over-represented. There are some subtleties to the data though, such as how children from different groups progress through the justice system, which require further attention. During 2024/25 we will review our work with black and mixed heritage children and we will explore examples of anti-racist youth justice practice.

Access to Out of Court Disposals, including diversion options, requires the child to admit the offence. One hypothesis for black and mixed heritage children progressing further into the justice system is that they may miss out on Out of Court Disposals due to not being willing to admit the offence in police interviews. In 2022 Dorset Police changed its approach to the provision of solicitors for children in police custody, to an 'opt out' approach. Analysis by Dorset Police of legal advice to children in custody in 2023 shows that ethnicity does not affect the likelihood of the child receiving legal advice:

01/01/2023 - 31/12/2023	Solicitor Required?		Total
	No	Yes	
Under 18's			
A2. Asian - Pakistani	-	1	1
A9. Any other Asian background	-	1	1
B1. Black Caribbean	-	5	5
B2. Black African	-	2	2
I1. Gypsy or Irish Traveller	-	2	2
M1. White & Black Caribbean	-	9	9
M2. White & Black African	-	8	8
M3. White & Asian	-	1	1
M9. Any other mixed background	1	4	5
O1. Chinese	-	2	2
O9. Any other ethnic group	1	1	2
W1. White British	22	302	324
W2. White Irish	-	3	3
W9. Any other white background	1	7	8
NS. Not Stated	2	30	32
Total	27	387	414

We also monitor the gender breakdown of our caseload and the distribution by gender at different stages of the youth justice system. There tends to be a higher proportion of girls among children who are diverted from a formal outcome, with lower proportions of girls amongst those who receive a community or custodial sentence.

At a national and local level there is evidence that boys are over-represented among children in custody. There are around 400 children in custody in England and Wales but the number of girls is less than 10. Locally, no girls have been remanded or sentenced to custody in recent years.

The proportion of girls on the DCYJS caseload fluctuates but usually stays within a range of about 15%-20% of the total caseload, consistent with national rates. Girls accounted for 17% of our First Time Entrants in 2023-24.

It is recognised that girls can have different needs and experiences from boys, requiring differentiated responses from YJS workers. Worker allocation decisions are taken carefully to be sensitive to each girl's needs. During 2024-25 a thematic case audit will be undertaken to review our work with girls and to identify areas for improvement.

DCYJS caseload information shows that children in the local youth justice system are likely to have Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. In February 2024, 37% of school-age children on the caseload had an Education, Health and Care Plan and a further 25% had the status of 'SEN Support'. This means that 62% of school-age children were identified as having Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, compared to about 20% in the local populations for their age group. These concerns fit with evidence collected by the DCYJS Speech and Language Therapists, showing high levels of

communication needs amongst children in our local youth justice system and indicating the need for YJS workers to adapt their work to the needs of each child.

6.2. Prevention

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

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

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

In the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council area, preventative work occurs within the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and Early Help. Both services use local data to determine the needs in the area and to then provide preventative services to meet those needs. Governance for the Community Safety work sits with the Community Safety Partnership Executive Board. The Board's role includes scrutiny of the work undertaken. It can also agree to commission further services. The YJS Head of Service sits on the CSP Executive board. Targeted early help services are overseen by the Early Help Strategic Board (a multi-agency partnership which also incorporates Family Hubs). The Board agrees what services may be needed and which to provide/ commission. Services are provided based on the *Continuum of need*, with clear pathways in relation to how to access the support and services.

The YJS Partnership Board has agreed funding for an additional prevention project in 2024-25. Money has been allocated to pay for a Speech and Language Therapist and a Speech and Language Assistant. Their work will focus on children who are at risk of school exclusion, using a model which has been developed successfully in Milton Keynes.

6.3. Diversion

Diversion work is undertaken locally on a partnership basis. Dorset Police, DCYJS and local authority Early Help services meet weekly as an Out of Court Disposal Panel to decide the appropriate youth justice outcome for children who have committed criminal offences. The panel looks for opportunities to divert children from a formal justice outcome when possible. This fits with the local priority to reduce First Time Entrants, described above in section 4.2.

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

During 2023/24 a total of 228 children received diversion options for a criminal offence, instead of a formal justice outcome. 118 of them received interventions from the Youth Justice Service. 110 received interventions from other services, principally the police Safer Schools and Communities Team or the local authority Turnaround workers.

During 2022/23 the Ministry of Justice announced a new programme, 'Turnaround', aimed at 'children on the cusp of the youth justice system'. Locally we have used this programme to divert children from the justice system and to reduce our rate of First Time Entrants. Instead of potentially receiving a Youth Caution, children are considered for an informal response which is recorded by the Police as 'Outcome 22' (No Further Police Action but with support provided to the child).

Turnaround funding has been used to recruit targeted youth workers in each local authority and a part-time Speech and Language Therapist. Each child on the Turnaround programme is allocated to one of the local authority Turnaround workers who works with the child and their family to agree a support plan to help them avoid further offending. The aim is to build the child's positive identity and reduce the risk of further offending. The Speech and Language Therapist assesses the child's communication needs and provides advice for the child, their family and professionals about the child's individual needs and how best to respond to them.

The local Turnaround programme is overseen by a multi-agency group of operational managers, reporting to the Youth Justice Service Partnership Board and submitting the necessary quarterly returns to the Ministry of Justice. Data up to the end of December 2023 shows a total of 73 children have worked with the Turnaround programme (28 in Dorset and 45 in BCP).

The Ministry of Justice exclude Children in Care and children who are subject to a Child Protection Plan from the Turnaround programme. It is important that these children are not denied the opportunity to be diverted from the justice system. Our local commitment is to ensure that these children also receive the Outcome 22 diversion option, receiving support from the Youth Justice Service instead of the local authority Turnaround workers.

Funding for the Turnaround programme will end in March 2025. The YJS Partnership Board is starting consider plans for taking forward diversion work when the Turnaround programme ends.

6.4. Education, Training and Employment

Children in the youth justice system are less likely to stay in mainstream schools, to achieve good educational outcomes and to access education, employment or training after Year 11.

In February 2024, 37% of school-age children on the caseload had an Education, Health and Care Plan and a further 25% had the status of 'SEN Support'. There are also likely to be other children whose additional needs have not been identified.

During 2023/24, DCYJS worked with local authority colleagues to establish accurate recording and reporting of school exclusions experienced by children on the caseload. In February 2024, 20 out of 96 school-age children on the caseload had been permanently excluded from school in the past 2.5 academic years, and 50 out of 96 had experienced a fixed-term exclusion during that period. In total, 54% of school-age children had experienced a permanent or fixed-term exclusion during the past 2.5 academic years, with some of them experiencing multiple exclusions.

Improving education provision and outcomes for children in the youth justice system is one of our strategic priorities.

Each local authority's Director of Education is a member of the DCYJS Partnership Board.

DCYJS employs an Education Officer and a post-16 Careers Adviser. They provide advice to DCYJS case managers and work directly with young people to understand their needs and to support their attendance and engagement. They also work with schools and local authorities to increase the suitability of provision, maintaining strong links with colleagues in the local authority Virtual Schools, the SEND teams and Inclusion services.

During 2023/24 DCYJS developed its collection, recording and use of education information for each child. We have established consistent monthly processes with our local authority business intelligence colleagues for cross-referencing information about the child's education offer, attendance, history of school exclusions and special educational needs and disability. This enables us to target our interventions and resources for individual children while also providing the overview of education needs for our caseload.

The following charts show the education status of BCP and Dorset children on the YJS caseload in March 2024:

BCP - ETE Status - 31st March '24



Dorset - ETE Status - 31st March '24



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

Each local authority has a multi-agency group which monitors and acts on inclusion in education for the school-age children causing most concern in respect of their access to education. The DCYJS Education Officer attends these groups and represents the needs of children who are open to the YJS.

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

The numbers of young people who not in employment, education or training (NEET) or in employment without training reflects the limited opportunities for YJS young people, who can lack the necessary attainment levels to access the available provision. Actions taken in 2023/24 to address this gap include:

- The 'Discover You' project, run jointly with Upton Country Park, to increase young people's readiness for post-16 training and employment options.

- Funding provided by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for young people to train for the Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS card).
- Increased use of AQA awards to certificate learning from activities undertaken during young people's contact with DCYJS.

Securing the funding for the Discover You project will be a priority for 2024-25.

6.5. Health Needs of Children in the youth justice system

Evidence shows that children who have contact with the justice system are likely to have significant health needs, including difficulties with mental health, physical health and substance misuse. DCYJS has a strong health team, reflecting the commitment of NHS Dorset and Dorset HealthCare to meeting the health needs of children in the youth justice system. The DCYJS health team is comprised of 2.8 full-time equivalent CAMHS nurses, a 0.8 Clinical Psychologist and 1.4 Speech and Language Therapists.

The health professionals in the YJS work directly with children and provide consultation and advice to YJS colleagues and other professionals. Their specialist skills and knowledge underpin the DCYJS commitment to trauma-informed practice and our application of the Trauma Recovery Model.

There is increasing recognition of the neuro-diversity of children in the youth justice system. Two YJS nurses have been undertaking additional training in issues relating to ADHD, including the potential overlap between indications of ADHD and responses to past trauma.

Access to ADHD assessments varies according to the child's home area. If a child also has mental health needs requiring CAMHS support, an ADHD assessment can be accessed via CAMHS throughout the county. Paediatricians can provide ADHD assessments for children who are not open to CAMHS. In the west of the county paediatricians provide ADHD assessments for all children, but paediatricians in the east of the county only provide ADHD assessments for children under the age of 16. Children who are 16 or 17 in the east of the county, and not open to CAMHS, are therefore unable to access an ADHD assessment. YJS Nurses have been working with several children in this position, flagging the issue with NHS managers and commissioners. This will continue to be a priority in 2024/25.

During 2023/24, Dorset HealthCare and NHS Dorset have been reviewing the provision of services to meet the needs of young people in respect of both speech and language needs and mental health and emotional wellbeing. The DCYJS health team is actively participating in these transformation plans and will continue to do so during 2024/25.

6.6. Restorative Justice and Victims

Alongside the 'Child First' approach, Restorative Justice is a core principle underpinning the work of DCYJS. Our whole service training in 'Working Restoratively' in January 2024 included a focus on how restorative work fits with and supports a trauma-informed, child first approach.

In the words of Jo Berry, a restorative justice practitioner whose father, Sir Anthony Berry MP, was killed in the IRA Brighton bombing, “when people use violence, they often don’t see the humanity of the person, which is what allows them to do it. What often happens with restorative justice is that it rehumanises each side”.

Whenever DCYJS work with a child whose offence harmed a victim, the DCYJS Restorative Justice Practitioners contact the victim to find out about the impact of the offence and to explain the opportunities for Restorative Justice activities. These contacts help us to meet our obligations under the Victims Code.

Delays in the youth justice system, which are more common in cases that go to court, make it harder to engage victims in activity to repair the harm they have experienced. Contacting the victim many months after the offence requires tact and sensitivity, emphasising the victim’s choice in whether or how much they engage with our service.

The DCYJS Restorative Justice Practitioners sometimes receive negative feedback from victims about the decision-making process and outcomes for children who receive Out of Court Disposals. Managers from DCYJS and Dorset Police met in March 2024 to review these concerns and to amend the processes for keeping victims informed and considering their views in the decision-making process.

One element of the team’s Restorative Justice work is undertaking ‘reparation’ activities with young people, to help them make amends for their offence. Examples include making wooden planters or bird boxes to be sold for charities chosen by the victim. Other young people work on community projects supported by the service or on conservation activities. During 2023/24 the service strengthened its joint work between case managers and our reparation supervisor, to tailor each activity to the needs of the child and the wishes of the victim. The aim is to increase the child’s sense of doing something constructive and meaningful to repair the harm caused.

Not all offences have a direct victim. We began work in 2023/24, which will continue in the coming year, to develop restorative responses for offences like weapon possession and drugs possession. Linked to this, we have partnered with the Red Cross to provide First Aid awareness sessions for young people.

Last year’s Plan reported on progress in developing a restorative response for children who commit offences against police officers and other emergency workers. This approach will be extended in 2024/25 to include a reparation project at Bournemouth Hospital, alongside ongoing work with the YJS Police Officers who can meet with young people to help them understand the human impact of offences against emergency workers.

6.7. Serious Violence, Exploitation and Contextual Safeguarding

Tackling extra-familial harm and reducing serious violence are priorities for strategic partnerships in both our local authority areas (as described in section 2 of this Plan).

During 2023 the YJS completed a case audit to review its work with children who commit offences with weapons. The focus on weapon offences reflected evidence of an increase in these offences in both local authority areas. The audit included the views of children,

parents and YJS practitioners and led to changes in our risk planning and interventions for children who committed weapon offences.

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

The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2021 introduced a Serious Violence Duty for specified authorities, including youth justice services, to work together to share data and knowledge, allowing them to target their interventions to prevent serious violence. The Duty came into effect at the end of January 2023. The specified authorities in Dorset and BCP agreed to use our two Community Safety Partnerships to lead this work. DCYJS contributed to the Serious Violence Needs Assessment in each local authority, and to the subsequent action planning.

One of the obstacles to effective work with children who have committed serious violence offences is the length of time that can elapse between the offence and the child appearing in court. This is a priority area for the DCYJS Partnership Board, with the aim of reducing delays and of mitigating their impact by offering voluntary YJS contact with young people while their alleged offences are under investigation. The YJS Head of Service has also raised this issue with the Dorset Criminal Justice Board, to add performance monitoring for the time between the offence and the charging decision to the Board's performance information.

Extra-familial harm occurs across the pan-Dorset area, with DCYJS seeing higher rates of exploitation and National Referral Mechanism (NRM) referrals amongst its BCP Council caseload. DCYJS plays an active role in the partnership arrangements in both local authority areas to address child exploitation, participating in strategic and tactical groups as well as other multi-agency initiatives such as the 'Missing, Exploited, Trafficked' (MET) Panel in BCP Council and the Dorset Council Extra-Familial Harm (EFH) panels and the EFH Champions group. The EFH Strategy has been reviewed in each local authority during 2023/24, with some amendments to documentation and procedures. YJS practitioners and managers will participate in multi-agency training as part of the implementation of the new arrangements.

6.8. Policing and Detention of children in police custody

DCYJS and Dorset Police work actively in partnership. As well as the seconded police officers in the YJS, there is active police representation on the DCYJS Partnership Board. At an operational level there is daily contact between YJS Team Managers and the Sergeant in the police Youth Justice team.

In 2023 Dorset Police published its 'Child Centred Policing Strategy 2023-25' which "sets out Dorset Police's commitment to provide children and young people with a first-class policing response that is child-centred and part of an integrated and effective partnership

approach. This means we will put the voices and needs of children and young people at the heart of the services we deliver to make them safer”.

A ‘Voice of the Child Scrutiny Panel’ oversees the operational implementation of the strategy. The YJS Head of Service is a member of this panel, along with police leads from across the force.

One area of mutual priority is the need to speed up investigations of alleged offences by children. This is particularly the case for more serious offences which are likely to go to court and which may include public protection risks. Agreeing a joint approach to this issue is a priority for 2024-25.

Dorset Police is committed to reducing the numbers of children who are detained in police custody, as part of its Child-Centred Policing Strategy. A multi-agency group, led by the DCYJS Head of Service, monitors and addresses the use of police custody for children. The aim of the group is to reduce the number of children being arrested and, when an arrest is appropriate, to reduce the time the child stays in custody.

Data on child arrests is also reported to the YJS Partnership Board. The following table shows the child arrests in Bournemouth, Weymouth and Poole during 2023/24.

2023/24	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Auth Detention	30	40	44	29	37	25	42	31	33	30	21	17
Det Not Auth	7	4	2	5	2	3	2	5	1	4	8	12
10-13 Y/O	5	1	4	0	0	1	3	1	2	1	3	0
Overnight	15	12	18	8	13	14	16	14	15	10	10	5
Strip searches / Clothing Changes	0	0	1	3	0	3	0	0	4/3	3/1	0/2	1/0
Remand/warrant	1/2	1/1	0/2	1/1	1/1	1/0	0/2	0/2	2/1	0/2	1/1	1/2

	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Ave time 2023/24	12.47	11.63	10.73	11.7	12.1	10.6	12.5	11.8	13.8	11.1	13.0	9.2

The number of child arrests in Dorset has declined in the past 3 years, with an average of 42 child arrests per month in 2021/22, 36 per month in 2022/23 and 32 in 2023/24. The reduction in child arrests is particularly positive in comparison to the increase in adult arrests.

Custody managers have strengthened the challenge on whether the detention is justified, with a notable increase in ‘Detentions not Authorised’ in the February and March 2024. This means a child has been brought to the custody suite but the custody sergeant has refused to authorise the detention. In February and March 2024, custody sergeants refused to authorise 20 of a possible 58 detentions.

Although there has been less progress in reducing the duration of child detentions, the overall reduction in arrest numbers means that arrests tend to reflect more complex cases, potentially requiring longer detention periods. Dorset Police have changed their

approach to custody arrivals during the evening to reduce the numbers that are detained overnight.

The multi-agency group has previously identified a number of factors which can prolong a child's detention in police custody, including the availability of Appropriate Adults (AAs) and the time of day when the child arrives in the custody suite. The timeliness of Appropriate Adult attendance has improved since the service was commissioned externally from 'The Appropriate Adult Service' (TAAS), though average arrival times in 2023/24 dropped to 39 minutes at Bournemouth, 39 minutes at Poole and 58 minutes at Weymouth. The longer times at Weymouth reflect intermittent shortages of available Appropriate Adults. TAAS have recruited additional Weymouth AAs in March 2024, which should reduce the average arrival times.

When the police remand a child, ie charge them with an offence and refuse to grant the child bail, there is a legal requirement (under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984) to transfer the child to local authority accommodation until their appearance at the next available court. A child arrested on a warrant or for breaching bail must remain in police custody. In recent years, BCP Council and Dorset Council have operated a joint arrangement whereby a foster carer is on standby each night to accommodate a child in this situation. Usage of this foster placement has been very low, partly reflecting the very few remands of children in police custody (9 instances in 2023/24 across both local authorities). The standby foster carer arrangement is currently under review, with alternative options being considered.

6.9. Transitions to Probation

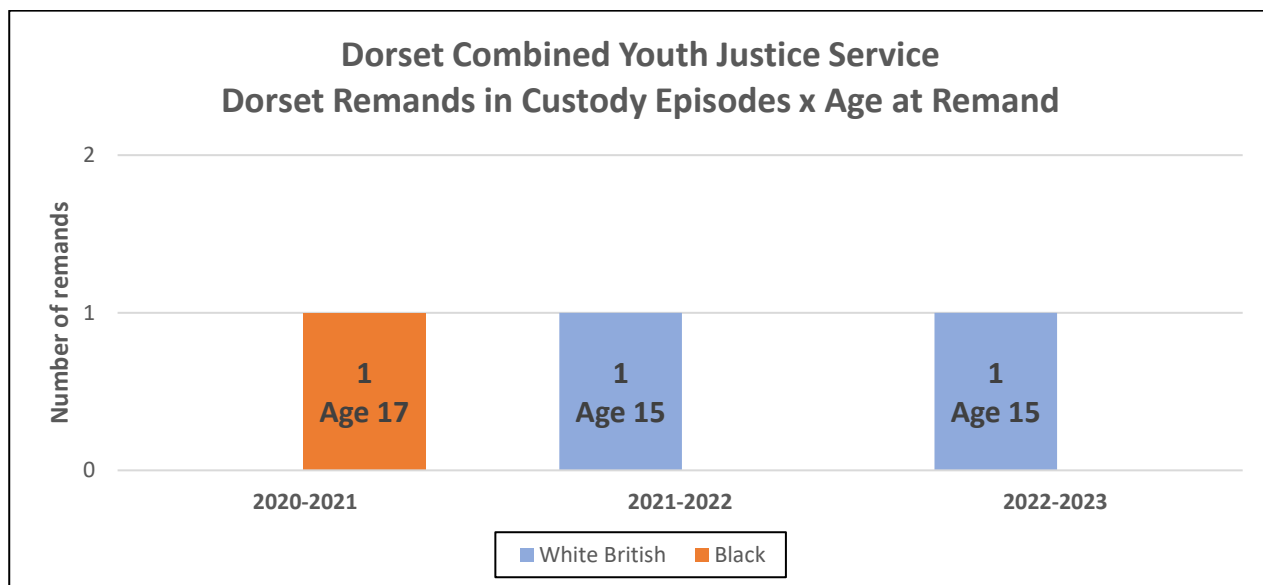
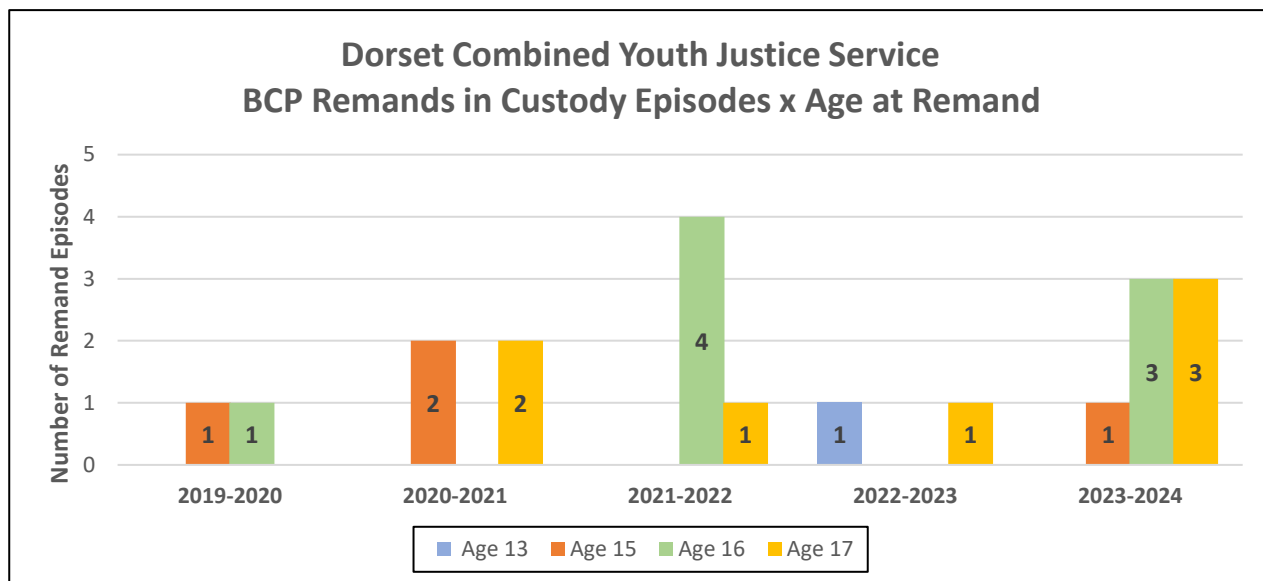
The seconded Probation Officer in DCYJS plays an important role in supporting transitions for young people who are moving from the YJS to Probation. In the last two years we have been working to improve the transition arrangements. Progress in 2023/24 included:

- New process for Probation to request YJS information for young adults committing new offences who were previously known to YJS. 125 requests for information were made under this process during 2023.
- Extending the transition process for young people transferring from YJS to Probation, with additional joint meetings.
- Training session delivered by the YJS Speech and Language Therapist to Probation staff to help them respond to the communication needs of young adults.
- YJS attendance at MAPPA Level 2 or 3 meetings for new cases aged 18-21 when the YJS previously supervised the young person.

During 2024-25 we plan to develop our methods for gathering feedback from young people about their experience of the transition process. We will also seek the views of practitioners in the YJS and Probation, to identify further opportunities for improvement.

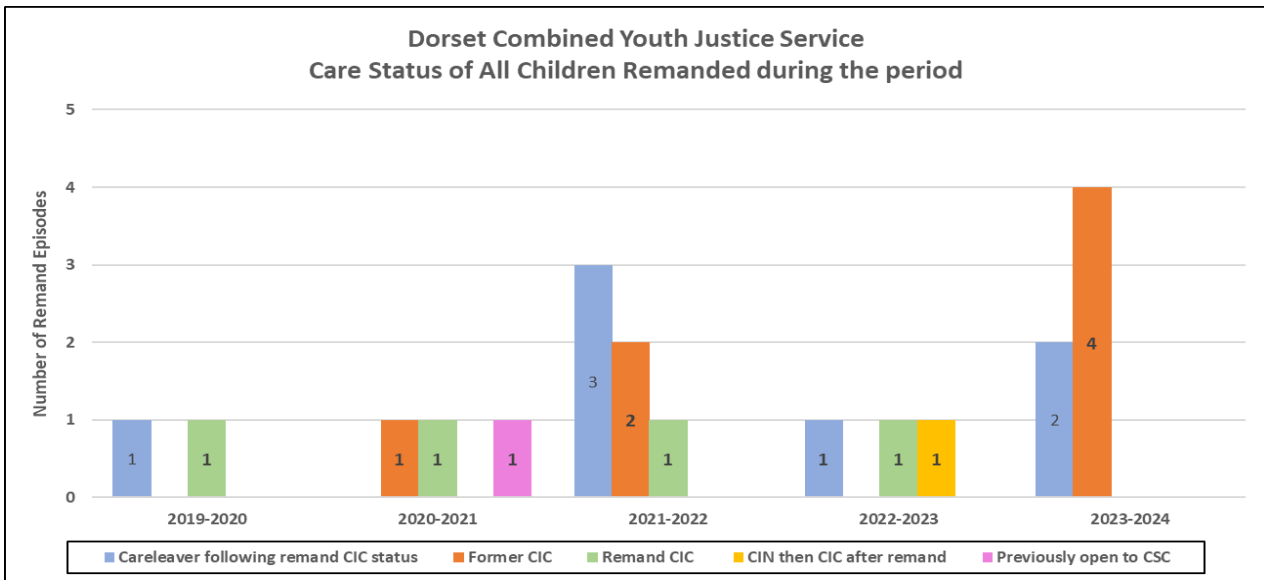
6.10. Remands

There were 7 episodes of children being remanded in custody during 2023-24, up from 5 in 2022-23 and matching the 7 episodes in 2021-22. There were also 5 instances of children being remanded into the care of the local authority in 2023-24. The following charts show the age of children remanded to custody from each local authority in recent years:



Each remand in custody is reviewed in team meetings to consider if alternative options could have been taken. In most cases the remand decision reflects the seriousness of the alleged offence, and may also reflect patterns of offending and previous non-compliance with bail conditions. Although it can be difficult to find suitable accommodation for children at risk of custodial remand, this was not identified as a factor in the remand decisions in 2023-24.

Children who are remanded in custody gain ‘child in care’ status if they are not already a child in care. In many cases the child is already known to Children’s Social Care in some capacity, as shown in the following chart:



In November 2023, HMI Probation published a thematic inspection report on work with children subject to remand in youth detention. Recommendations from this report will be included in the DCYJS plans for 2024-25.

6.11. Custodial Sentences and Resettlement

Six local children received custodial sentences during 2023/4 (compared to 7 during 2022-23). Information about custodial sentences and analysis of the young people is included in section 4.2 of this document.

In recent years very few children have been released from custody before their 18th birthday. With low numbers going into custody, and some not being released before becoming adults, the approach to resettlement for each child is planned individually.

Finding suitable accommodation for children leaving custody can be challenging. DCYJS contributes to local authority care planning processes, promoting the early identification of the child's release address. The DCYJS Manager reports to the DCYJS Partnership Board on the timeliness of accommodation being confirmed for children being released from custodial sentences. This measure is also now included in the new youth justice Key Performance Indicators. The release address for children leaving custody is sometimes not confirmed until the last few days before release. As well as causing the child a lot of anxiety and distress, this makes it difficult to plan the child's resettlement, affecting access to education, health care and constructive activities.

'Release on Temporary Licence' (ROTL) is an option for children nearing the end of their time in custody. Day releases for specific purposes are agreed, for children with good behaviour records in custody, to help prepare them for release. DCYJS have worked with a secure establishment in 2024 to confirm ROTL plans for a child who is approaching his release date.

In September 2023 some young people in custody raised concerns with their YJS case managers about the safety and adequacy of the arrangements for their detention. They reported spending 23 hours a day, or more, alone in their rooms, without access to social interaction or normal education provision. The YJS Head of Service followed up these

concerns with the Youth Custody Service (YCS) and with the Governors of the establishments. The YJS Partnership Board and the local Safeguarding Children's Partnership also sought assurances from the YCS and from YOI Governors. Improved scrutiny and joint working with the YCS and secure establishments has been developed and will continue to be monitored in 2024-25.

6.12. Working with Families

DCYJS Parenting staff provide support to the parents and carers of children on the YJS caseload. Support can be provided under a Parenting Order but in practice it is always achievable on a voluntary basis. Most contact is provided on a one to one basis, focusing on communications, relationships, setting boundaries and applying consequences. The workers remains alert to risk and safeguarding issues, attending multi-agency meetings and supporting parents in their interactions with other services.

Parenting workers, and other YJS practitioners, remain alert to the needs of other children in the household, making referrals for support from other services when necessary.

DCYJS parenting staff also run Parent Forums which enable parents to meet others experiencing similar issues and to share ideas and experiences. Guest speakers, such as the YJS Speech and Language Therapist, sometimes attend in response to requests from parents.

Plans for 2024/25 include development of the Parent Forums and increased attendance by parenting workers at court hearings and panel meetings to support parents.

6.13. DCYJS Priorities and Plans for 2024/25

The following table shows the priorities and plans for DCYJS in 2024/25. This is a dynamic plan which will continue to be updated, recognising that other priorities will arise during the year.

DCYJS Partnership Priority	Area for Development	Partners and Staff Providing Support	Benefits
Reducing First-Time Entrants	Plan and implement the project to meet the communication needs of children at risk of school exclusion	Dorset HealthCare BCP Council and Dorset Council education services Schools and PRUs DCYJS SALTs and Head of Service	Reduction in school exclusions and future offending
Reducing First-Time Entrants	Agree plans for diversion options after the Turnaround programme ends	Dorset Police BCP Council and Dorset Council Children's Services	Maintain the success in diverting children from formal justice outcomes

		DCYJS HoS and Team Managers	
Serious Violence and Extra-Familial Harm	Regular scrutiny meetings between Police CPS and YJS to track and progress delayed investigations	Dorset Police CPS DCYJS managers	Improved timeliness for offences reaching court.
Serious Violence and Extra-Familial Harm	YJS staff to attend multi-agency training for new EFH documentation and processes	Safeguarding Children Partnership All DCYJS practitioners and managers	YJS staff understand and use the amended EFH procedures to reduce EFH to children
Reducing over-representation	Undertake case audits of YJS work with girls and with black or mixed heritage children	DCYJS practitioners and managers	Identify strengths and areas for improvement to better meet the needs of minority groups on the YJS caseload
Reducing over-representation	Find out about anti-racist practice in youth justice and apply the learning	DCYJS Board members, managers and practitioners	Anti-racist practice leading to better work with children from minority ethnicities
Improving education outcomes	Secure funding to continue the Discover You programme	DCYJS funding partners DCYJS HoS DCYJS Education Officers	Improving young people's readiness for post-16 ETE options
DCYJS practice improvement	Implement the new Prevention and Diversion assessment tool	DCYJS managers and practitioners	Compliance with YJB directive
DCYJS practice improvement	Increase feedback from young people and practitioners about the transition from YJS to Probation	Probation DCYJS managers and practitioners	Identify and apply improvements to the transition process
Restorative Practice	Develop reparation options for drug possession and knife possession offences	DCYJS Reparation manager and staff DCYJS case managers	Improving children's insight into the harm caused by weapon and drug offences
Custody and remand	Implement relevant recommendations from the thematic inspection of work with children on remand	Dorset Council and BCP Council Children's Social Care Dorset Police Courts Dorset HealthCare DCYJS managers and case managers	Avoidance of unnecessary secure remands. Improved outcomes for children who are remanded in custody.
Custody and remand	Active monitoring, and reporting to YJS Board, of safety of children in custody	Dorset Council and BCP Council Children's Social Care Dorset HealthCare DCYJS managers and practitioners	Improved outcomes for children in custody
Health needs of children in the YJ	Seek solutions to the issue with ADHD	NHS Dorset Dorset Healthcare	Equal access to ADHD assessments and

system	assessments for 16+17 year-olds I east of the county		response to neuro-diversity needs
Develop the collection and use of performance information.	Continue to improve data accuracy, presentation, analysis and use	BCP Council and Dorset Council business intelligence teams DCYJS Performance and Information Manager, HoS and Performance Analyst	Earlier and more accurate identification and response to child-level and system-level improvement needs.

7. Sign off, submission and approval

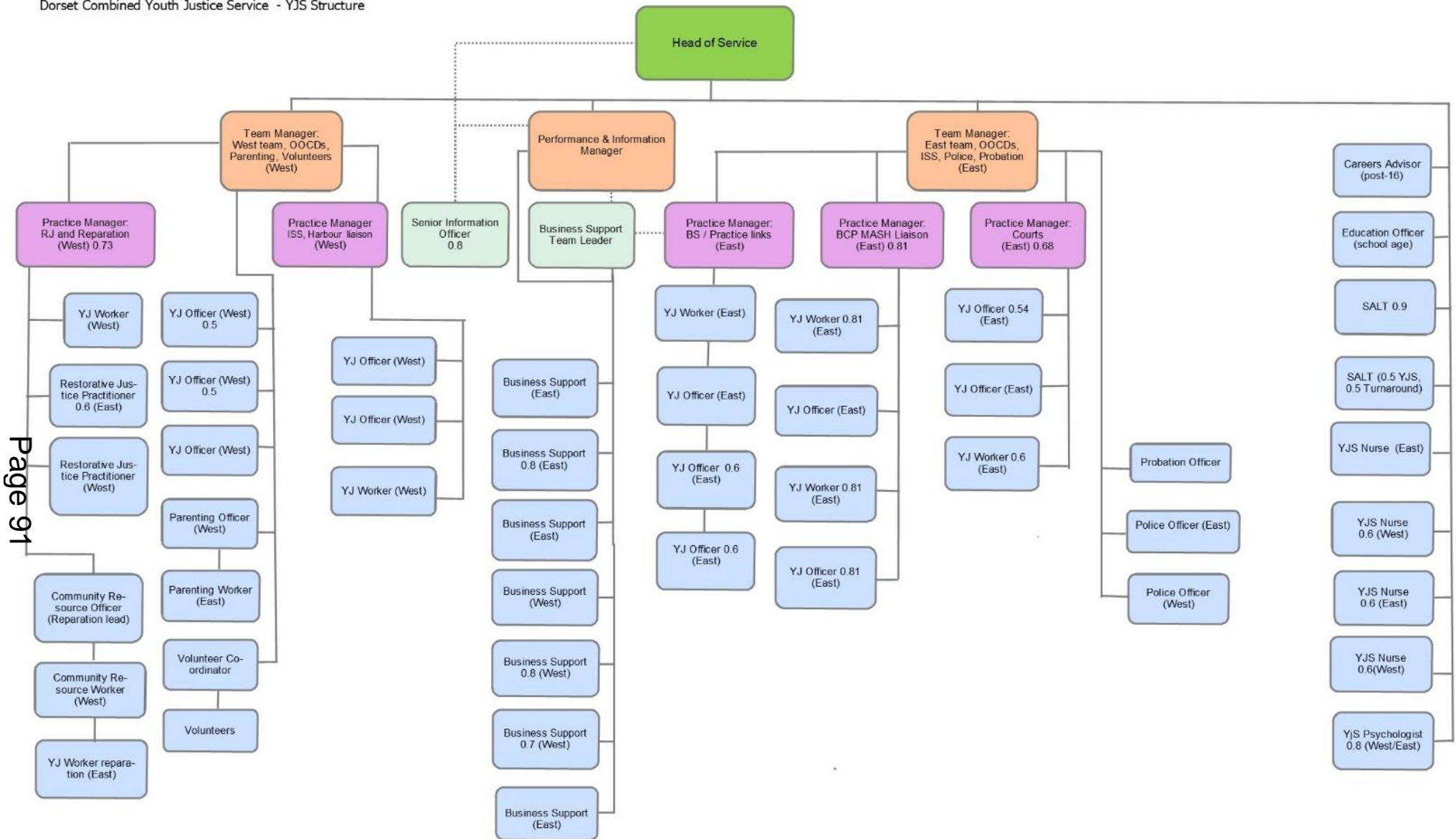
This Youth Justice Plan has been approved by the YJS Partnership Board in April 2023.

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

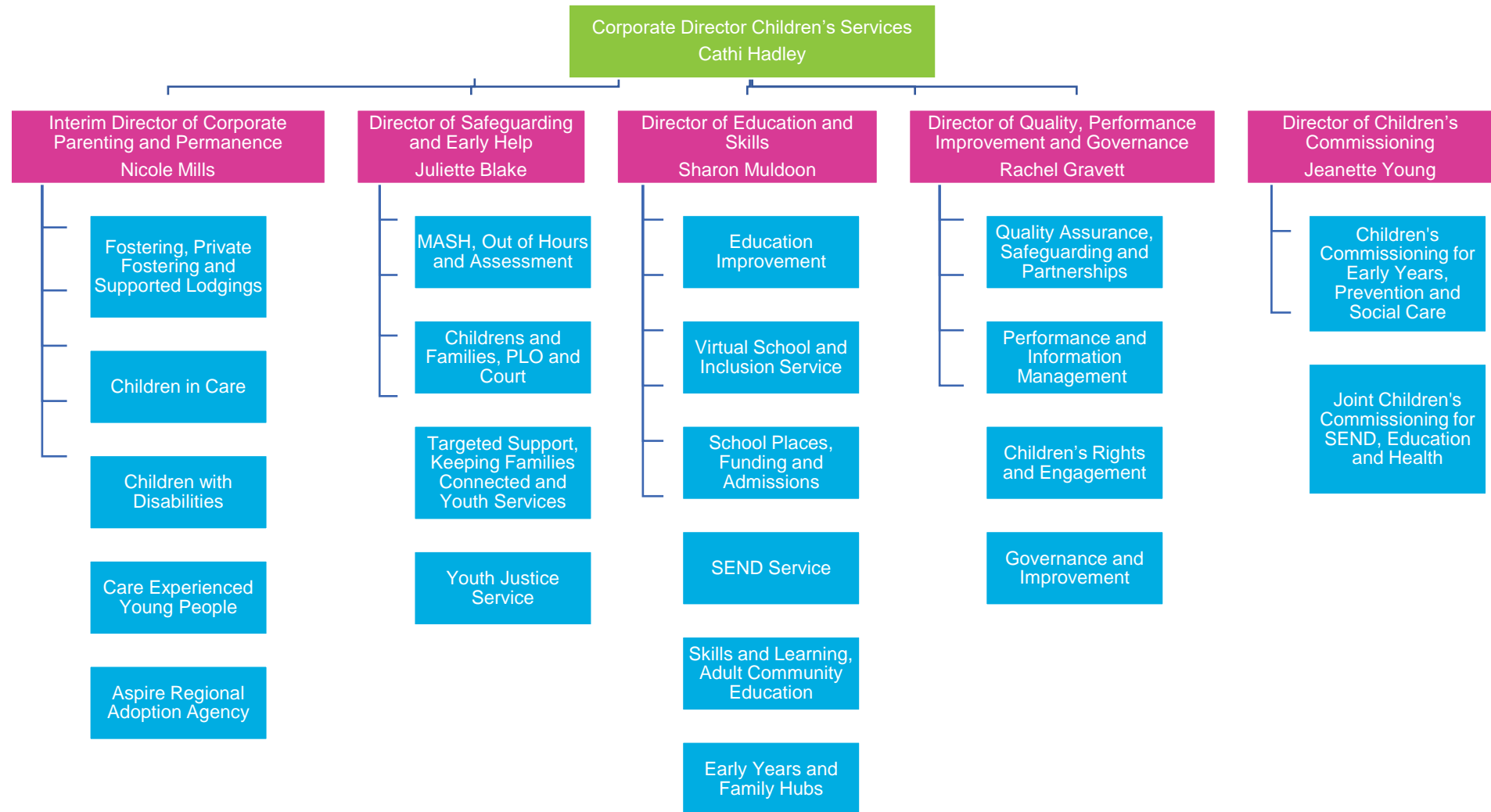
Chair of YJS Board - name	Theresa Leavy
Signature	
Date	

8. Appendix 1 – Service Structure Chart

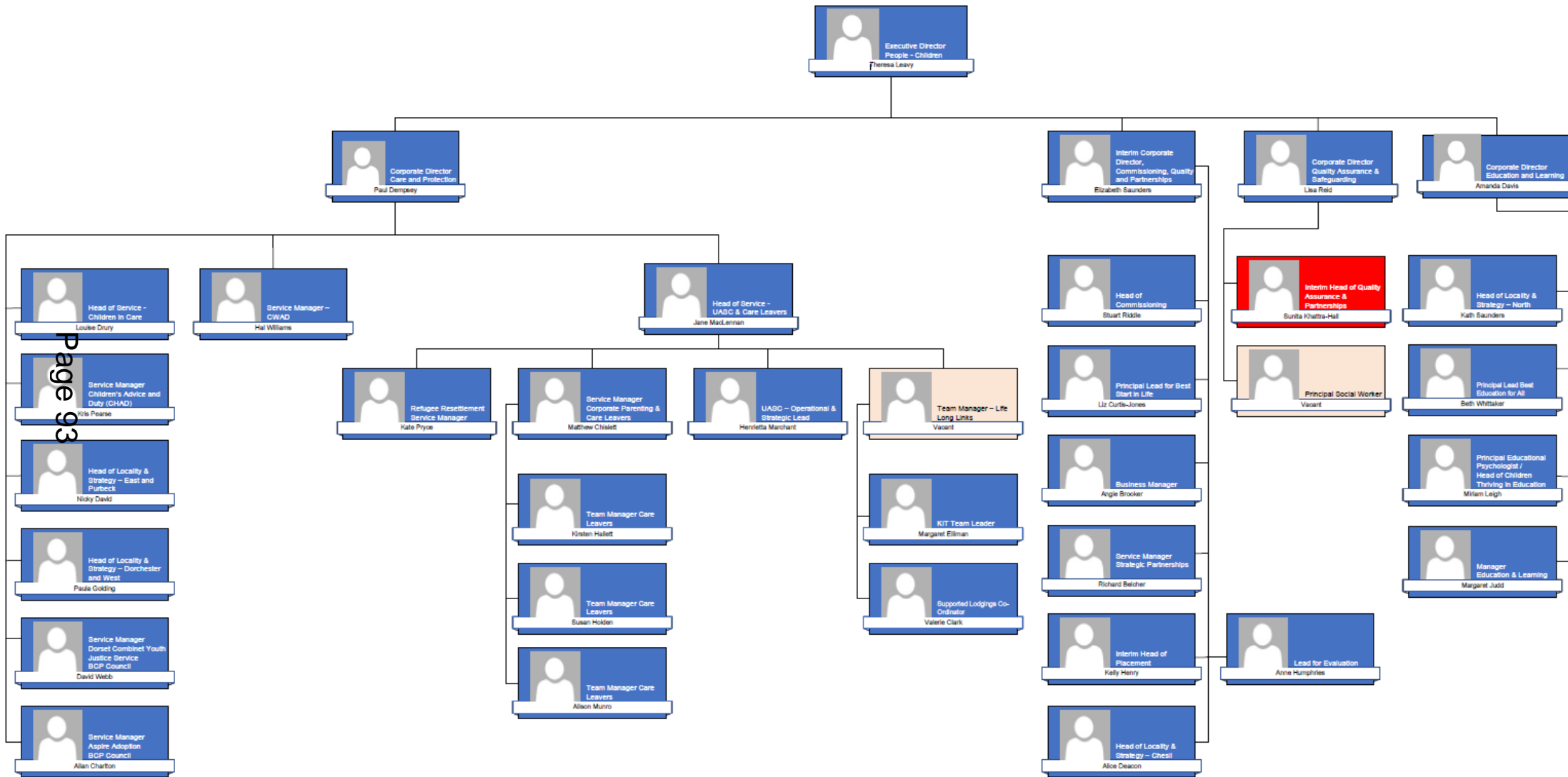
The following structure charts show the staffing structure of Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service and where the service sits in the two local authorities.



BCP Council Children's Services Extended Leadership Team



Dorset Council Children's Services Extended Leadership Team



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DCYJS Staff and Volunteers:

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

YJS Staff at 13th March 2024

	Male	Female
White British	10	43
White Irish	1	0
White Other	0	1
Mixed	0	1
Prefer not to say	0	1
	11	46

YJS Volunteers at 13th March 2024

	Male	Female
White British	8	15
White Other	1	1
	9	16

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

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

Partner Agency	23/24 Revenue (excluding recharges)	Staff
Dorset Council	£536,164	
Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council	£628,529	
Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner	£81,927	2.0 Police Officers
The Probation Service (Dorset)	£5,000	1.0 Probation Officer
NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group	£22,487	2.8 FTE Nurses, 0.8 Psychologist, 1.4 Speech and Language Therapists
Youth Justice Grant	£756,753 + additional £7,965 top-up	
Total	£2,038,825	

10. Appendix 3 – New Youth Justice ‘Key Performance Indicators’ – Indicative YJB Dashboard

Key performance indicators (KPIs)

These new KPIs have been developed to reflect on the areas that are strategically important in delivering effective services for children.

The following documents are useful when using this dashboard:

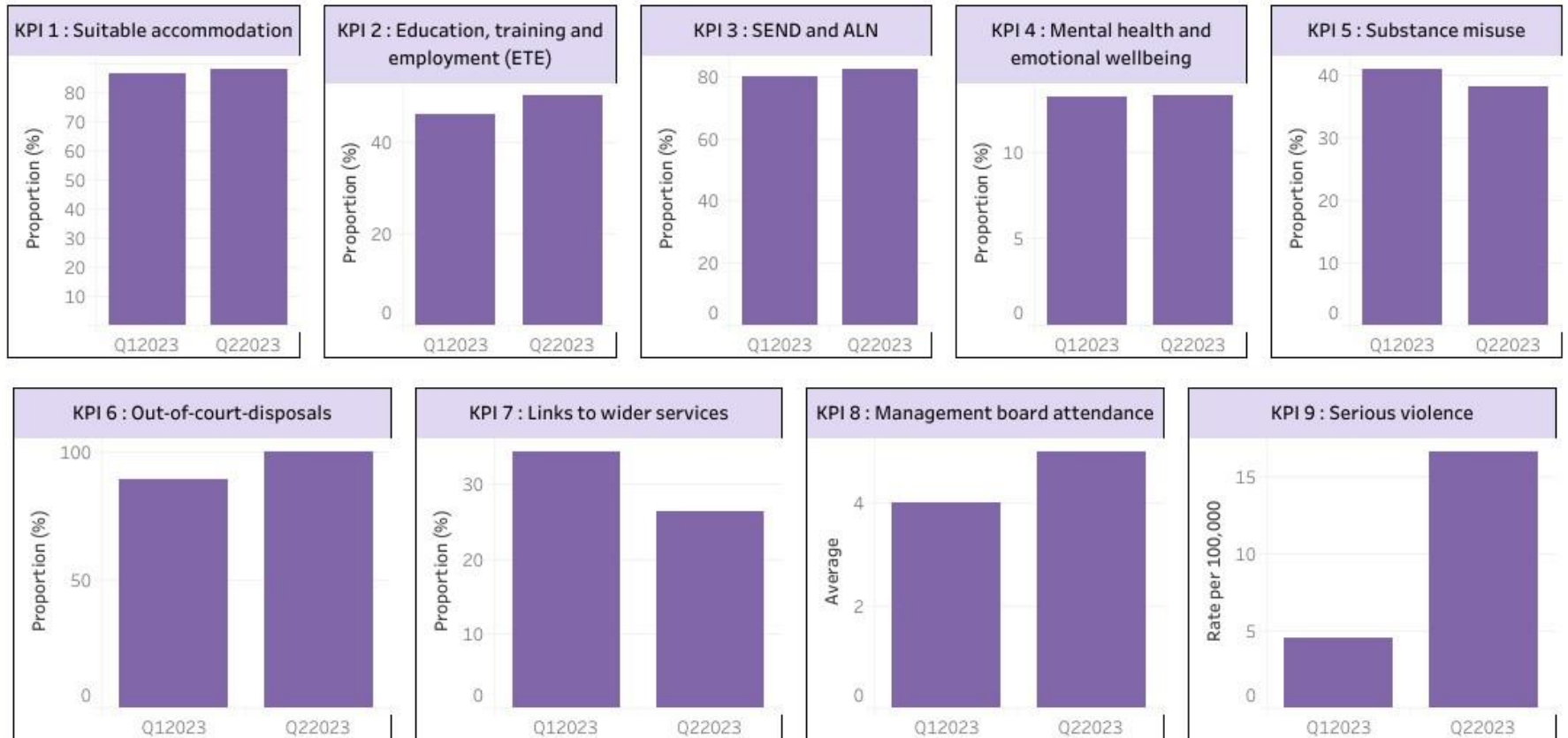
- 1. [KPI technical guidance and KPI Variables](#) - both available on YJAF.
- 2. [KPI recording guidance](#)

The filters below can be used to filter the data by Operations Area and/or by YJS.

YJB Operations Area
South West

YJS
Dorset Combined YOS

Summary Dashboard



Common youth justice terms – national glossary

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

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

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

People and Health Overview Committee

13 June 2024

Extra Care Housing Strategy and Accommodation with Support Programme

For Recommendation to Cabinet

Cabinet Member and Portfolio:

Cllr S Robinson, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care

Cllr G Taylor, Cabinet Member for Public Health, Environmental Health, Housing, Community Safety, and Regulatory Service

Executive Director:

J Price - Executive Director of People – Adults, Health, and Housing

Report Author: Adam Fitzgerald
Job Title: Programme Manager – Accommodation with Support
Tel: 01305 224253
Email: adam.fitzgerald@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Report Status: Part Exempt Para 3

Brief Summary:

Dorset Council's Adults and Housing Directorate has produced a Commissioning Strategy that sets out the Council's vision for Extra Care Housing in Dorset and a plan for increasing our supply of Extra Care Housing services. The Accommodation with Support Programme will manage the delivery of this plan.

The strategy establishes a vision for Extra Care Housing as an effective way to support people with multiple health and care needs whilst remaining independent in a home of their own. The approach provides an alternative to more institutional forms of care and provides a modern solution to enable people to remain more independent whilst also receiving care and support. To meet current and projected need, the strategy prioritises development of four new extra care housing schemes in strategic locations across Dorset.

The Accommodation with Support Programme has been established to take forward delivery of new housing with support services and is responsible for the delivery of these strategic aims.

The proposed delivery plan is to procure a strategic development partner who will work closely with Dorset Council to fund, develop, manage and maintain these four new schemes on Dorset Council sites over a period of 10 years.

Recommendation:

That the People and Health Overview Committee reviews and comments on the Extra Care Housing Strategy and Accommodation with Support Programme.

That the Committee make the following recommendations to Cabinet:

- 1) To adopt the Extra Care Housing Strategic Statement and Appendices as Dorset Council's publicly stated strategic direction as part of the suite of Adult Social Care Commissioning Strategies
- 2) To approve in principle the use of Dorset Council land assets to deliver these development projects, with the inclusion of specific sites to be agreed by the Executive Lead for the Place Directorate and in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Assets and Regeneration.
- 3) To approve public procurement for a Strategic Development Partner as the preferred delivery mechanism, and to approve commencement of this procurement process.
- 4) To delegate to the Executive Director for People (Adults) and the Executive Director for Corporate Development, acting jointly:
 - a. To agree the terms for the agreement with the Strategic Development Partner,
 - b. To award the Strategic Partnership Agreement to the preferred bidder. The final award decision shall be made in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Public Health, Environmental Health, Housing, Community Safety and Regulatory Service, and the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care.
- 5) To approve that the terms of the property related transactions (whether freehold, leasehold, or contractual dispositions) will be agreed in project-specific development agreements with the selected Strategic Development Partner.
- 6) To approve that the decision to complete each development agreement will be taken by the Executive Director for People (Adults and Housing), the Executive Lead for the Place Directorate and the Executive Director for Corporate Development acting jointly.

Reason for Recommendation:

- 1) Extra Care Housing is a preferred service option for older people who need 24-hour Care and Support but who can remain independent in a home of their own with the right support. By setting out our strategic priorities, we give a clear signal to the market of our intentions and our commitment to increasing the supply of Extra Care Housing in Dorset.
- 2) The ability to include appropriate land sites in the strategic partnership should be a considerable incentive to the market and will provide Dorset Council with a greater ability to shape and influence each project. This gives the Council the opportunity to positively impact on scheme viability by foregoing a capital receipt in favour of benefits to the Adult Social Care revenue budget through cost savings and avoidances. Inclusion of sites in this project is subject to internal evaluation of any alternative uses for the site.
- 3) This has been assessed as the best way to increase the supply of Extra Care Housing in Dorset. This approach potentially gives the best chance to provide best quality and value with the least risk and financial impact on Dorset Council.
- 4) The decision to proceed to contract close is subject to successful execution of the procurement process and should proceed so long as the bids are considered acceptable and affordable in accordance with the stated procurement methodology. This shall be subject to the advice of the Council's solicitor with the advice of external legal and other professional advisers.
- 5) The strategic partnership will establish the overarching principles and framework under which individual project-based decisions will be made – this will include the mechanism under which land deals will be made. This shall be subject to the advice of the Council's solicitor with the advice of external legal and other professional advisers.
- 6) The decision regarding each land deal will be taken on a project-by-project basis under the recommendations stated in this report. It will not be possible to know enough detail of each land deal to seek approval until the projects are further advanced. All decisions shall be made in accordance with the Officer Scheme of Delegation, which requires that any agreement including a transaction value of more than £500,000 shall be approved by Cabinet.

1. **Extra Care Housing Strategic Statement**

1.1 The People Adults Directorate has produced an Extra Care Housing Strategic Statement 2024-39, and a brief summary is provided here. A more detailed summary is provided at Appendix 1, and the full Strategic Statement and Appendices are provided at Appendix 2.

1.2 The Extra Care statement supports the delivery of the council's 'A Better Life' plan and in particular the achievement of the following key outcome:

'People have access to excellent care and support in their home, both responsive short-term reablement and longer-term care, which always puts independence at its heart and helps people to continue to live independently for as long as possible, utilising equipment and assistive technology where appropriate.'

1.3 The statement provides clear evidence of the need for extra care housing across Dorset and the benefits new extra care homes will deliver over the next 15 years. This evidence, the housing demand and commissioning priorities it highlights, will be in alignment with the development of the Council's Housing Strategy and Local Plan.

1.4 The key benefits that the strategic statement is seeking to deliver are:

- a) More Dorset residents with long-term care and health needs living in a suitable and adaptable home of their own.
- b) Creating supportive communities with highly skilled staff; accessible communal spaces, modern technology enabled care and digital solutions, all of which can help people to live the way they choose and feel secure.
- c) A reduction in the use of more restrictive institutional care, particularly care homes.
- d) Maximising the independence of residents with care needs and reducing pressure on adult social care spending. Extra Care Housing can deliver significant revenue cost avoidances or cost savings of between £200,000 and £255,000 per annum per scheme compared to Residential Care homes.

1.5 The statement makes the evidence-based case for the development of new extra care homes, setting out the need and requirements for Extra Care Housing in each of Dorset's localities. This includes both the needs of residents who are eligible for Council funded care under the Care Act and who need affordable extra care homes, and the needs of homeowners and residents who arrange and fund their own care and support. This provides

the evidence for the Local Plan and Housing Strategy, covering the extra care housing demand amongst all of Dorset's residents and households.

- 1.6 Overall the statement maps out a new council commissioning framework for extra care housing. This framework not only ensures that Dorset can provide the extra care homes its residents need but can deliver the highly skilled care and support services, which maximise the design benefits of extra care housing to support the independence of Dorset's most vulnerable residents.

2 What is extra care housing?

- 2.1 Extra Care housing is accommodation comprising self-contained flats and generous communal spaces, with commissioned 24/7 onsite Care and Support services available to resident.
- 2.2 Extra care housing is designed to adapt to changing care needs and to the needs of people with disabilities, people who are socially excluded, and people with long term health needs.
- 2.3 Extra care is first and foremost a type of housing, and a person's individual home not a care home. Tenants have their own flats provided under a tenancy or lease, with their own fully accessible bedroom, bathroom, kitchen and living room.
- 2.4 Extra Care Housing is different from others forms of specialist accommodation for people with care needs such as Care Homes or Sheltered Housing.
- 2.5 Extra care housing offers people with complex care, health, and mobility issues the chance to live in a home of their own, designed to meet their care needs and which offers highly skilled staff alongside new care technologies, available to respond to their needs 24/7.
- 2.6 The schemes are designed to act as hubs within their communities, giving people the support they need to continue to enjoy and benefit from the opportunities and amenities in their neighbourhood, and by enhancing or adding to opportunities for community, leisure and social activities.

3 The evidence for Extra Care in Dorset

- 3.1 The strategic statement has been prepared based on extensive evidence gathering and analysis, and benchmarking and through comparing Dorset's

approach to extra care housing development and commissioning with other similar local authorities and with regional and national good practise.

3.2 Key drivers include:

- a) A significant and growing older persons population – currently 113,000 older residents, growing a further 32% by 2036
- b) 43% increase in the number of over 75-year-olds over the same period
- c) Significant rises in people with dementia (49%) and older people with mobility challenges (45%)
- d) Ongoing demand for suitable accommodation and support services for people aged 18-64 with mobility issues, learning disabilities, mental health conditions, and autism

3.3 The 2021 council housing needs assessment projects that the growth in the older population and care needs will require more extra care homes to be built by 2038. Four new extra care housing sites need to be developed over the next 5 years to meet current levels of demand in Dorset, with further development needed by 2038.

3.4 A more detailed summary of evidence and data is provided at Appendix 1, and the full Strategic Statement and Appendices are provided at Appendix 2.

4 Strategic Priorities

4.1 Based on this evidence and engagement across social care, housing, health and planning the statement proposes 5 key strategic priorities:

- a) Providing more well designed and fully accessible extra care homes
- b) Progressing current council led extra care housing developments at Bridport and Wareham
- c) Prioritising development of a further two council commissioned extra care sites in Weymouth and East Dorset
- d) Reviewing current sheltered housing schemes to consider suitability for refurbishment or redevelopment as Extra Care Housing
- e) Commissioning and funding a 24/7 onsite support and care model for new and existing schemes that provides both a safe and enabling background support offer, but also supports residents to

live life to the full, engage with their local community, and develop or maintain their social and leisure interests.

5 Accommodation with Support Programme

- 5.1 The Accommodation with Support Programme has been established to deliver the strategic priorities associated with Supported Living and Extra Care Housing. The programme is a strand of the Transformation, Investment, and Reform Programme in the Adults Directorate and reports via TIR into the Corporate Transformation Programme.
- 5.2 The Accommodation with Support Programme is responsible for several projects that focus on delivery of Supported Housing services, and the systems needed to make sure we use our supported housing services efficiently.
- 5.3 The strategic aims set out in the Extra Care Strategic Statement of progressing the two existing council-led Extra Care schemes and taking forward two further council-led Developments will be led and delivered by the Accommodation with Support Programme.
- 5.4 A more detailed summary of the Programme is provided at Appendix 3.

6 Extra Care Housing Strategic Development Partnership

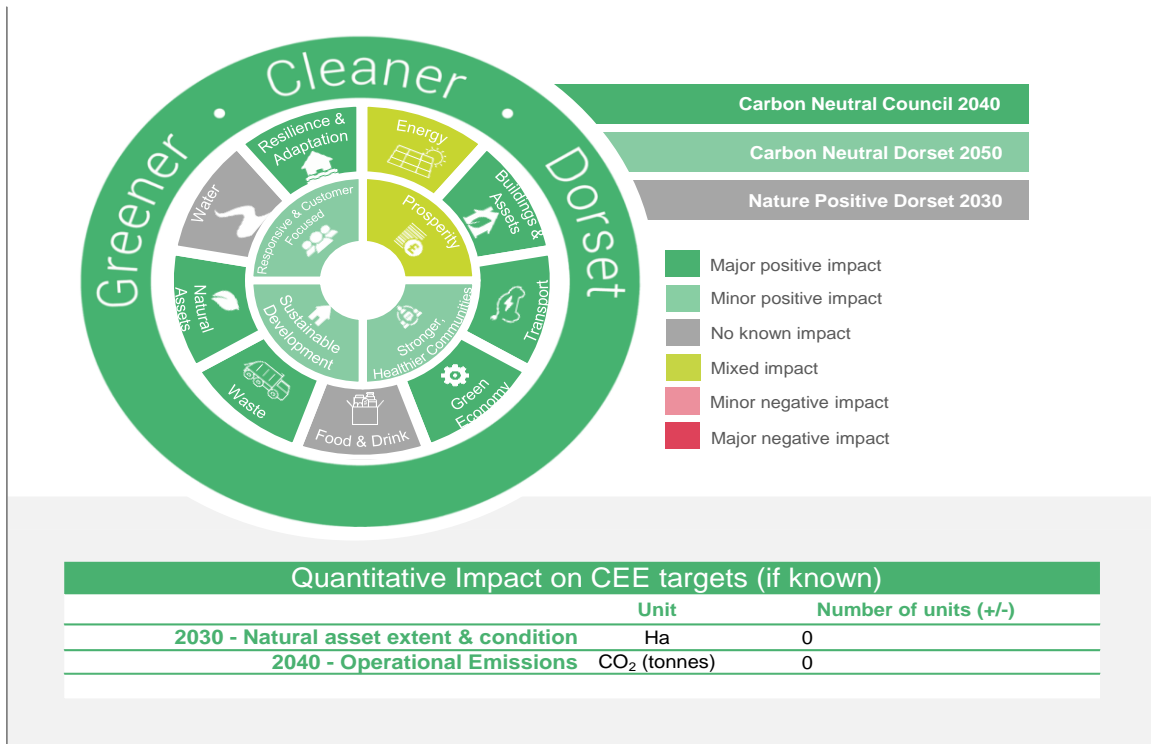
- 6.1 The proposed approach to delivering the four new affordable Extra Care Housing schemes in Dorset is through a third-party developer such as a Registered Provider of Housing or private developer of affordable specialist housing, who will acquire the site, fund, construct, own, maintain and manage the new schemes. Dorset Council will commission the care and support service in accordance with the new extra care housing care and support specification.
- 6.2 We have considered directly developing these schemes within the Council, but this is not considered possible or desirable due to the significant capital investment required, level of risk associated with the developments, and a lack of the expertise, experience and capacity needed in-house to develop and manage schemes of this scale and specialism. Altogether the partnership is expected to attract over £60m of investment into Dorset.
- 6.3 Dorset Council has considered and established the issues that it considers to be critical to the success of this project and has used this to inform the design of the governance structure and procurement route. The critical success factors include but are not limited to:

- 6.3.1 A shared vision for overall delivery with the Strategic Partner
- 6.3.2 Affordable end products for the end users – setting a minimum proportion of properties to be provided as affordable while giving the partner enough flexibility to use a mix of tenures to ensure overall viability
- 6.3.3 Nomination rights for Dorset Council into the affordable housing created, which is critical for making sure the schemes are used for people with social care need and can therefore deliver saving and cost avoidance targets
- 6.3.4 Ensuring the suitability of buildings created for long-term provision of care and support through design specification and ongoing maintenance plans including long-term sustainability and flexibility.
- 6.4 Following market engagement feedback collected in Summer and Autumn 2023 and accounting for the commercial advice and support provided by Atkins-Realis, the recommended approach is to procure and contract a Strategic Development Partner to lead the development of all four schemes over a 10-year period. This will be further tested and confirmed through pre-launch Market Engagement planned for early June 2024.
- 6.5 At this stage it is premature to assess the detailed financial implications of the partnership, but members and officers should be aware that current financial modelling shows a risk that additional subsidy will be required to make the schemes deliverable and achieve the projected long term financial benefits for the Council. There are several ways to bridge the modelled gap in viability, and this could take the form of capital investment, allocating of land to defray the costs by mixed tenure developments or allocating the proceeds of sale of other developments. The development partner may be able to extend the borrowing period on finance, adjust the modelled rent levels, or cross-subsidise from other developments in their wider portfolio. If enhanced grant rates from Homes England should be received, then these risks will be mitigated or overcome.
- 6.6 Dorset Council's Assets and Regeneration Service are in the process of identifying suitable development sites within the Dorset Council estate in the key locations. Sites in two locations (Bridport and Wareham) are already identified and allocated to the project. Site options in Weymouth and East Dorset are currently being reviewed for suitability and priority in order to allocate the 3rd and 4th site locations. The governance arrangements for the Strategic Development Partnership will set out the mechanism for agreeing the terms under which sites will be transferred to

the Development Partner and will be subject to final approval on a project-by-project basis. By putting land sites into the project Dorset Council can significantly increase the influence we have over the final developments as well as helping to ensure affordable Extra Care schemes are financially viable.

- 6.7 There are several potential routes to market for this opportunity. The recommended procurement route is the Competitive Dialogue process which invites tenders on the open market, although the potential to deliver this project via a preexisting Development Framework is also being explored. This will be a topic for discussion and feedback at the Market Engagement planned for early June. Both options ensure a robust and compliant procurement process.
- 6.8 The current draft (Stage 2) of Atkins-Realis's Commercial and Procurement advice report, which provides detailed context for all of the points raised above, is included at Appendix 4.
- 6.9 Management of the procurement process will be led by the Accommodation with Support programme, supported by Legal Services, Procurement, and Finance. External procurement support will be provided by Atkins-Realis, and external Legal support will be provided by Sharpe-Pritchard.

2. Natural Environment, Climate & Ecology Implications



There are opportunities for Extra Care Housing to be developed to high standards of environmental sustainability in excess of what is expected under Building Regulations, and this is being explored through market engagement conversations. The first Passivhaus Extra Care housing scheme has recently been completed in Exeter, but no providers have managed to deliver a Net Zero Carbon extra care housing scheme to date.

It is generally accepted by the market that schemes should take a fabric-first approach to efficiency, should incorporate onsite generation where possible, but there remains uncertainty around systems for providing heat and hot water – particularly where affordability and ease of use is of paramount importance to residents.

As has been noted elsewhere in this report, the viability of affordable Extra Care housing is marginal, and so sustainability requirements in excess of Building Regulations may require additional subsidy to ensure schemes remain viable.

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

Creation of new specialist affordable housing in Wareham is expected to have considerable health and wellbeing benefits for the population in Dorset. The benefits are explored fully in the appended Extra Care Strategy.

4. **Other Implications**

This project has implications for Assets and Regeneration as the recommended delivery solutions require transfer or sale of land to a Strategic Development Partner. The specific details of this will be established through the Partnership and subject to project-by-project approval at appropriate points during the life of the partnership.

5. **Risk Assessment**

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

Current Risk: MEDIUM

Residual Risk: MEDIUM

6. **Equalities Impact Assessment**

TO FOLLOW

7. **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Extra Care Strategic Statement Summary

Appendix 2 - Extra Care Housing Strategic Statement and Appendices

Appendix 3 - Accommodation with Support Programme Plan May 2024

Appendix 4 – Commercial and Procurement Advice – Extra Care – Stage
2 Report (Exempt)

8. **Background Papers**

9. **Report Sign Off**

11.1 This report has been through the internal report clearance process and has been signed off by the Director for Legal and Democratic (Monitoring

Officer), the Executive Director for Corporate Development (Section 151 Officer) and the appropriate Portfolio Holder(s)

Dorset Extra Care Housing Strategic Statement 2024-39 - Summary

- 1.1 The Extra Care statement supports the delivery of the council's 'A Better Life' plan and in particular the achievement of the following key outcome:

'People have access to excellent care and support in their home, both responsive short-term reablement and longer-term care, which always puts independence at its heart and helps people to continue to live independently for as long as possible, utilising equipment and assistive technology where appropriate.'

- 1.2 The statement provides clear evidence about the need for extra care housing across Dorset and the benefits new extra care homes will deliver over the next 15 years. This evidence and the housing demand and commissioning priorities it highlights, will support the development of the Council's Housing Strategy and Local Plan.

- 1.3 The key benefits that the strategic statement is seeking to deliver are:

- a) More Dorset residents with higher and long-term care and health needs, able to live in a home of their own that can easily adapt with their changing needs.
- b) They can live in a supportive community where there are highly skilled staff; accessible and well-designed shared living spaces and gardens and care technologies, which can help them live the way they choose and feel secure.
- c) A reduction in the number of residents being placed by the council, in more restrictive institutional care such as care homes.
- d) Through achieving this maximising the independence of residents with care needs and critically reducing pressure on adult social care spending. Extra Care Housing can deliver significant costs avoidances or costs savings to the social care revenue budget. This is based on Extra Care Housing providing a genuine alternative to more institutional forms of care such as Residential Care Homes, set up to support people with more complex mobility, health and support needs. Financial modelling for 4 new schemes suggests that with an annual revenue investment of between £430,000 and £530,000 per scheme, annual savings or cost avoidances of £200,000 and £255,000 per scheme can be achieved.

- 1.4 In addition to setting out the Dorset wide evidence that supports the development of new extra care homes, the statement also sets out the need and extra care housing requirements of residents living in each of Dorset's localities.

- 1.5 Whereas the statement addresses the needs of residents who are eligible for Council funded care under the Care Act and who need affordable extra care

homes, the statement also covers the extra care housing requirement of homeowners and residents who arrange and fund their own care and support. This supports both the council's social care and housing priorities for residents eligible for its support but also provides the evidence for the Local Plan and Housing Strategy, covering the extra care housing demand amongst all of Dorset's residents and households.

- 1.6 Overall the statement maps out a new council commissioning framework for extra care housing. This framework not only ensures that Dorset can provide the extra care homes it's residents need but can deliver the highly skilled care and support services, which maximise the design benefits of extra care housing to support the independence of Dorset's most vulnerable residents.

2 What is Extra Care Housing?

- 2.1 Extra care housing offers a home designed to adapt to changing care needs and to the needs of:
 - a. people with disabilities;
 - b. people who are socially excluded and
 - c. people with long term health needs.
- 2.2 Accessible community facilities and shared spaces are designed and provided, to meet the social, health, community and therapeutic needs of a broad range of people with care, support and health needs.
- 2.3 Extra care is first and foremost a type of housing, and a person's individual home not a care home.
- 2.4 Extra care tenants have their own flats provided under a tenancy or lease, with their own fully accessible bedroom, bathroom, kitchen and living room.
- 2.5 An onsite care and support service is provided with their tenancy available 24/7
- 2.6 Extra Care Housing is different from others forms of specialist accommodation for people with care needs. Care homes only provide a bedroom and ensuite bathroom facilities; residents have no tenancy rights and their care is provided with their accommodation by the same provider. Sheltered and retirement housing provides a housing warden offering general advice and low-level support, and who may only be available part of the day and week usually only during office hours. Sheltered housing does not provide support and help with personal care. Many sheltered housing schemes were developed several decades ago and do not offer accessible homes or shared spaces for residents with mobility or complex care needs.
- 2.7 Extra care housing can transform the lives of people who have complex care, health and mobility needs by offering them the chance of living in a home of their own designed to meet their care needs and which offers highly skilled staff

alongside new care technologies, available to respond to their needs 24/7. This ensures their independence even to the end of their lives, while offering a safe and secure environment for them to live in.

3 The evidence for Extra Care in Dorset

3.1 The strategic statement has been prepared based on extensive evidence gathering and analysis and through comparing Dorset's approach to extra care housing development and commissioning, with other similar local authorities and with regional and national good practise.

3.2 We have:

3.2.1 Benchmarked with Local Authorities with similar demographic, economic, social care and health profiles.

3.2.2 Developed comprehensive demographic, socio-economic, health, housing need and social care data both Dorset wide and for each locality.

3.2.3 Reviewed national and regional good practice arising from bodies including;

- a) Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE)
- b) Housing-LIN (leading extra care and supported housing research body)
- c) Southwest Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS)

3.2.4 Undertaken cost benefit analysis looking at a range of extra care options, cost benchmarked against other forms of care, particularly care home costs.

3.2.5 Engaged with key leaders and frontline professional across adult social care, housing, commissioning and planning.

3.2.6 Reviewed existing extra care housing services used by the council, including Occupational Therapy (OT) led building evaluations

3.2.7 Mapped the proposed Extra Care Housing outcomes and priorities to key council strategies and plans including:

- a) A Better Life Strategy
- b) The Housing Strategy
- c) Emerging Dorset Local Plan and Planning Policy Framework

3.3 The following population and care need evidence, was considered in the development of Dorset's Extra Care Housing Strategic Statement:

- a) 113,000 older residents (1/3rd of Dorset's population), rising faster than other age groups
- b) 55,000 residents are over 75 and this will rise by 28,000 by 2038
- c) Significant rises in dementia growing by 3,940 residents by 2038 and an 8,812 rise in older people with mobility challenges
- d) 12,458 young adults with mobility challenges
- e) 4,810 adults under 65 with a learning disability
- f) 1,867 younger autistic adults with long term support needs

3.4 The 2021 council housing needs assessment projects that the growth in the older population and care needs will require more extra care homes to be built by 2038.

3.5 To meet Dorset's current population needs four new extra care housing sites need to be developed over the next 5 years with further development needed by 2038.

3.6 A more detailed summary is provided for each of the following areas of Dorset



3.7 East Dorset

- 3.7.1 Has the largest older population at 28,346 rising to 33,664 by 2036 with most council funded home care packages (26%)
- 3.7.2 83% of older households are middle to high income home-owners / 17% = low-income tenants or home-owners
- 3.7.3 Homeowner Market already responding but more affordable extra care homes needed

3.8 South Dorset (Weymouth & Portland)

- 3.8.1 Has the third highest older population at 19,731 rising to 28,093 by 2036 with the second highest council funded home care packages (21%)
- 3.8.2 46% of older households are higher income home-owners and 54% are low-income tenants or home-owners
- 3.8.3 More affordable homes needed and more options for homeowners, in particular for low to middle income households

3.9 North Dorset

- 3.9.1 Has the second highest older population at 25,475 and the third highest council funded home care packages (19%)
- 3.9.2 The older population will grow by 33% to 33,819, becoming the highest population by 2036
- 3.9.3 56% of older households are higher income homeowners and 35% are low-income tenants
- 3.9.4 Highest need for more extra care homes, with more needed for homeowners

3.10 Mid-Dorset

- 3.10.1 Has the lowest older population at 13,208 rising to 20,105 by 2036 and one of the lowest council funded home care packages (11%)
- 3.10.2 54% of older households are higher income homeowners and 36% are low-income tenants
- 3.10.3 Has the highest level of extra care homes and the lowest need for more homes

3.11 West Dorset

- 3.11.1 Has the second lowest older population at 13,226 that will rise to 16,525 by 2036 and one of the lowest council funded home care packages (11%)
- 3.11.2 57% of older households are higher income homeowners and 35% are low-income tenants
- 3.11.3 Very limited extra care housing supply with a need to develop more homes by 2038

3.12 South East Dorset

- 3.12.1 Has one of the lowest older populations at 13,717 rising to 17,952 by 2036 and of all council funded home care packages, only 12% are provided across SE Dorset
- 3.12.2 61% of older households are higher income homeowners and 31% are low-income tenants
- 3.12.3 No extra care housing on offer

4 Strategic Priorities

4.1 Based on this evidence and engagement across social care, housing, health and planning the statement proposes 5 key strategic priorities:

4.1.1 **Providing more well designed and fully accessible extra care homes** driven by the following:

- a) Located near to good public transport; major shopping hubs and health and other key amenities within the context of accessible neighbourhoods
- b) Achieving the above through encouraging extra care development in and around major towns and as part of major housing development schemes
- c) Reflecting modern extra care housing design standards in Dorset's Local Plan and Planning framework, ensuring the very best design is delivered by all housing providers
- d) Achieving strong partnerships with housing providers, health and key partners to secure the new extra care housing Dorset needs

4.1.2 **Progressing current council led extra care housing developments at Bridport and Wareham**

4.1.3 **Prioritising development of a further two council commissioned extra care sites**, in localities that will achieve the greatest benefit including:

- a) South Dorset (Weymouth)
- b) East Dorset (Ferndown or Wimborne)
- c) Encouraging extra care housing development across North Dorset across all tenures

4.1.4 **Reviewing current sheltered housing schemes** to determine whether:

- a) They meet extra care design requirements
- b) Offer opportunities for new extra care housing

4.1.5 **Commissioning and funding a 24/7 onsite support and care model** that ensures:

- a) A wide range of need supported including dementia, learning disability, autistic people, mental health and end of life
- b) That support achieves greater independence, resilience and social and community connection, to prevent loneliness and isolation
- c) Prevention of the escalation in care needs, and makes sure care home placements are avoided wherever possible
- d) Service flexibility to support residents doing things for themselves and to manage crisis well
- e) Ensures a sustainable and high skilled extra care housing workforce

Dorset's Extra Care Housing Strategic Statement 2024-2039

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Appendix 1 – ¹Support and Care Model

Appendix 2 – ²Demographic and Demand Data

Appendix 3 – ³Options Appraisal: New Extra Care Housing Development

¹ [Appendix 1](#)

² [Appendix 2](#)

³ [Appendix 3](#)

1. Introduction

1.1 Ambition

1.1.1 The council wants to transform the lives of Dorset's older residents who have health conditions and who may need care and support. Our ambition for these residents is set out in our ⁴Commissioning for a Better Life for Adults Strategy adopted by the council in 2023.

1.1.2 The strategy aims to develop and modernise Dorset's social care system, based on a **vision to plan and deliver the right support, at the right time and in the right place.**

1.1.3 Within this context this strategic statement proposes the following key outcomes, for the extra care housing developed for Dorset residents who have or may develop care and support needs:

- People remaining in control of their lives, living independently in a home of their own.
- Designing and providing attractive homes they want to live in, which can easily adapt as their lives change or their needs grow.
- Building these homes in communities and neighbourhoods, where they can easily get around and access what they need to live well.
- Offering high quality care and support in extra care housing, which is person centred and outcome driven.
- Care and support that makes the best use of each person's strengths and assets and those of the communities they live in.
- Delivering a sustainable, well-trained and highly skilled workforce, motivated to deliver the best possible outcomes for each person living in Extra Care Housing.

1.1.4 Achieving these outcomes through the best digital tools and personalised options to help people arrange their own support, as and when they need this.

1.1.5 Within this context we want all our residents to remain independent and in control of their lives, able to exercise choices over where and how they live.

1.1.6 This includes living in communities where:

- It's easy for them to get around.
- They can be and remain active.
- They don't have to travel far to get what they need.
- They can build and keep friendships and relationships.
- They are respected and valued.
- They feel well, safe and supported.
- They feel at home and are in a place they want to live.

1.1.7 A person's home plays a crucial part not only in providing a place for them to live but also in supporting their sense of identity, well being and confidence to live their lives in the way they want. However, as we get older our homes need to adapt to cater for changes in our lives but critically if and when we develop health conditions, which may make things more difficult for us to do. There may be changes in our ability to get around, care for ourselves, use services and engage with the wider community. We may require specialist equipment, physical changes to our homes, new technologies and support from other people to help us manage these changes.

1.1.8 However, our homes may not always be able to address our needs in the event that our health changes and we require support to help us manage our daily needs. Many homes were not designed or built with the space or facilities needed to accommodate disability; complex health needs and getting help from health and care professionals. Adapting a home can be a highly complex, time-

⁴ Commissioning for a Better Life for Adults in Dorset

consuming and costly process, beyond the means and coping ability of many older and disabled residents.

1.1.9 Increasingly Government, local government, the NHS, housing providers and critically individuals needing care and support, are looking to specialist housing to provide the homes older and disabled people need. Homes specifically designed and built to easily respond to the changing needs of people with long term health and care needs and which offer an attractive, aspirational, adaptive and highly accessible place to live.

1.2 Extra Care Housing

1.2.1 Extra care housing offers a home designed to adapt to changing care needs and to the needs of:

- people with disabilities;
- people who are socially excluded and
- people with long term health needs.

1.2.2 Care and support is readily available, often through a dedicated support and care team providing help 24/7. To promote well being and inclusion a range of accessible community facilities and shared spaces are designed and provided, to meet the social needs of a broad range of people with care, support and health needs.

1.2.3 There is no single model of extra care housing.

1.2.4 However, there are defining features which distinguish it from other forms of housing or accommodation for older people, such as sheltered housing or care homes and general needs housing.

1.2.5 These are:

- It is first and foremost a type of housing.
- It is a person's individual home not a care home.
- Extra care tenants have their own flats usually provided under a tenancy or lease and have their own fully accessible bedroom, bathroom, kitchen and living room.
- Whereas a core care and support service is available on-site 24/7, tenants can still choose who provides their direct personal care.
- In addition to the tenant flats, there are communal spaces (e.g. lounges, gardens, etc.) and professional areas (offices, meeting rooms, counselling and treatment rooms etc.) on-site to;
 - promote tenant wellbeing and good health;
 - support their positive social interactions with other people to reduce isolation and loneliness and
 - enable community development to support tenant participation in the communities they live in
- Many extra care schemes provide well equipped shared kitchens, communal dining facilities and onsite meal services to;
 - promote tenants having access to good quality and nutritious meals and
 - to support the positive social interactions of all tenants

1.2.6 How is Extra Care Housing different from others forms of specialist accommodation with support for older people with care needs?

- Care homes only provide a bedroom and ensuite bathroom facilities; residents have no tenancy rights and their care is provided with their accommodation by the same provider
- Sheltered and retirement housing only provides a housing warden providing general advice; who may only be available part of the day and week and probably only during office hours
- Sheltered housing does not provide support and help with personal care

1.2.7 Extra care housing is underpinned by three principles:

- Promoting independence.
- Promoting empowerment.
- Accessibility as default

1.3 Purpose of this document

1.3.1 This **Extra Care Housing Strategic Statement** has been developed through partnership across housing, adult care services and planning, to take forward the priorities and themes set out in the council's ⁵Commissioning for A Better Life as People Age strategy. The outcomes that this strategic statement and related plans will deliver against are:

- 1) Dorset is a great place to grow older, with a range of vibrant community activity, giving people better days whether they have support needs or not, and keeping them well connected to the people around them and where they live.
- 2) People have access to excellent care and support in their home, both responsive short-term reablement and longer-term care, which always puts independence at its heart and helps people to continue to live independently for as long as possible, utilising equipment and assistive technology where appropriate.

1.3.2 This statement sets out clear commissioning intentions, principles and proposals, to develop Dorset's extra care housing offer for older people and people with long term support, care and health needs. This includes proposals covering;

- a) Dorset's plans for well-designed and good quality housing for people with care and support needs, including people with complex conditions.
- b) A model of support and care that is innovative and responsive and which makes the best use of extra care design features, new technologies and a highly skilled care workforce, to maximise the independence and choice of people with a range of support, care and health needs
- c) Development plans that aim to:
 - i. Prepare clear design briefs based on current planning policy and good practice guidance in relation to accessible and inclusive housing design
 - ii. Determine the level and type of extra care housing that Dorset will need in the medium and long term.
 - iii. Review Dorset's extra care housing provision, to address the following:
 - Do schemes offer a contemporary, best practise and fully accessible standard of extra care design;
 - Do extra care services offer an effective approach to providing support and care
 - Options covering the reprovision of services, where they cannot deliver an effective extra care housing offer
 - iv. Identify appropriate locations across Dorset that would benefit from the development of new extra care provision and which will deliver the strongest outcomes for people with long term support, care and health needs
- d) Market stimulation to provide options for older homeowners and households and in particular for households who may benefit from housing with care and support but who are not eligible for council funded provision.
- e) Establishing effective partnerships with social housing providers to ensure that high quality and affordable extra care housing provision, is developed and commissioned in localities that achieve the maximum benefit for:

⁵ Commissioning for A Better Life as People Age in Dorset

- Older tenants with care, support and health needs
- People with long term conditions who need an accessible rented home, well designed to ensure their independence, choice and control

f) Opportunities for partnership with Health and other key partners to:

- i. Secure joint investment opportunities and access to all partner development sites capable of delivering new extra care housing;
- ii. Achieve person centred support and healthcare;
- iii. Utilise the accessible design features and facilities of extra care housing, to deliver seamless support and healthcare for both extra care residents and the wider community
- iv. Through this delivering more efficient and responsive services that achieve substantially better outcomes for residents with support and debilitating health needs

g) Our proposals are underpinned by the following key principles:

- i. Housing with support and care developed and provided in localities with easy access to:
 - Health, care and other similar amenities
 - Shops, public transport, banks etc
- ii. Extra care homes developed within the context of vibrant communities and alongside homes for families, young people and other household types
- iii. Utilising this approach to promote the inclusion, community connection and wellbeing of residents, with long term care and support needs and offering opportunities for wider neighbour and community support
- iv. The local availability of a well-trained and skilled social care workforce or the capacity to develop this workforce
- v. All housing with care developments minimising the need for travel by car and public transport, within the context of planning accessible neighbourhoods for residents with disabilities
- vi. Innovation in building design that offers:
 - The maximum flexibility in meeting the full range of disability and health needs
 - Promotes the wellbeing of residents with long term care needs, through the provision of attractive and fully accessible personal and shared spaces
 - Supports the effective and efficient delivery of care and which supports resident choice and independence through new care technologies
- vii. Sustainable development and housing management in line with Dorset's ⁶Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy, which reduces each scheme's carbon footprint; promotes energy efficiencies and critically which significantly reduces the energy costs of older and disabled residents

1.3.3 A further aim of the strategic statement is to influence the council's housing investment plans and regeneration programmes to secure:

- The capital investment needed to develop the range and level of older person supported and extra care housing Dorset needs
- Housing and neighbourhood design that enables older people to live with dignity and independence in the communities they want to live in.
- Well-designed communities and neighbourhoods that enable older people with more complex needs and disabilities, including dementia, to easily access the transport, health services, shops, entertainment and amenities they both need and want to use.

2. Policy Framework

2.1 National and Regional

⁶ [DORSET COUNCIL'S CLIMATE & ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCY STRATEGY JULY 2021](#)

- 2.1.1 There are a number of key Government policies and programmes that will influence the commitments and priorities set out in this strategic statement. They will also influence the work programmes that the council will progress with its partners, to deliver its commitments covering the housing, support and care services for Dorset's older residents and residents with long term care needs.
- 2.1.2 To deliver the very best extra care housing and related support and care services, we will incorporate the recommendations and lessons learnt from national and regional research and good practise in our work programmes and delivery plans.
- 2.1.3 The Government's social care reform white paper ⁷'People at the Heart of Care' (2021) emphasises that *'every decision about care is also a decision about housing'*. The Government recognises the importance and benefits of housing, social care, health and planning working together through a coherent strategic system, to deliver homes for people with changing support and care needs including older people.
- 2.1.4 The intention behind this approach is to offer people choice as to where they live and critically more effective integration between well designed housing, the support and care services people need and new technologies. Ultimately the aim is to avoid;
- unnecessary hospital admissions;
 - people having to move into a care home prematurely without choice and
 - them not being able to recover in a home of their own
- 2.1.5 The Government's ⁸Levelling Up White Paper published in February 2020 recognised that many older people are trapped in unsuitable accommodation, with the Government committing to increasing the housing choices and options available to older people. To take this programme forward the Government plans to establish a Housing for Older People Task Force. The task force will work across Government including the Department of Health and Social Care and Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and with leaders across housing and services for older people.
- 2.1.6 The Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) is a leading agency recognised by the Government, Local Government and leaders across social care and health, which aims to improve the outcomes and standards achieved by social care. Within this context SCIE produced the report ⁹'A place we can call home: A vision and a roadmap for providing more options for housing with care and support for older people'
- 2.1.7 The report adopted the following vision for social care:
- 'We all want to live in a place we call home with the people and things we love, in communities where we look out for one another, doing the things that matter most.'
- 2.1.8 The report concludes the following:
- The current national policy, funding, regulatory and planning frameworks for housing with care and support are complex and fragmented.
 - The supply of many forms of housing with care and support is not keeping up with demand, with the gap in supply of extra care housing particularly acute.
 - There are significant regional disparities in supply and in many areas there is lack of choice in housing options
 - There is a lack of supply for people of all economic backgrounds, including those who are eligible for social care and who are seeking 'middle market' options for purchase or rent.

⁷ [People at the Heart of Care: adult social care reform](#)

⁸ [Levelling Up the United Kingdom White Paper](#)

⁹ [SCIE Report: A place we can call home](#)

- The demographic and funding pressures on the system mean that this supply gap will worsen.
- Whilst the availability of new technologies continues to rise, there is a reluctance in parts of the sector to use them in social care, sometimes due to a lack of understanding about how these technologies work.
- The range of regulation, both in terms of CQC and planning for new-builds, both hinders new developments and/or repurposing of buildings and also presents a major hurdle for consumer rights and informed decision-making
- There is a low level of public understanding of housing with care and support and people struggle to navigate the system.
- Advances in technology, new ways of working and collaboration between sectors occurring as a result of COVID-19 need to be 'locked in'.
- Remaining independent is the most important consideration for people (51%) when thinking about needing care or support in old age.

2.1.9 In 2008 the report 'Housing our Ageing Population Panel for Innovation ¹⁰(HAPPI)' was published. The report considered how best to address the challenge of providing homes to meet the needs and aspirations of older people of the future.

2.1.10 The report challenged Government, local government and housing providers to:

- Build homes that will meet needs and aspirations as we all grow older;
- Plan ahead positively, creating demand for better choice through a greater range of housing opportunities.
- Ensure that housing for older people should become an exemplar for mainstream housing and meet higher design standards for space and quality.
- Ensure local planning authorities play a key role to deliver desirable housing in great places, tuned to local need and demand.

2.1.11 The All Party Parliamentary Group on Housing and Care for Older People has carried out several reviews of the HAPPI report covering:

- **HAPPI 2 (2012):** What's needed to scale up and deliver the level of new housing aimed at older people and people with long term care needs.
- **HAPPI 3 (2015):** To ascertain best and innovative practise across planning policy; housing design and build and housing management and advice services, with the aim of ensuring that older people are supported with choosing the right home for them
- **HAPPI 4 (2018):** Planning principles and housing models aimed at improving the housing and support options for older people living in rural locations.
- **HAPPI 5 (2019):** Improving the planning, supply and development of affordable housing designed for older tenants.

2.1.12 The Housing LIN is a respected design network and advice hub covering housing for older people, which has supported the continued development of the HAPPI framework and principles. Much of it's work has been reflected in Government policy papers and guidance and in reviews of the statutory planning framework. In response to the outcome of the HAPPI reports the Housing LIN have developed a comprehensive guide on the design, planning and development of extra care housing, ¹¹'Factsheet 6 Design Principles for Extra Care Housing'. This design guide and the outcome of the HAPPI reports are summarised by the following principles:

- Space and flexibility
- Daylight in the home and in shared spaces
- Balconies and outdoor space
- Adaptability and 'care ready' design

¹⁰ [Housing LIN - HAPPI Reports](#)

¹¹ [Design-Principles-For-Extra-Care-Housing-3rdEdition.pdf \(housinglin.org.uk\)](#)

- Positive use of circulation space
- Shared facilities and 'hubs'
- Plants, trees, and the natural environment
- Energy efficiency and sustainable design
- Storage for belongings and bicycles
- External shared surfaces and 'home zones'

2.1.13 The council's Planning, Housing and Adult Care services are working together to incorporate the principles arising from the above guidance, good practise and research into Dorset's planning and housing development frameworks. Ultimately the aim is to reflect these principles in Dorset's emerging Local Plan and Housing Strategy and the council's adult social care commissioning plans.

2.1.14 These cover our local priorities and guidance covering future housing and other development. We will also work closely with housing providers and developers across all sectors on using this guidance, to design and build the very best housing aimed at meeting the needs of disabled people and people with long term health conditions and in particular those who need care and support.

2.1.15 The robust population, need and demand evidence used to develop this statement and the key proposals that will drive our extra care housing plans, are in line with the 9 actions identified by the South West Directors of Adult Social Services. These are set out in their ¹²'Housing with Care: Good Practice Guide' and include:

- 1) Assessment of need for housing and supported accommodation for older people
- 2) Assessment of need for housing and supported accommodation for working age adults with care/support needs
- 3) Developing plans/strategies covering housing and supported accommodation for older people and working age adults with care/support needs
- 4) Encouraging and stimulating the market of housing and supported accommodation providers
- 5) Making best use of planning and housing policy
- 6) Resourcing and funding housing and supported accommodation
- 7) Housing and supported accommodation delivery
- 8) Managing the quality and value for money provided by supported housing
- 9) Provision of information and advice

2.2 Local Strategic Framework

2.2.1. The underlying message of the council's commissioning strategy, is the council's drive to support and enable the development of community resilience and social capital; ensuring residents understand the offer from the Council and other system partners but also to support their own contribution to the communities they live in.

2.2.2. Key themes throughout are prevention, capacity building, evidence based interventions and effective integration between system partners and services to deliver seamless and outcome driven support.

2.2.3. The council's **Commissioning for Better Life Framework** sets out an approach to working with the community in an integrated, joined up way; empowering people, families and the community to help themselves and each other. Through capacity building and social capital the strategic framework aims to empower residents, to develop resilience and support individuals and families to better cope, manage and reduce problems that may arise in their lives.

2.2.4. At the heart of the strategic framework are the following key themes for Social Care:

- Prevention of the need for more care.
- Supporting resilience and independence.
- People being supported to remain in a home of their own for as long as possible.
- Avoidance of unnecessary admission to institutional care.

¹² [SW ADASS - Housing and Care: Good practice guide](#)

- 2.2.5. Key Strategic Priorities focus on older people being supported to be healthy and remain physically active; being active members of their community; tackling loneliness and isolation and promoting the use and uptake of new technologies that enable greater independence and control.
- 2.2.6. A critical component of these plans are to prevent older people from being unnecessarily admitted to care homes and that care homes should only be used to address the most complex health and care needs. Whereas care homes are a necessary provision for some people who can no longer live safely in a home of their own even with adaptation and support, it can be the most restrictive and costly form of care. As stated elsewhere the aim of our plans are to support people with care needs to remain independent in a home of their own for as long as possible.
- 2.2.7. To deliver this the council is committed to developing and commissioning a range of resources and approaches that include:
- b) Improved information/advice to self-funders.
 - c) Improved care at home and day opportunities.
 - d) Improved and additional extra care housing facilities.
 - e) Increased capacity and therapy-led reablement.
 - f) Equipment and technology-enabled care.
- 2.2.8. Whereas this document is aimed at achieving the new and improved extra care housing, it will also address all the other themes through the development of well-designed housing aimed at meeting a wide range of long-term health and care needs. The commissioning of highly skilled and readily available support and care services, which are able to take advantage of extra care design features and integrated care technologies are also a key part of our plan.
- 2.2.9. The council is preparing a new Local Plan and Housing Strategy. The key planning themes and conclusions set out in this strategic statement, will form part of the evidence used to develop Dorset's Local Plan. The priorities set out in this statement will also be reflected in the council's Housing Strategy.

3. A Profile of Dorset's Older People

- 3.1 The population profile for Dorset points to an older and aging population, with a significant projected growth in the over 65s by 2036. At 113,703 older people Dorset has one of the largest older person populations in the country, representing nearly a third or 30% of Dorset's population. This compares to England where only 19% of the population are over 65. The population is projected to rise by 36,454 older people by 2036, which is a 32% increase but there will be a more significant 43% rise in the over 75s.
- 3.2 Dorset's older people offer considerable resource in terms of their experience, knowledge and contribution to the life of Dorset. A good outcome for this strategic statement will be enabling older people to continue this contribution, within the context of remaining active and healthy. However, life limiting health conditions are a reality for many of Dorset's older people and these can have a significant and debilitating impact on their lives. Homes that can easily adapt at each key stage of a person's life and support that develops their strengths as they develop care and support needs will overcome these impacts.
- 3.3 However, these are some of the ¹³care and health challenges that need to be addressed through progressing innovative housing and support solutions for Dorset's older residents:
- There are estimated to be about 22,258 older residents living in Dorset who have a life limiting condition, which significantly impacts their ability to manage the activities of daily living

¹³ Health Data extrapolated from: [Projecting Older People Population Information System \(poppi.org.uk\)](http://Projecting Older People Population Information System (poppi.org.uk))

- It's projected that by 2038 8,946 more older people will develop long term conditions, which will significantly limit their ability to manage their own needs.
- This represents a 43% increase compared to a more limited increase for England of 38%
- 8,708 older people are estimated to have a dementia related condition, which is projected to rise by 3,989 or 49% by 2038 compared to a 44% rise for England.
- 22,194 older residents experience significant challenges with their mobility, which will rise by 9,275 or 45% by 2038.
- Again this is higher than the rise for England, which is projected to rise by 41%

3.4 The care, support and health needs and future requirements of Dorset's older residents are complex and will pose a significant challenge to local health and social care systems, unless the right housing and support solutions are developed.

3.5 The complexity in planning their housing, support and care needs are affected by the mixed types of housing Dorset's older people live in, alongside significant variations in their socio economic profiles; life limiting conditions and their expectations with regard to the type and location of where they may want to live as they get older. These factors significantly affect the locality, range and scope of the specialist housing development Dorset's older residents may want and need. They also affect the support, advice and care they may need to help them achieve their expectations, as well as helping them achieve sustainable and healthy independence.

3.6 These issues and the council's plan to address them are set out in Appendix 3. This covers the council's approach to developing new extra care housing capacity across Dorset and which takes account of the differing housing, care, support and health needs, of residents living in each of Dorset's localities.

3.7 The multitude of factors include:

Housing Tenure and Socio-Economic:

- 83.5% of the older person households in Dorset are homeowners, which is above the English level of older homeownership of 1480%.
- This is within a context that about 38% of Dorset's older person households have incomes that are less than £15,000 per year and which are below the national average.
- Most of these households are tenants.
- 47% of older person households are homeowners with low to middling incomes of between £15,000 and £30,000 per annum.

Locality Variations

- 83% of East Dorset's older person households are middle to high income homeowners and only 17% are low income tenants or home owners.
- This is in the context that East Dorset has the largest older person population (27,905) and the most council commissioned home care packages (26%).
- This contrasts with South Dorset where only 46% are higher income homeowners and 54% are low-income tenants or homeowners.
- However, South Dorset has the third highest older person population (18,795) and the second highest council commissioned home care packages (21%).
- Low-income households and tenants live mainly in the market and larger towns.
- There are significant numbers of older homeowners living in rural locations but they remain focused in and around Dorset's key towns.

Health and Care Outcomes

- There are significant differences in the health outcomes between high, moderate and low income older people.
- 17% of Dorset's high income homeowners experience challenges with the activities of daily living and 20% of homeowners with low to moderate level incomes

¹⁴ [DLUHC English Housing Survey: Older people's housing, 2020-21](#)

- However, this increases to 27% for low-income tenants.
- About 60% of the council's community packages are commissioned for older homeowners, most of whom have low to moderate level incomes.
- 40% of commissioned homecare packages are for low-income tenants.
- 55% of older persons OT assessments are for homeowners and 45% are tenants.

3.8 These are illustrative facts that point to the following key extra care housing requirements:

- Some older homeowners who may need to fund their own care will benefit from the housing market providing a targeted housing offer, which meets a design standard able to respond their changing care and health needs.
- Others will need the council and affordable housing providers to develop and commission high quality extra care housing for rent, designed for people with long term and complex care needs eligible for council funded care.
- Many of Dorset's older residents who own their own home, who have emerging care, support and health needs but whose equity and income may not sustain their needs long term, will benefit from extra care developments that offer affordable shared ownership alongside other types of extra care and potentially general needs housing.
- Given the range of extra care housing options that will be needed, both the council and housing providers will need robust advice services, to ensure that all of Dorset's older people have the right information on their housing with care options and how these might be financed.
- Some localities will benefit from a mixed approach to housing development offering well designed and accessible extra care housing, to meet the needs and aspirations of both higher income older homeowners and tenants.
- Other localities will need equally well designed but focused affordable extra care housing for tenants and low income households.
- Given the need that older people will have to easily access health, shops, transport and other key amenities as they develop mobility and other health needs, developing and providing extra care housing in and around larger market towns and conurbations or as part of strategic development sites will be a principle consideration.
- This also reflects that Dorset has one of the lowest populations of working age adults in the county, which adversely affects the availability of a social care workforce able to work in extra care housing

3.9 A key issue in terms of planning sustainable housing for older residents and the support services they need to maintain independence, is the fact that nearly 30% of people aged over 65 live alone in Dorset. This will present adult care services with a particular challenge as this group of older people age, particularly in terms of those who may have limited local family and social networks making it more likely that they will need social care if and when they develop a life limiting condition.

3.10 Appendix 2 provides more detailed demographic, housing and health data and is intended to help with the development of more specific investment proposals and business cases that emerge from this plan.

4. Key Development Themes

4.1 Supply Analysis

4.1.1 In 2021 Dorset Council commissioned a comprehensive housing needs assessment, covering housing development requirements and priorities up to 2038.

4.1.2 These are the key considerations arising from the housing needs assessment and demand modelling, which may affect the future development of extra care housing:

- There is a current deficit of 487 extra care housing units for rent and 416 extra care housing units for sale
- However, in addition to addressing this deficit Dorset will need to develop a further 397 extra care housing units for social rent and 505 extra care housing units for sale by 2038.
- This equates to 1,805 additional extra care housing flats or 33 new (55 unit) schemes by 2038.
- There are significant variations in extra care housing supply and shortfalls across Dorset, for both rent and sale.
- Benchmarking with other local authorities that share Dorset's population profile and characteristics, indicate that at least Four (4) new extra care schemes (220 units) are needed to bring Dorset up to the benchmark average.
- Developing new extra care housing will be challenging for Dorset, within the context of:
 - The housing needs assessment highlights that 1,717 new affordable homes are needed per annum.
 - However, approximately only 40% of the new affordable homes needed in Dorset are being delivered per year, equating to about 650 new homes.
 - This significantly impacts the population of working age adults working in lower paid sectors such as care, adversely affecting the availability of care staff.
 - The ready availability of a skilled and trained social care workforce able to access affordable housing, is a key consideration that will affect future extra care housing development.

4.1.3 However, it's important to note that there are currently too many older sheltered housing homes and schemes, which are unlikely to meet modern space and accessibility standards and which may not offer an effective housing solution for people with long term care and health needs. Whereas the council's housing needs assessment indicates a long term need to provide more well-designed and accessible homes for older people, there are estimated to be 1,048 older sheltered housing flats for rent that don't meet the current needs of Dorset's older population.

4.1.4 Therefore, the council will work in partnership with social housing providers to progress assessments of current sheltered housing sites to:

- Determine whether and to what extent they meet a modern standard of accessible and good quality housing, aimed at older people and people with long term support and health needs.
- The potential for current sheltered housing schemes to be cost-effectively remodelled, to meet the extra care housing design principles and requirements set out in the HAPPI framework.
- Where schemes are assessed to be incapable of remodelling to meet these standards, the potential to redevelop these sites to provide the additional extra care housing capacity needed as set out in this strategic statement.
- This includes assessing each site's potential to meet the key planning, development and design considerations set out under section 1.3 of this statement.

4.1.5 Tables and analysis detailing the housing demand projections and benchmarking data can be found under Appendix 2 of this strategic statement, which also includes more detailed locality analysis.

4.2 Analysis of Key Groups

4.2.1 Low Income and Social Housing Tenants

Characteristics and Issues

- More likely to be dependent on state funded social care and welfare benefits including pension credit and less likely to have occupational pensions.
- Will have a lower healthy life expectancy and so may enter the care system at an earlier age and need care for longer.

- Highest risk of having multiple health conditions that may result in the need for complex care support.
- Will require access to social housing for rent with limited options in terms of shared ownership or leasehold.
- More likely to be living in older social housing rented properties, including sheltered accommodation, which may offer limited potential in terms of adaptability and providing accessible housing.
- More likely to be dependent on local shops, amenities and public transport and so living close to main shopping and transport hubs will be key to maintaining their independence.

Key Themes

- The key driver is developing accessible, attractive and inclusively designed affordable housing that can easily respond to older residents as they develop life limiting conditions.
- This should include extra care housing for rent, which enables this group of older people to remain living in the communities they know well.
- A further key consideration is that their housing should be in surroundings that help them easily access good local amenities and public transport to maintain their choice and independence, and which is planned to take full account of increasing disability.
- This combined with the increased likelihood of their need for social care will require innovative approaches to delivering cost effective but person-centred support and care with accessible housing, particularly within the context of an already pressured adult social care budget.
- Given the higher development costs associated with developing housing built to higher space standards for people with complex needs, including housing with care and support (extra care), effective partnership with housing providers across the private and social housing sector will be needed.
- This is needed alongside the development of mixed sites encompassing housing for other groups and owner occupiers in order to generate cross subsidies and to access a broader range of financing options.
- Options to include the development of well-designed accessible housing for older people who may need extra care as well as other groups with life limiting conditions, as part of major housing regeneration programmes needs to be considered.
- Existing social housing sites designated for older people (sheltered) but which don't or are unlikely to meet modern accessible housing design (HAPPI standards) should be examined in terms of their potential to deliver new extra care housing or mixed development and housing provision to meet other key housing priorities.

4.2.2 Older Homeowners (Middle Income)

Characteristics and Issues

- This is Dorset's most significant group of older person households.
- Older people in this group may be less dependent on state funded support and care.
- However, they may become more reliant on council funded care as needs increase; as they get older and if they develop more complex life limiting conditions.
- Households in this group are overwhelmingly homeowners with a significant capital value and for whom social housing for rent will not be an option or preference.
- Their existing homes may become unsuitable for their needs or may not provide the adaptability or accessibility in the event that they do develop life limiting conditions and or require care.
- This group is likely to feature significantly in the projected increase in older person households over the next five years.

Key Themes

- A key driver for this group will be maintaining their housing assets and the funding of their long-term care, as and when they may need this
- They will need good quality and robust support, advice and financial assistance through financial products aimed at older homeowners.

- This includes advice on financing long term care and support alongside purchasing a new extra care home.

4.3 Support and Care Model

4.3.1 The council has reviewed how it commissions support and care, across several current extra care housing services. The aim of the review is to help the council design with it's system partners, a new commissioning framework covering the delivery of support and care services across both existing and new extra care housing provision.

4.3.2 In carrying out this review the council has benchmarked it's approach with several local authorities who either share similar characteristics to Dorset's population or who are delivering best practise in the provision of extra care housing support. The council has also taken account of guidance developed by key agencies such as the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) and the Social Care Institute of Excellence (SCIE).

4.3.3 The following principles have emerged from the review and will inform the development of the support and care model, the council will commission across all the extra care housing provision it develops and provides:

- A core service offering 24/7 onsite support and care services.
- Flexibility in how this is developed and offered depending on:
 - The regular review of the need of tenants
 - Delivering an effective crisis response, for people living in a home of their own (including extra care housing)
 - A crisis response that prevents a long-term escalation in the need for care and avoids unplanned hospital and care home admissions.
- An extra care housing offer able to effectively respond to a range of scenarios including:
 - Step down from short stay care home beds, as part of hospital discharge and reablement pathways
 - Step up for residents who are still independent but who's care and support needs are rapidly changing and increasing
 - A pathway for residents who suddenly become disabled through accident and other similar episodes, who need adaptive housing with support to help them regain their independence.
- The model responding effectively and flexibly to multiple needs that include people with a learning disability, autistic people, people with dementia and residents with mental health needs, as well as people with more complex mobility and bariatric support needs.
- Nomination frameworks that focus on reablement opportunities and the avoidance of care home admissions
- Multi-disciplinary reviews linked to complex care profiling, to understand the level of need extra care housing can address and to provide guidance to social care and health professionals, on the types and level of need that can be managed by extra care
- Based on the above devising with social care professionals and providers, a risk framework categorising levels of need and risk and what an extra care housing service can reasonably and safely offer
- The effective and targeted use of new care technologies that support the more efficient delivery of care and which promote the independence, resilience, privacy and choice of residents with complex needs.
- Developing the understanding of social care and health staff; residents with care and support needs and their carers, of what well designed extra care housing can offer and the benefits it can deliver for people with long term conditions.

4.3.4 The council's initial modelling of the impact of applying these principles to how it commissions extra care housing, indicates it will help the council in mitigating pressures on health and social care resources and related council spending.

4.3.5 Based on the outcome of the review the council is progressing the development of a new support and care model for extra care housing. In developing this model the council will consider and prioritise the following Key factors:

- a) Dorset's low working age population adversely affecting the availability of a skilled social care workforce.
- b) Progressing effective workforce plans with social care providers and other strategic partners to address this, including using Extra Care Housing as Hubs to deliver broader care services across localities.
- c) Developing a core competency and 'values' led Extra Care staffing and development framework that emphasizes:
 - Doing with and not to
 - Maintaining and building the skills and resilience of extra care residents, to support themselves and exercise more control over their lives.
 - Outcome focused and not task focused delivering flexible and responsive support, able to work with other agencies to measurably improve residents wellbeing, independence and control
 - A learning culture able to learn from residents, other professionals and good practise to improve how support is delivered.
 - ECH providers having access to professional support and advice to improve service delivery and staff practice, which may cover OT, dementia, PBS etc.
- d) Nurturing and progressing effective leadership across extra care providers, council adult social care and health to offer an integrated service approach that ensures.
 - person centred, seamless, outcome focused and therapy led support is delivered;
 - all agencies work effectively together to prevent crisis, escalation and the need for more long-term care and health support and
 - opportunities for joint learning, staff and service improvement are maximised through utilising the staff skills, resources and specialist knowledge of all partner agencies.
- d) The potential of Extra Care Housing providing community hubs reducing provider costs, including travel costs and increasing the likelihood of attracting and retaining a permanent and sustainable workforce.
- e) Developing Extra Care Housing as part of developments that fund and promote key worker housing to ensure a localised Extra Care workforce.

4.3.6 Appendix 1 sets out in more detail the council's proposed commissioning approach and support and care model, covering the existing and future extra care housing schemes it plans to develop and provide.

4.4 Overall Conclusions

Housing Planning and Development

- A. Forecasting models suggest that an additional 1,805 extra care housing units designed for people with long term care, support and health needs, will need to be developed over the next 15 years.
- B. A key consideration will be developing extra care housing that can meet higher space and accessibility standards, aimed at people using wheelchairs and to meet the needs of the growing population of people with more complex care and health needs.
- C. Our needs and socio-demographic analysis suggests that the equivalent of two new extra care housing developments are needed within the next 5 years in or near Town A and Town B.
- D. Appendix 3 details the options and benefit analysis highlighting the two localities, where new extra care housing development will deliver the most benefit.
- E. This is in addition to the existing gateway developments that are being progressed at Bridport and Wareham (West Purbeck), which including new extra care housing provision
- F. However, any new schemes are unlikely to be completed before 2028 taking account of planning and building timelines.

- G. Based on the same demographic and need data the intention is to work with both private sector housing providers and housing associations to develop attractive and inclusively designed housing with support and financial options for older homeowners and tenants
- H. This will be coupled with commissioning advice services able to advise on financial options and products, to assist older homeowners to purchase housing capable of meeting their needs as they develop the conditions of older age.
- I. There will be a clear focus on town based and mixed development sites, where more vulnerable older residents can be housed and supported in a broader community context alongside more active elders, families and younger households and where there is access to a social care workforce.
- J. This also allows cross subsidies from private sales and fees to fund the development and provision of extra care housing for rent.
- K. Housing for older people and people with long term care and health needs, to be developed within neighbourhoods designed to allow easy access to key amenities, shopping centres and good public transport where local environments and 'street scene' take full account of the needs of people with mobility, sensory, cognitive and neurodiverse impairments.
- L. To deliver the housing development programme envisaged by this plan within the context of accessible communities and neighbourhoods, robust and effective strategic partnership and leadership will be needed across the council's Strategic Commissioning, Adult Social Care, Housing, Asset Management and Statutory Planning services and external housing development partners and vehicles.

Support and Care Model

- M. Appendix 1 sets out the key aims, principles and features of the council's proposed support and care model, which it plans to commission across all the extra care housing services it currently uses and plans to develop.
- N. The model aims to deliver a responsive and flexible 24/7 onsite support and care service, able to effectively respond to a range of care, support and health needs and which is focused on promoting independence and resilience; the prevention in the escalation of care needs and the avoidance of admissions to institutional care.
- O. The core service will underpin and sit alongside the individual personal care, commissioned by the council for each extra care resident.
- P. Based on this model the four new extra care sites the council plans to develop, will require an annual revenue investment of between £430,000 and £530,000 per scheme to pay for the onsite core support services but this will provide good value given the net savings that could be achieved and the reduced on-going pressure on social care resources.
- Q. If an effective and focused strategy is adopted to use both existing and proposed extra care developments to avoid the use of more complex and costly institutional placements, including using extra care housing for people with dementia, a learning disability and mental health needs, then it is not unreasonable to plan for an annual saving of between £200,000 and £255,000 per scheme.
- R. This is based on the council's review of best practise across several local authorities, with similar demographic, socio-economic and health profiles to Dorset.
- S. The review highlights that it's reasonable to assume that between 40% and 60% of extra care tenancies, can be used to address the needs of residents with higher and more complex levels of care, support and health needs and who are the most at risk of losing their independence that may result in a care home admission.

5. Development and Commissioning Priorities

- 5.1 The implications and conclusions that arise from this strategic document, point to the following key strands and priorities:
 - a) Housing development focused on delivering more well designed, attractive and fully accessible housing:
 - Aimed at people with changing and increasing care, support and health needs.

- Located in accessible neighbourhoods with good access to public transport, major shopping hubs, health and other community amenities.
- b) A well-designed housing with care offer able to flexibly respond to:
- Dorset's older residents particularly as they age or develop long term care needs.
 - Dorset's residents of all ages with disabilities and multiple needs, where good quality and accessible housing with support will help them:
 - ❖ Thrive
 - ❖ Be happy
 - ❖ Be healthy
 - ❖ Be in control
 - ❖ Be resilient
 - ❖ Be independent
- c) A focus on developing new extra care housing as part of strategic housing developments or in and around larger towns.
- d) The incorporation of extra care design principles in the Planning Framework and Local Plan, to ensure that the very best design features are reflected in both extra care housing developed by affordable housing providers and private sector developers.
- e) The Local Plan reflecting the long term need to develop further extra care housing alongside the medium-term plan to develop four new extra care housing sites over the next five (5) years.
- f) This includes the council's commitment:
- To continue developing the gateway extra care housing schemes on council owned sites at Bridport and West Purbeck
 - To commission and develop a further two new extra care schemes at Town A and Town B, in line with the outcome of the options appraisal set out in Appendix 3.
- g) Developing strong strategic partnerships with housing providers, health and other key partners to secure investment and appropriate landsites, to develop the extra care housing capacity Dorset needs in line with the key principles set out in section 1.3 of this statement.
- h) To include evaluations and reviews of existing social housing sites aimed at older people to understand;
- to what extent they meet these principles and
 - whether these sites can be remodelled or redeveloped to provide an effective extra care housing offer
- i) Developing a robust and outcome driven extra care commissioning model that;
- Delivers a highly skilled, sustainable and values driven support and care workforce.
 - Effectively uses key extra care design features and new technologies.
 - Utilises these to deliver cost efficient support that helps residents with support needs to achieve increasing independence and resilience.
 - Supports strong leadership that achieves effective integration across extra care housing providers, the council, health and other partners to deliver outcome and solution driven support and care.

Extra Care Housing

Support and Care Model: Key Principles, Themes and Features

1 Document Purpose & Aims

- 1.1 This document supports the commissioning aims, priorities and principles set out in Dorset's Extra Care Housing Strategic Statement.
- 1.2 The overarching outcomes of the statement are:
 - Supporting people to remain independent.
 - Doing this based on making best use of their strengths and assets and those of their communities to support themselves
 - Ensuring that high quality and safe services are available when their needs become greater
 - Sustaining and developing a well-trained and highly skilled workforce, motivated to deliver the best possible outcomes for each person with care needs
 - Working with people who need care and their carers, on coproducing our plans for the services they use
 - Making best use of our data and insights to design and commission the most effective and efficient care services, which achieve and sustain improving outcomes for people with long term support needs
- 1.3 The document considers the model of support and care that will deliver the most effective outcomes, for Dorset residents living in extra care housing commissioned by the council and which maximises the design, accessibility and other benefits offered by contemporary and good quality extra care housing.
- 1.4 In developing the proposals set out in this paper the following tools have been used:
 - Benchmarking with Local Authorities with similar demographic, economic, social care and health profiles
 - A review of good practice guidance issued by national and regional bodies such as the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) and the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS)
 - Cost benefit analysis considering a range of service delivery options, benchmarked against the costs of other forms of social care but in particular care home costs
 - Engagement with key system leaders across adult social care, commissioning and providers of housing with care
- 1.5 The success of the Council's commissioning model covering how support and care services are delivered in extra care housing, will be measured by the following key performance themes:
 - Prevention of the need for more care
 - Supporting resilience and independence
 - People being supported to remain in a home of their own for as long as possible
 - Avoidance of unnecessary admission to institutional care

1.6 The following key considerations will drive the commissioning and procurement of the support and care services, delivered through extra care housing:

- Developing a sustainable extra care workforce with strong core competencies, able to confidently support enablement, independence and resilience
- Within this context utilising new care technologies alongside the design features of extra care housing, to ensure the most effective and efficient delivery of support and care and support that maximises the choice, dignity and control of people with care, support and health needs

2 Definitions and Service Focus

2.1 At it's best extra care housing should offer a vibrant, attractive and inclusive living space where people with a range of support needs are able to:

- Stay active in a stimulating community of peers where everyone can take part and where no one is isolated or left behind
- Regain or acquire skills that give them control over their lives based on doing with and not doing to
- Connect and reconnect to friends, neighbours, family and the wider community and neighbourhood so they feel valued; can choose who they spend their lives with and can do the things that bring value to them
- Confidently take risks in doing new things that broaden their life horizons but where they feel safe and secure
- Be enabled by motivated and highly skilled support staff confident in achieving the above and supported to do so

2.2 The support and care delivered through the council's commissioned extra care services will:

- Deliver support to people with a range of support needs including people with complex care and health conditions
- This includes but is not limited to:
 - Dementia and other neurological conditions
 - Learning disability
 - Autistic and neurodiverse people
 - Acquired brain injury
 - Mental health
 - Conditions that significantly impact mobility
 - Bariatric needs
 - End of life
- Have the capacity and be able to design with people needing extra care support personalised and flexible support arrangements, which can manage a multiple of the needs detailed above
- Have access to professional advice that promotes effective staff training and development and a therapy led extra care offer that may include:
 - Occupational Therapy
 - Positive Behaviour Support
 - Psychologically Informed Environments
 - Music, art and other similar therapy options

- Offer flexible and outcome driven CQC registered care, which focuses on:
 - Measurable improvements in each person's control over their daily lives and ability to manage their own needs
 - Doing the basics well and to the highest quality ensuring the dignity and safety of each person needing help with personal care
 - Enablement and reablement driven by staff values, roles and an effective training framework, which build the confidence of everyone to do more

2.3 Providing support that improves the wellbeing, inclusion, self-determination and independence of all extra care housing residents through:

- Developing and offering resources that effectively connect residents to the communities and neighbourhoods they live in and which promote and establish strong social interactions both with residents and local groups, resources and networks
- Practical support and advice so that extra care residents are aware of all the resources available to them; are supported to access these where their care and health conditions make access difficult and are enabled to use these resources to secure their independence, rights and choices.

2.4 An extra care housing offer able to provide a permanent home to residents with long term care, support and health needs and which can effectively respond to a range of scenarios including:

- Step down from short stay care home beds, as part of hospital discharge and reablement pathways
- Step up for residents who are still independent but who's care and support needs are rapidly changing and increasing
- A pathway for residents who suddenly become disabled through accident and other similar episodes, who need adaptive housing with support to help them regain their independence

3 Core Service Elements

Minimum Requirements

3.1 The minimum service requirements that underpin the proposed support and care model are:

- A 24/7 onsite support and care service registered with CQC
- Each extra care scheme providing flexible and additional core support, which can cater for a broad range of health and care needs and which is designed to prevent a permanent escalation in care needs or unplanned hospital and care home admissions
- This includes residents who have complex needs and who may need two (2) or more support staff to work with them, both during the day and at night
- Support and care providers costing into their service delivery framework, flexible and additional support hours (including sessional support) to cover:
 - Connecting residents to community and neighbourhood resources able to support their better health, wellbeing and social inclusion and which ensures that each extra care service is able to support active and vibrant communities

- Targeted professional advice to support resident enablement and skills development and to support improving support staff practice and training

Service Flexibility and Responsiveness

3.2 Flexibility is built into the model giving providers the authority to offer flexible short-term support and care hours above the packages agreed by the council, where the following scenarios and criteria apply:

a) Innovation in Support Delivery

- Where additional short-term support can help a resident achieve a key support plan goal and aim, which in the long term will promote their greater independence and resilience and lower their dependency on commissioned care and support
- To support the achievement of goals set out in a resident reablement plan following hospital discharge or care home step down and where flexibility is needed to address any unplanned risks or circumstances, where the additional support will help overcome these.
- The aim is to allow the provider to innovate in how support and care is delivered, within a flexible safety net that helps the provider manage short term risks.

b) Prevention and Risk Management

- A resident's needs are rapidly changing or deteriorating or their behaviours present a risk to themselves or others
- There is a heightened risk that this may result in an unplanned hospital admission or an admission to a care home.
- Where the provision of additional support for a short period, is needed to support a resident through a period of change in their lives or in response to a life crisis.
- Where the provision of additional support will enable a better planned and more rapid discharge from hospital once a resident is assessed as medically fit

3.3 The additional short-term hours will require joint agreement of the provider manager responsible for an extra care service and the relevant adult social care locality manager nominated by the Council.

Community Connection, Social Inclusion and Active Residents

3.4 Additional support hours built into the Core Support Service, amounting to thirty-five (35) hours per week, to support the community connection, social inclusion, active living and wellbeing of extra care housing residents.

3.5 These hours can either be used to employ a specific Community Connection post or posts or to fund sessional hours per week, commissioned by the provider from suitably qualified agencies, organisations or individual sessional workers. Whereas decisions regarding how these hours are used and deployed will be the providers and the provider can exercise flexibility, these hours are ring-fenced. Therefore, they cannot be used to provide care and support staff or to support any other aspect of the delivery of the services covered by this agreement.

3.6 The hours can only be used to develop, enable and support residents with:

- Building their wider community, neighbour and friendship links

- Promoting their social inclusion and preventing their isolation
 - Developing their social and leisure activities and interests
 - Helping residents to easily access community activities and leisure resources, addressing with key partners any obstacles that may prevent access.
 - Creating an environment that enables residents to develop meaningful and sustainable relationships of their choice with other people and groups, including maximising social capital and partnerships with local community and voluntary organisations.
 - Keeping active and being valued and respected members of their local communities.
- 3.7 The posts or sessional staff covered by these hours can also be used to support care and support staff with advice and guidance, on developing and progressing a programme of activities for the residents they support and which those residents have chosen and codesigned.
- 3.8 As part of the service review and performance management framework, providers will be required to submit a specific quarterly report detailing:
- How these hours have been used each quarter
 - How residents have been engaged in codesigning the Community Connection, Inclusion and Activities programme
 - The outcomes achieved by the programme

Appendix 2

1) Demographic Change (paragraph 3.1 page 7)

- Table 1a sets out the changes in Dorset's 65+ population between 2021 and 2036
- Table 1b sets out the changes in Dorset's 75+ population covering the same period
- The tables provide the population projections at Dorset wide and sub-locality level
- ¹The projections are based on ONS 2020 Mid-Year Estimates
- These are estimates based on recent trends in births, deaths and migration

Table 1a: Changes in Dorset's over 65 population

Area	2021	2026	2031	2036	Increase between 2021 & 2036	% Increase
Dorset East	28,346	29,923	32,024	33,664	5,318	19%
Dorset North	25,475	28,092	31,303	33,819	8,344	33%
Dorset South	19,731	22,418	25,535	28,093	8,362	42%
Dorset West	13,226	14,346	15,624	16,525	3,299	25%
Mid Dorset	13,208	15,426	17,983	20,105	6,897	52%
South East Dorset	13,717	15,143	16,747	17,952	4,235	31%
Dorset Council	113,703	125,348	139,216	150,157	36,454	32%

Table 1b: Changes in Dorset's over 75 population

Area	2021	2026	2031	2036	Increase between 2021 & 2036	% Increase
Dorset East	14,559	16,562	17,148	18,188	3629	25%
Dorset North	12,426	14,855	16,306	17,955	5529	44%
Dorset South	9,120	11,436	12,974	14,634	5514	60%
Dorset West	6,275	7,431	8,012	8,657	2382	38%
Mid Dorset	6,549	8,429	9,554	10,827	4279	65%
Southeast Dorset	6,593	7,884	8,543	9,381	2789	42%
Dorset Council	55,521	66,596	72,537	79,642	24121	43%

- Demographic pressures:
 - The number of Older People living in Dorset will increase by 32% or 36,454 people by 2036.
 - Currently Older People account for 30% of Dorset's population compared to 19% nationally.
 - Whereas the biggest single population of older people live in East Dorset, the most significant increases in the number of over 65s by 2038 will be in Mid Dorset and South Dorset
 - The rate of increase will be much greater for Dorset residents over 75, suggesting that Dorset's older population is not just higher than other parts of the country but is aging.

¹ [National population projections - Office for National Statistics](#)

2) Health Pressures (paragraph 3.3 page 7)

- Tables 2a, 2b and 2c detail changes in the numbers of older people projected to experience challenges with life limiting conditions, dementia and mobility.
- The estimates included in these tables are taken from the ²Projecting Older People Population Information System (POPPI)

Table 2a: Life Limiting Illness - Activities Limited A lot

Locality	2023	2025	2030	2035	2038	Increase	% Change
Dorset	22,258	23,325	26,105	29,158	31,204	8,946	43%
SW	283,877	296,780	331,291	368,279	392,950	109,072	41%
England	2,662,636	2,773,647	3,070,761	3,390,179	3,601,765	939,129	38%

Table 2b: Changes in Dorset's Dementia Population

Locality	2023	2025	2030	2035	2038	Increase	% Change
Dorset	8,708	9,128	10,430	11,781	12,697	3,989	49%
SW	97,762	102,095	116,307	131,265	141,394	43,632	48%
England	791,238	824,146	929,088	1,040,878	1,116,022	324,785	44%

Table 2c: Changes in Dorset's Population with Mobility Challenges

Locality	2023	2025	2030	2035	2038	Increase	% Change
Dorset	22,194	23,103	26,257	29,376	31,470	9,275	45%
SW	250,631	260,745	294,693	330,114	353,921	103,290	44%
England	2,043,630	2,120,599	2,372,114	2,643,889	2,825,636	782,007	41%

3) Socio-Economic Profile (paragraph 3.6 page 8)

- The council used the ³Mosaic system developed by Experian to build a range of household profiles covering Dorset's older people.
- Mosaic combines a large number of ⁴data sources including public data produced by the Government, ONS etc to provide the household profiles.
- These profiles have been developed at Dorset wide level and to cover each key locality and council electoral ward.
- The profiles include but are not limited to the following sources of information:
 - Household tenure i.e. homeowner, social housing tenant, private tenant etc
 - The annual income of older people and benefit take up
 - ONS and Government health data
 - Levels of education
 - Consumer data

² <https://www.poppi.org.uk/>

³ [Dorset Council Wards 2019 - Dorset Council](#)

⁴ It should be noted that this is anonymised data with no inclusion or reference to personal or confidential data

- Table 3 provides a summary analysis of the data taken from Mosaic and other key Government data sources, covering the income and health of older people including the ⁵Income Deprivation Affecting Older People Index (IDAOPI)

Table 3: Household Tenure, Income Levels and Health by Locality

Locality	Older Person Households High Income Homeowners	Older Person Households Medium Income Homeowners	Total Medium to High Income	Older Person Households Low Income Homeowners	Older Person Households Low Income Tenants	Total Low Income
Annual Income	£30,000 to £100,000	£20,000 to £30,000		£15,000 or less	£15,000 or less	
% Limited Life Activity	17%	20%		21%	27%	
East Dorset	39%	44%	83%	4%	13%	17%
North Dorset	34%	22%	56%	9%	35%	44%
West Dorset	37%	21%	58%	7%	35%	42%
Mid Dorset	33%	21%	54%	10%	36%	46%
South Dorset	11%	35%	46%	23%	31%	54%
Southeast Dorset	35%	26%	61%	8%	31%	39%

- East Dorset with the highest single population of older people also has the highest number of middle to high income older home owners, representing 16,754 households.
- However, even though East Dorset has the lowest proportion of low-income tenants and homeowners given the size of the locality's older person population, the number of low income households (3,378) is broadly the same size of West Dorset's (3,823), Mid-Dorset (3,656) and Southeast Dorset (3,922)
- The largest number of low-income older person households live in South Dorset (8,624) and North Dorset (6,829)
- Given that the levels of health conditions likely to limit an individual's ability to manage their own basic needs are higher amongst low-income tenants, any extra care housing development in South and North Dorset may need a higher proportion of affordable homes.
- This includes extra care housing based on social rent and shared ownership options.
- North Dorset has the second highest number of middle to high income homeowners (8,683)
- Tables 4a and 4b reflect council adult social care data (2023) covering Dorset residents over 65 who;
 - are eligible for council funded homecare and
 - residents who received an assessment from the council's Occupational Therapy (OT) Service that resulted in an home adaptation or equipment being provided
- The level of council funded care in a person's home and OT assessments may provide an indication of the potential demand for specialist housing with care, which is designed to meet the need of people with long term care conditions.
- Therefore, localities with the highest number of older households receiving council funded homecare and OT assessments, will need particular consideration in terms of developing and providing extra care housing.
- These localities include East, North and South Dorset

⁵ [IMD - Income Deprivation Affecting Older People Index \(IDAOPI\)](#)

- Over half of the council funded homecare packages and OT assessments are for older homeowners.
- It's important to note that only low-income homeowners are likely to qualify for a fully funded homecare package, under the council's financial eligibility criteria managed in line with the provisions of the Care Act 2014
- This may indicate that development of extra care housing, able to offer leaseholder and shared ownership options alongside affordable homes for older tenants is a key consideration.

Table 4a: 65+ Households Receiving Council Funded Homecare & OT Assessments by Locality

Locality	Total 65+ Homecare Clients	Homecare Clients per 1000 Head of the 65+ Population	% of overall 65+ Homecare Clients	Total 65+ OT Clients	OT Clients per 1000 Head of the 65+ Population	% of overall 65+ OT Clients
Dorset	1100	10	100%	260	2	100%
East Dorset	284	10	26%	84	3	32%
North Dorset	210	9	19%	58	2	22%
West Dorset	124	10	11%	21	2	8%
Mid Dorset	116	9	11%	31	2	12%
South Dorset	231	12	21%	28	1	11%
Southeast Dorset	135	10	12%	38	3	15%

Table 4b: 65+ Households Receiving Council Funded Homecare and OT Assessments by Tenure

Adult Social Care By Housing Tenure Type & Income	High/Moderate Income Owner Occupier	Low Income Tenant/Owner Occupier
Home Care Support	60%	40%
OT Assessments	55%	45%

4) Extra Care Housing Supply Analysis (paragraph 4.1 page 9)

Context

- Tables 5a) to 5 c) provide projections of the total level of new extra care housing, which may need to be planned and developed by 2038 both Dorset wide and for each locality.
- It's important to note that the increases in extra care housing needed set out in these tables are estimates, intended to provide indicative guidance for long term planning of housing development.
- However, any potential development of new extra care housing needs to be weighted against other housing development priorities, which include new homes for working age adults and families.
- Therefore, the council's strategy will need to consider a realistic and achievable level of extra care housing development, based on where new development will achieve the most benefit for Dorset's residents with long term conditions and the wide community.

Table Descriptions

- Table 5a provides a summary analysis of a range of housing types catering for the needs of older people.

- The analysis is taken from a comprehensive ⁶housing needs assessment commissioned and published by the council in 2021 and completed by ICENI.
- Table 5b is based on applying the housing demand projection model used by the 2021 housing needs assessment, to the ONS Mid-Year 75+ Population Estimates for each locality as set out in Table 1b.
- Some caution is needed with the locality-based projections as the projection model included in the 2021 Housing Needs Assessment, does not take account of the variations in socio-economic, housing tenures and health factors affecting each locality.
- For example South Dorset has significantly more low income older tenants than East Dorset
- Therefore, this implies that a higher level of extra care housing development offering affordable rent, is needed in South Dorset than East Dorset
- Table 5c provides an analysis of the level of extra care housing supply across several comparator local authorities, which share similar population and other characteristics with Dorset.
- This has been used to determine whether Dorset's current supply of extra care housing is in line with the average for these authorities or whether there is deficit in the number of extra care housing units and schemes.
- Housing data from the ⁷Elderly Accommodation Council's (EAC) database was used to compile Table 5c.

Table 5a: Housing Needs Assessment 2021 – Older Persons Housing

2021 Dorset/BCP Housing Needs Assessment		Housing demand per 1,000 75+	Current supply	Current demand	Current shortfall/surplus (-ve)	Additional demand to 2038	Shortfall/surplus by 2038
Housing with support	Market	55	2,603	3,046	443	1,584	2,027
	Affordable	57	4,199	3,151	-1,048	1,638	590
Total (housing with support)		112	6,802	6,196	-606	3,222	2,617
Housing with care	Market	18	556	972	416	505	921
	Affordable	14	276	763	487	397	884
Total (housing with care)		31	832	1,735	903	902	1,805
Residential care bedspaces		36	2,069	1,983	-86	1,031	945
Nursing care bedspaces		40	1,567	2,231	664	1,160	1,824
Total bedspaces		76	3,636	4,214	578	2,191	2,769

Table 5b: Housing Demand Projections – Older Person's Housing

Locality	Current Extra Care Supply	Extra Care Units Needed 2038 (Market)	Extra Care Units Needed 2038 (Rented)	Total Extra Care Units Needed 2038 (Market & Rent)	Total New Extra Care Schemes Needed by 2038 (based on 55 flats)
East Dorset	225	164	212	376	7
North Dorset	95	339	168	506	9

⁶ Dorset Council & BCP Housing Needs Assessment (ICENI 2021)

⁷ EAC Housing Care Database

West Dorset	6	156	126	282	5
Mid Dorset	235	34	97	131	2
South Dorset	0	279	217	496	9
Southeast Dorset	0	177	137	314	6

Table 5c: Extra Care Housing Supply – Local Authority Benchmarking

⁸ Local Authority	⁹ Total Extra Care Housing Units (Current & Planned)	¹⁰ 2021 Census 75+ Population	Number of Extra Care Housing Units per 1,000 Head of 75+ Population	Number of Equivalent Schemes (55 units)	Number of Schemes per 1,000 Head of 75+ Population
Dorset	663	55,521	12	12	0.2
Essex CC	2412	146,600	16	44	0.3
Hampshire	4008	147,000	27	73	0.5
Torbay	377	18,000	21	7	0.4
Devon	954	100,400	10	17	0.2
North Somerset	640	25,500	25	12	0.5
Wiltshire	1121	52,900	21	20	0.4
Cornwall	186	66,400	3	3	0.1
BCP	426	43,000	10	8	0.2
Average			16	22	0.3

Optimum number of extra care housing units Dorset needs to match Benchmark Average (Schemes per 1000 Head 75+ Population)	16
Scheme Deficit based on Benchmark Average (55 units per scheme)	-4

⁸ SW LAs in Dorset's ASC benchmarking group + other leading LAs

⁹ EAC Housing with Care Supply Database - [EACHousingCare](#)

¹⁰ [ONS 2021 Census Data - Population and household estimates, England and Wales: Census 2021 - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](#)

Appendix 3

Options Appraisal: New Extra Care Housing Development

1 Purpose

- 1.1 This document forms part of the council's Extra Care Housing Strategic Statement and sets out the evidence to support the council's medium term (next 5 years) plan, to develop and commission new extra care housing schemes and services.
- 1.2 The council is already committed to continuing its development of extra care housing as part of two 'gateway development sites at Bridport and West Purbeck (Wareham)
- 1.3 However, the housing demand projections set out in the 2021 council commissioned assessment of housing needs, highlight the need to increase Dorset's supply of extra care housing over the next 15 years.
- 1.4 Within this context the council is also committed to developing a further two extra care housing sites, in localities where the maximum benefit for Dorset's residents with long term care, support and health needs can be achieved.
- 1.5 The council wants to develop these sites to maximise the opportunities for continued independence, choice and control for all its residents who may develop support needs, including homeowners and people who fund their own care
- 1.6 However, the primary focus and priority for extra care development across all four sites will be on affordable homes for residents who's support is commissioned and funded by the council. This is a key factor in the council determining the localities where it will directly develop and commission new extra care housing.
- 1.7 This does not preclude the council working in partnership with housing developers and contributing its own land and other resources to develop larger extra care housing developments, which provide both high quality and affordable extra care homes for rent and an effective market option for homeowners.

2 Locality Factors

- 2.1 Key provisions set out in the strategic statement concern developing extra care housing in locations, which offer easy access for people with long term care needs to shopping hubs; public transport; health and key community amenities.
- 2.2 Ideally this should be part of accessible neighbourhoods that enable people with long term conditions such as dementia or who have mobility support needs, to remain independent, in control and fully connected to the communities they live in.

¹ [Building Better Lives - Dorset Council \(Bridport & West Purbeck\)](#)

- 2.3 Within the context that Dorset has one of the lowest populations of working age adults that significantly affects the availability of a social care workforce, developing extra care housing in localities that can more easily attract skilled social care staff is a key consideration.
- 2.4 The council's climate change obligations and the fact that Dorset is home to several areas of outstanding national beauty and scientific interest, highlight the need to;
- develop extra care housing in localities that reduce carbon impact through fewer car journeys and
 - the impact of people on sensitive sites.
- 2.5 Therefore, the council is committed to developing the new extra care housing it wants to commission in town locations, which fully meet the criteria set out above.

3 Key Considerations

- 3.1 Appendix 1 of this document sets out the key considerations the council has taken into account, to understand the localities where the council will directly plan and commission new extra care housing and which will achieve the most benefit for Dorset residents, who rely on the council for support and help.
- 3.2 This offers a wider context to the population, health and housing data set out in ²Appendix 2 of the council's Extra Care Housing Strategic Statement, which has been used to inform the evaluation detailed under section 4 of this document.
- 3.3 This doesn't preclude the council including in it's evaluation, the benefits that may be achieved for residents who fund their own support and care and residents who may not currently need support but who want to plan in the event their needs may change.

4 Evaluation

- 4.1 The purpose of this evaluation is to identify localities across Dorset, where the development of additional extra care housing capacity will achieve the most benefit. Whereas, the council's overall aim is to improve the housing with care options for all Dorset residents who may need highly adaptive housing and targeted care either now or in the future, the council has statutory obligations to ensure that the needs of it's most vulnerable residents are met. Within this context the council will work through it's Housing Strategy and Planning Framework to deliver the good quality extra care homes Dorset needs, for both homeowners and residents needing affordable homes.
- 4.2 However, in terms of the council directly developing and commissioning new extra care housing using it's own landsites, investment and resources, the council will prioritise and focus on residents who are Care Act eligible and who need and are eligible for affordable housing. This criteria will be a key factor in the council's evaluation of the two localities where it will plan and develop new extra care housing. This does not preclude the council using it's landsites and resources in partnership with housing developers and providers, to

² [Appendix2ECHDataTables&Analysis](#)

deliver mixed tenure sites offering extra care housing for rent; sale and shared ownership. This approach will particularly apply where a mixed development approach will;

- maximise best value;
- achieve financial viability and sustainability and
- deliver better outcomes in line with the council’s key strategies and plans

4.3 A further consideration is to what extent current extra care housing schemes, meet a modern standard of accessible and well-designed housing in line with:

- Design guidance and standards established through the HAPPI framework
- Key principles set out under section 1.3 of Dorset’s Extra Care Housing Strategic Statement

4.4 The council has evaluated all the affordable extra care housing schemes across Dorset, which offer low cost rent and shared ownership. The evaluations were led by occupational therapists, who evaluated the schemes in line with the standards and principles referred to in 4.3 of this document. Within this context the council’s evaluation concluded that some schemes don’t meet these standards and principles.

4.5 Appendix 2 of this document sets out the challenges these schemes present, which strongly indicate that they do not provide an effective extra care housing offer. This applies to scheme 1 and scheme 2.

4.6 Therefore, these schemes have not been included in the council’s evaluation of the number of additional extra care housing units needed across Dorset. This has informed the priorities for new extra care housing development directly led by the council, which are set out in this document.

4.7 Within this context and taking account of the evidence and considerations set out in section 3 of this document, the evaluation factors set out in Table 1 will be applied to the council’s evaluation with weighting to indicate the level of priority of each factor.

Table 1: Evaluation Factors

	Factor	Weighting %
1	Locations with the highest need for additional affordable extra care housing	60
2	Locations with the highest level of care and health needs	20
3	Locations with the highest need for additional extra care housing all tenures	10
4	Locations with the highest populations of over 65s	10

4.8 In addition each locality will be scored against each factor to indicate to what extent the council directly commissioning new extra care housing will achieve the most benefit, based on the scoring set out in Table 2

Table 2: Scoring

Description	Score
Exceptionally High	6
Very High	5
High	4
Moderate	3
Low	2
Very Low	1

4.9 Locality Scoring

A) Locations with the highest need for additional affordable extra care housing

Locality	No of additional units needed	Score	Weighting %	Weighted Score
East Dorset	212	5	60%	3.0
North Dorset	168	4	60%	2.4
West Dorset	126	2	60%	1.2
Mid Dorset	97	1	60%	0.6
South Dorset	217	6	60%	3.6
South East Dorset	137	3	60%	1.8

B) Locations with the highest level of care and health needs

Locality	³ Level of Care/Health demand	Score	Weighting %	Weighted Score
East Dorset	6,217	4	20%	0.80
North Dorset	7,831	6	20%	1.20
West Dorset	3,325	1	20%	0.20
Mid Dorset	3,707	3	20%	0.60
South Dorset	6,841	5	20%	1.00

³ Weighted Population (75+ Population x % Low Income Households/% Highest Life Limiting Conditions)+(75+ Population x % OP Home-Care Packages)

South East Dorset	3,369	2	20%	0.40
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C) Locations with the highest need for additional extra care housing all tenures

Locality	No of additional units needed	Score	Weighting %	Weighted Score
East Dorset	376	4	10%	0.40
North Dorset	506	6	10%	0.60
West Dorset	281	2	10%	0.20
Mid Dorset	131	1	10%	0.10
South Dorset	495	5	10%	0.50
South East Dorset	314	3	10%	0.30

D) Locations with the highest populations of over 65s

Locality	65+ Population	Score	Weighting %	Weighted Score
East Dorset	28,346	6	10	0.6
North Dorset	25,475	5	10	0.5
West Dorset	13,226	2	10	0.2
Mid Dorset	13,208	1	10	0.1
South Dorset	19,731	4	10	0.4
South East Dorset	13,717	3	10	0.3

E) Overall Weighted Scores

Locality	A	B	C	D	Total Score
East Dorset	3.0	0.8	0.4	0.6	4.8
North Dorset	2.4	1.2	0.6	0.5	4.7
West Dorset	1.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	1.8
Mid Dorset	0.6	0.6	0.1	0.1	1.4
South Dorset	3.6	1.0	0.5	0.4	5.5
South East Dorset	1.8	0.4	0.3	0.3	2.8

Outcome of Locality Benefit Analysis

4.10 The evaluation set out under Tables A – E clearly highlights that over the next five (5) years, the council should focus it's direct planning, development and commissioning of new extra care housing across the following locations:

- A) South Dorset
- B) East Dorset

4.11 Given the councils Extra Care Housing Strategic Statement highlights the benefits of developing and providing new extra care housing in major towns and conurbations, set out below are further factors that the council has considered in terms of which towns across East and South Dorset should be prioritised.

A) South Dorset

4.12 Weymouth is Dorset's largest town with a population of 53,046. This is larger than the whole population of Mid Dorset that includes Dorset's second largest town of Dorchester. The town makes up over 70% of South Dorset's population.

4.13 Within this context it benefits from a large town centre and shopping hub encompassing major supermarkets; other retail; banks; larger medical centres and health amenities and access to good public transport.

4.14 The key consideration is that 11,368 older households live in Weymouth, which is 70% of all older households living in South Dorset. This includes 5,546 low-income households making up 64% of South Dorset's low income older people.

4.15 Weymouth has a much more significant working age population than other localities across Dorset at 30,329. This significantly increases the opportunity to recruit a local support and social care workforce, able to work in any new extra care housing services commissioned by the council. A larger local workforce also reduces the risk and impact of excessive car journey's, contributing to the council's aims to reduce Dorset's carbon footprint.

4.16 These factors and key considerations strongly point to the council developing, planning and commissioning new extra care housing in Weymouth. However, there are higher numbers of both low income older tenants and low income homeowners living in Weymouth and South Dorset, when compared to other Dorset localities. This provides a strong case for the council to use it's available landsites and resources, to develop a mixed extra care housing offer providing affordable rent, shared ownership and outright sale.

B) East Dorset

4.17 East Dorset's main towns and their population sizes are as follows:

Ferndown:	21,488
Verwood:	14,105
Wimborne:	7,755

4.18 Critically Ferndown has the largest number of older person households in East Dorset with 5,054 households (25%) compared to Verwood with 2,764 households (14%) and Wimborne with 2,231 households (11%). 4,019 older households living in and around Ferndown are high or moderate level income homeowners, with 1035 low income older tenants or homeowners living in Ferndown.

4.19 As the largest conurbation in East Dorset Ferndown has a significant Town Centre with major supermarkets; other retail and health and community amenities. The town also has East Dorset's largest population of working age adults at 10,668 compared with Verwood at 7,900 and Wimborne at 4,264.

4.20 These factors indicate that Ferndown is an optimum location in East Dorset, where the council directly planning and commissioning new extra care housing will realise the most benefits.

North Dorset

4.21 Whereas the council wants to prioritise two (2) new extra care housing developments across South and East Dorset alongside the existing gateway sites at Bridport and Wareham, it's recognised that North Dorset has one of the largest and fastest growing older populations. Even though the level of additional ⁴affordable extra care homes needed is lower for North Dorset than South and East Dorset, the locality has a significant overall need for more extra care housing over the next 15 years.

4.22 Therefore, the council will work with it's housing partners and developers to identify opportunities, to maximise new extra care homes in and around North Dorset's major towns including:

- Gillingham
- Blandford
- Sherborne
- Shaftsbury

5 Conclusion

⁴ Refers to rented social housing as well as shared ownership

- 5.1 There is a need to develop more extra care homes across Dorset to reflect its significant and growing population of older people. This is within the context of a faster growth rate in the number of over 75s over the next 15 years and what is likely to be significant growth in the number of older people with complex care and health needs. These issues are considered and explored through Dorset Council's housing need assessment (2021) and its Extra Care Housing Strategic Statement.
- 5.2 However, the council recognises that with a lower working age adult population than the rest of the country and pressures on land use across Dorset, it needs to balance the requirement for additional extra care homes with other critical housing development priorities. This includes more affordable homes for economically active households in order to retain and attract working age households. This also reflects the fact that Dorset has several areas of outstanding national beauty and scientific interest, which impacts the availability of viable and sustainable landsites capable of housing development.
- 5.3 To address these issues the council has adopted a balanced approach, to achieving the sustainable growth in the new extra care homes Dorset needs. It will achieve this through prioritising locations for new council led extra care housing development, which have the greatest need and where the maximum health and well being benefits can be realised for Dorset residents, who most need the council's help to remain independent.
- 5.4 Within this context the council has used a comprehensive range of evidence covering demographic, socio-economic, housing need and health issues, to evaluate where it should focus it's resources to provide more extra care homes. This evaluation has concluded that the following locations should be prioritised:
- Weymouth in South Dorset
 - Ferndown in East Dorset
- 5.5 Whereas the council will prioritise developing affordable extra care housing across these locations, it will work with housing developers and other key partners to progress mixed development that also offer options for homeowners. Equally development that will achieve new extra care homes across the whole of Dorset that realise the maximum benefit. This particularly applies to further extra care development across North Dorset.

Appendix 1

Locality Evidence and Considerations

East Dorset	North Dorset	Mid-Dorset
<p>Demographic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The single largest population of older people at 28,346 • This is projected to increase by 5,318 by 2036, a 19% rise • There are 14,559 over 75s living in East Dorset, which will rise by 3,629 by 2036 • The larger towns of Ferndon and Verwood are located in East Dorset <p>Socio-Economic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estimates highlight that 7,919 older person households are high income 	<p>Demographic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Dorset has the second highest population of older people at 25,475 • However, this is projected to grow by 8,344 (33% rise), with North Dorset projected to have the highest older population by 2036 of 33,819 • There will be a much more significant 44% rise in over 75's when compared with East Dorset, with the population increasing from 12,426 to 17,955 by 2038 • North Dorset includes the larger town of Gillingham, which is identified as a key 	<p>Demographic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has the lowest current population of older people at 13,208 but projections suggest that Mid Dorset will see the greatest rise in older people, with a 52% increase by 2038 • This will increase the number of older people living in Mid Dorset to 20,105 • The greatest rise will be amongst the over 75s, with a 65% increase by 2038 from 6,549 to 10,827

<p>homeowners with annual incomes above £40,000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is 39% of all older person households living in East Dorset • 8,835 older person households or 44%, are homeowners with moderate annual incomes between £20,000 and £30,000 • An estimated 2,583 older households or 13% are low income tenants on less than £15,000 per annum, with 795 households or 4% who are low income homeowners <p>Health and Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homeowners with moderate to high incomes are less likely than low income tenants, to experience significant challenges with conditions that limit their ability to manage their own needs • Estimates suggest that only 17% of high income homeowners have conditions that limit their ability to manage their own needs, compared to 27% for low income tenants • This combined with the high number of higher income older homeowners living in East Dorset, suggests that fewer older people will need council commissioned and funded housing with care • However, given the higher older person population, the highest number of council commissioned homecare packages (26%) and OT assessments (32%) are delivered to East Dorset's older households • Furthermore, East Dorset has one of the highest prevalence rates for council funded homecare packages for older people, which is an indicator of the potential need for council commissioned extra care housing 	<p>strategic housing development location and the towns of Blandford, Shaftsbury and Sherborne</p> <p>Socio-Economic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are fewer high income homeowners than East Dorset, with 5,297 households with annual incomes above £40,000 or 34% of all older households • There are also far fewer older homeowners with moderate incomes between £20,000 and £30,000 per annum, with 22% or 3,386 households in this category • North Dorset has much higher numbers of low income older households with annual incomes less than £15,000, with 5,451 (35%) older social housing tenants and 1,378 low income homeowners <p>Health and Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 19% of all council funded homecare packages and 22% of council OT assessments, are delivered to older households living in North Dorset • With a higher number of low income older households than East Dorset, there maybe a case to provide a higher level of extra care housing for rent <p>Supply</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • However, whereas housing need projections highlight that North Dorset requires the highest level of extra care housing development with 506 additional units needed by 2038, there is a much greater need to develop extra care housing for sale than rent • There is a need to provide 168 additional extra care homes for rent but 338 more extra care homes for sale 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dorset's second largest town and main administrative centre of Dorchester is located in Mid-Dorset <p>Socio-Economic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estimates suggest that 2,877 low income older household that rent (36%), live in mid Dorset alongside 779 (10%) low income older homeowners • There are 2,646 (33%) higher income older households who own their own home and 1,713 moderate level income older homeowners • These are relatively low numbers of both high income older homeowners and low income households that rent, within the context that Mid-Dorset has one of the lowest proportions of households that are over 65 at 37.9% of all households • This compares with localities with higher populations of older people such as East Dorset and South Dorset, where the proportion of older households compared to all households is 49.7% and 45.5% respectively <p>Health and Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mid Dorset has one of the lowest number older households receiving a council commissioned homecare package, representing only 11% of all homecare packages • Critically when the number of packages is considered as a proportion of each localities over 65 population (packages against 1,000 head of 65+ adults), Mid-Dorset has the lowest prevalence rate • This is within the context that Mid Dorset has one of the lowest rates of council
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The prevalence rate is based on the number of homecare packages per 1,000 head of East Dorset's 65+ population <p>Supply</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> East Dorset has the second highest supply of extra care housing, with 174 market units for sale and 51 social housing units for rent Overall this represents 15 extra care units per 1,000 head of the 75+ population Notwithstanding the higher levels of older homeownership, the private market has already responded in developing one of the highest number of extra care units for sale Within this context and albeit that levels of older rented households are much lower than other parts of Dorset, there is a need to develop a higher number of affordable extra care homes for rent than for sale Overall housing need projections highlight that an additional 376 extra care housing units will be needed by 2038, with 212 for rent and 164 units for sale 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This reflects the fact that there are currently no market or private sector extra care schemes or homes for sale in North Dorset There are 95 extra care homes offering affordable rent, including a new 55 unit scheme under development in Gillingham that will be ready to let by October 2023 This also includes Trailway Court located in Blandford, which is the only council commissioned extra care housing scheme offering 24/7 onsite support and care 	<p>commissioned occupational therapy assessments for older people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whereas these are proxy indicators and may not reflect the full picture in terms of the levels of support and care needed across Mid-Dorset, they do indicate a relatively lower need for extra care housing for the most vulnerable older residents who may rely on council funded care <p>Supply</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has the highest level of extra care housing supply with 172 extra care homes for sale and 63 affordable extra care homes for shared ownership and rent Housing demand projections based on extra care housing prevalence rates set out in the council's housing needs assessment, suggests that Mid-Dorset requires only 131 additional extra care homes by 2038 This is the lowest rate of projected increase This combined with Mid-Dorset's lower older person population and number of households when compared to other Dorset localities, highlights that Mid Dorset may not be a priority in terms of council led new extra care housing development
<p>West Dorset</p>	<p>South Dorset</p>	<p>Southeast Dorset</p>
<p>Demographic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has the second lowest population of older people at 13,226, which is projected to grow at the lowest rate of 25% to only 16,525 by 2036 	<p>Demographic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are 19,731 older people living in South Dorset, which is Dorset's third highest older population and which includes Dorset's largest town Weymouth and Portland. 	<p>Demographic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 13,717 older people live in South East Dorset that includes Wareham and West Purbeck. This will grow by 31% by 2036 taking the population to 17,952.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Furthermore, the population of over 75s is the lowest with one of the lowest rates of projected increase of 28%, growing from 6,275 to 8,657 by 2036 • West Dorset encompasses the market town of Bridport. <p>Socio-Economic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has the second highest proportion of higher income older homeowners at 36% or 3,324 household, with a further 1,956 (22%) older homeowners on moderate level annual incomes of between £20,000 and £30,000 • There are 3,823 low income older households (42%) living across West Dorset, of which the overwhelming majority are social housing tenants <p>Health and Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only 11% of council commissioned homecare packages for older people are provided in West Dorset but with a relatively lower older population when compared to other Dorset localities, the prevalence rate is one of the highest • However, there are relatively few council commissioned occupational therapy assessments (8%of the total) carried out on older person households living in West Dorset, which may indicate a higher number of older people living in homes that meet their needs or who have relatively lower levels of disability and long term health conditions requiring adaptations to their homes <p>Supply</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Dorset has no significant extra care housing supply with only 6 enhanced sheltered housing units provided 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Dorset is projected to see the second highest rise in the number of older people, with a 42% increase by 2036 taking the population to 28,093 • Critically it’s projected that there will be a much more significant 60% rise in the number of over 75s living in South Dorset, with this population growing from 9,120 to 14,634 by 2036 <p>Socio-Economic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The highest number of older low income households live in South Dorset, with 4,956 low income tenants and 3,668 low income older homeowners. These represent 31% and 23% of all older person households living in South Dorset • The second highest number of older homeowners on moderate incomes also live in South Dorset, with 5,567 households or 35% of all older person households living in South Dorset. • However, South Dorset has the lowest number of high income older homeowners with only 1,776 households representing 11% of South Dorset’s older households <p>Health and Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Given that older low income tenants experience the greatest challenges with health conditions that impact their ability to manage their own needs, it’s highly likely that South Dorset will have higher numbers of older residents whose poor health affects their ability to support and care for themselves. • This is within the context of the higher number of low income older tenants living 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be a much higher 42% in the over 75 population, increasing the population from 6,593 to 9,381 by 2036 • Southeast Dorset includes the small towns of Wareham and Swanage. <p>Socio-Economic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 3,922 low income older households (39%) living in SE Dorset of which 3,125 are low income tenants. This compares to South Dorset’s low income households of 8,624. • 61% of older households are high to medium income homeowners, which is the second highest proportion. • However, this only represents 6,105 households compared to East Dorset at 16,754 older homeowners; North Dorset at 8,683 households and South Dorset at 7343 households. <p>Health and Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 135 older households living in SE Dorset receive a council funded care package (12%) and 38 households received a council funded OT assessment. This places SE Dorset at the mid-point, in terms of the delivery of council funded community care. As a comparison 264 over 65 homecare packages, are delivered across East Dorset and 231 across South Dorset. <p>Supply</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South East Dorset has no extra care housing, either for sale or rent. Within this context and the demand projections detailed in the council’s housing needs assessment, 314 new extra care homes may be needed by 2038. This includes 137 for rent and 177 for sale
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This combined with older person population estimates for West Dorset, indicate the need to develop 281 new extra care homes by 2038 • This is based on the supply prevalence rates included in the council's 2021 housing need assessment <p>Bridport Gateway Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The council is already committed to and progressing plans to use one of the landsites it owns in Bridport, to commission a xxx unit extra care scheme as part of a larger gateway development • The site conforms to a number of the extra care housing development criteria set out under section 2 of this document, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Located in a major market town - Adjacent to a major shopping hub and supermarket with good public transport links - The site may offer easy access to the main high street, which is very near to the site - The high street offers banks, other shopping outlets, health, leisure and community amenities - The egress from the site to the main high street is level via a local park and options to open up safe access for residents with mobility support needs can be made a requirement of development proposals • A detailed evaluation is needed to determine how much affordable extra care housing can be sustainably delivered on the site, including rented and shared ownership and whether some market 	<p>in South Dorset compared to other localities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The second highest number of council commissioned homecare packages for older people are provided across South Dorset, with 231 support packages representing 21% of all council funded care packages provided to older residents. • These indicators suggest that well designed extra care housing will need to be a key element of the council's delivery of support, which prevents the escalation of care needs across South Dorset <p>Supply</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supply data indicates that South Dorset has 102 affordable extra care homes for rent. • However, the OT led building assessments described under section 4 of this document, identified several key and significant challenges with some of the existing rented extra care housing offered across South Dorset. • The challenges are sufficient for the council to determine that some rented extra care housing, does not satisfy the accessible and contemporary design standards and principles referred to in section 4. • Therefore, these schemes are not included in council's evaluation of where new extra care housing planned by the council, should be prioritised and developed. • The challenges are set out in Appendix 2 of this document. 	<p>West Purbeck Gateway Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To address this need and the complete lack of extra care housing options for East Dorset's older households, the council is seeking development partners to develop a new xxx unit affordable extra care housing scheme. • The council proposes to achieve this through using one of it's own landsites and is actively procuring a partner.
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<p>extra care housing for sale can be delivered</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other than delivering some of the market capacity needed in West Dorset, developing extra care housing for market sale may provide subsidies to develop the affordable units and thereby contribute to the sites financial viability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Within this context South Dorset has the highest need, to develop more affordable extra care homes. • This needs to be considered alongside the fact that South Dorset, has the highest number of older residents living in affordable rented housing. • South Dorset offers no extra care housing schemes and homes for sale, within the context that the locality has the highest number of low income older homeowners (3,668 households) and the second highest number of moderate level income homeowners over 65 (5,567). 	
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Appendix 2

Evaluation of Dorset’s Current Affordable Extra Care Housing Offer

ECH Scheme	Evaluation Conclusions
Scheme 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A critical challenge identified with this scheme, is it’s relatively isolated location • There are no pathways from the scheme to the main road, making it impossible for residents with mobility support needs to safely and easily access public transport, local shops etc. • This is within the context that all access roads to the scheme are narrow and steep. • Residents are entirely dependent on online shopping orders or a limited community action bus service that’s only available three (3) times a week. There are no accessible leisure and community amenities located near the scheme, although the scheme is located next to a GP surgery. • There is a high risk that residents with any level of mobility support needs, may become socially isolated and increasingly dependent on support staff to arrange shopping and other basic needs. • What’s important to note is that despite the fact that residents maybe more dependent on community transport, there is insufficient drop off space and lack of space to allow the safe turning of ambulances. • There is a lack of accessible external pedestrian walkways around the scheme, including dementia friendly pathing and signage that promotes easy wayfinding
Scheme 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The nearest bus stop, local shops and key health and other amenities are some distance from the scheme:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bus stop 300yds - Nearest GP 1 mile - Small local shop and nearest chemist ½ mile • However, a key issue is that tenants need to navigate a steep and long incline to get to the main road, to access the above facilities • This is likely to cause challenges for residents with significant and multiple health need and people with mobility support needs • The internal corridors are only wide enough for two people, which will present challenges for people using wheelchairs or mobility aids who may need more than one person to support them • This may also cause challenges for emergency services where two health staff are needed with equipment • A critical challenge is that none of the flats have reinforced ceilings capable of supporting ceiling tracking hoists • This significantly limits the schemes capacity, to support residents with multiple health and care needs and who need a hoist supported by care staff, to safely transfer from a bed to wheelchair and similar scenarios
Scheme 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The scheme offers an effectively designed and attractive living space with communal and circulation areas (corridors), able to accommodate residents with mobility support needs; their carers and paramedics with equipment • Highly accessible corridors and circulation areas on all main floors, allow residents to circulate unimpeded and there are various visual aids such as differentiated colour schemes on each floor and signs to support wayfinding • There's a variety of accessible communal living spaces and rooms that could be used for a range of purposes on each floor • However, the flats were not developed to M4(3) standard and may offer limited access to residents who use wheelchairs and motorised chairs full time • The location of the scheme presents challenges for residents with mobility support needs, as the scheme is not located close to local shops, bus stops/routes or amenities • Notwithstanding some of the challenges highlighted above the scheme does provide an effective extra care housing offer • This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wider internal corridors and internal amenity space, wide enough for two (2) workers to support a resident with mobility needs - This also allows unimpeded access for paramedic and health staff with equipment - Strengthened ceilings and walls in all flats able to support the installation of ceiling tracking hoists and support grab rails - Wet room bathing and level access toilet facilities, with dual access from the hall and resident bedroom
Scheme 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Located in one of Dorset's larger towns, with easy and level access to major local shops; health; leisure and community amenities • The paving and roads have been designed and laid out with the needs of people with disabilities in mind and there is good access to local bus stops with connections to Dorchester town centre

- The immediate local environment provides a dementia friendly neighbourhood, which supports wayfinding
- Whereas the scheme was not developed to provide flats based on the M4(3) wheelchair standard and so there maybe some challenges in supporting residents who permanently use wheelchairs, the scheme does offer a good standard of accessible housing for people with mobility and other complex needs
- This includes:
 - Wider internal corridors and internal amenity space, wide enough for two (2) workers to support a resident with mobility needs
 - This also allows unimpeded access for paramedic and health staff with equipment
 - Strengthened ceilings in all flats able to support the installation of ceiling tracking hoist
 - Wet room bathing and level access toilet facilities, with dual access from the hall and resident bedroom
- Accessible and well laid out across all floors, supporting effective wayfinding for residents with dementia and other similar neurological conditions

Accommodation with Support Programme

A programme within the Transformation, Investment & Reform Programme

Plan on a page: Accommodation with support

Programme Requirements

1. **Drive delivery of programmes to build suitable accommodation options that meet the growing demand**
 1. Extra Care Housing
 2. Supported Living
 3. Key Worker Housing
 4. Gateway projects at Bridport & Purbeck
2. **Build and develop a strategic partnerships** with health and Registered providers to enhance relationships and build housing and health services as part of joint developments

Benefits Card



Extra Care can reduce social isolation
Extra Care enables couples and friends to stay together
Supported Living promotes independence and development of skills



Helps prevent or delays need for care home setting
Reduces or avoids use of more expensive, institutional forms of care or out of county for Supported Living
Good key worker housing helps support challenges in recruitment and retention of workforce



Extra Care and Supported Living would model a cost avoidance benefit



New accommodation will support delivery of good environmental design

Delivered to date

- Procurement, specification and delivery of **18 flats of relocatable housing in Wareham** to support people with learning disability & mental health needs or people with a physical disability to live independently or those in urgent need for a home.
- Set out our ambitions and requirements for Extra care developments in the county through our refined strategy
- Worked with a Registered Partner to deliver a new 54-unit extra care scheme in Gillingham and to establish the Nomination and Allocations processes
- Received approval for an **Outline Business Case setting out the need for new Supported Living services**, and using a detailed evidence base to establish priority areas and housing types.
- Completed **design of specialist accommodation for adults with Learning Disability**, 16 units in Dorchester and 4 units in Weymouth – completed late 2023.
- A new proposed delivery mechanism and procurement approach outlined for delivery of Extra Care housing
- Market Engagement with development partners to gather market intelligence on proposals for Extra Care and Supported Living developments completed

Expected delivery

- **Opening of St Martins Extra Care** Scheme in Gillingham – September 2024
- Deliver on what's set out with the **Extra Care Strategy** with initial work for four new extra care schemes across the county
- Delivery of additional **supported living accommodation units** on Dorset Council sites allocated to the programme
- **Phase two for relocatable housing** – location, site and demand
- Delivery of additional **Key worker Housing** as part of wider developments

Council Plan & ICP Strategy Delivery



Supporting delivery of the Council plan by **Creating stronger and healthier communities**, **Creating sustainable development and housing and driving economic prosperity**

Supporting the ICP Strategy by joining up health and housing, integrating care and support with health and supporting prevention & wellbeing in communities

Project: Extra Care Housing Strategic Partnership

A project to establish a Strategic Development Partnership to bring forward 4 new Extra Care Housing developments in strategic locations across Dorset. The Extra Care Housing Strategic Statement sets out the need for new schemes across these locations, the role that ECH will take in Dorset, and the expected benefits.

- Bridport
- Wareham
- Weymouth
- Ferndown

Sites need to have capacity for minimum of 55 units of Extra Care accommodation, in town centre locations with good level access to amenities, shops, and health services.

The outcome of previous procurements and subsequent market feedback indicates that a package of development opportunities is more attractive to potential developers than procuring each site individually.

Delivery of between 220 and 320 new units of Extra Care Accommodation over a 10-year period, estimated to bring revenue savings or avoidances of approximately £950,000 to £1,300,000 per annum once all schemes are fully operational.

NOTE: Cost savings or avoidances based on financial modelling to support ECH Strategic statement, assuming 40%-60% of scheme supporting complex need to avoid care home admission or facilitate step-down, and do not account for most recent Cost of Care uplift.

- **Commercial Advice and Procurement advice** provided by Atkins-Realis, to produce final report **June 2024**
- **Cabinet approval July 2024**
- **Procurement launch** estimated for **July 2024**
- **Procurement timescale TBC, estimated July 24 – Jun 25**

Project: Supported Housing Development

A programme of small Supported Living developments, aiming to deliver up to 80 new units of accommodation over a 4 year period.

The need for new services has been established through analysis of accommodation and support need recorded through MOSAIC, and presented through overarching business case in March 2023. The business case set out a detailed evidence base to establish priorities and recommended a mixed approach to delivery – to include commissioning from market providers as well as direct development. A £3m of Capital funding over 4 years has been secured to support delivery the project.

This is both to meet new need and to shape the existing market by providing alternative accommodation options in areas with overreliance on poor service provision.

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Initial market engagement session was held in June 23, and a more detailed session took place on 26th September 23. Feedback has been collated and is informing Commissioning Plan to be produced by end of February 2024. Expressions of interest made for DC-owned sites. Option appraisals and full business cases will be undertaken for these sites, including recommended delivery approaches.

The proposed approach is to focus on three main models of accommodation with support:

- 1) Shared houses for young people, designed to offer something similar to the student experience. These should have a clear focus on the development of independent living skills, links to local colleges and vocational training, and support for move on into more independent settled accommodation. There is a clear need for specialist support around mental health need for younger people.
- 2) small clusters of 4-6 self-contained properties, benefiting from a shared support service in a small community that is well integrated and linked with wider neighbourhood and community
- 3) bespoke properties for individuals with complex needs, who can be designed to a high specification. Generally, this will be for people who are unlikely to benefit from a shared support service. However, we are also aware of a cohort of people who currently live in shared Residential Care services for whom small-scale shared supported living may be the most appropriate step down from institutional care.

Project: Supported Housing Development 2

Site	Location	Use	Status	Timescale
Dorchester Road	Weymouth	Shared house for 4 young people	Refurbishment led by Advance Housing Nominations process began January, concluded April 2024	Opened May 2024
Wool Chipping Depot	Wool	3 self-contained bungalows for complex need	Business Case complete by Summer 24	Summer 2025
Lime Tree Bungalow	Sherborne	Shared house for 2 people Potential to include two additional bungalows on site, subject to agreement by Property and Assets	Refurbishment scoped January 24, working with Assets and Regeneration to procure refurbishment works	Autumn 2024
Winnards Close	Ferndown	Up to 7 self-contained bungalows for people with complex Learning Disability and Autism	3 rd Party Developer liaising with RP partners ahead of purchasing site and pursuing planning consent	Winter 2024
Greenwood Centre site	Dorchester	Up to 6 self-contained apartments with shared support as part of larger residential development Potential to develop Short Breaks	Site allocated to Accommodation with Support Programme and Childrens Services for joint Supported Living scheme May 2024	2025-26
Churchill Road Garages	Blandford	1-2 self-contained bungalows for people with complex support needs need	Site allocated to Accommodation with Support Programme May 2024	2025-26
Littlemoor	Weymouth	Up to 6 self-contained apartments with shared support as part of larger residential development	Expression of Interest for site, appraisal to be completed Spring 2024	2025-26
Coldharbour	Sherborne	Up to 6 self-contained apartments or bungalows as part of larger residential development	Liaising with 3 rd Party Developer regarding options	2025-26

Project: Nominations, Allocations, and Void Management

- Establishing an efficient and equitable process under which referrals to accommodation can be made, and decisions about allocation can be taken
- Nomination & Allocation process established for new Extra Care and Supported Living schemes
- Trialled new processes at Elizabeth Court, Dorchester Road, and Trailway Court. Trial at scale with St Martins Extra Care scheme.
- Currently piloting Nominations Coordinator role to support panel for new schemes and existing schemes, on fixed term contract basis until 31 March 2025

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Project: Accommodation with Support Design Guide

- Producing a Guide to Good Design in Specialist Accommodation
 - Draws on national good practice, but also local insight and expertise from range of stakeholders and users of accommodation services
 - Two versions of the guide will cover Extra Care Housing and Supported Living
 - Provides specification for commissioned or developed accommodation, and guidance for other developments
 - Research and best-practice sharing around specialist Housing Occupational Therapist post
 - Market Engagement Workshops focusing on Extra Care Housing and Supported Living both taking place during May 2025
 - Feedback from Market Engagement will inform new draft of the guide.

Project: Accommodation Need Data and Intelligence

- Implemented form in MOSAIC system to capture accommodation need, including environmental factors
- As of July 2023, 480 submissions, with rich data set – provided evidence base for Supported Living business case
- Can be used to inform bespoke solutions for individuals, as well as strategic development priorities
- Considered how data capture can be extended to younger children to project accommodation need for young people transitioning to Adult services, as part of evidence base for B2SA accommodation workstream – agreement reached around use by Transition Team and point of referral to Transition Team to also consider lead-times for accommodation need
- Review of questions within form to refine data – changes requested via IT to update form
- Developing outcomes system to measure success of project delivery
- Develop reporting dashboard for self-serve commissioning intelligence
- Refresh of data analysis underway, to pick up forms completed since July 2023. Refreshed data will be incorporated into Commissioning Plan

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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