



People and Health Scrutiny Committee

Date: Thursday, 6 February 2025
Time: 10.00 am
Venue: Meeting Room 1, County Hall, Dorchester, DT1 1XJ

Members (Quorum: 3)

Toni Coombs (Chair), Jane Somper (Vice-Chair), Laura Beddow, Bridget Bolwell, Sally Holland, Carole Jones, Chris Kippax and Carl Woode

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	
To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 16 January 2024.	

(Minutes to follow)

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, 3 February 2025.

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 to george.dare@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk by 8.30am on Monday, 3 February 2025.

[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. BIRTH TO SETTLED ADULTHOOD PROGRESS REPORT 5 - 30

To consider a report by the Head of Service for Birth to Settled Adulthood.

8. DORSET SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP 31 - 112

To consider a report by the Service Manager for Strategic Partnerships.

9. PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY

A review of the relevant Dorset Council performance dashboard to inform the scrutiny committee's work programme and to identify items for further review.

The following link is the dashboard for the committee:

[People and Health Scrutiny Committee](#)

10. COMMITTEE'S WORK PROGRAMME AND CABINET'S FORWARD PLAN 113 - 134

To consider the committee's Work Programme and the Cabinet Forward Plan.

11. EXEMPT BUSINESS

To move the exclusion of the press and the public for the following item in view of the likely disclosure of exempt information within the meaning of paragraph x of schedule 12 A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended). The public and the press will be asked to leave the meeting whilst the item of business is considered.

There are no exempt items scheduled for this meeting.

People and Health Scrutiny Committee

6 February 2025

Birth to Settled Adulthood Service (B2SA) Progress Report

For Review and Consultation

Cabinet Member and Portfolio:

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

Local Councillor(s):

All

Executive Director:

P Dempsey, Executive Director of People - Children

Report Author: Louise Ryan
Job Title: Head of Service, B2SA (Birth to Settled Adulthood)
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Report Status: Public (the exemption paragraph is N/A)

Brief Summary:

The Birth to Settled Adulthood Service (B2SA) is an integrated model of service delivery between Children and Adult Social Care for children and young people with complex health needs, disability, and SEN. The working model has been created under a Partnership Agreement between Dorset Council, NHS Dorset ICB and Dorset Parent Carer Council. Phase One Implementation began in April 2024. The work continues to ensure full implementation is completed. Phase 2 has already started in understanding the role of NHS and Health related partners with opportunities for integrated working.

The initial impact is that a more coordinated and joined up service is being provided. At this juncture we are not able to fully evidence the impact in all the areas that need to be improved. However, we are confident that it will enable improved outcomes and better value for money in the longer term.

Recommendation:

To review the progress on implementing the Birth to Settled Adulthood service and provide any feedback and comments.

Reason for Recommendation:

Birth to Settled Adulthood is a major transformation programme for Dorset Council and the Committee has a key role to play to ensure that it has the desired impact.

1. Report

- 1.1 The Birth to Settled Adulthood (B2SA) successfully launched phase one in April 2024 within the agreed timescales. Phase one includes integration of Best Start in Life Advisors who provide education and development support to families with children aged 0 – 5 years who have complex health needs, social care support for disabled children including short breaks, provision of a specialist Occupational Therapy service, Young Carers Team, Preparing for Adulthood Team and Adult Social Care provision as the young person moves into adulthood. The intention is to focus on children and young adults right from birth to settled adulthood. A key driver for the service creation was to improve our understanding of the needs of our disabled children and young people as they develop through to adulthood, and to build opportunities for independence. The Best Start in Life Advisors enable the service to ensure support at the earliest opportunity and strategically plan for future needs of children and young people. Young carers are well held in the service, ensuring that they are not taking caring responsibilities that are inappropriate, and they have opportunities to develop their own wellbeing.
- 1.2 The partnership objective was to deliver an integrated birth to settled adulthood service for children and young people with complex health needs and SEN with a focus on ensuring sustainable improved outcomes for children and young people from birth until they move on to settled adulthood. The service will ensure that there is support in place for children's parents and carers, young carers, and young adult (18 to 25 years) carers. We will also ensure planning for the child's needs into settled adulthood takes place at an earlier stage, and have introduced in phase one earlier planning, commencing at 14 years of age. This will enable us to better support children and their families to achieve sustainable improved outcomes. A successful transitional move into settled adulthood will embed principles of independence, strong links with communities and an ambition that young people are supported to thrive.

- 1.3 An Area SEND Inspection was undertaken in March 2024. This inspection found that the local area partnership's arrangements for children and young people who have special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) typically lead to positive experiences and outcomes. It was noted that the local area partnership was taking appropriate action where required. The Birth to Settled Adulthood Service was designed to further improve children and young people's experiences and to provide greater integration.
- 1.4 Staff are positive in both services about the model and working more effectively together. Staff highlight that they need access to a functional system to allow them to undertake the training and new aspects of the work. There are positive examples of Children's and Adult social workers working alongside each other with the child and their family to identify solutions to complex situations.
- 1.5 The feedback from Dorset Parent Carer Council (DPCC) has been positive about the implementation although there is more to do to achieve full implementation. To quote DPCC ***"we are delighted to see the new service go live: We have been working with parent/carers from the outset and are delighted to see the feedback they have provided threading through the design and implementation. Having worked in partnership to implement phase one, we look forward to continuing this in supporting the delivery and being part of the process to co-produce and implement phase two. We look forward to seeing the improvements and hearing the success stories we are confident this new service will bring."***
- 1.6 Dorset Parent Carer Council were also involved in helping to establish the outcomes framework which is enabling building independence at each stage of the child and young person's life.
- 1.7 Children and young people have also been involved in the design of the outcome framework through the Youth Voice Service. Oxford Brooks, as a partner in the evaluation of Families First Pathfinder, are assisting us to develop a survey for children, young people and families that can be used to seek feedback regarding their experience in the future.
- 1.8 The partnership is working towards an effective joint Commissioning Strategy that enables a focus on the Dorset area and supporting children and young people in their localities. A prominent feature of the service design is locality-based support which is strong in both Children and Adult Services. Our ethos is that children and young adults should be supported to live safely, where possible, in their own communities. We want to ensure

that children and young people are supported to live with their families where possible and that carers feel they have the right level of support. We also need to ensure we understand and plan for those who are 16-25 when they need to move.

- 1.9 We appointed our B2SA Head of Service who commenced her role in April 2024. We have also appointed two Service Managers who are both in post. One has a focus on Children's Social Care responsibilities and one with a focus on preparing for Adulthood.
- 1.10 All the B2SA operational staff have completed a programme of induction and training to support the new model of working.
- 1.11 Dorset Council Children's Services, as a Pathfinder LA for the DfE Families First Pathfinder Programme, implemented a new model of work across children's services in June 2024. B2SA is fully aligned to this new operational way of working and will be working in a more integrated way in the child protection space. Lead child protection social work roles have been created in B2SA and work with the Locality Child Protection Teams.
- 1.12 The Young Carers Service now sits within B2SA to ensure additional focus on the young carers needs. There are currently 88 young carers being supported by the service and there is improved joint working with the Adult Carer Service.
- 1.13 Adult Services have identified the staffing resource required to work with the young adults aged 18-25 who are not yet settled in adulthood. This will help with planning to understand the age groups and the numbers of young people aged 14-17 that are requiring planning and assessment for adulthood. This resource will reach down to start working with young people before the age of 18 enabling Care Act assessments to take place at an earlier more appropriate time. Through earlier planning we are more likely to prevent needs escalating and have an adequate amount of time to ensure appropriate resources are in place. Reaching down will be more effective at 16 in reality.
- 1.14 Within the new service there will be greater opportunity to use assistive technology as a way of addressing children and young people's needs and managing any risks. This can enable young people to have greater independence, and it is more cost effective. An example of this is a parent carer being referred to the technology lounge to explore a range of care technology that is available to monitor their disabled child's safety without them needing to be present in the room. It was felt this would make a significant impact to reduce the pressure on that parent.

1.15 In total across the 0 – 25 age range B2SA, at the end of November 2024, was supporting 912 children, young people, and young adults.

At the end of November 2024, B2SA was supporting in the 0-18 area, 652 children and young people:

- 344 of these children and young people and their families receive support from the family support and short breaks team.
- 171 children need a higher level of support (CIN) from family help and are visited more regularly.
- 11 children are subject of a Child Protection Plan
- 34 children are in our care.
- 92 children receive a specialist Occupational Therapy provision.

With those being supported who are 18-25 who are already allocated to adult's teams, this makes a total of 912 in total.

There are 101 young people from the cohorts above aged between 14 and 17 years that we are working with to prepare them for adulthood.

1.16 The B2SA Preparing for Adulthood Team will support, where appropriate, other teams across children's services with transitional planning for children and young people.

1.17 A Transitions Steering Group is in place that looks at all the children and young people we are working with in their transitional planning to settled adulthood to 'oversee' that young people's transitional health and care needs are being met.

1.18 An outcomes framework has been developed which encompasses the age and stages of the child or young person's development, this covers the nine outcomes that were co-produced with our children and young people.

1.19 A Partnership Integrated Commissioning Strategy is in development with a focus on services for the 16-25 age range.

1.20 In our development of the partnership joint commissioning strategy, we have held workshops to understand how services will work and what is required. We are ensuring that we have a joined-up high quality services and that contracts meet both the ICB and Dorset Council's requirements.

1.21 We have appointed an Independent Chair of the B2SA Delivery Board, and the inaugural meeting was held in October 2024. The board meets quarterly. The Board provides the governance and oversight on implementation and progress of phase 2.

- 1.22 In January 2025, NHS Dorset presented a proposal for Phase 2 to the Board to clarify how they plan to integrate with the B2SA programme. A Senior Responsible Officer has yet to be appointed by NHS Dorset to lead phase 2. However, there was senior representation (NHS Dorset) at the B2SA delivery Board held on 22/1/2025.

2. Areas for development and enablers

- 2.1 Budget – managing budgetary pressures remains the priority for both Children Services and Adult Social Care. The needs of our children and young people we work with in the B2SA service are increasingly more complex and there are challenges in securing high quality packages of support and care that represent value for money for these young people both locally and nationally. This is also a challenge area for those children and families supported through direct payments as the supports and services needed are not available to purchase resulting in higher costs to Dorset Council. The savings agreed for B2SA in 25/26 is £1m and the detail of the action plan is currently being developed.
- 2.2 Information Technology requirements are an essential enabler for the successful full implementation of the new B2SA service. Enabling more staff to be able to be trained to complete care act assessments for young people before they reach 18. There are delays in being able to adapt our child record and management systems for the new working model in B2SA. This is due to the capacity of the system support services to accommodate changes needed within both the B2SA children's and adults' systems as well as changes needed within children's services from the Families First pathfinder new model of working. We have a plan in place to address this that is regularly monitored to ensure changes are made as needed at the earliest opportunity.

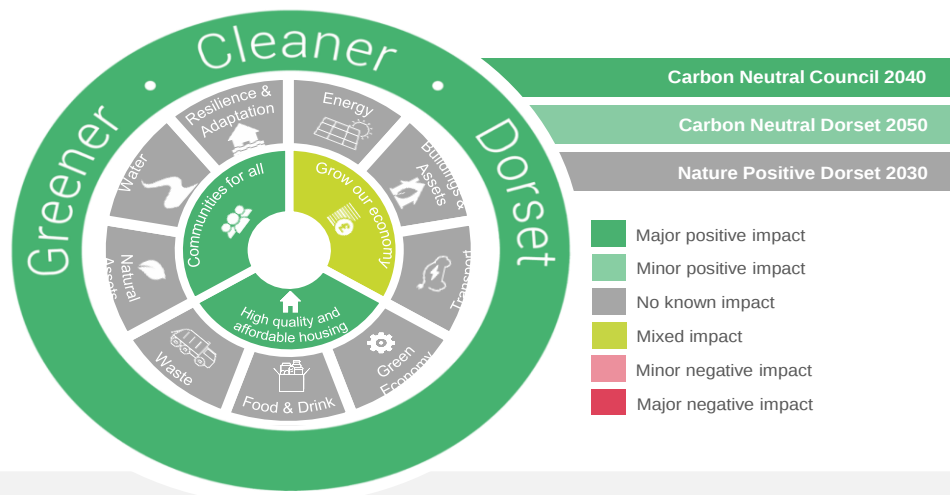
3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 There has been significant investment in the Birth to Settled Adulthood Programme from Children and Adults Services. Introduction of the B2SA service will enable sustainable improved outcomes for children and young people, provide improved Value for Money (VFM) and better use of our resources. There has also been investment in our short breaks provision which aims to ensure that parent-carers are well supported and that children can remain living within their families.

4. Natural Environment, Climate & Ecology Implications

- 4.1 The Birth to Settled Adulthood programme does not have any additional implications.

Birth to Settle



Quantitative Impact on CEE targets (if known)

	Unit	Number of units (+/-)
2030 - Natural asset extent & condition	Ha	0
2040 - Operational Emissions	CO ₂ (tonnes)	0

5. Well-being and Health Implications

- 5.1 The aim of the Birth to Settled Adulthood Programme is to improve the health and wellbeing of children and young people with complex health needs, disability, and SEN, and reduce the impact of disadvantages and inequality. The service also aims to ensure that parent-carers, young carers, and adult carers are well supported.

6. Other Implications

- 6.1 None

7. Risk Assessment.

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

Current Risk: Low
Residual Risk: Low

8. Equalities Impact Assessment

- 8.1 The internal Equality Impact Assessment is attached as Appendix A. An external Equality Impact Assessment is currently being reviewed and updated.

9. Appendices

- 9.1 Appendix A: EQIA dated February 2023.

10. Background Papers

None

11. 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)



Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) Template

Before completing the EQIA please have a look at the [Dorset Council style guide](#) and also use the [accessibility checker](#) to make sure your document is easy for people of all abilities to read.

Some key tips

- avoid tables and charts, if possible please provide raw data
- avoid pictures and maps if possible.
- avoid using bold, italics or colour to highlight or stress a point
- when using numbering or bullet points avoid using capitals at the beginning unless the name of something
- date format is dd month yyyy (1 June 2021)
- use clear and simple language
- where you need to use technical terms, abbreviations or acronyms, explain what they mean the first time you use them
- if using hyperlinks, make sure the link text describes where the link goes rather than 'click here' Please note equality impact assessments are published on the Dorset Council [website](#)

Before completing this form, please refer to the [supporting guidance](#). The aim of an Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) is to consider the equality implications of your policy, strategy, project or service on different groups of people including employees of Dorset Council, residents and users of our services and to consider if there are ways to proactively advance equality.

Where further guidance is needed, please contact the Inclusion Champion or the [Diversity & Inclusion Officer](#).

1. Initial information

1.1 The service is called Birth to Settled Adulthood (B2SA). It focusses on improving the way support is delivered to children and young people with complex needs or who are disabled aged 0-25 and their families. This includes those with learning disabilities, mental health issues, are autistic, have sensory loss or severe physical disabilities or long term illnesses, are caring for their parents or a sibling, or have a combination of the needs listed. Please see section 4 for more details on the cohorts of young people identified as needing support through this new service.

2. Is this a new service. (please delete those not required):

2.1 This is a new service. It will be implemented in 2 phases. Phase 1 focusses on integration between Children's and Adults & Housing Directorates, and phase 2 focusses on integration with Health partners.

In Phase 1 the new service aims to bring together the current Children Who Are Disabled team, Young Carers Workers and Adults & Housing Transitions Team. It also aims to bring together some staffing resource from the Best Start in Life Team and Special Educational Needs worker into the new service as well.

It will be delivered in collaboration with employees, children, young people and their families.

This assessment focusses on phase 1. It is evolving and will be reviewed regularly.

3. Is this (please delete those not required):

Internal (Employees only) This assessment focusses on the potential impact of the new service to staff.

An Equalities Impact Assessment has also been drafted to the children and young people and their families potentially impacted by the B2SA programme. This was drafted in January 2023 and is currently being reviewed. The service is assessed as having a potentially positive impact on the children and young people and their families as it will offer a more joined up, seamless offer of support from birth to settled adulthood.

4. Please provide a brief overview of its aims and objectives:

4.1 The purpose of the B2SA service redesign is to improve the support provided to children and young who have complex needs or who are disabled aged 0-25 and their families. The children and young people identified in scope are:

- children with Special Educational Needs who have an Education Health and Care Plan and are likely to have care and support needs into adulthood.
- children and young people known to services who have a disability.
- Children aged 14 plus requiring support for mental health who are likely to need care and support.
- children with high-cost education packages (>£50k/year).
- young people who are at risk of abuse or exploitation and may not meet Care Act eligibility criteria (this is known as contextual/transitional safeguarding).
- children and Young people who have NHS Continuing Care funding

4.2 The B2SA service aims to

- provide good quality information advice and guidance.
- identify complex needs at an early stage and offer the right level of support at the right time.
- provide targeted support to develop skills and strategies which build independence.
- support children, young people and families to plan ahead for adulthood.
- work closely with commissioning colleagues to improve future planning around accommodation, care and support.
- have clear oversight of the most complex young people aged 14+ who are likely to have care and support needs into adulthood.
- meet our statutory duties to children, young people and their families
- provide targeted support to prevent further deterioration and reduce risk of admission to hospital or into care
- effectively safeguard children and young people, addressing abuse and neglect
- support parent carers to build resilience, knowledge and confidence in caring for their child or young person
- ensure social care and health services work together with children, young people and families in a more joined up way.

4.3 The service aims to support children and young people to achieve their outcomes. The outcomes framework is being co-designed with children, young people and their families.

4.4 In order for the aims and objectives to be achieved, Dorset Council Children's and Adults & Housing Directorates will need to organise themselves in a different way. This includes the following:

- create a new integrated 0-25 service offer that is able to support children and young people with complex needs or who are disabled and their families. At present different teams across children's and adult's & housing support them at different age points. The creation of a 0-25 offer will enable a more seamless service for children, young people and their families.
- the management of this service will be hosted in the Children's Directorate. Management oversight includes Head of Service, one Service Manager with expertise in Children's Social Care and one Service Manager with expertise in Adult Social Care. The management team are jointly responsible for the oversight of all children and young people in scope 0-25. This includes the allocation of work, supervision and oversight of the work, performance and financial monitoring and reporting.
- there will be a flexible approach to working with individual children and young people approaching adulthood to reduce the risk of a 'cliff edge' at 18, and to ensure the transition to adulthood is flexible to meet the needs of the young person. "Ready and Steady move into Adulthood" This may mean

children's workers remaining involved with a young person over the age of 18 (up to 25) or adult's workers reaching down to work with a young person from year 9.

- there will be dedicated link workers identified in the Adults operational teams and dedicated workers in Childrens services to offer skills and expertise and reach down or up to start working with the young person as needed. This may be for specific pieces of work or to take lead responsibility for the young person. The B2SA management team retain oversight for the work undertaken.
- matrix management arrangements will be in place to provide the necessary supervision, guidance and oversight to workers. For example, the B2SA manager with adult's expertise will be able to supervise and agree actions with the children's worker if they are related to preparing the young person for adulthood, or are related to adult legislation. The B2SA manager with children's expertise will be able to supervise and agree actions with the adult worker if they are working with a young person aged under 18.
- the B2SA service will align itself to locality working to ensure local networking and joint working can be established. Opportunities for co-location, joint meetings, joint training and group supervision will be developed.
- opportunities to align funding decisions will be developed across SEN, Children's Social Care and Adult Social Care.
- over time there will be a cross pollination of skills, knowledge and expertise. This will include children's workers being able to complete light-touch Care Act Assessments and Support Planning and Adults workers being able to contribute to Childrens statutory assessments.
- specialist support services currently available in Adults and Childrens Social Care could be accessed to provide support to improve the support to and practice of workers. This includes HR, legal, MCA team, CHC team, TEC team.
- Paediatric Occupational Therapists working with children and young people aged 0-17 years will strengthen ties with Adults Occupational Therapists via formalised protocols and joint working.
- the B2SA service will include other disciplines to improve outcomes for children and young people. This includes:
 - Embedding Special Educational Needs workers to ensure synchronicity between social care and Education Health and Care planning.
 - Assistant Educational Psychologists to help develop targeted parenting and behaviour support plans alongside Family Workers.
 - Specialist Mental Health Practitioners to offer specialist advice and support around complex mental health issues.
 - a Parent/carer Mental Health and Wellbeing worker.
 - Early Years Practitioners.

For young people and their families, there will be a seamless support offer, which works on the basis of need rather than chronological age, and joins up services provided by Adults, Children's, SEN and Health. Right contact, right person, right time.

5. Please provide the background to this proposal?

5.1 Feedback from a range of sources highlighted a need to improve the experience for children and young people with complex needs or are disabled and their families as they grow and develop from birth into settled adulthood. This included feedback from the Learning Disability Partnership Board, inspection feedback, parent carer surveys, commissioning workshops and from young people with mental health issues. A paper went to People and Health Overview Committee in August 2021 recommending a transformation programme to bring about the changes required [Birth to Settled Adulthood Review August 2021](#). This was approved and the Birth to Settled Adulthood programme was created.

5.2 The Review told us that the current operating model was 'not delivering the outstanding service our community required'. This included:

- best practice would support childhood through to adulthood, which takes a whole life view of the individual and maximises opportunities for independence
- young people were not well prepared for adulthood
- planning for next steps weren't completed in good time
- children, young people and their families were not provided with good information
- partnership working between Children's, Adults and Health needed to be improved

5.3 The Birth to Settled Adulthood programme is a partnership between Dorset Council, NHS Dorset and Dorset Parent Carer Council. It has a signed commitment from all partners to work in partnership together.

5.4 The Birth to Settled Adulthood programme was divided into separate workstreams. The Service Design workstream was created to focus on making the changes needed to the operating model. This assessment focuses on the impact of the proposed changes to the internal workforce.

5.5 Between September 2022 and July 2023 a series of workshops were held to think through the new service model. A range of people attended the workshops including parent carers, Dorset Parent Carer Council, practitioners from Childrens and Adults and Housing Directorates NHS Dorset, Dorset Healthcare and Dorset County Hospital.

Evidence gathering and engagement

6 What sources of data, evidence or research has been used for this assessment? (e.g. national statistics, employee data):

6.1 In reaching this decision, we considered data relating to

- a) current demand for support from Children Who are Disabled Team (aged 0-18)
- b) current demand for support from Transitions Team (aged 14-25)
- c) current demand for support from Locality Teams for children and young people with complex mental health issues
- d) current demand for support from Adult Social Care teams (age 18-25)
- e) current caseloads for the Children Who are Disabled Team, Transitions Team, Young Carers and Adult Social Care teams
- f) waiting lists for the respective teams
- g) feedback from the workforce survey conducted in May 2023
- h) data gathered from Service Design stakeholder sessions held between Sept 2022 and July 2023.
- i) Equality and Diversity employee data from DES which is the Council's HR database.

7 What did this tell you?

7.1 The figures above indicate the approximate cohort of children and young people eligible for the new service.

7.3 Children Who are Disabled Team (CWAD) currently works with 613 children (0-17). All these are in scope for B2SA.

7.4 The Transitions Team currently have 20 young people currently allocated. This equates to 2 FTE caseloads.

7.5 Adults social care operational teams currently work with 387 young people aged 18-24 across its Learning Disability (208), Mental Health (132), Physical Disability (27) and other (10) teams. Of these, it is estimated 220 would sit within the B2SA service. This equates to roughly 13 FTE caseloads.

7.6 Approximately 20 children are being supported in the Children's Localities who have very complex needs (comorbid autism and mental health difficulties or subject to section 117 of the Mental Health Act) who would be eligible for the B2SA service. Given the complexity, this is assumed to equate to 2 social work caseloads.

7.7 Approximately 120 young carers are supported by the 2FTE young carers workers.

7.8 The information tells us that a range of teams currently support children and young people with complex needs and disabilities.

7.9 The feedback from the workforce survey and the Service Design stakeholder events clearly told us of the need to work in a more integrated way, that reduces the experience of a 'cliff edge' when the child or young person moves between teams.

Bringing together skills and expertise into one service aims to improve this experience and facilitate more opportunities for joint working.

7.10 The proposed service structure is not prompted by any reduction in funding for the service and has enabled opportunity to introduce new roles to augment our capabilities. This should have a positive impact on employee experience as they will work alongside workers with different expertise and experience and learn from each other.

7.11 Equality data for employees tells us about the 45 affected employees. We have used the information available to us to understand more about how we ensure we have considered the protected characteristics of our staff. This is noted in the Section 9, Table 1.

7.12 Employee data has been gathered from DES, which is the Council's HR database. Via the HR database, Dorset Council currently collects data on the following:

- Sex
- Age

7.13 Employees are encouraged to provide additional information on the following and record it in DES:

- Disability Status
- Ethnic origin
- Religion or belief
- Sexual orientation

7.13.1 The above information in DES is reliant on employees populating these fields themselves and as this is not mandatory there are some instances where no information has been recorded, or the individual has chosen not to provide such information.

7.13.2 Dorset Council do not currently ask for employees to provide information on gender reassignment.

7.13.3 Employees provide written notice of their pregnancy by the 15th week before the employees expected week of childbirth and maternity leave is recorded in DES.

8 Who have you engaged and consulted with as part of this assessment?

To date engagement and consultation events have taken place with internal and external stakeholders. This has included:

- October 2022: Engagement event with internal staff across Childrens and Adults and Housing Directorates
- January 2023 Webinar for internal staff across Children's and Adults Directorate
- September 2022- July 2023 – Face to Face and Virtual Service Design workshops held. This included representation from internal colleagues, parent carers, Dorset Parent Carer Council, NHS Dorset, Dorset Healthcare and Dorset County Hospital.

These events helped shape the design of the new service.

A timetable of engagement activity with employees, trade unions, families/carers, cabinet members, Dorset Parent Carer Council & local special schools is planned throughout the project. Engagement activity will help to shape decision making.

See Appendix One – Employee and TU consultation timeline

9 Is further information needed to help inform decision making?

Not at this point

Is an EQIA required?

Yes

Assessing the impact on different groups of people

For each of the protected characteristics groups below, please explain whether your proposal could have a positive, negative, unclear or no impact. Where an impact has been identified, please explain what it is and if unclear or negative please explain what mitigating actions will be taken.

- use the evidence you have gathered to inform your decision making.
- consider impacts on residents, service users and employees separately.

- if your strategy, policy, project or service contains options you may wish to consider providing an assessment for each option.
- see guidance for more information about the different [protected characteristics](#).

Key to impacts

Positive Impact	• the proposal eliminates discrimination, advances equality of opportunity and/or fosters good relations with protected groups.
Negative Impact	• protected characteristic group(s) could be disadvantaged or discriminated against
Neutral Impact	• no change/ no assessed significant impact of protected characteristic groups
Unclear	• not enough data/evidence has been collected to make an informed decision.

10 Target Group – Employees

10.1 The outcome of the proposals on employees are broadly neutral on balance. This is because:-

10.2 Redundancy: Out of a large group of employees, we have one employee who is at risk of redundancy but will be offered a very similar role at one grade lower with 18 months pay protection. In addition, they will have prior consideration for the vacant or new roles within the structure.

10.2 Grade Changes: Other than the situation stated above, there are no proposed grade changes

10.3 Changes to Centre of Duty: There are no proposed changes to centres of duty.

10.4 Changes in Directorate or Line Manager. There are proposed changes to Directorate and/or line manager for some employees, in order to achieve better integration of services.

10.5 Investment in workforce. There is an investment in the B2SA workforce from 45 Headcount / 42.95 FTE now, to 58 Headcount / 51.44 FTE proposed.

11.0 B2SA Equalities data:

Current workforce (December 2023):

- **Age:**
 - 16-39 40%
 - 40-49 24%
 - 50-59 22%
 - 60-64 13%

- Please note the age groupings 16-24 and 25-39 have been merged because of small proportions.

- **Disability status:**

- Disabled 18%
- Not Disabled 60%
- Not Declared 22%

- **Ethnic origin:**

The majority of the workforce affected by this proposal identify as white British (73%). A small proportion identified that they are from ethnic minority. We are following the guidance by the government concerning ethnicity, which states the term ethnic minorities should be used to refer to all ethnic groups except the white British group. Ethnic minorities include residents who are Black, Asian, Arab, Mixed Ethnicities, White (Non-British), Gypsy, Roma and Irish Traveller Groups.

- **Religion and belief:**

- World religion 2%
- Christian 18%
- None/No Religion 18%
- Not Declared 58%
- Other 4%

- **Sexual orientation:**

The majority of the workforce affected by this proposal identifies as heterosexual (58%). A small proportion of employees identify as being Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual (LGB).

Impacts on who or what?	Choose impact	How
Age	Neutral Impact	No specific impacts identified at this stage
Disability	Neutral Impact	Not all employees have declared their disability characteristic in HR record. There are currently some employees with a disability, and we will continue to discuss their needs with them and make reasonable adjustments.

Impacts on who or what?	Choose impact	How
Gender reassignment and Gender Identity	Neutral Impact	An employee's gender identity will not be affected by any changes to their job role, nor will it affect their ability to fulfil their job role. See Section 7 for more information. There are 84% females and 16% males in the affected group of employees.
Marriage or civil partnership	Neutral Impact	An Employee's marital status will not be affected by any changes to their job role, nor will it affect their ability to fulfil their job role. See Section 7 for more information.
Pregnancy and maternity	Neutral impact	Two employees are currently on maternity leave. Change programme managers will provide documents from the consultation process and keep in touch during the consultation. Regulation 10 of the Maternity and Parental Leave etc Regulations 1999 will be followed regarding suitable alternative employment. Proposed new structure: Individual employees who are pregnant may need to modify their working patterns in line with medical advice.
Race and Ethnicity	Neutral impact	Not all employees have declared their ethnicity in HR records. An employee's race and ethnicity will not be affected by any changes to their job role,

Impacts on who or what?	Choose impact	How
		nor will it affect their ability to fulfil their role. See Section 7 for more information.
Religion and belief	Neutral impact	The religion and beliefs of staff are respected. Their religion and belief will not be affected by any changes to their job role, nor will it affect their ability to fulfil their job role.
Sex (consider men and women)	Neutral impact	There are 84% females and 16% male in the affected group of employees An employee's sex will not be affected by any changes to their job role, nor will it affect their ability to fulfil their job role. Any changes made will not be influenced by the employee's gender.
Sexual orientation	Neutral impact	No all employee's have declared their sexuality in their HR record. An employee's sexual orientation will not be impacted by any changes to their job role, nor will it affect their ability to fulfil their job role. Any changes made will not be influenced by the employee's gender.
People with caring responsibilities	Unclear	Individual meetings with employees will identify whether any have caring responsibilities. The flexibility of the proposed operating model may also have benefits for some carers and employees
Rural isolation	Neutral impact	All employees are required to drive and have access to a car as part of their roles now, and any potential role. Employees in rural locations will not be

Impacts on who or what?	Choose impact	How
		adversely affected by this proposal.
Socio-economic deprivation	Neutral impact	Where a role is being deleted and alternative role is ringfenced for them with salary protection for 18 months to mitigate impact. They also have the opportunity to apply for a new role at a grade higher. Career development opportunities offered by the proposed new model may result in some staff being able to increase their lifetime earnings, and acquire qualifications up to Foundation degree level.
Single parents	Neutral impact	No specific impacts identified at this stage
Armed forces communities	Neutral impact	No specific impacts identified at this stage

Summary of impacts

All of the impacts, except one, are classified as neutral (no change).

One impact (people with caring responsibilities) has been classified as 'unclear'. Ongoing individual meetings with employees will identify whether any have caring responsibilities.

The flexibility of the proposed operating model may also have benefits for some carers and employees.

Updated April 2023

Action Plan

Summarise any actions required as a result of this EqIA.

Issue	Action to be taken	Person(s) responsible	Date to be completed by
Unclear impact on disabled colleagues due to proposed changes in work location	The consultation will provide an opportunity to share further information and individual meetings will take place with employees. These will enable reasonable adjustments to be continued or made where required	Hal Williams/Linzi Gow	12 April 2024
Unclear impact on people with caring responsibilities	Individual meetings with employees will identify whether any have caring responsibilities. A change in work location and working hours could negatively impact employees with caring responsibilities. However, the flexibility of the proposed new operating model may also have benefits for some carers. Through the post preferencing process employees can state preferred hours & working pattern.	Hal Williams/ Linzi Gow	12 April 2024

Sign Off

Officer completing this EqIA: Linzi Gow

Officers involved in completing the EqIA: Andrea Kiy, Hal Williams, Claire Leech,

Date of completion: 23.01.2024

Version Number: 1

EqIA review date: Equality Lead Sign Off:

Updated April 2023

Next Steps:

- the EqIA will be reviewed by Communications and Engagement and if in agreement, your EqIA will be signed off.
- if not, we will get in touch to chat further about the EqIA, to get a better understanding.
- EqIA authors are responsible to ensuring any actions in the action plan are implemented.

Please send to [Diversity and Inclusion Officer](#)

Appendix One

Employee and Consultation Timeline

Task	Commencing on	Complete by
Preliminary Consultation meeting with Trade Unions	29 January 2024	29 January 2024
Issue formal consultation letter to Trade Union	29 January 2024	29 January 2024
Hold consultation meeting with employees and Trade Unions (Hybrid meeting)	30 January 2024	30 January 2024
Teams site go live. To include: • Job descriptions and person Specifications • Context Statements • Structure chart • Change Management Document • Support for employees • EQIA Email address go live: b2sa@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk	30 January 2024	30 January 2024
Consultation period – 45 days Respond to issues, replies posted either on Teams site or sent to individual (depending on nature of question) Individual / team meetings to be arranged if required, with Service Managers to respond to any issues staff wish to raise about their employment situation	30 January 2024	14 Mar 2024
Consultation closed		

Updated April 2023

Final structure reviewed, consultation feedback finalised and provided to employees and Unions	From 15 March 2024	3 & 5 April 2024
New and vacant roles are open for applications	From 8 April 2024	26 April 2024
Interviews and appointment decisions made	From 29 April 2024	17 May 2024
Final structure agreed and approved following placement of employees	26 April 2024	
New Structure implemented		30 April 2024

Date of action plan to be completed changed to 12 April due to SEND inspection.

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People and Health Scrutiny Committee

6 February 2025

Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership

For Review and Consultation

Cabinet Member and Portfolio:

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

Local Councillor(s):

All

Executive Director:

P Dempsey, Executive Director of People - Children

Report Author: Richard Belcher

Job Title: Service Manager, Strategic Partnerships

Tel: 01305 221765

Email: richard.belcher@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Report Status: Public (the exemption paragraph is N/A)

Brief Summary:

This report provides an assurance update on how the Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership delivers its statutory functions which oversees multi-agency safeguarding arrangements covering the Dorset council area. This report contains:

- An overview of the Annual Report of the Pan-Dorset Children's Safeguarding Partnership (2023 – 2024)
- An update on the activity of the Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership over 2023-24 and progress against the implementation of the Working Together 2023 guidance.
- A specific focus on the arrangements of bringing Education as a Safeguarding Partner.

Part of the statutory functions of the partnership and council's responsibilities include the requirements to publish an Annual Report. The current Annual Report of the Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership produced when Dorset & Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council shared a safeguarding partnership, is therefore provided as an attachment for consideration by the committee. The Annual Report details partnership work in 2023/24 including:

- Outlining the findings from a review of the safeguarding arrangements.

- Summarising local and national learning including in relation to Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews.
- Providing an overview of multi-agency training.
- Outlining the funding arrangements for the partnership.
- Providing information from the Child Death Overview Panel.
- Detailing work across the partnership linked to the priority areas for 2023/24.
- Outlining other key developments by the statutory safeguarding partners.

In July 2024, the decision was made to separate the Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Children's Partnership into two local partnerships: one covering the Dorset Council area and the other covering the Bournemouth Christchurch and Poole area.

The Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership is chaired by Dorset Council's Chief Executive with independent Scrutineers providing support and challenge to the partnership. The transition from the Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership to the local Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership has been smooth. Dorset has implemented the updates to the national guidance, set out in Working Together 2023, approved by the Strengthening Services Board in December 2024. The Executive has met in compliance with all statutory requirements. Dorset's local arrangements remain well supported across the partnership.

Recommendation:

For scrutiny to be assured that the multiagency safeguarding arrangements adhere to the statutory requirements and provide robust oversight and planning to support good outcomes for children and young people.

Reason for Recommendation:

The multiagency safeguarding arrangements are a statutory duty as outlined in Working Together 2023.

1. Annual Report 2023-24

- 1.1 To bring transparency for children, families, and all practitioners about the activity undertaken, the safeguarding partners are required to publish a report at least once every 12-months. The report must set out the work that have been undertaken and as assessment of the effectiveness of the partnership arrangements, outlined in the Children's Act 2004.
- 1.2 This is the fifth annual report under the 2018 multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. The report reflects the safeguarding commitments and hard work of all executive partners, professionals and volunteers alike, as we work together to address shared priorities. The priorities are shaped by the issues facing children and their families across the areas of Dorset, Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole.

- 1.3 The Annual Report is provided as an appendix to this report. The Annual report identifies some of the local challenges and opportunities across the two council areas as well as the governance that enabled the Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership to develop and deliver activities to promote safeguarding and protect children. This report highlights several key areas of activity and progress.
- 1.4 The Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership agreed the following priorities for 2023-2025:
- Priority 1: Violence experienced by children and young people including sexual violence and abuse, domestic abuse, physical violence and knife crime.
 - Priority 2: Children's mental health and emotional well-being.
 - Priority 3. Neglect.
- 1.5 When Dorset & Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole councils decoupled from the Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership arrangements, in July 2024, both area partnerships agreed to continue with the priorities from the Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership to 2025.
- 1.6 The next Annual Report, 2024-25 will be for the Dorset Council Area.
- 1.7 The annual safeguarding conference took place in October 2023. The conferences included a focus on 'Hopefulness' and working with adolescent young people. The Conference was linked to our priority areas 1 - Violence experienced by children and young people and 2- Children's mental health and emotional well-being. Future conferences for 2024-25 have been scheduled, one of which was the Pineapple Project facilitated violence against women and girls.
- 1.8 The Multi-Agency Training offer is constantly updated with both local and national changes in policy and procedure. The core offer in 2023-24 covered:
- Safeguarding Level 2 training
 - Working Together both initial and updates
 - Neglect
 - Safer Recruitment and updates
 - Online Safety
 - Missing Exploited Trafficked Children

- Child Exploitation Basic Awareness

1.9 During 2023/24 the Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership has undertaken a range of quality assurance activity linked to its priority areas and these are explored under the priority areas. Activity has been completed in relation to domestic abuse, neglect, injuries to non-mobile babies. The findings from local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and other learning events can be found on the Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership website Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and Learning Reviews. These led to key areas of activity for the partnership to improve the lives of children and families.

1.10 The partnership undertakes several key roles including:

- Learning from practice: the partnership facilitates learning from practice through multi-agency case audits and when required the commissioning of Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and the implementation of any learning.
- Child Death Overview Panel: arrangements for reviewing child deaths are through a panel that covers the Pan-Dorset and Somerset local authority areas. The aim is to identify any patterns or trends that can be used to systematic or local changes to prevent future deaths. Links to the Child Death Overview Panel reports are included in the background papers.
- Delivering and evaluating multi-agency safeguarding training.

1.11 An agreed Pan-Dorset dataset has been developed over 2023/24 and this contains a core dataset and data linked to each of the priority areas and reviewed the data on a quarterly basis to identify any key trends and to inform partnership activity. This data has been used as part of quality assurance activity.

1.12 The Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership also revised and updated the escalation policy and process and launched this in April 2024 to have effective oversight of escalations and ensure resolution and any key themes identified and addressed. The partnership has also been focusing work on the experience of older children/young people including in relation to their experience of neglect and domestic abuse, extra-familial harm including knife crime and working with gender identity.

1.13 Undertaking and implementing recommendations from the findings of Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews. These and other reviews can be found on the [Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership website](#) (Both Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership and Bournemouth Christchurch and Poole

Partnership share the existing Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership website, with links to the local partnerships) Key areas of learning from reviews for the partnership in 2023/24 included:

- Developing the multi-agency response to extra-familial harm including the link with intra-familial harm
- Ensuring an effective multi-agency response to working with young people and knife crime.
- Developing practice re: responding to bruising and injuries to non-mobile babies
- Ensuring that there is an effective safeguarding response to children who have disabilities or are neurodiverse.
- Work with children and families in a trauma informed way.
- Ensuring that there was effective work with families re: home safety.

1.14 The partnership developed key-principles for organisations in relation to developing trauma-informed practice, provided tools for organisations and has now developed further training.

2. Working Together 2023

2.1 [Working Together 2023](#) is statutory guidance published by the Department for Education (DfE) to set out the functions and expectations of organisations and agencies to protect and promote the welfare of children and young people. The 2023 edition updates and replaces the 2018 version. The new edition is based upon Stable homes, built of love (2023) and sets out the importance of strong multi-agency and whole family working to improve outcomes of children and young people.

2.2 Every Local Authority, and partner agency, must have implemented this by December 2024, to ensure that their working practices are compliant with the revised edition to improve the services and practices of all practitioners working with children and families.

2.3 To review and implement the reforms, the Dorset Safeguarding Children's Partnership devised a task and finish group to review and consider the reforms and any updates required to policies and procedures in place and new reforms that needed to be developed and implemented.

2.4 The Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements have been implemented and approved at Dorset's Strengthening Services Board in December 2024. These will be published

online in January 2025. As part of the implementation two documents were reviewed and updated these are Dorset's '[How we do things in Dorset](#)' & the 'Continuum of need' which is attached as an appendix.

3. Education as a statutory partner

- 3.1 Within the [Working Together 2023](#) guidance, partnerships are required to strengthen safeguarding arrangement through the inclusion of education as a statutory partner. 'Amendments made by the Children and Social Work Act 2017 to the Children Act 2004 strengthened this already important relationship by placing new duties on the police, integrated care boards and the local authority, as statutory safeguarding partners. Safeguarding partners are under a duty to make arrangements to work together, and with other partners locally including education providers and childcare settings, to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in their area.'
- 3.2 The organisations accountable for the Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership are:
- Dorset Council
 - NHS Dorset
 - Dorset Police
 - Dorset Educational Settings
- 3.3 To strengthen the role of education in multi-agency safeguarding arrangements, an education specific strategic sub-group has been created (the Education Board) with nominated leads and deputy representatives from primary and secondary schools. Education co-ordinator roles have been strengthened to support the infrastructure required to involve education in multi-agency safeguarding arrangements, linking into the Safeguarding in Education service in the local authority.
- 3.4 The Education Safeguarding Board has 38 active Board Members across Early Year, Primary, Secondary and Post-16 settings. Providers include, Maintained, Independent and Multi-Academy Trusts. The Board meets 4 times per year and is chaired by the Corporate Director of Education and Learning.
- 3.5 Education representatives from the Education Safeguarding Board attend all the Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership safeguarding groups, including:
- Dorset Safeguarding Partnership Strengthening Services Board

- Multi-Agency Child Protection Operational Board
- Learning Hub
- Quality of Practice Action Group
- Child Safeguarding Practice Review Group

3.6 Representatives report back into the Dorset Education Board, which in turn links into the Dorset Strategic Alliance, delivering the 'Best Education For All' and contributing to the 'Safe at Home and in the Community' priorities in the Children, Young People and Families' Plan 2023-33.

3.7 Wider safeguarding information is cascaded and shared through a new Education Safeguarding Board Newsletter.

4. **Financial Implications**

The Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership is committed to the principles of equitable and proportionate funding with shared and equal responsibilities. There is a dedicated Business Team to support the work of the partnership across the Dorset area.

For 2023-24, each partner put in an equal share into the PDSCP budget and for 2023/24 this was £75,785 per partner. This meant a total budget of £303,140.

There was a carry-over at the end of the fiscal year of £68,853 as this was to support the changes required from Working Together 2023.

For 2024/25 the same budget of £303,140 was agreed to support the 2 Local Safeguarding Partnerships (Dorset Council area & BCP Council area) equating to £151,570 for each area.

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

None identified through this report.

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

The Partnership's work is designed to impact positively on the well-being and health of Dorset's children and young people, by keeping them safe, by reducing the risk of harm and through raising awareness of child safeguarding issues so that children are protected from harm and provided support when they need it.

7. **Other Implications**

None identified through this report.

8. **Risk Assessment.**

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

Current Risk: Low

Residual Risk: Low

9. **Equalities Impact Assessment**

None completed for this report. Dorset Safeguarding Partnership to review & update Equalities Impact Assessment in 2025 alongside the review of the partnership's priorities & Annual Report. The Partnership's core business is to reduce the impact of inequalities, both on individual children and young people and on groups, cohorts of children and young people.

10. **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Children's Partnership Annual Report 2023-24

Appendix 2 – Continuum of need

11. **Background Papers**

[How we do things in Dorset](#)

[Working Together 2023](#)

[Cabinet Report September 2024 \(Item 9.0\)](#)

[Child Death Overview Panel Annual Reports](#)

[Dorset's Strategic Alliance Children, Young People & Families' Plan 2023-33.](#)

12. **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)

Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report 2023/2024



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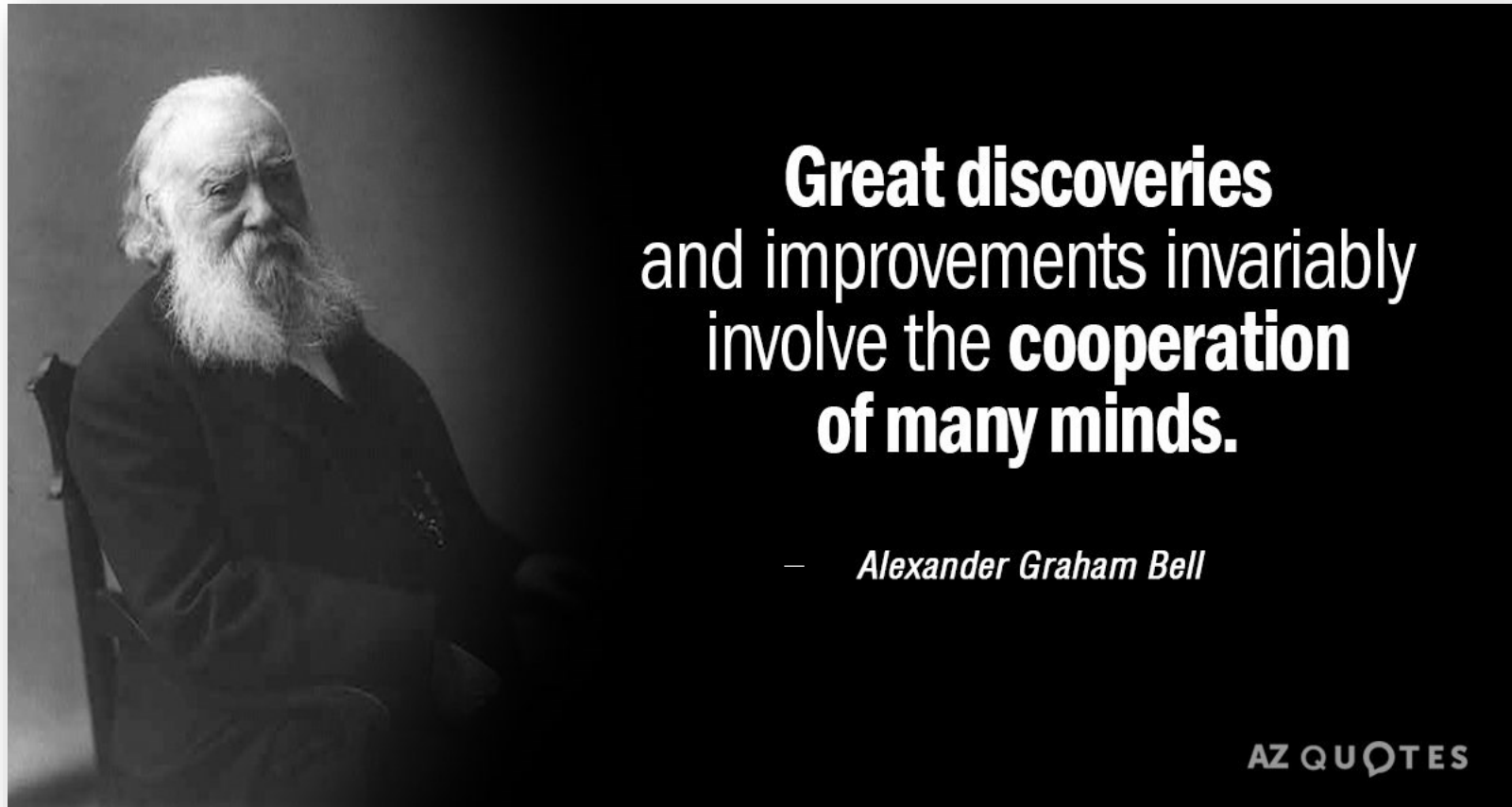


**DORSET
POLICE**

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Dorset**

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Foreword

As we present the Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership (PDSCP) Annual Report for 2023/24, we stand in reflection of a year marked by unwavering commitment and collective effort to safeguard the children and families within our communities. This document not only outlines the milestones achieved but also the challenges faced and surmounted.

The year has been pivotal, with the PDSCP navigating the dynamic terrain of safeguarding, aligning with the new policies and procedures of the Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023. Our resolve to deliver services that are both effective and inclusive has been reinforced, with a focus on ensuring accessibility and shared responsibilities.

Our priority areas have seen substantial progress, particularly in addressing violence affecting children, including domestic abuse, sexual assault, and knife crime. Our strategies to combat child exploitation and extra-familial harm have been bolstered by the introduction of new risk assessment tools and revised strategies.

The PDSCP has diligently worked on adapting to the new guidelines of the Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023, with a full implementation plan set to be completed by December 2024.

Extensive quality assurance and scrutiny activities have been undertaken, particularly in relation to domestic abuse, neglect, and injuries to non-mobile babies and in response to learning from review activity. A Pan-Dorset dataset has been developed and reviewed quarterly to identify key trends and inform partnership activity.

The increase in permanent staff positions within the PDSCP has led to better service delivery and more consistent practice across agencies.

A Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership conference entitled: Hopefulness and working with adolescent young people was a success, with the expert by experience voice being at the heart. The PDSCP has ensured that the voices, views, and influence of children and young people are integral to the success of the partnership, reflecting the PDSCP's commitment to making sure that children and young people have the best chances to thrive and be successful.

The backbone of our success lies in the dedication of our multi-agency workforce. Their expertise and steadfast support have been crucial in fostering improvements and learning across all agencies. We express our deepest appreciation to every professional and volunteer who has played a part in our mission.

Looking forward, our dedication to safeguarding excellence remains steadfast. We are committed to continuous learning, adaptation, and innovation to ensure the safety and well-being of every child and young person under our care.

On behalf of the PDSCP, I extend our sincere gratitude to all our partners, stakeholders, and the community for their unwavering support. Together, we are effecting positive change in the lives of children and families across Dorset.

James R. Vaughan

Independent Chair

Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership

Overview of the Area by each Council Location

Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council area population is 401,900 residents. The BCP area has a smaller proportion of 0–15 year olds (16%) compared to England (19%). 65,800 children under the age of 16 are living in the BCP area.

The number of under 16s is set to decrease by 7% between 2018 and 2028, with the decrease being seen predominantly in the 0-5s and 6-10s age ranges. The area, however, has a larger proportion of residents aged 66 or over (21%) compared with the rest England (18%), although a significantly smaller proportion than neighbouring Dorset. The working age population aged 16-65 (63%) is marginally larger than the percentage in the Southwest (62%) but slightly smaller than England (64%).

Since the 2011 Census the population in the BCP area has become more diverse with over 80 languages being spoken across the area. The top 5 languages spoken in BCP (excluding English), are Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Spanish and Hungarian. According to the 2021 Census 82% of the population are white British, a decrease of 6% from the 2011 Census (88%), the remaining 18% of the population in the 2021 Census are reported to be from a non-white British background.

The largest religious group in the BCP area is Christianity with 46.8% of residents identifying as Christian, down from 59.7% in 2011. Around 4 in 10 (42.2%) identify as having no religion, this has increased by 12.9% from 29.3% in 2011. The second largest religion in the BCP area according to the 2021 census, is Islam – 1.7% up from 1.2% in 2011.

Like many places BCP is an area of contrast, including some of the most affluent and most deprived areas in the country. Just under 9,000 children live in families with a low income (i.e. reported income is less than 60% of national median). This is 13.5% of those aged 0-19 and 11% of those aged under 16. As well as this, using the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) indicator, BCP has around 8,100 children aged 0-14 and 2,700 15–19-year-olds living in areas that fall into the 20% most deprived in the country. The greatest levels of deprivation are in the wards of Boscombe, West, Kinson, East Cliff and Springbourne, Alderney and Bourne Valley and Muscliffe and Strouden Park. In contrast 16,000 0-19 year olds live in an area in BCP that is amongst the 20% least deprived in England.

There are 98 state-funded schools within the BCP area: 66 primaries (comprising infant, first and junior schools); 22 secondary schools (including 4 Grammar schools and 1 middle school); and 3 all-through schools. There are a further 5 special schools, 1 alternative provision and 1 pupil referral unit. As of 15 April 2024, 95.5% of primary and secondary schools were rated Good or Outstanding for overall effectiveness. Educational attainment for all key stages is above the national average. The authority has three universities within its area with around 22,700 students. Bournemouth University (2021/22) has around 18,000 students with 16% of its student population from outside of the UK.

In 2023/24, the BCP area had a crime rate of approximately 98 crimes per 1,000 residents. Crime numbers are typically higher in the town centre areas, in part due to the night-time economy.



The population of the Dorset Council area is 383,274. There are 73,013 children and young people aged 0-19 representing 19.1% of the total population. 30% of the population are aged 65 and older (nationally 19%) and the working age population aged 16 to 64 represents 55.2% of the population.

English is the main language in Dorset with 98.2% of the population in 2021. There, are though, over 80 languages spoken across Dorset, however residents for whom non-English is a main language make up a very small proportion of the population. The top 5 languages spoken in Dorset are English with Polish, Romanian, Nepalese and Bulgarian spoken by 0.7% of the population. According to the 2021 Census 93.9% of the population are white British, a decrease of 1.7% from the 2011 Census with the remaining 6.1% of residents from Black and Minority Ethnic groups (national 25.6%), this rises to 7.8% for children and young people (aged 24 years and under). Just over half of our residents who are from an ethnic minority, report as being 'White Other.' This is mainly made up of White European residents.

The beautiful landscapes and towns and villages of Dorset can conceal hidden challenges: there are significant areas of deprivation, mostly in urban areas (mainly Weymouth and Portland). Eleven areas in Dorset are within the top 20% nationally for high levels of multiple deprivation, ten of these within Weymouth and Portland (data from 2019). In 2018, South Dorset was ranked at 533 among 533 parliamentary constituencies in England for social mobility with some 70% of the population of the constituency living in Weymouth & Portland. There is rural deprivation linked to isolation and difficulty accessing housing, transport, and essential services. The Children's Society estimates that approximately 23% of Dorset children are living in poverty with up to 45% in some wards (2021).

There are 47,012 children from Reception to Year 14 in Dorset (May 2023 school census). Dorset has 158 Schools Academies, Maintained and Free. 84% are good or better (83% of Academies are Good or Outstanding, compared to 86% of Maintained schools). The Key Stage 2 performance was in the bottom quartile nationally and Key Stage 4 performance (progress and attainment 8) was in the second lowest quartile. The gap between disadvantaged young people and their peers is still not where we need it to be and faced further challenge due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the impact on school attendance.

Crime is generally low with Dorset being the sixth safest place to live in the UK. First Time Entrants of young people to the Criminal Justice System are relatively low in a national context.

Governance

The Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership (PDSCP) was set up to meet the requirements of Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018. In December 2023 Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 was published, and this is to be fully implemented by December 2024. The PDSCP has developed and is implementing a plan to deliver the changes required under Working Together 2023.

In July 2024 it is important to note that a review of the partnership governance arrangements has led to both council areas creating independent partnership arrangements. This means that this will be the last PDSCP annual report as the new Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership and BCP Safeguarding Children Partnership will produce their own council area reports going forward. This change is to allow for each Local Authority area to have dedicated focus with partners on the children and families residing within the council areas. These new arrangements are set out on the partnership website. However as these changes were later on in the year the report and findings are concluding the work of the PDSCP arrangements.

Over the preceding 12 months the PDSCP recognised that to achieve the best possible outcomes:

- Children and families should receive targeted services that meet their needs in a co-ordinated way.
- There is a shared and equal responsibility between organisations and agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in the Pan-Dorset area.
- The responsibility to join up services locally rests with the safeguarding partners who have a shared and equal duty to make arrangements to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children across the Pan-Dorset area.

The Statutory Safeguarding Partners

For each of these partners, Working Together 2018 defined the lead representatives from each as the Local Authority Chief Executive, the Accountable Officer of the Clinical Commissioning Group (now Integrated Care Boards - ICB) and a Chief Officer of Police (these will be the Lead Safeguarding Partners under Working Together 2023)

For the Pan-Dorset area the lead representatives are:

- Matt Prosser, Chief Executive Dorset Council
- Graham Farrant, Chief Executive BCP Council
- Amanda Pearson, Chief Constable Dorset Police
- Patricia Miller, Chief Executive NHS Dorset

As set out in Working Together 2018, the lead representatives can delegate their functions, although they retain accountability for any actions taken on behalf of their agency.

In the Dorset/BCP areas, the lead representatives have identified the following senior officers in their respective agencies who have responsibility and authority for ensuring full participation with these arrangements (these will be the Delegated Safeguarding Partners under Working Together 2023)



For the Dorset and BCP areas, the agency representatives are:

- Theresa Leavy, Executive Director for People - Children Dorset Council
- Cathi Hadley, Corporate Director for Children's Services BCP Council
- Mark Callaghan, Assistant Chief Constable Dorset Police
- Debbie Simmons, Chief Nursing Officer NHS Dorset

These representatives or delegates:

- Speak with authority for the safeguarding partner they represent.
- Take decisions on behalf of their organisation or agency and commit them on policy, resourcing, and practice matters.
- Hold their own organisation or agency to account on how effectively they participate and implement the local arrangements.

Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership



The Executive Group supported and complimented the place based multi-agency arrangements within both Dorset and BCP areas:

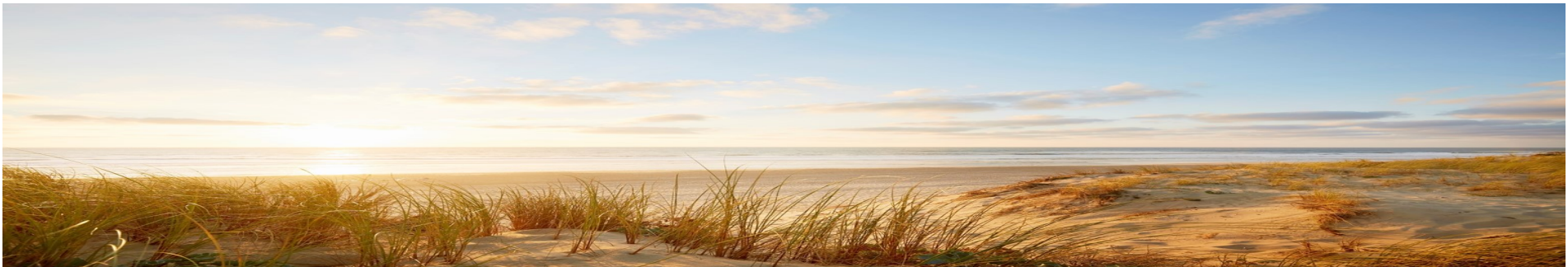
- **Dorset's Strengthening Services Board**

The Strengthening Services Board is the local delivery arm for the Dorset area in the Pan-Dorset Partnership. This is chaired by the Chief Executive of Dorset Council with representatives at executive level across the partnership. The Board meets 6-weekly to oversee progress and impact of the partnership plan and ensure improved outcomes for children and young people. The Board oversees multi-agency safeguarding activity within the Dorset area and highlights from each Board is shared with the PDSCP Executive (see Appendix 1 for structure).

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- **BCP Safeguarding Children Partnership**

The BCP Safeguarding Children Partnership is the multi-agency delivery arm for the BCP area in the Pan-Dorset partnership, it is chaired by the BCP Council Director of Children's Services and meets every 2 months. The group oversees multi-agency safeguarding activity within the BCP area and reports into the PDSCP Executive (see Appendix 2 for structure).



Review

As highlighted in the governance a review of the Pan-Dorset arrangements for the delivery of the Safeguarding Children's Partnership was undertaken by the statutory partners. The review recommended that the partnership arrangements be delivered separately for each Local Authority area.

One of the fundamental reasons behind this was the significant difference between the two local authorities within the existing partnership. The authorities operate differently, and their approaches to safeguarding and working practices often diverge, particularly as Dorset is a pathfinder for Stable Homes Built on Love, trialling new ways of partnership working. The recent changes outlined in the Working Together Guidance 2023 posed an additional challenge for our Pan-Dorset arrangement. With the removal of the Independent Chair role, implementing the necessary changes becomes considerably more complex under a Pan-Dorset arrangement. By transitioning to a Dorset Safeguarding Partnership and a separate BCP Safeguarding Partnership, both areas can adapt their structures and procedures seamlessly to align with the revised guidelines. This will enable them to fulfil their safeguarding responsibilities independently and effectively across the region. This proposal was agreed through governance structures and is being implemented from the 1st August 2024.



Training and Development

Pan-Dorset training offers a core safeguarding training provision with focus on a multi-agency workforce accessed by a wide range of agencies. The training will continue to be delivered Pan Dorset after the partnership separates. The administration and co-ordination of the training is paid by income generation.

PDSCP is a trusted and dependable provider ensuring that organisations meet their safeguarding training requirements. Courses are commissioned through the Learning and Development Framework and meet the specific quality control and contract compliance measures.

The offer is constantly updated with both local and national changes in policy and procedure.

The core offer in 2023-24 covered:

- Safeguarding Level 2 training
- Working Together both initial and updates
- Neglect
- Safer Recruitment and updates
- Online Safety
- Missing Exploited Trafficked Children
- Child Exploitation Basic Awareness

DORSET
NEXUS

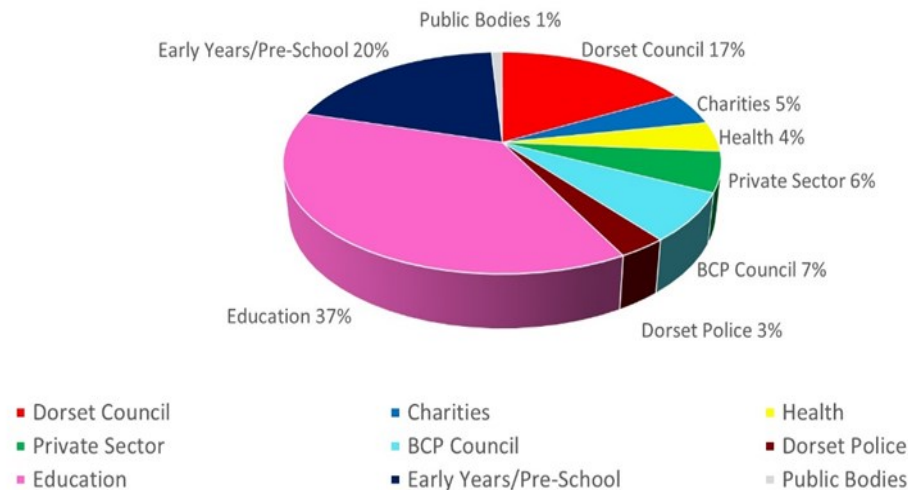
The training offer developed in 2023-24 in response to the findings from reviews, PDSCP priorities and quality assurance activity and also included:

Working with families of sex workers	This followed a BCP conference and the findings of the River Review
TIP (Trauma Informed Practice)	The PDSCP undertook a task and finish group re: trauma-informed practice in response to the Ashley review and it was agreed to commission an introduction to Trauma Informed Practice training.
Intra-Familial Child Sexual Abuse	Following a Dorset review the multi-agency training re: intra-familial sexual abuse was reviewed and revised.
Domestic Abuse	Following quality assurance activity themed in respect of domestic abuse it was agreed to offer 4 FREE training sessions in 2024-2025.
Intel	Our partner, the Police hosted virtually several 1-hour training sessions discussing how intelligence is gathered and used. This was offered to PDSCP delegates for FREE.

When changes to local and national legislation or guidance are known, the information is shared to all relevant training providers to update their training content where required for example when Working Together 2023 was released, a 7-minute guide re: role of Designated Officer was shared with the training providers as an outcome of the BCP Charlie Review, to ensure training providers include professional bias.

2023-2024 Reports Q1, Q2, Q3 & Q4

Number of delegates that attended training by agency
Q1 - Q4 (Apr 2023 - Mar 2024)



There remained a surplus in the budget for 2023-2024 and as such a £10,000 fund for a FREE programme of training has been allocated to the 2024-2025 budget. This is with the caveat that it relates to a Rapid Review, a strategic priority, or a child safeguarding practice review.

Looking Ahead 2024-2025

A proposal was submitted and approved at the Dorset Learning Hub (LH) and the BCP Quality Assurance Learning Group (QALG) recommending a 5% uplift on course fees this is linked to the cost-of-living rise.

Charities or community interested Companies (CIC) can apply for free places to ensure they can access trusted safeguarding training. The policy has been changed to include all charities not just those registered (as per the charity Policy). All Policies and procedures for the PDSCP Training team have been reviewed and agreed for a year, with tighter restrictions within the cancellation policy while this remains a £25 cancellation fee.

The team are reviewing the Nexus training system and working with our Nexus system colleagues to review and improve with potential system updates, tweaks, and development changes.

The Training and Development Co-Ordinator Role links with the PDSCP and the place-based arrangements within Dorset and BCP to ensure that the training programme is in line with:

- The PDSCP priorities
- Findings from quality assurance activity including reviews.
- Other local and national developments.

The Training and Development Co-Ordinator manages the procurement process, awards the contracts, manages the Training budget, the continued relationships and regular feedback with the trainers and partners.

The PDSCP training team work continually to fill places onto the training offer and accommodate delegates whenever they can, cancellations are the last resort. Their approachable, calm, and professional nature ensures the best experience for all delegates. They manage the invoice process and go over and above to ensure this is timely and accurate. The Training team also support the Training and Development Co-Ordinator in a variety of ways providing accurate report information, supporting the Dorset Learning Hub, improving nexus, and bringing new and fresh ideas regularly.



Closing the Learning Loop

Learning from practice - Qualitative data from evaluation feedback demonstrates that practitioners are using their learning when they return to the workplace. Courses are quality assured through the Learning Hub groups from Dorset and BCP which review feedback, impact, performance of providers and course design and planning. The training co-ordinator shares 3-month post training feedback that includes use of policies, procedures, guidance, and toolkits.



Annual Conference

A Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership conference took place on the 18th October 2023. The Conference was titled: Hopefulness and working with adolescent young people. The Conference was linked to our priority areas 1 - Violence experienced by children and young people and 2- Children's mental health and emotional well-being.

The conference heard from someone's personal experience of living in a family where there was coercive control and domestic homicide, an approach to working with young people using a mentalising approach and directly from young people about their experience of working with practitioners and gender identity. In addition, we heard from agencies and how they were addressing challenges such as knife crime, exploitation and the opportunities presented by the pathfinder work in Dorset. The conference was attended by 200 practitioners across the BCP and Dorset areas. In the evaluation of the conference:

- 98% of those who responded rated the event as good or excellent.
- 75% of those who responded said that conference was "very useful" to their work with a further 24% saying that it was "fairly useful".

The work of the conference was built upon e.g. the development of a guide for practitioners working with gender identity.



Local and National Learning

During 2023/24 the PDSCP has undertaken a range of quality assurance activity linked to its priority areas and these are explored under the priority areas (see chapter 11). Activity has been completed in relation to domestic abuse, neglect, injuries to non-mobile babies.

An agreed Pan-Dorset dataset has been developed over 2023/24 and this contains a core dataset and data linked to each of the priority areas and reviewed the data on a quarterly basis to identify any key trends and to inform partnership activity. This data has been used as part of quality assurance activity e.g. in relation to work on neglect and to identify other areas of focus e.g. in relation to physical abuse. There has been a challenge in obtaining place-based data re: young people's mental health but this has been addressed and we are awaiting data from CAMHS. The PDSCP is aware of the requirements in Working Together 2023 re: independent scrutiny of the arrangements and this is being developed through 2024/25. In 2022/23 independent scrutiny included: employing an independent scrutineer to undertake a piece of work re: neglect (see chapter 11) and the independent chair undertaking a range of activity including: chairing the PDSCP Executive and creating a culture of open and honest challenge and collaboration including the Chair challenging senior leaders, chairing sign off meetings for Rapid Reviews, chairing sign off meetings for Child Safeguarding Practice Review reports, periodic attendance at place-based meetings etc.

The PDSCP also revised and updated the escalation policy and process and launched this in April 2024 in order to have effective oversight of escalations and ensure resolution and any key themes identified and addressed.

The findings from Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and other reviews can found on the PDSCP website;

[Child Safeguarding Practice Review \(previously known as Serious Case Reviews\) - Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership \(pdscp.co.uk\)](https://pdscp.co.uk) .

During 2023/24 three CSPRs were published, and two others were underway and were published in early 2024/25. The PDSCP has also contributed to two LSCPRs in other areas which are due to be published in 2024/25.

Key areas of learning from reviews for the partnership in 2023/24 included:

- Developing the multi-agency response to extra-familial harm including the link with intra-familial harm
- Ensuring an effective multi-agency response to working with young people and knife crime.
- Developing practice re: responding to bruising and injuries to non-mobile babies
- Ensuring that there is an effective safeguarding response to children who have disabilities or are neuro-diverse.
- Work with children and families in a trauma informed way.
- Ensuring that there was effective work with families re: home safety.

Further learning and the multi-agency response is explored in Chapter 11 linked to the priority areas.

The PDSCP also held agencies to account for the quality of safeguarding and the related improvements including by Southwest Ambulance Service Trust, Southwest Probation Service, and concerns about the quality of care in Feltham YOI. They also provide challenge and support in relation to how the Right Care Right Person initiative was being implemented in the Pan-Dorset area.

The PDSCP were also aware and responded to key national developments including:

- The consultation re: Working Together 2023
- Developed and implemented workplans to provide reassurance in response to DfE.
- Safeguarding children with disabilities and complex health needs in residential settings published in April 2023.

- Responded to other government consultations such as mandatory reporting of child sexual abuse.
- Provided representation to central government re: requirements for DBS checks for small organisations working with children e.g. dance schools.
- Was given assurances from Dorset police re: appropriate use of force in working with children and young people in respect of local issues and Child Q LSCPR.
- We were invited to participate in national research regarding CSPRS, led by research and practice in partnership with the University of East Anglia and the Vulnerability of Knowledge and Practice Program. Funded by the Department for Education.



Funding

The PDSCP is committed to the principles of equitable and proportionate funding with shared and equal responsibilities. There is a dedicated Business Team to support the work of the partnership across the Pan-Dorset area.

Each partner puts in an equal share into the PDSCP budget and for 2023/24 this was £75,785 per partner. This meant a total budget of £303,140.

There was a carry-over at the end of the financial year of £68,853 as this was to support the changes required from Working Together 2023.

The plan for 2024/25 is to have the same budget but this will be divided into two for the separated partnerships.



Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)

Statutory guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 (and this continues under Working Together 2023) defines child death review partners as “local authorities and any clinical commissioning groups for the local area as set out in the Children Act 2004 (the Act), as amended by the Children and Social Work Act 2017”.

When a child dies, in any circumstances, it is important for parents and families to understand what has happened and whether there are any lessons to be learned. The responsibility for ensuring child death reviews are carried out is held by ‘child death review partners,’ as defined within Working Together to Safeguarding Children 2018 (and 2023) and set out in current legislation child death review partners must make arrangements to review all deaths of children normally resident in the local area and, if they consider it appropriate, for any non-resident child who has died in their area.

Child death review partners for two or more local authority areas may combine and agree that their areas be treated as a single area for the purpose of undertaking child death reviews. Child death review partners in Bournemouth, Christchurch, Poole, Dorset, and Somerset have agreed to treat Pan Dorset and Somerset as a single area, resulting in a joint Pan Dorset and Somerset Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) undertaking child death reviews for Bournemouth, Christchurch, Poole, Dorset, and Somerset children.

CDOP Data

The CDOP panel met 4 times in 2023/24 and reviewed 27 deaths: 22 Pan-Dorset deaths (10 Dorset and 12 BCP) and 5 Somerset deaths.

In 14 (52 %) of these cases there were modifiable factors identified. This compared to last year's figures where 59 cases were reviewed, and modifiable factors were identified in 54.2 % of cases. We await the annual National Child Mortality Database (hereafter referred to as NCMD) report due in November to compare where these sit against national figures and we will produce an annual CDOP report.

Child Deaths – Notifications 23/24

CDOP has been notified of a total of 27 deaths of Pan Dorset residents and 30 deaths of Somerset residents during this twelve-month period. In addition, there were 9 notifications of Out of County children, resident elsewhere who died within our areas – these deaths will be reviewed and recorded by their home Local Authority.

The annual CDOP report is due to be published in November 2024.

Key Safeguarding Developments in Agencies

BCP Council

Since the full inspection of local authority children's services (ILACS) in December 2021, when Children's Services was judged 'Inadequate', six monitoring visits have been undertaken all evidencing strong progress and confirmation that Children's Services in BCP has moved out of inadequate. Ofsted have confirmed that they will not be doing any further monitoring visits, and the next inspection will be a full ILACS.

Children's Services has made progress over the last 12 months, there is certainly good work to celebrate, however we recognise there is still a significant way to go with pace and consistency being a priority. There is very good stability in the extended leadership team and continuing evidence of traction from senior managers to service improvement. A far higher number of staff are in permanent positions, and this translates into practitioners having a better understanding of the support children and their families need and how best to provide this help.



Dorset Council

Dorset was selected as one of only three local authority areas to participate in Wave One of the Families First for Children Pathfinder. Successful partnership and stakeholder co-design work has been completed and the pathfinder work was launched in June 2024. Key to this is multi-agency working and NHS Dorset and Dorset Police are key partners in this.

Our Local Area SEND Inspection took place between 26th February and 15th March 2024. Over the course of the three-week inspection, inspectors explored 16 children in detail, selected by them from a much larger cohort of children, to understand their lived experiences and that of their families.

Inspectors commended the partnership for placing children, young people, and their families at the centre of decision-making, leading to **“typically positive experiences and outcomes.”** The Inspection highlighted the collaborative efforts of strategic partners, including Dorset Council, NHS Dorset Integrated Care Board, and the Dorset Parent Carer Council, to support children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND). **Our most recent Inspection report can be accessed [here](#).**

The Dorset area revised and launched their ten-year Children, Young People and Families Plan. Some other key areas of development in respect of safeguarding included:

- Making good progress on developing a network of Family Hubs
- Launching the 0 to 25 Birth to Settled Adulthood Service for children and young people with a disability/complex need.
- Participating in the 'Re-imagining Pre-proceedings' pilot with The Family Rights Group and the local judiciary.
- Continuing to deliver the Safeguarding Families Together pilot with a positive evaluation from the University of Bedfordshire. This has led to the agreement of a roll out to all locality areas and is due to be in place by the end of the year.





Dorset Police

Over the last 12 months the Child Abuse Investigation Team has received additional staffing to better service the needs of the public and the demand within the department. The team continue to secure significant convictions and prison sentences against Child Abuse suspects, securing almost 200 years of sentencing in the last 12 months. Additionally, the two Child Abuse Investigation Teams boundaries have been realigned to match those of the two Local Authorities in order to aid collaborative working with partner agencies.

The Paedophile Online Investigation Team continue to be highly regarded nationally and are one of the first to obtain a Sexual Harm Prevention Order preventing an offender from accessing Artificial Intelligence software as a preventative measure to prevent future harm.

Structures within the Dorset Police side of the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) have developed in line with the Dorset Council Pathfinder project regarding the Multi-Agency Child Protection Teams and Child Protection Conferences whereby the police representative will be more consistent throughout the Child Protection procedures.

Dorset Police has taken part in a PEER review by the Vulnerability Knowledge and Practice Programme which focused on the governance structures regarding the strands of vulnerability. Initial feedback has been received and implemented, with the full report expected summer 2024.

Dorset Police has also engaged in the Modern Day Slavery and Organised Immigration Crime review. An action and improvement plan has been developed and delivery is in progress.

NHS Dorset

During 2023/24, NHS Dorset continued to provide a team of safeguarding clinical leads coordinated by the Head of Safeguarding. The portfolio for clinical leadership by the NHS Dorset safeguarding team included child, adult, and community safeguarding, children in care and care leavers, learning from the review of child mortality, and, from 2024, special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). The clinical leads included nurses, GPs, paediatricians, and an allied health professional.



The clinical leads continued to provide expert clinical support to the statutory multi-agency safeguarding partnerships to develop strategy and assure the quality of partnership safeguarding arrangements in BCP and Dorset. The clinical leads contributed to the Joint Forward Plan published by NHS Dorset to help with the alignment of priorities.

Priority Areas 2023/24

The PDSCP agreed three priority areas for their work from 2023/24 and these will continue to the priority areas for 2024/25.

(A) Violence experienced by children and young people, including;

- Sexual violence and abuse
- Domestic violence and abuse
- Physical violence and knife crime

Extra-Familial Harm

During the year both place-based arrangements within Dorset and BCP have revised and renewed their strategic approach to working with Extra-Familial Harm (EFH)

Extra-Familial Harm BCP

The BCP area undertook a number of reviews in respect of extra-familial harm including 2 CSPRs. The reviews identified areas of good practice and areas for development. Whilst each review has its own findings there are several common themes/areas. These include concerns about:

- The response to intra-familial harm.
- The response to extra-familial harm.
- The approach to children and young people and their families.
- Support to practitioners and management oversight.

The findings were used to inform the implementation of a revised strategy and plan and to assist with key areas for evaluation.

The BCP Extra Familial Harm Strategy was approved by the BCP Children Safeguarding Partnership Board. The strategy covers MET – Missing, Exploited and Trafficked children, led by BCP Children’s Services, MSV - Most Serious Violence led by Dorset Police and PREVENT – children at risk of radicalisation, led by the Community Safety Partnership.

A review of the MET panel has been undertaken and work undertaken to strengthen the panel. The panel now seeks to identify and provide oversight of the children and young people at highest risk of MET in the BCP area, provides an overview of perpetrators, identifies hotspot areas, and ensures disruption planning and cross referencing those young people who may also be at risk of MSV and radicalisation. The new, renewed panel has both a strategic and operational role, and performance measures have been identified.

The existing Child Exploitation screening tool has been reviewed and a new tool (CERAF) has been agreed. Work is being undertaken by MET panel partners to create a post-18 CERAF which will allow for safeguarding adult risks to be identified, alongside a shortened CERAF tool for health to use. The tool can measure the level of exploitation, enabling BCP to report back also then on any improvements in the outcome and risks to young people.

A trafficking tool has been created and will be introduced to Children’s Social care staff to aid identification of trafficking risk for those children being trafficked to the UK (UASCs) and those children being trafficked internally. National Referral Mechanism (NRM) identification and tracking will shortly be available on our IT systems to allow for more robust understanding of children experiencing and at risk of trafficking in BCP.

The work that has occurred will enable us to measure the risks in BCP, and measures improvements and outcomes for our children. Police and Children's Services have worked hard to create a measurable system and so enable an evidence-based approach to risk and address the identified themes and 'hot spots'.

The BCP Safeguarding Children Partnership will measure the impact of the implementation of the extra-familial harm delivery plan via updates being provided to the Partnership by the MET Panel, Most Serious Violence Panel and PREVENT panel, every six months. There is planned multi-agency quality assurance activity of this area in 2024/25.

Dorset Extra-Familial Risk and Harm

The Dorset place-based arrangements also revised their Extra Familial Risk and Harm Strategy, partly following the findings of a multi-agency review. This is based upon the Joining the Dots framework (Tackling Child Exploitation Project) and the 8 Practice Principles

[Multi-agency Practice Principles for responding to child exploitation and extra-familial harm \(researchinpractice.org.uk\)](https://researchinpractice.org.uk)

The Extra Familial Harm and Risk Strategy provides a framework for oversight of work in Dorset with children and young people in relation to child sexual exploitation, child criminal exploitation, transitional safeguarding, missing, radicalisation and extremism, serious violence and weapons, online exploitation.

A new extra familial harm risk assessment was launched in February 2024. Agencies continued to use the child exploitation screening tool to aid identification of exploitation. The extra familial harm risk assessment is used by children's services staff to identify, understand, and analyse risk outside of the home, and supports consideration of wider risks.

An Extra Familial risk and harm panel has been in place since September 2023. This is a multi-agency panel held on a weekly basis.

There has been good partnership engagement with the Extra Familial Risk and Harm Panels. There has been a more consistent approach to identifying those most at risk with numbers of significant and moderate risk reducing. There has been increasing focus on contexts and peer groups, which has promoted contextual safeguarding approaches. There has been an increase in context assessments and contextual safeguarding conferences held to identify and address risks that will positively impact all young people within those contexts.

Data from the Extra Familial Risk and Harm Tactical Group in March 2024 indicated that 14 children were identified at 'significant' risk of Extra Familial Risk and Harm. This has reduced from the previous high number of 28 children in September 2023.

There is a recognition that the extra familial harm that young people can experience does not stop when a young person turns 18 and can at times increase with reduced support and changes to how young people are viewed. A working group is developing the approach to transitional safeguarding.

The Pineapple Project, part of the wider concept of Chesil Hidden Girls, was launched in Weymouth Town Centre in November 2022 with the purpose to provide safe spaces from young women through the provision of Community Guardians within local businesses. A survey was completed with young women in the locality in May 2022 which identified when, where, and why they feel unsafe. Chesil 'Hidden Girls' seeks to highlight, recognise, and prevent the 'hidden' exploitation of young women and girls.

Since launching in November 2022, the Pineapple Project has been awarded two grants, one from the Safer Streets fund and the other from the Serious Violence Duty fund. The Safer Streets funding has enabled the Pineapple Project to expand into three additional areas – Dorchester, Portland, and Swanage. The anticipation for the Serious Violence Duty funding is to support a hub within Weymouth Town Centre to offer a therapeutic safe space for young women to attend.

During November 2023 Violence Against Women Awareness week, the Project Lead undertook an exercise recording young women's hopes and fears as part of a social media campaign. The Pineapple Project continues to raise awareness of violence against all women, with a focus on young women and girls, and to ensure all young women in Dorset have a safe space to go to when they need to. Alongside that they are seeking to raise the awareness of 'hidden girls' and develop greater recognition of exploitation to enable proactive prevention. An area of focus is developing community guardians to help safeguard young women and girls. Currently 10 community guardians are fully approved, and a further 12 being progressed through checks and training.

**STOP
VIOLENCE
AGAINST
WOMEN**



Knife crime

The BCP area has learnt from a PDSCP review into the death of a member of the public who was stabbed by an unaccompanied asylum seeker who was initially understood to be child. Age Assessment training has been delivered to a range of Social Workers across the Council and there is a clear rota and plan in place to ensure backlogs and drift are prevented. Risk Assessments and Exploitation Screening are used more consistently when working with UASC in the Council, and training to strengthen the understanding of, and quality of referrals to, Prevent and NRM has also been completed. Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children and Young People are supported by a wide network of professionals.

During the recent BCP wide Knife Crime Awareness campaign, the sessions across four weeks were themed to support these young people to recognise and understand the risks of exploitation, violence, and knife crime, including the impact any criminal or anti-social involvement could have on their application to remain in the UK. The focus from our staff and the wider network is always on promoting community engagement, education, and/or employment, and equipping our young people with the skills and knowledge to keep themselves and others safe.

The awareness campaign was facilitated in collaboration with CAM (Changes Are Made), a local community organisation established in 2023 by the grandmother and wider family of a CEYP who was tragically stabbed and murdered in Bournemouth town centre.



Work in relation to knife awareness and knife crime sits within the Community Safety partnership (CSP), recognising the collective need to support and address this within the community. The OPCC has currently set aside funding to work to enable a Boscombe based charity to deliver the 'Wasp Nest' within schools. Whilst BCP has a low crime rate, the impact of knife crime can be devastating to families.

The CSP recently held events for Knife Awareness Month- there were various talks, education, and sharing within this month to raise the awareness of the impact of knife crime, but also information shared to help safeguard against this.

Dorset Police have supported Op Sceptre (a national initiative re: knife crime) across Dorset and this includes diversions, targeted intervention for those most at risk of being involved in knife crime, and educational work for schools across the County with the firearms and knife education work (FAKE). F.A.K.E. is also supported by the safer school's network and our education colleagues, reaching between 2500 and 3000 young people twice a year. Work continues throughout Dorset local authority areas around the serious violence duty with working groups targeting knife crime intervention and education for young people along with funding opportunities to support this work.

A youth justice worker recorded the following after a conversation with a young person:

"We talked about the YJS interventions regarding knife crime. I asked you what we as a service could do better/different with young people who carry knives/weapons. We had a long chat, and you were great at sharing your views. You said that we should concentrate on young people's positives, strengths, build on them, find something like a positive relationship with a family member and young people should spend more time thinking about them, being with them. Build on self-worth, do something to replace the dealing and the 'crap' that goes with this, like going to the gym. What's unhelpful is talking about the dangers of carrying a knife, kids know this, probably better than us, and they don't want to keep talking about it, especially if they say they don't do it anymore and have moved on."

BCP CSP and Serious Violence

BCP Community Safety Partnership completed their Serious Violence Needs Assessment and published their Serious Violence Strategy at the end of January 2024. There were 4 priorities outlined under the strategy. These were:

- Sex offences and rapes
- Domestic Abuse
- Knife related offending
- Robberies

The Domestic Abuse priority is currently being dealt with through the Domestic Abuse strategy and the Domestic Abuse Strategic Group.

A Serious Violence Delivery Group was created (a multi-agency group) to work through the remaining 3 priorities and the action plan that had been created.

The Serious Violence Delivery Group meets monthly and focuses on a subject matter each month on a rolling cycle. This is overseen by the BCP CSP.

The Serious Violence Strategy sits on the Safer BCP website and the link to the strategy is included below:

<https://www.saferbcpc.co.uk/Resources/Documents/Final-BCP-CSP-Serious-Violence-Duty-Strategy.pdf>

The BCP Community Safety Partnership Executive receives an update every two months on the work being carried out on the action plan.

Dorset CSP and Serious Violence

The Dorset CSP has undertaken a Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment. This includes data and intelligence from a range of partners across the CSP.

The needs assessment provides an analysis of serious violence across the Dorset CSP area, including contextual issues such as deprivation and complex need.

Six drivers of serious violence were identified:

- Deprivation
- Childhood development
- Childhood vulnerability
- School engagement and exclusion
- Mental health
- Drug and alcohol misuse

- * In relation to children and young people it was noted that the number of young people in Dorset carrying weapons is low in comparison to national figures.
- * Younger people feature disproportionately among the victims of violent crime.
- * Data shows a predominance of offending in the under 25 age group across a range of crime types, indicating the need to engage with young people and young adults.

Strategic priorities were identified see [Dorset Community Safety Partnership Serious Violence Strategy - Dorset Council](#) and there is a plan of delivery against the priorities, and this is reported to the CSP, with progress reported quarterly to the Home Office. Good progress is being made across those partners developing and delivering interventions.

Domestic Abuse

CSPs (Community Safety Partnership) in Dorset and BCP lead on Domestic abuse across the partnership.

[Dorset Domestic Abuse Strategy Dorset Council](#) and [BCP CSP Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2020-2023 \(saferbcp.co.uk\)](#)

Domestic Abuse is a Dorset Police force priority, led by a force silver at Superintendent level with a supporting tactical group behind it. The focus at present being the early preservation of evidence to prevent victim attrition and improve arrest rates, outcomes, and a victim first approach. Performance is overseen through force Investigation Standards Boards and Performance Boards.

Nationally, there has been a drive to refresh College of Policing DA matters training. Dorset will be training an additional 400 officers in the DA Matters Responder Course early 2025 and are providing our Investigators with an immersive Hydra course with a focus on Coercive and Controlling behaviour in late 2024.

Domestic Abuse Quality Assurance work

The Pan Dorset partnership undertook a multi-agency quality assurance exercise in respect of partnership work with families where there was domestic abuse and a specific focus in audit activity on under 5s. The triangulating findings across a number of quality assurance activity including audits, case reviews, the voice of practitioners and the voice of parents.

The quality assurance process identified a number of strengths including:

- Children and young people were predominately safeguarded in timely manner.
- In all the audits the children were assessed as safe with positive outcomes for them following the intervention.

- Interventions were predominately appropriate to the risks and needs identified.
- There was evidence of effective multi-agency information sharing and planning.
- There was positive feedback about workers and engagement with families.
- Practitioners who used HRDA were positive about it.
- Assessment and plans were in place for children that addressed key issues.
- Child Protection Conferences were seen as safe meetings to discuss and share information and mainly received positive feedback from parents.
- Practitioners understood the term coercive control.
- There was a range of training available to practitioners.
- There were a range of specialist resources used to work with families.

The process also identified a number of areas for development:

- There was inconsistent use of tools when working with domestic abuse e.g. not all practitioners were aware of the toolkit and practice was not informed by specific models of domestic abuse.
- Assessments did not consistently understand and address the history and lived experience of parents/carers and the children. They did not consistently assess:
 - * The risks and strengths in relation to each adult including now and in the future. This needed to include the ability to change or protect as appropriate?
 - * The risks and strengths in this relationship including if they were or did separate?
 - * What was the risk to specific children and how had domestic abuse impacted on them?

- There was still evidence that the non-resident parent/partner was not effectively included in work and at times information about them was not fed back to the agencies.
- Reports for child protection conferences were not shared with families in a timely way. This will be progressed through a pathfinder group.
- Plans needed to be consistently Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Timely (SMART) and multi-agency. There should not be an overreliance on safety plans or court orders to protect children unless there was evidence that this was effective.
- High Risk Domestic Abuse (HRDA) had limited impact at times on work with families. Notes and actions were not consistently recorded on files and there was limited evidence of agencies following up their actions.
- Further support, resources, guidance, and training for practitioners was required in respect of child to parent violence.
- Practitioners supported mandatory domestic abuse training and further work in relation to working with perpetrators.

This formed the basis of an action plan that is being overseen by the Dorset place-based partnership.



Dorset Place-based Sexual Abuse Toolkit

An Intra-Familial Child Sexual Abuse toolkit was launched to develop the confidence of child safeguarding practitioners in recognising and responding to intra-familial child sexual abuse. It took into account local learning from child safeguarding practice reviews. In addition, the Pan-Dorset sexual abuse training offer was updated to reflect local and national learning.

The impact of these developments are being evaluated as part of the Dorset quality assurance activity timetabled for 2024/25.

Injuries to Non-mobile Babies

In BCP, following the findings of a review, a multi-agency audit (acute NHS, health visiting service, primary care, children's social care and police) was undertaken of babies up to the age of 6 months attending ED with any injury.

The headlines issues from the audit included:

- The need for consistent professional curiosity into the cause of any injuries or bruising in a non-mobile baby.
- The need to consistently follow the process in the injuries/bruising to non-mobile baby protocol including ensuring multi-agency decision making and effective recording.
- To revise the protocol in light of the findings.
- To ensure that the voice of parents including fathers informed decision making.

Agencies completed assurance statements to ensure that the learning from the review has been embedded in practice and there was a multi-agency review of the protocol re: injuries to non-mobile babies.

NHS Dorset worked with NHS providers to implement the ICON programme in Dorset following learning arising from a Child Safeguarding Practice Review (CSPR).

The [ICON programme](#) reduces the risk of infants suffering abusive head trauma by being shaken by parents trying to cope with infant crying. The ICON tool provides a way for professionals to give consistent advice to parents to raise awareness and reduce risk.



(B) Children's Mental Health and Emotional Well-being

Trauma informed

The Partnership have developed an agreed definition which is that Trauma-informed practice is an approach to health and care interventions which is grounded in the understanding that trauma exposure can impact an individual's neurological, biological, psychological, and social development.

The safeguarding partnership have outlined the key principles of a trauma informed approach.

[PDSCP-Principles-of-Trauma-Informed-Practice.pdf](#);

Organisations have agreed tools to evaluate where they are in relation to their journey to be a trauma-informed organisation.

There is an agreed introduction to trauma-informed practice training module delivered by the partnership. This is in addition to the training delivered by individual agencies. In addition, the annual conference will have a trauma informed lens.

There is now an agreed process to review policies and procedures to ensure that they are trauma informed. All PDSCP quality assurance activity will be trauma informed. There is now an agreed framework for assessing whether PDSCP training, policies and procedures and quality assurance is informed by an understanding of trauma.

Agencies are now implementing trauma-informed practice, and this is being held to account by the partnership.

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services Transformation

The partnership is in process of implementing the recommendations of a CAHMS transformational review. This is still in development but is due to be implemented in 2024/25.

[Parents and Carers who Experience Mental Ill-Health Dorset Toolkit - Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership \(pdscp.co.uk\)](https://pdscp.co.uk)

A toolkit was launched in 2023/24 to provide resources, advice and guidance to practitioners working with children whose parents/carers are or may be experiencing mental ill health, so that:

1. Safeguarding work with parents who experience mental ill-health is non-discriminatory and restorative, and
2. Any potential harm to the child that is associated with their parents' experience of mental ill-health can be identified and either prevented or mitigated.

The impact of the toolkit will be reviewed in 2024/25.



(C) Neglect

An independent scrutiny project was commissioned by the Partnership focusing on the issue of neglect. The scope of the project consisted of three areas:

- To examine the quality and effectiveness of the multi-agency response to child neglect when concerns have reached a threshold of actual, or likely, significant harm, and whether agencies are working together to identify and act on child neglect.
- To examine whether practitioners have the knowledge, confidence, and capacity to identify and act on neglect.
- To capture information which provides insights into children and families experiences of working with professionals, when neglect has been identified, and the impact in improving children's lives.

To fulfil the scope and examine the key lines of enquiry, the following steps were taken:

An Independent Scrutineer was appointed.

- A task and finish group of agency representatives was formed to support with the smooth and timely completion of the project.
- An on-line survey was developed and used to capture data about a range of issues from across the Partnership area.
- Five multi-agency on-line focus groups were held, four involving front-line practitioners from across the Partnership footprint, and one for designated post-holders from across the area.
- An audit of children's records was completed by the Independent Scrutineer.
- A documentary review was completed by the Independent Scrutineer.

The report concluded that the scrutiny activity 'identified many positive features about the Partnership's response to neglect, and which provide a solid platform on which to develop and further strengthen arrangements. These positive features can be seen across the Partnership footprint and are not isolated to one single local authority area.'

The report outlined a number of areas for development including in relation to the consistent use of assessment tools for neglect, ensuring consistent high-quality assessments and management oversight, ensuring that there were effective multi-agency training and development opportunities and refreshing the Multi-Agency Child Neglect Strategy & Toolkit.

The report outlines some key recommendations including the development of a working group to build on the positive work achieved through the scrutiny exercise and the formulation, and publishing of an action plan to accompany the revised Strategy and multi-agency neglect pathway. The recommendations have been accepted, and a plan is to be delivered 2024/25.

[Pan-Dorset toolkit for practitioners who work with parents and carers who have experienced substance misuse issues - Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership \(pdscp.co.uk\)](#)

Following the recommendation of a review the PDSCP launched a toolkit for practitioners to assist them when working with parents who misuse drugs and alcohol.

The PDSCP recognised that parents' misuse of drugs or alcohol was frequently a factor in the neglect of their children, and that practitioners needed a toolkit to help them identify and respond to such misuse.

The toolkit was developed in a way that engaged practitioners, and reflected both their expertise and the recurring practice issues that they face.

The impact of the toolkit will be evaluated during 2024/25.

Voice of Children and Families

The partnership has been committed to ensuring that the voice of children and families is central to developing services and approaches to safeguarding. This has included:

- A Family Engagement project being undertaken in the Dorset council area. Feedback was obtained from 67 people (65 adults and 2 children) predominantly where children had been subject to child protection plans and where there were concerns about domestic abuse. The feedback has informed the development of the Pathfinder project and the partnership plan in respect of Domestic Abuse. Further work is underway to develop a Family Advisory Board to provide support and challenge from families in respect of safeguarding practices and co-design changes.
- Working directly with children and young people in relation to working with gender identity including hearing from them at the annual conference and working with them in the co-design of guidance for practitioners (to be completed in 2024/25)

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Dorset youth parliament have also voted for a new Chair and vice Chair based on campaigns that children in schools voted the most important to them. The Chair was elected for the campaign of preventing sexual abuse and the vice Chair for campaigning to support child bereavement.

Young people council take over in Dorset also saw another successful week when young people led and stepped into various council meetings and provided a young person's perspective and challenge. This provides unique insight to enable us to consider how we continue to evolve and strengthen the work we do.

Children and young people in Dorset are also regularly contacted where they have received services from us to test the impact of our work and utilise this as part of continuous learning, improvement and celebrating success.

- In BCP there was a public consultation with children, young people, families, and communities occurred in relation to the new service delivery of Early Help and family hubs, informing and shaping service and supporting design.
- In BCP young people have been invited to attend Service Manager and Team manager collective meetings so that management hear their voice, and as a result, management take on board the young person's lived experience and pledge to improve their service areas, where applicable. An example of this is where a young person talked of conflicting information in relation to transition to adulthood resulting in Children's and Adults services working together to ensure better information is available for young people.
- The findings from the Edie review has driven police in undertaking work to engage with marginalised children with the support of partners and to link to youth advisory groups.
- In BCP the newly elected Members of Youth Parliament have outlined their campaign topics based on their lived experience in the area. These include knife crime, homelessness and health and wellbeing.
- Young women in BCP led a campaign to raise awareness of gender-based street harassment and challenge the norm, with the goal of making our local streets feel safer for young women.
- Consultations in BCP youth voice have consistently highlighted the importance to young people of feeling safe in their local environment, this has influenced the Corporate Strategy and related planning, such as the vision for Children's Services, and continues into the current development of the Children and Young Peoples Plan.
- At the end of the 23/24 financial year, 99% of children and young people had participated in their care planning and review process. The number of children and young people attending their children in care meetings has continued to increase with over half attending.



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Conclusion

As we conclude the PDSCP Annual Report for the year 2023-24, we take a moment to appreciate the collective journey we have embarked upon—a journey characterized by resilience, innovation, and a shared vision for the safety and well-being of our children and young people.

This year has been a testament to the power of collaboration and the strength of our commitment. The PDSCP has successfully navigated the complexities of safeguarding, embracing change and emerging stronger. Our transition to distinct safeguarding arrangements for Dorset and BCP Council areas will be a pivotal evolution, enabling us to address the specific needs of our communities with greater precision and care.

Our efforts in quality assurance, data analysis, and service improvement have yielded tangible results, enhancing the effectiveness of our safeguarding practices. The voice of the child has been a guiding principle in all our endeavours, ensuring that their perspectives are not just heard but are instrumental in shaping our strategies and actions. This commitment to listening and responding to the needs of children and young people is the cornerstone of our work and an area both partnerships will strive to build upon.

As we look to the future, we are filled with a sense of purpose and determination. The challenges we face are complex, but our resolve is unwavering. We will continue to strive for excellence, to learn from our experiences, and to innovate in our pursuit of safeguarding the next generation.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to every individual and organization that has contributed to our mission. Your support has been invaluable, and it is through our continued partnership that we will forge a path towards a safer, more nurturing environment for all children and young people in the Pan-Dorset area.

The PDSCP Annual Report 23-24 is not just a record of our past year's work; it is a reflection of our ongoing dedication and a blueprint for the future. It is with pride and optimism that we move forward, united in our goal to safeguard and empower every child and young person in our care.

Next Steps

There are a number of key areas currently under development in the partnership including:

- Ensuring that the separation of the Partnership is effective and builds upon and develops the work of the Pan-Dorset partnership.
- To ensure that the Dorset and BCP Partnership's arrangements and practice is in line with the guidance in Working Together 2023 including:
 - To continue to develop the role of independent scrutiny.
 - To continue to deliver a quality assurance programme to assess the effectiveness of safeguarding including use of data, case reviews, auditing etc.
- To ensure that Education are key partners within the new arrangements.
- To continue to ensure that the voice of practitioners is central to the work of the partnership.
- To continue to ensure that the voice of children and young people and families is embedded.





**The well-being and
welfare of children
should always be
our focus.**

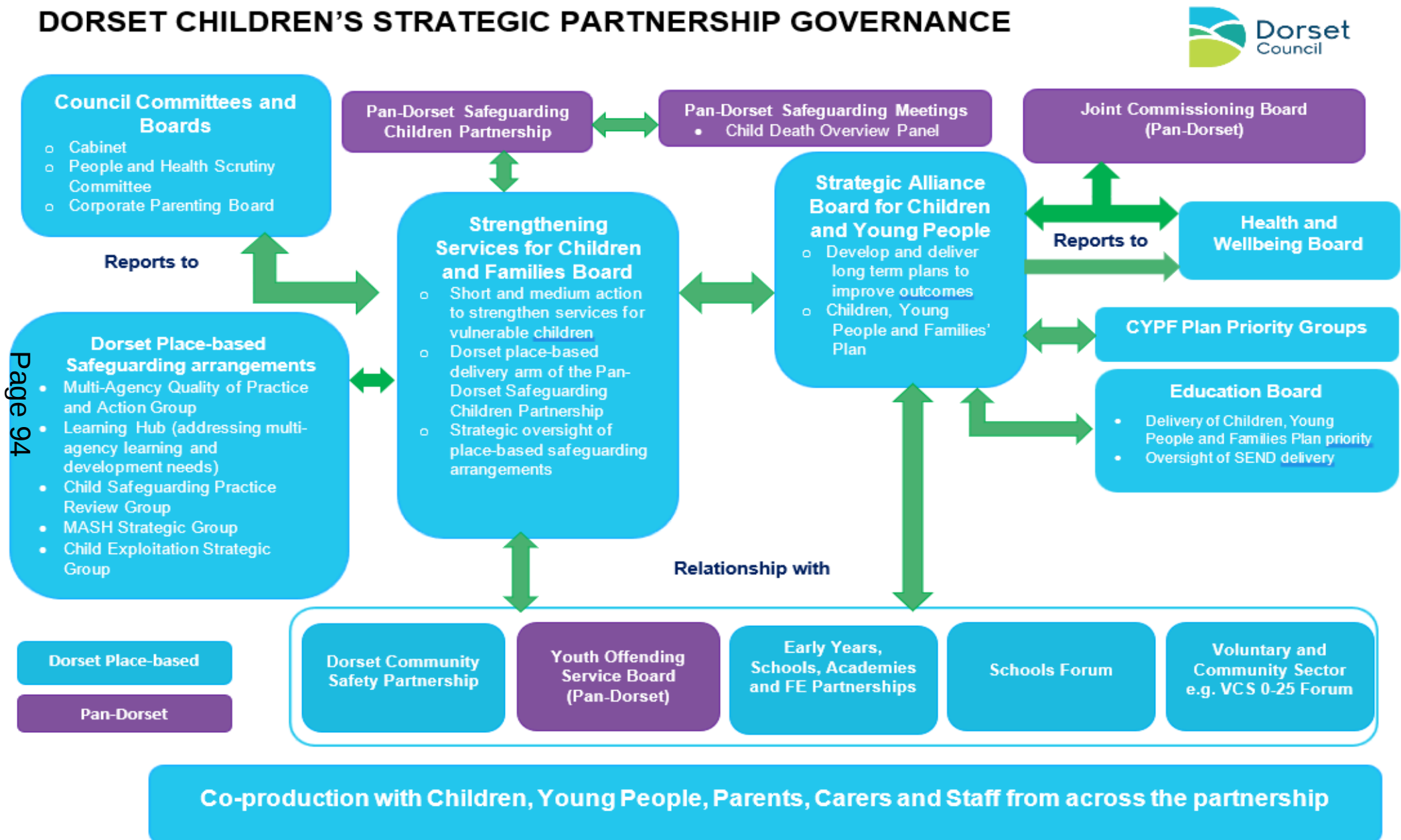
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Appendices

Appendix 1— Dorset Children’s Strategic Partnership Governance

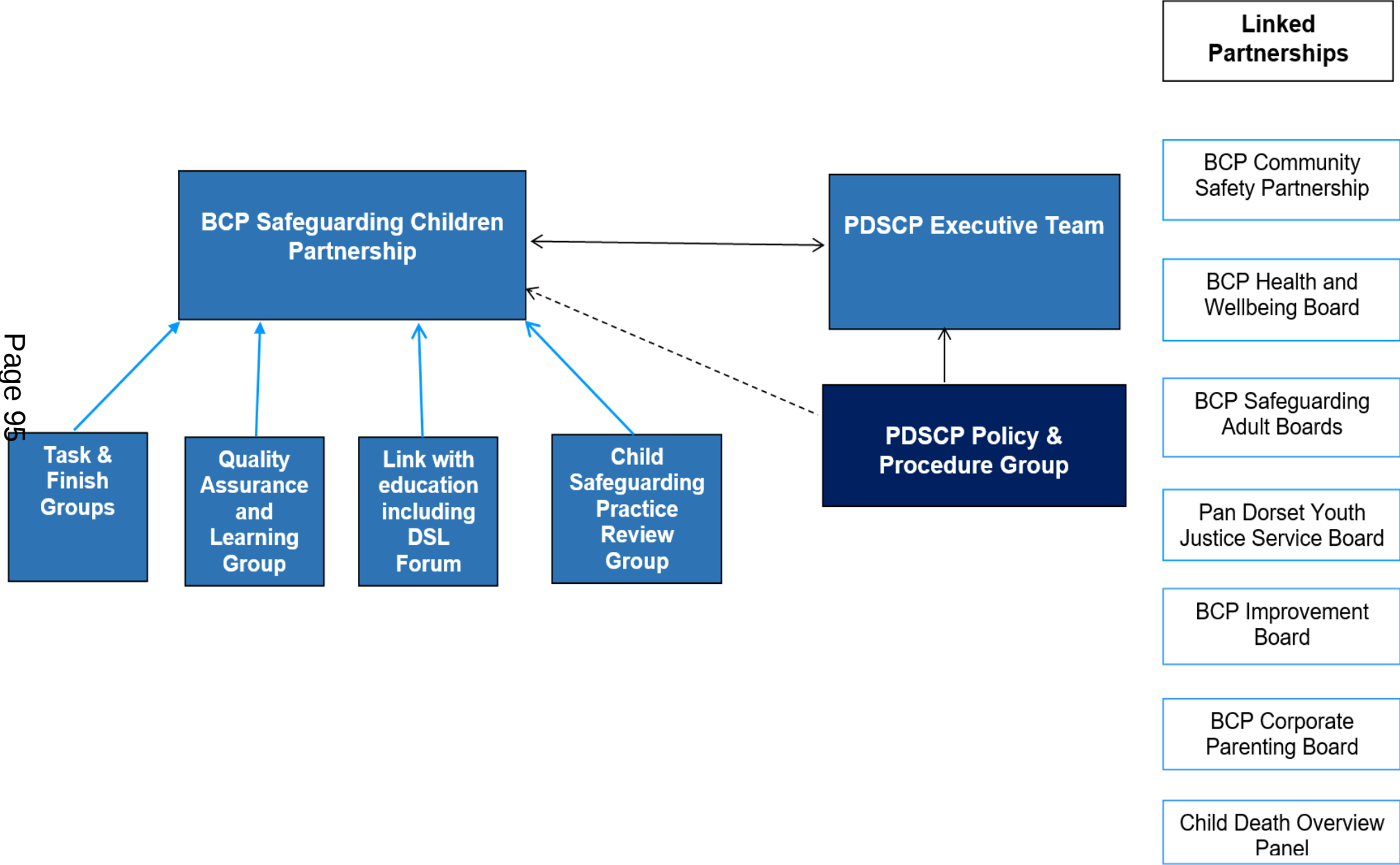
Appendix 2 — BCP Safeguarding Children Partnership Structure

Appendix 1 - Dorset Children's Strategic Partnership Governance



V5.2 draft

Appendix 2 - BCP Safeguarding Children Partnership Structure



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Continuum of Need

This document is for use by all practitioners working with children and their families across Dorset. It may be seen as the 'threshold document' required by Working Together 2023.

The purpose of the document is to help identify a child's degree of need, ensure support is offered by the right agencies, at the right time and prevent their needs escalating to a higher level. It will help identify when referrals to specialist Children's Social Care services are required.

The purpose of the document is to help provide conversation opportunities to identify a child's degree of need and appropriate support for children and families ensuring this support is offered by the right agencies, at the right time and to prevent their needs escalating to a higher level. It will help identify when conversations with, including referrals to specialist or statutory Children's Social Care services, are required.

The document should be used alongside the Dorset multi-agency safeguarding policy and procedures.

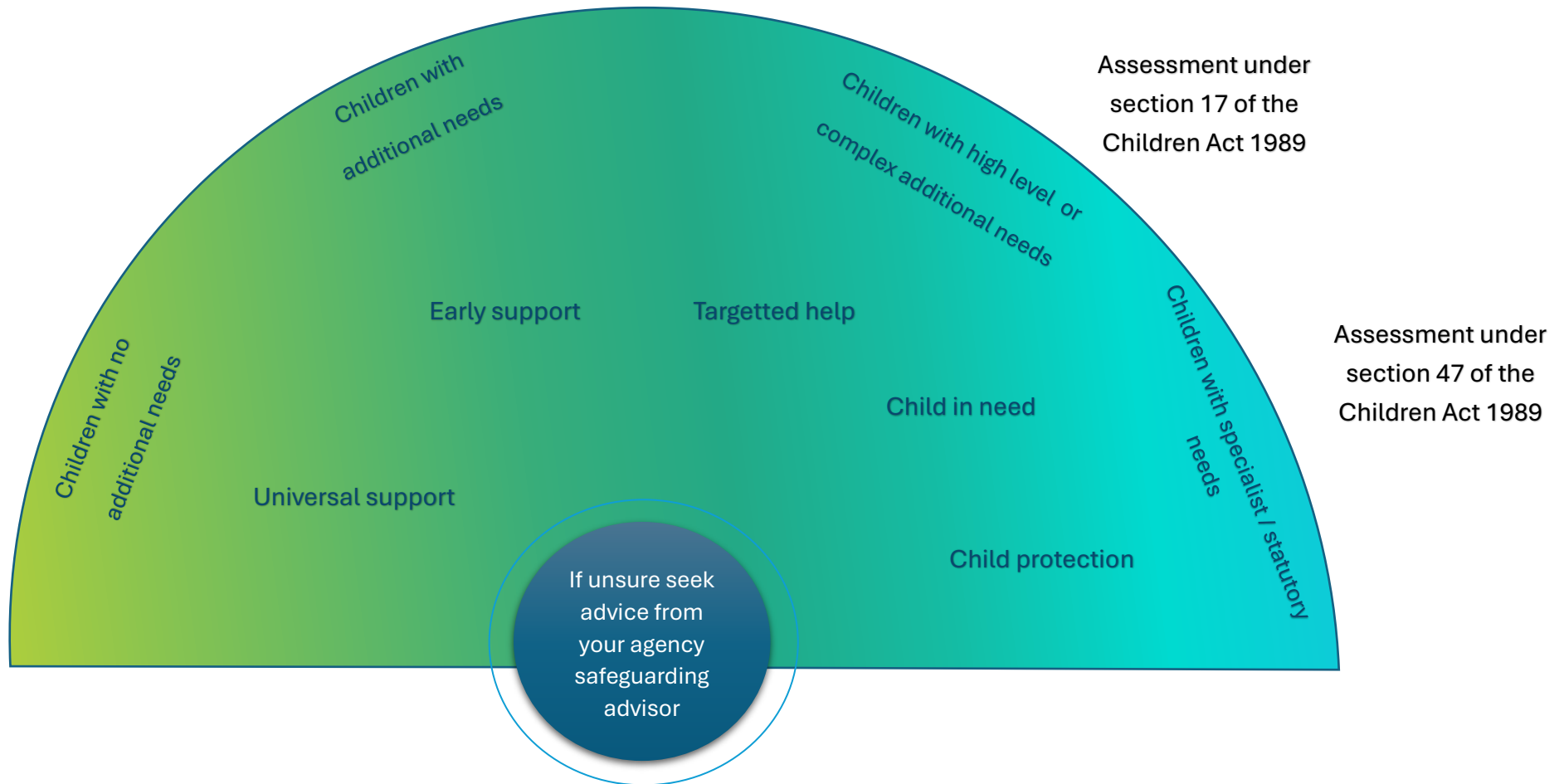
Contents:

1. Levels of vulnerability and need
2. Providing effective support to children and families
3. Key legislation regarding Children's Services support to families
4. Indicators of need
5. Sources of further information

Guidance:

- This document refers to children, but includes the unborn, infants, children and young people. Agencies will be aware of child development, rather than chronological age, in applying to individuals.
- Principles of working with children will always involve their families and networks. They will form part of the 'Team Around the Family'.
- In the majority of cases, it should be the decision of parents/carers when to ask for help or advice, but there are occasions when practitioners may need to engage them actively to help them and prevent their difficulties from becoming more serious. If seeking consent increases the risk to the child, it can be overridden.
- Children who are disabled are entitled to a Section 17 Child in Need (CiN) assessment.
- The need identified in any assessment at Early Help or Children's Social Care level may be met from across the continuum of need, ie. at different levels of vulnerability.

Levels of need and vulnerability



Providing effective support to children and families

Universal Support	Children and young people are supported by their family and universal services to meet all their needs. This can include early years, education, primary health care, maternity services, public health nursing, housing, community and voluntary organisations and faith groups. The majority of children living in Dorset are expected to require support from universal services alone to have their needs met.	Support at this level should be open access and universally available. If families require advice or support to access this, <u>Dorset Family Hubs</u> can be contacted to assist.
Early Support	One or more services provide voluntary support that is in addition to their universal offer to meet the child or young person, and their family's emerging needs. Where multiple agencies are involved, this is coordinated through a Team around the family led by a service that knows the child/young person best. This is recorded in a Whole Family plan. Consent is required for the referral to & provision of support by individual services and for any multi-agency co-ordination of this support. The Locality may be involved in this work either through the provision of advice and guidance to the Team Around the Family, or through the provision of services through our Family Hubs (eg. Parenting Groups; Youth Work etc). Documents and resources to support provision at this level can also be found through Dorset Families Matter. Early Support also includes the provision of Direct Payments to support families caring for a child who has a disability through our B2SA service.	Practitioners should talk to the family and carry out an Early Support assessment. They should either provide single agency support if they can meet the needs this identifies or engage with other appropriate services to work with them. This should be co-ordinated through a Team around the family meeting and recorded in a whole family plan. <u>Note:</u> Dorset Children's Services do not need to be notified where this support is taking place but the Family Support and Advice Line can be contacted on 01305 228558 for advice and guidance on this. Dorset Family Support and Advice Line should also be contacted on 01305 228558 where assessment for direct payments is being requested.

Targeted Early Help	A multi-disciplinary Team Around the Family approach, led by a Lead Family Help Practitioner who coordinates information sharing, services and practical support to meet the child or young person's and their family's needs, where these are multiple, interconnected and may escalate without a coordinated multi-agency service intervention and direct support to the family in their home. This may also include where there are specific support needs for a family with a child with a disability. Consent is required for the referral to & provision of support by individual services and for any multi-agency co-ordination of this support.	If you believe a family require this level of support, please gain consent from the family and then contact the Family Support and Advice Line on 01305 228558 for discussion about support and identification of a lead practitioner. The following process charts are available to show the pathway from this point: 1. When a child is referred.vsd 2. Family Help Pathway.vsd
Child in Need	A child in need is defined under section 17 of the Children Act 1989 as a child who is unlikely to achieve or maintain a reasonable level of health or development, or whose health and development is likely to be significantly or further impaired without the provision of services, or a child who is disabled. To fulfil this duty, practitioners undertake assessments of the needs of individual children, giving due regard to a child's age and understanding when determining what, if any, services to provide. Where assessment identifies support is required at this level, this will be multi-disciplinary help and protection, led and co-ordinated by a Lead Family Help Practitioner with a Child or young person & their family.	If you identify a child or young person thought to require this level of assessment or support contact the Family Support and Advice Line on 01305 228558 for discussion about support and identification of a lead practitioner. Consent is required for the referral to & provision of support under child in need and for any multi-agency co-ordination of this support. The following process charts are available to show the pathway from this point: 1. When a child is referred.vsd 2. Family Help Pathway.vsd
Child Protection & Specialist CiC	Children who need protecting may include those who experience harm in their own family and those who are harmed or exploited by others, including their peers, in their community and/or online. Suffering or being likely to suffer significant harm is the threshold for child protection enquiries and can take different forms, including sexual, physical or emotional abuse, neglect or domestic abuse (including controlling or coercive behaviour), exploitation by criminal gangs or organised crime groups, trafficking, online abuse, sexual exploitation, and the influences of extremism which could lead to radicalisation.	If you identify a child or young person you believe to have suffered or be at risk of significant harm, a safeguarding conversation should take place with the Family Advice And Support Line immediately on 01305 228558. Consent is required unless you believe seeking this would place the child or others at increased risk of significant harm. In an emergency, the agency should call 999. The following process charts are available to show the pathway from this point: 1. When a child is referred.vsd

Key legislation regarding Children's Services support to families

[Section 10 and 11 of the Children Act \(2004\)](#) sets out how local authority Children's Services and other agencies and bodies need to work together effectively to protect and promote the welfare of children in the UK, this includes through the offer of early help services to children and families.

[Child in Need Section 17 of the Children Act \(1989\)](#) states that a child shall be considered in need if:

- They are unlikely to achieve, maintain or have the opportunity of achieving or maintaining a reasonable standard of health or development without the provision of services by a local authority.
- Their health and development is likely to be significantly impaired, or further impaired, without the provisions of such services and/or;
- They are disabled.

[Child Protection Section 47 of the Children Act 1989](#) states that the authority shall make necessary enquiries to enable them to decide whether they should take action to safeguard or promote the child's welfare where there is reasonable cause to suspect a child is suffering or likely to suffer significant harm.

[Children Looked After by the Local Authority Part III Children Act 1989](#) outlines the support for children and families provided by Local Authorities in England. Examples where a child is looked after by a Local Authority include:

- [An Emergency Protection Order \(Section 44 Children Act 1989\)](#) if the child is likely to suffer significant harm if not removed to Local Authority care.
- Being provided with accommodation under [Section 20 of the Children Act 1989](#); duty to accommodate a child, for more than 24 hours with the agreement of the parents or of the child if s/he is aged 16 or over.
- [A Care Order \(Section 31 of the Children Act 1989; care and supervision orders\)](#)
- Being remanded by a criminal court to Local Authority Accommodation or Youth Detention Accommodation under [Chapter 3 Legal Aid Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012](#). There are national standards for children in the youth justice system which outlines the minimum expectations for all agencies to provide statutory services to children in the youth justice system [Standards for children in the youth justice system - GOV.UK](#)

Potential Indicators of Need

- Note: This is an illustrative list of potential indicators that provide conversation opportunities to identify appropriate support for children and families
- It is important to know that this list is not exhaustive, indicators do cross between different levels of need, as illustrated by the columns without headings.

	Universal	↔	Early Support	↔	Targeted Early Help	↔	Child in Need	↔	Child Protection
Childs Developmental Needs Health, Learning, Emotional and Behavioural Development, Identity, Relationships	Is generally physically well, Nutritious diet, Adequate hygiene and dress. Development and health reviews /immunisation s up to date. Developmental milestones and motor skills reviewed. Good mental Health	Pregnancy with complications or impact of parental lifestyle Has some identified additional learning needs Has some difficulties sustaining relationships Finds accepting responsibility for own actions difficult	Few positive relationships No access to books/toys Concerns about developmental progress: e.g. overweight/underweight bedwetting/soiling Missing some routine and non-routine health appointments May experience bullying or be exhibiting bullying behaviour	Disability prevents self-care in a significant range of tasks Ongoing, challenging behaviour at school, possible risk of exclusion Consistently poor education attendance and punctuality Consistently not reaching educational potential	Self-harming behaviours Relationships with carers characterised by unpredictability Evident mental health needs Serious or persistent offending behaviour	Chronic/recurring health difficulties are not treated or are badly managed Serious professional concern; family declining services Child lacks a sense of safety and as a result often finds him/herself in dangerous situations Starting to commit offences/re-offend Child reported missing from home Developmental milestones are not	Unsafe sexual activity Persistent and/or high-risk episodes of missing Child/young person is out of education or not receiving education due to parental neglect Unaccompanied	Allegation of abuse/physical injury caused by a professional Refusing medical care endangering life/development Failure to thrive, likely to be due to care provided	Disclosure or suspicion of physical, sexual or emotional abuse or neglect Non-accidental injury and/or unexplained injury, particularly in non-mobile children Puts self or others in danger Serious decay from persistent

	Good quality early relationships. Able to adapt to change Understands others' feelings. Takes responsibility for behaviour. Sexual activity is age-appropriate. Responds appropriately to boundaries and constructive guidance. Can discriminate between safe and unsafe contacts. Has positive self-image Stable and affectionate relationships with family	Minor concerns re diet, hygiene or clothing Dental difficulties untreated/some decay Vulnerable to emotional difficulties, perhaps in response to life events such as parental separation Child appears anxious, angry or phobic Delay in reaching developmental milestones Distances self from others Language and communication difficulties Some insecurities re identity eg. low self-esteem, lack	Disability limits amount of self-care possible Lack of positive role models Not reaching education potential a child/young person who has special educational needs (whether or not they have a statutory education, health and care (EHC) plan) a child/young person who is disabled	Emerging mental health issues e.g. anxiety, depression, eating disorder Poor punctuality/pattern of regular education absences/fixed term exclusions Potential support need where a child has previously returned home to their family from care a child/young person who is viewing problematic and/or inappropriate online content (for example, linked to violence), or developing	Significantly poor self-image/identity Persistent and significant disruptive/challenging behaviour at school, home or in the community Young carer with development compromised through caring role Relationships with family experienced as negative ('low warmth, high criticism') Age inappropriate	being met due to parental care Changed behaviour, reference to radicalised thoughts/threats to act	refugee/asylum seeker Child involved with serious, persistent, high risk substance misuse Physical/learning disability needing constant supervision Presentation (including hygiene) significantly impacts on relationships Privately fostered Rejection by a parent/carer, family no longer willing to care for, or have abandoned	Seriously obese/seriously underweight Dangerous sexual activity and/or early teenage pregnancy Suspected risk of Female Genital Mutilation Child displaying sexually harmful or abusive behaviour Acute mental health difficulties e.g. severe depression or risk of suicide	lack of dental care Unborn baby impacted in utero by neglect/abuse
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	Able to make and maintain friendships Access to books and toys is provided with appropriate education and learning Enjoys and participates in learning activities Has experiences of success and achievement Sound links between home and education provider Planning for career/ adult life Unborn with needs met	of confidence, sexuality, gender identity Showing early signs of anti-social behaviour/offending Experiments with tobacco/alcohol/ illegal drugs Some difficulties with adult or peer relationships e.g. 'clingy', anxious or withdrawn Limited engagement in play with others/has few or no friends Not always engaged in play/learning, poor concentration		inappropriate relationships online a child/young person who is bereaved	sexualised behaviour		child/young person		
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Parenting Capacity & Family Basic Care, Ensuring Safety, Emotional Warmth, Stimulation, Guidance and Boundaries, Stability	Provide for child's physical needs, e.g. food, drink, equipment, appropriate clothing, medical and dental care	Inconsistent responses to child/young person	Parent/carer stresses starting to affect ability to ensure child's safety	Parents sometimes find it difficult to positively resolve conflict in their relationship	Exposed to domestic abuse or chronic parental conflict within the household or family.		Severe disability – parents who require additional support and breaks in care to meet care needs	Child beyond parental control	Non-compliance of parents/carers with services where risk of harm to child has been identified
	Protection from danger or harm Shows warm regard, praise and encouragement Ensures stable relationships Ensure the child can develop a sense of right and wrong Child/young person accesses play/activities/leisure facilities as appropriate to age and interests	Parent/carer offers inconsistent boundaries No effective support from extended family. Low level parental substance misuse Parents struggling to have their own emotional needs met Provides limited access to new experiences or leisure activities	Unnecessary or frequent visits to doctor/casualty Parent/carer requires advice on parenting issues Basic care is not consistently provided Inappropriate child care arrangements and/or too many carers=	Lack of routine in the home	A child/young person is taking on a caring role in relation to their parent/carer or is looking after younger siblings. Child has multiple carers, some of whom may have no significant relationship with them. Parents are consistently unable to act as		Request for child to be accommodated Parent says someone is/has harmed their child Pregnant parents/carers who have been unable to care for previous children No effective boundaries set by parents/carers	Parent's mental health difficulties or substance misuse affect care of child/young person Parental substance misuse impacts on ability to consistently meet child's needs Contact with individual posing a suspected or known risk to children	Family home used for drug taking, sex trade or other illegal activities Suspected/evidence of fabricated or induced illness / perplexing presentation Chronic and serious domestic abuse in the home. Parent/carer's mental health or substance misuse significantly affects care of child Persistent and high-risk

	Good relationships within family, including when parents are separated				positive role models Some exposure to dangerous situations in the home or community Parents do not provide access to positive experiences Parents unable to set effective boundaries e.g. too loose/tight		Parents/carers own needs mean they are unable to keep child/young person safe Child has no-one to care for him/her		parental substance misuse Parents/carers involved in violent or serious crime or criminal offences against children Parent/carer is failing to provide safe physical care or emotional support to child
Environmental and Contextual Factors Community, Social	Accommodation has basic amenities and appropriate facilities to meet family needs Managing budget to meet		Parents/carers have limited formal education or are impacted by other disadvantage Difficulty accessing community facilities	Family have physical and mental health difficulties impacting on their child Low income or financial/debt difficulties/	Emerging behaviours which are seen as being anti-social or violent Child subject to persistent	Unsuitable accommodation/intentionally homeless Homeless, or imminent homelessness if not accepted by housing department	Extreme poverty/debt impacting on ability to care for child Child/young person is at risk of	Child/young person persistently involved with the supply of illegal substances	Home conditions are dangerous or seriously threatening to health

Integration, Income and Employment Housing, Criminal and Exploitation Risks	individual needs		Not in education, employment or training post-16	rent arrears	discrimination, e.g. racial, sexual, disability	Chronic unemployment or poverty that severely affected parents' ability to meet the child's needs	radicalisation	Child/young person is assessed as at risk of sexual or criminal exploitation, including through trafficking	
	Is able to access local services and amenities		Periods of unemployment of parent/carer	Community is hostile to family.			Physical accommodation places child in danger	, cuckooing, County Lines or modern day slavery	
	Family feels part of the community			Known to be at risk of exploitation, sexual exploitation, violence, criminality or radicalisation	Parent/carer serving a prison sentence	Child/young person is known to be carrying weapons	Family seeking asylum or are refugees	Child/young person has known involvement with gangs or organised crime group	
				Some social exclusion or conflict experiences or victim of crime or bullying					
				Child experiences persistent discrimination which is internalised and reflected in poor self-image					
				Home conditions present a risk to child's safety or health					

				Child who is showing signs of being drawn into anti-social or criminal behaviour, including being affected by gangs, county lines, organised crime groups and/or serious violence including knife crime					
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Sources of further information:

1. How we Do things in Dorset Guidance

(link to be added)

2. Dorset Family Support And Advice Line (including children's Social Care and Family Help Hub:

Telephone number – 01305 228558

childrensadvicanddutysevice@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

(from 03/02/2025 please use :familysupportandadvice@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk instead of above email)

Referral via telephone consultation, no requirement to complete inter-agency referral form.

3. Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)

- [CAMHS Gateway – CAMHS Dorset](#)
 - [Referral Guidance](#)
 - [Referral form](#)
- If you are over 18, please visit the Steps2Wellbeing website where you will find information about this service and how to access it. For urgent mental health support, please call our Connection service which is open 24/7. Dorset residents or people visiting Dorset can call direct on 0800 652 0190 at local call rate or access via NHS 111 for free. More information on our Access Mental Services is available on the Dorset HealthCare website.
 - As part of CAMHS Gateway, the service is available for self-referral for young people aged 16-18 years old. [Visit the Dorset HealthCare website to complete the self-referral form.](#)[Visit the Dorset HealthCare website to complete the self-referral form.](#)

4. Dorset Health visiting duty line

01305 361071 (West) 01929 557593 (East)

5. Dorset Family Hubs

[Family Hub - Dorset Council](#)

6. Pan-Dorset Multi-Agency Safeguarding Policies and Procedures Manual

[Pan-Dorset Multi-Agency Safeguarding Policies and Procedures Manual](#)

Includes: Making a Good Referral, Information Sharing Guidance and the Escalation Policy

7. Government Guidance

- [Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 \(Statutory Guidance\)](#)
- [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#)

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People and Health Scrutiny Committee Work Programme

Meeting Date: 6 February 2025

Report Title	Aims and Objectives	Lead Officers / Members	Other Information
Dorset Safeguarding Children's Partnership	To review the effectiveness of the new arrangements for the Dorset Safeguarding Children's Partnership	Sunita Khattra-Hall – Corporate Director for Quality Assurance and Safeguarding Families Cllr Clare Sutton – Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills	Committee to receive an update in 6 and 12 months since the decision (i.e. February and August 2025)
Birth to Settled Adulthood	To review the progress of the Birth to settled Adulthood service, following its implementation.	Louise Ryan – Head of Service, Birth to Settled Adulthood Cllr Clare Sutton – Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills	
Performance Dashboard	To review the most recent performance information and use this to agree items to add to the committee work programme for further analysis.	Chris Heighway – Performance and Analytics Team Manager Cllr Nick Ireland – Leader and Cabinet Member for Climate, Performance and Safeguarding	

Meeting Date: 8 April 2025

Report Title	Aims and Objectives	Lead Officers / Members	Other Information
Housing Strategy	To scrutinise and review the Housing Strategy.	Andrew Billany – Corporate Director for Housing Cllr Gill Taylor – Cabinet Member for Health and Housing	Item raised as a result of the committee's work on registered providers.
Cost of Living Support	To review and monitor the progress of cost of living support.	Laura Cornette – Business Partner for Communities and Partnerships Cllr Ryan Hope – Cabinet Member for Customer, Culture and Community Engagement	Regular reports to scrutiny on Cost of Living Support requested by the Place and Resources Overview Committee
Children not in Education, Employment or Training	Aims and objectives of report to be scoped.	Cllr Clare Sutton – Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills	Item raised as a result of performance monitoring.

Meeting Date: Unscheduled Committee Items

Report Title	Aims and Objectives	Lead Officers / Members	Other Information
Dorset Safeguarding Children's Partnership	To review the effectiveness of the new arrangements for the Dorset Safeguarding Children's Partnership	Sunita Khattri-Hall – Corporate Director for Quality Assurance and Safeguarding Families Cllr Clare Sutton – Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills	Update in 6 and 12 months (i.e. February and August 2025)
Integrated Neighbourhood Teams			
Better Care Fund		Sarah Sewell – Head of Commissioning for Older People, Home First and Market Access Cllr Steve Robinson – Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care	
Urgent and Emergency Care Transformation	To receive an update on a system-wide transformation programme to transform and improve urgent and emergency care services in Dorset. To review the emerging benefits and progress of the programme after it's implementation.	Louise Ford – Strategic Health and Adult Social Care Integration Lead Cllr Steve Robinson – Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care	To be scheduled for September 2025

Informal Work of the Committee:

Date	Topic	Format	Members	Lead Officers / Members	Other Information
Early 2025	Update session from Dorset County Hospital / Dorset HealthCare	Online meeting / Potential site visit	People & Health Scrutiny Committee		
Early 2025	Visit to University Hospitals Dorset	Site Visit	People & Health Scrutiny Committee		Invitation received following a meeting with UHD.
May/June 2025	Annual NHS Quality Accounts		People & Health Scrutiny Committee	George Dare – Senior Democratic Services Officer	To provide a response to local NHS Trust Quality Accounts.
Quarterly	Review of the committee's performance and risk dashboards.	Informal Meeting	People & Health Scrutiny Committee	Chris Heighway – Performance and Analytics Team Manager	Review of the dashboards to identify potential future areas for review by the committee.
January-April 2025	Educational Health and Care Plans (EHCPs)	Task and Finish Group	Cllrs Coombs, Somper, and Bolwell	TBC	Decision to establish an enquiry day was made at the People & Health Scrutiny Committee on 24 October 2024.

The Cabinet Forward Plan - February to May 2025 **(Publication date – 27 JANUARY 2025)**

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."

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

Cabinet Members and Portfolios 2024/25

Nick Ireland	Leader and Cabinet Member for Climate, Performance and Safeguarding
Richard Biggs	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Property & Assets and Economic Growth
Jon Andrews	Place Services
Shane Bartlett	Planning and Emergency Planning
Simon Clifford	Finance & Capital Strategy
Ryan Hope	Customer, Culture and Community Engagement
Steve Robinson	Adult Social Care
Clare Sutton	Children's Services, Education & Skills
Gill Taylor	Health and Housing.
Ben Wilson	Corporate Development and Transformation

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
February					
Growth & Economic Regeneration Strategy Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open 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.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 25 Feb 2025	Place and Resources Overview Committee 21 Nov 2024 Place and Resources Overview Committee 30 Jan 2025	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Property & Assets and Economic Growth	<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 Director, Place (Jan Britton)</i>
Dorset Innovation Park Arms Length Management Company Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open Following Cabinet approval in November approving the formation of an Arms Length Company for the management of Dorset Innovation Park, further work has been conducted relating to the proposed detailed structure and responsibilities for this Company and the next steps involved in the creation of the Company.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 25 Feb 2025		Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Property & Assets and Economic Growth	<i>Nick Webster, Head of Growth and Economic Regeneration nicholas.webster@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, Place (Jan Britton)</i>

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
Local Plan Local Development Scheme update Key Decision - No Public Access - Open Update of the Dorset Council Local Plan Local Development Scheme.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 25 Feb 2025		Cabinet Member for Planning and Emergency Planning	Mike Garrity, Corporate Director for Planning mike.garrity@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Terry Sneller, Strategic Planning Manager terry.sneller@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, Place (Jan Britton)
Public health disaggregation: progress and overview of key decisions Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open This report provides an overview of the progress with disaggregating the shared public health service, and establishment of two new separate teams.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 25 Feb 2025		Cabinet Member for Health and Housing	Sam Crowe, Director of Public Health and Prevention sam.crowe@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Director of Public Health and Prevention (Sam Crowe)
Determination of School Admissions Arrangement 2026 - 2027 Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open This is the annual statutory determination of School Admission Arrangement for Voluntary Controlled and Community Schools.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 25 Feb 2025		Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills	Ed Denham, School Admissions Manager ed.denham@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, People - Children (Paul Dempsey)

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
Fontmell Magna Neighbourhood Plan Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open Report relating to the “making” (adoption) of the Fontmell Magna Neighbourhood Plan Review.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 25 Feb 2025		Cabinet Member for Planning and Emergency Planning	<i>Ed Gerry, Community Planning Manager</i> <i>ed.gerry@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, Place (Jan Britton)</i>
March					

Update of Carbon Reduction Targets Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open Paper to revise and bring forward the carbon reduction targets set out in the Council's Natural Environment, Climate and Ecology Strategy.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 25 Mar 2025	Place and Resources Overview Committee 30 Jan 2025	Leader and Cabinet Member for Climate, Performance and Safeguarding	<i>Antony Littlechild, Sustainability Team Manager</i> <i>antony.littlechild@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, Corporate Development - Section 151 Officer (Aidan Dunn)</i>
Enterprise Resource Performance System (Outline Business Case) Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open The current DES system which is supported by SAP will be end of life in 2027 and therefore will need to be replaced. We have been working with Socitm Advisory (external consultancy) to investigate the options available. The outline business case is to be presented to Cabinet for their approval.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 25 Feb 2025		Cabinet Member for Corporate Development and Transformation	<i>James Ailward, Head of ICT Operations</i> <i>james.ailward@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, Place (Jan Britton)</i>

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
Procurement Forward Plan Report - over £500k (2025-2026) Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open The Council defines a key decision, in terms of procurement activity, as those with a financial consequence of £500k or more. This report will provide notice of the planned / known procurement activities that Cabinet will need to make a key decision on for 2025-2026.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 25 Mar 2025		Cabinet Member for Finance & Capital Strategy	<i>Richard Freed, Service Manager for Commercial and Procurement</i> <i>richard.freed@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, Corporate Development - Section 151 Officer (Aidan Dunn)</i>

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April

Street Lighting Policy Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open Improvements in lighting technology mean more options are available for our LED replacement of streetlights. The new paper will seek agreement on the type of lighting to be used within our policy.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 29 Apr 2025	Place and Resources Overview Committee 13 Mar 2025	Cabinet Member for Place Services	<i>Jack Wiltshire, Corporate Director for Highways and Engineering</i> <i>jack.wiltshire@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, Place (Jan Britton)</i>
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Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
New Models of Housing Delivery Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open To deliver a report from the New Models of Housing Delivery project, outlining options to increase access to affordable housing.	Decision Maker Dorset Council	Decision Date 15 May 2025	Cabinet 29 Apr 2025 People and Health Overview Committee 20 Mar 2025	Cabinet Member for Health and Housing	<i>Andrew Billany, Corporate Director for Housing andrew.billany@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Sarah Smith, Housing Strategy Lead sarah.smith@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, People - Adults (Jonathan Price)</i>
June					
Youth Justice Plan 2025 - 26 Key Decision - No Public Access - Open Approval of the Youth Justice Plan 2025 – 26.	Decision Maker Dorset Council	Decision Date 10 Jul 2025	People and Health Overview Committee 19 May 2025 Cabinet 24 Jun 2025	Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills	<i>David Webb, Manager - Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service david.webb@bcpcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, People - Children (Paul Dempsey)</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.
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 4 NOVEMBER 2024 to 31 MARCH 2025 (Publication date – 7 NOVEMBER 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

Cllr Nick Ireland – Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Climate, Performance and Safeguarding
Cllr Richard Biggs – Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Property & Assets and Economic Growth
Cllr Ryan Hope – Cabinet Member for Customer, Culture and Community Engagement
Cllr Clare Sutton – Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education & Skills
Cllr Gill Taylor – Cabinet Member for Health and Housing

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Cabinet Member	Officer Contact
December				

Dorset Council Delegated Decisions Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open	Decision Maker The Shareholder Committee for the Dorset Centre of Excellence (DCOE)	Decision Date 9 Dec 2024	Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills	<i>Executive Director, People - Children</i>
Dorset Council Commissioning Report Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Part exempt	Decision Maker The Shareholder Committee for the Dorset Centre of Excellence (DCOE)	Decision Date 9 Dec 2024	Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills	<i>Executive Director, People - Children</i>
DCoE - Report of the Chair of the Board Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Part exempt	Decision Maker The Shareholder Committee for the Dorset Centre of Excellence (DCOE)	Decision Date 9 Dec 2024	Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills	<i>Executive Director, People - Children</i>
Performance of the Traded Activities of the Company Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open	Decision Maker The Shareholder Committee for the Dorset Centre of Excellence (DCOE)	Decision Date 9 Dec 2024	Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills	<i>Executive Director, People - Children</i>

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Cabinet Member	Officer Contact
March				

Dorset Council Delegated Decisions (if required) Key Decision - No Public Access - Open	Decision Maker The Shareholder Committee for the Dorset Centre of Excellence (DCOE)	Decision Date 10 Mar 2025	Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills	<i>Executive Director, People - Children</i>
Dorset Council Commissioning Report Key Decision - No Public Access - Part exempt	Decision Maker The Shareholder Committee for the Dorset Centre of Excellence (DCOE)	Decision Date 10 Mar 2025	Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills	<i>Executive Director, People - Children</i>
DCoE Chair of the Board Update Key Decision - No Public Access - Part exempt	Decision Maker The Shareholder Committee for the Dorset Centre of Excellence (DCOE)	Decision Date 10 Mar 2025	Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills	<i>Executive Director, People - Children</i>

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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.



Shareholder Committee for Care Dorset Holdings Ltd
Forward Plan - December 2024 to March 2025
For the period 1 DECEMBER 2024 to 31 MARCH 2025
(Publication date – 4 NOVEMBER 2024)

Explanatory Note:

This Forward Plan contains future items to be considered by the Shareholder Committee for the Care Dorset Holdings Ltd. 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

Cllr Nick Ireland – Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Climate, Performance and Safeguarding

Cllr Richard Biggs – Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Property & Assets, and Economic Growth

Cllr Ryan Holloway – Cabinet Member for Corporate Development and Transformation

Cllr Steve Robinson – Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care

Cllr Gill Taylor – Cabinet Member for Health and Housing

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Cabinet Member	Officer Contact
December				
Dorset Council Delegated Decisions (as required) Key Decision - No Public Access - Open	Decision Maker Shareholder Committee for Care Dorset Holdings Ltd	Decision Date 2 Dec 2024	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care	<i>Mark Tyson, Corporate Director for Adult Commissioning & Improvement mark.tyson@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, People - Adults (Jonathan Price)</i>
Dorset Council Organisational Update Key Decision - No Public Access - Part exempt	Decision Maker Shareholder Committee for Care Dorset Holdings Ltd	Decision Date 2 Dec 2024	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care	<i>Mark Tyson, Corporate Director for Adult Commissioning & Improvement mark.tyson@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, People - Adults (Jonathan Price)</i>
Care Dorset Update Key Decision - No Public Access - Part exempt	Decision Maker Shareholder Committee for Care Dorset Holdings Ltd	Decision Date 2 Dec 2024	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care	<i>Executive Director, People - Adults (Jonathan Price)</i>
Annual Performance Update Key Decision - No Public Access - Open	Decision Maker Shareholder Committee for Care Dorset Holdings Ltd	Decision Date 2 Dec 2024	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care	<i>Executive Director, People - Adults (Jonathan Price)</i>

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
Care Dorset Update Key Decision - No Public Access - Part exempt	Decision Maker Shareholder Committee for Care Dorset Holdings Ltd	Decision Date 24 Mar 2025	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care	<i>Executive Director, People - Adults (Jonathan Price)</i>
Annual Reports				

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	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care	<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 (Jonathan Price)</i>
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Private/Exempt Items for Decision

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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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