



People and Health Scrutiny Committee

Date: Thursday, 24 October 2024
Time: 11.00 am
Venue: Meeting Room 1, County Hall, Dorchester, DT1 1XJ

Members (Quorum: 3)

Toni Coombs (Chair), Louie O'Leary (Vice-Chair), Laura Beddow, Bridget Bolwell, Sally Holland, Chris Kippax, Robin Legg, Jane Somper, Claudia Webb 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	5 - 8
	To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 1 August 2024.	

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

All submissions must be emailed in full to george.dare@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk by 8.30am on Monday, 21 October 2024.

When submitting your question or statement please note that:

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

5. COUNCILLOR QUESTIONS

To receive questions submitted by councillors.

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

The submissions must be emailed in full to george.dare@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk by 8.30am on Monday, 21 October 2024.

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

6. URGENT ITEMS

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

7. SEND (SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES) STRATEGY AND PROGRESS 9 - 32

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

8. EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES IN DORSET 33 - 58

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

9. GOOD CARE PROVISION 59 - 74

To consider a report by the Head of Good Care Provision, Safeguarding and Business Support.

10. COMMITTEE'S WORK PROGRAMME AND EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLANS 75 - 104

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

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.

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PEOPLE AND HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 1 AUGUST 2024

Present: Cllrs Toni Coombs (Chair), Louie O'Leary (Vice-Chair), Laura Beddow, Bridget Bolwell, Sally Holland, Chris Kippax, Jane Somper and Carl Woode

Present remotely: Cllr Robin Legg

Apologies: Cllr Claudia Webb

Also present: Cllr Craig Monks, Cllr Steve Robinson and Cllr Gill Taylor

Also present remotely: Cllr Clare Sutton

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

Andrew Billany (Corporate Director for Housing), George Dare (Senior Democratic Services Officer), Amanda Davis (Corporate Director for Education and Learning), Paul Dempsey (Executive Director of People - Children), Julia Ingram (Corporate Director for Adult Social Care Operations), Andy Frost (Service Manager for Community Safety), Harriet Hallett (BI and Performance Business Partner - Corporate Strategy, Performance and Sustainability), Sarah Howard (Deputy Director of Place), Joshua Kennedy (Democratic Services Officer), Rachel Partridge (Assistant Director of Public Health), Chris Swain (Risk Management and Reporting Officer) and Eleanor Turner (Democratic and Electoral Services Apprentice)

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

Theresa Leavy (Executive Director of People - Children) and Lisa Reid (Corporate Director for Quality Assurance & Safeguarding Families)

1. **Apologies**

An apology for absence was received by Cllr Claudia Webb.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

3. **Minutes**

Proposed by Cllr Somper, seconded by Cllr O'Leary.

Decision

That the minutes of the meeting held on 7 March 2024 be confirmed and signed.

4. **Public Participation**

There was no public participation.

5. **Councillor Questions**

There were no questions from councillors.

6. **Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items.

7. **Chairman's Update**

The Chairman updated the committee on work that had taken place prior to the committee meeting. This included that the Chairman responded to two NHS Quality Accounts on behalf of the committee, following email comments from committee members. The Committee was content with email liaison being used for responding to future Quality Accounts.

Following consideration by the Place and Resources Overview Committee, the Chairman requested that future Cost of Living Support monitoring reports are considered by the People and Health Scrutiny Committee. These reports had been added to the committee's work programme.

8. **Community Safety Annual Scrutiny Report**

The Cabinet Member for Health and Housing introduced the report and outlined the council's community safety responsibilities. The Service Manager for Community Safety highlighted the four key community safety strategies. The plans were informed by a needs assessment and the Community Safety Plan was updated on an annual basis. There were two new requirements for tackling domestic abuse and serious violence, which had been integrated with the current community safety arrangements.

Members asked questions related to community safety. The following points and responses to questions were raised:

- The level of safe accommodation was what was needed for the level of demand. Some victims would only want to move into emergency safe accommodation as a last resort.
- The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) had responsibility for setting policing priorities, however joint work took place with the PCC on community safety issues.

- It was a statutory responsibility for the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) to consider the PCC's priorities and vice versa when developing their plans. There was good synergy between current plans.
- The Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education, and Skills explained that the Safeguarding Families Together programme provided early intervention for domestic abuse, substance misuse and poor mental health. The programme would need further funding in the next financial year, so it needed to be considered during a refresh of the Domestic Abuse Strategy.
- In relation to support for adults with complex needs, there were different services which were commissioned which could deal with these complexities, such as victim support.
- Operational Adult Social Care, were developing their connection with the Community Safety Partnership, in particular, ensuring there was an understanding of the impact of domestic abuse on older people and throughout life.

Members also asked questions on the reducing reoffending element of the report. The following points were raised:

- The strategies were reviewed annually; however, the council would be able to respond to new initiatives.
- The main factors causing reoffending included accommodation, education, relationships, drugs and alcohol.
- It was felt important for young people to be in school and not give permanent exclusions where possible.
- Most first-time entrants into the criminal justice system had a special education need, so there was a need to ensure that speech and language needs were met.
- Officers had been planning for the prisoner early release scheme. The numbers were less than expected and they were not high-risk cases.

Members requested an update on the prisoner early release scheme at the committee meeting in November.

That members receive further information and training on dealing with ward issues concerning community safety, domestic abuse and substance misuse.

9. **Performance Scrutiny**

The committee reviewed the performance dashboard. There were 3 performance items raised in an informal review of the dashboard prior to the meeting. Officers provided written responses to these items. The items were:

- Number of special educational needs (SEND) tribunals against the authority.
- Percentage of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) issued within 20 weeks.
- Number of affordable homes delivered.

There were 8 performance indicators that showed as red on the performance dashboard. Officers responded to members' questions on these items. The following points were covered:

- The council set higher aspirational targets for education and attendance, compared to similar local authorities.
- The targets are reviewed when necessary.
- In relation to permanent school exclusions, there would be attempts to make a managed move to a different school, so pupils at risk of permanent exclusion could be in education elsewhere.
- In relation to outstanding care act assessments, there were two points of triage before completing a formal assessment. This ensured that support could be given quickly where there was high risk.
- There was a combination of demand, more complex cases, and improvements needed to the service for Care Act assessments.

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

The Chairman outlined the committee's work programme. The committee would need to work more outside of formal committee meetings in order to work effectively.

Senior officers suggested items from their directorates which could be added to the work programme.

The committee met informally after the meeting closed to develop the work programme.

11. **Exempt Business**

There was no exempt business.

Duration of meeting: 10.00 - 11.32 am

Chairman

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People and Health Scrutiny Committee SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) Strategy

24 October 2024

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: Amanda Davis
Job Title: Corporate Director for Education and Learning
Tel: 01305 224393
Email: amanda.davis@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

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

Brief Summary: This report provides an overview of the updated SEND Strategy and our delivery plan.

Recommendation: That committee provides oversight and scrutiny of the Strategy.

Reason for Recommendation: This will enable us to assure members and the council that we have a robust strategy to provide good outcomes for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. This is within a challenging national context.

1. Partnership and Governance Arrangements

- 1.1. The Local Area SEND Strategy describes the outcomes we are seeking for our children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities, and their families and describes the activity we undertake to achieve our aims. This is underpinned by a detailed plan that is regularly monitored and reviewed by officers across the partnerships.
- 1.2. This activity is overseen by the Dorset SEND and Inclusion Partnership Board, which monitors performance and impact and provides support and challenge to the partnership.
- 1.3. The most recent 3-year strategy was set out in 2021, to be reviewed in 2024. This paper provides the opportunity to scrutinise the revised strategy and plan as part of broader oversight of education in Dorset.
- 1.4. The strategy has been coproduced by the local area partnership. An agreed framework across the Dorset Council area was developed for all key strategic partners (see background papers) and this enables us to hold each other to account for delivery of our strategy and plan.
- 1.5. Our partnership ensures that children, young people and their families have ongoing opportunity to meaningfully participate in decisions that affect them. Key officers across the partnership work together to understand the needs of local children, young people and their families so that we can commission and provide services that are inclusive and supportive, always keeping children and young people at the heart of all we do.
- 1.6. Our strategic partners are Dorset Council, NHS Dorset Integrated Care Board, and the Dorset Parent Carer Council. Collectively, we are ambitious for our children and young people with SEND and committed to providing and the best education and care, supporting good life outcomes.
- 1.7. In addition, Dorset Council commissions an advisory service to support parents and carers and professionals; Dorset Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Advice Service (Dorset SENDIASS). Every local authority provides such a service.

2. How we created and revised our strategy

- 2.1. We have been working with our partners to review and update the strategy, considering the outcome from our last Ofsted and CQC Inspection and a range of other data and intelligence

- 2.2. A broad range of activity has been undertaken to ensure the voices of children and young people are at the heart of our strategy, including the voices of children in a range of settings and living within a variety of different contexts, including children in care or care experienced, children who are educated at home, and young carers, for example.
- 2.3. We have also taken on board the results of the parent/carer survey in 2023, as well as ongoing qualitative and quantitative data that informs us about the lived experiences of children and families.
- 2.4. We were Inspected by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) in March 2024. Inspectors found that children and families experiences were ‘typically positive’, the highest level of outcome that can be achieved. We feel this offers us a clear mandate for our strategy and enables us to strengthen it further, to achieve even better outcomes for more children.
- 2.5. Whilst the detail of activity has been updated, it has been agreed that our current areas of priority are still the right areas of focus and form the structure of the revised strategy.
- 2.6. These 6 priority areas are:
 - a) Early Identification – we identify need early and put in plans to support
 - b) Inclusion – our children and young people feel like they belong at home, at school and in their community
 - c) SEND Pathway – everyone understands what services are available and how to access them
 - d) Next Steps and Preparation for Adulthood – young people move into adulthood successfully with the right support
 - e) Sufficiency and Provision – we have access to enough resources to meet need
 - f) Managing Money and Resources – we spend our money sensibly to meet need
- 2.7. The updated SEND Strategy covers the period between 2024 and 2027, alongside Dorset’s Education Strategy (linked as a background paper). The SEND Strategy is attached as Appendix 1.

3. **The National Context**

- 3.1. The Local Government Association recently commissioned a report that calls for a national review of the SEND system and asserts that it is

fundamentally broken (see Background Papers). The report cites increasing costs, increasing need and complexity of need as well as unintended consequences of curriculum policy and Ofsted inspection framework for schools as causal factors. It asserts that outcomes for children and young people have not been helped by well-meaning legislation.

- 3.2. Many local authorities are experiencing budget pressures in the High Needs Block and Dorset is not alone in being faced with the challenges as described in the report mentioned above.
- 3.3. We are proud of the findings of Ofsted and CQC and remain highly ambitious for all children and families. We recognise that reform of the SEND system is highly likely and anticipate that this will take time to design and implement. Therefore, it remains imperative that we continue to develop and deliver best practice across the partnership.

4. Financial Implications

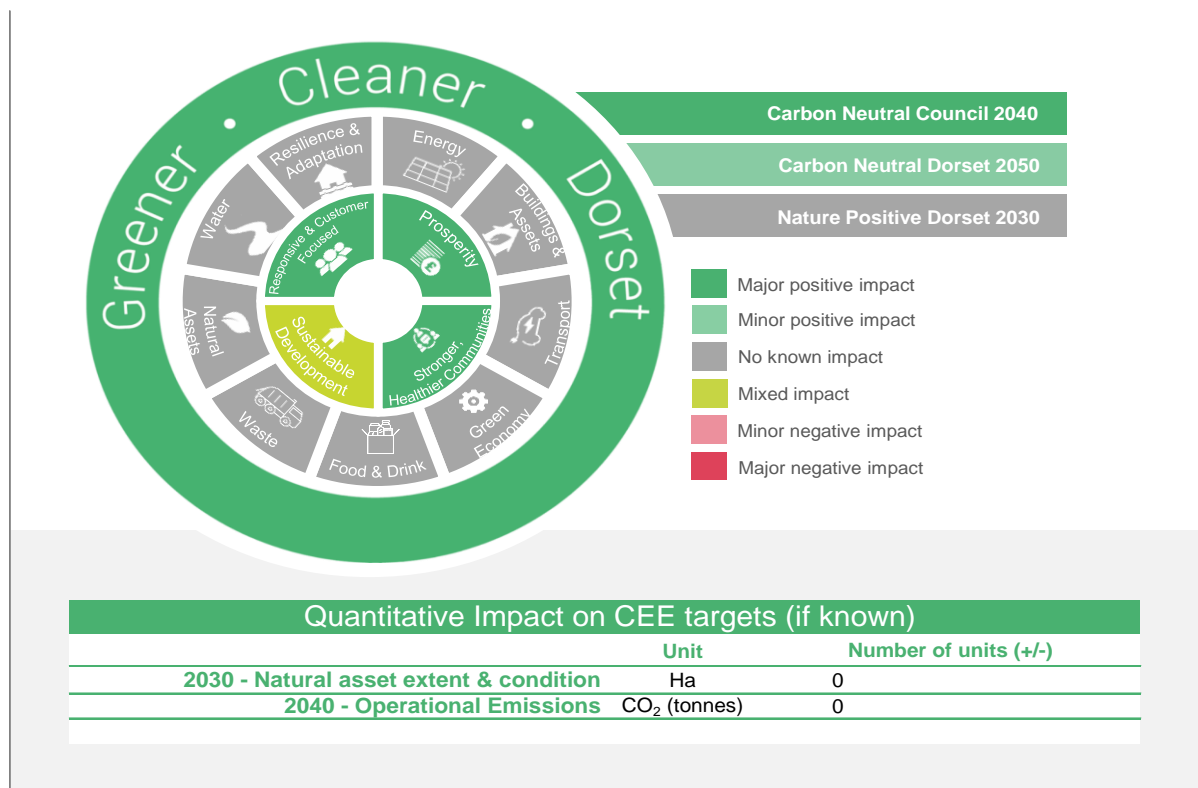
- 4.1. There are no significant financial implications to general funds as the actions we have proposed are predominantly met through the High Needs Block, a block within the ring-fenced Dedicated Schools Block (DSB). As described above, this is an area of national challenge and concern. We believe our robust plan will deliver better value for money in the longer term, whilst supporting even better outcomes for children and young people.
- 4.2. Dorset is one of 38 Local Authorities in the DfE 'Safety Valve' programme demonstrating this is a national challenge. The Society of County Treasurers (SCT) conducts regular analyses of council high needs block deficits and the results of their most recent survey, undertaken in March 2022 show that the total deficit facing those councils that responded stands at £1.36 billion, rising to £2.6 billion in 2024/25. Extrapolating those figures for all councils gives an estimated deficit of £1.9 billion in March 2022, rising to £3.6 billion by 2025.
- 4.3. The 'Safety Valve' is a DfE programme where the local authority has agreed to develop a revised DSB Deficit management plan to achieve a sustainable financial position for the DSB budget, particularly the High Needs Block. In return, the DfE will provide the local authority with additional funds as set out in the published plan. Agreements run for around five years
- 4.4. Dorset Council signed a £42m 'Safety Valve' agreement with the Department for Education in March 2022 to help eradicate the cumulative DSB deficit and support a return to a balanced in-year DSB position by

2026-27. Dorset Council will contribute £33m as part of the agreement. Additionally, Dorset are investing £47m into capital schemes across the county.

- 4.5 Despite significant operational improvement, Dorset is not on track to meet the financial position stated in the original 'Safety Valve' agreement. Dorset have therefore submitted a revised recovery plan. This recovery plan is part of the Council's Enhanced Monitoring and Support programme and is supported by DfE advisors and has involved independent external scrutiny. This work seeks to identify a revised future year HNB break-even point and therefore cumulative deficit position.
- 4.6 The SEND strategy seeks to help rebalance the financial position through delivering better value for money and improved outcomes for children and young people.
- 4.7 However, this is only part of the financial solution; national reform, for example as described in the ISOS report referenced in the background papers, is required to deliver full financial stability.

5. Natural Environment, Climate & Ecology Implications

5.1. There are no significant implications



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

- 6.1 The outcomes within the Strategy are explicitly designed to have a positive impact on wellbeing and health, particularly for children, young people, and families with SEND.

7. **Other Implications**

- 7.1 None

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**

- 9.1 The recommendations and actions seek to support and enhance equality and equity for children and young people with SEND and their families.

10. **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Dorset Local Area SEND Strategy 2024-2027

11. **Background Papers**

- [Local Offer - You said, we did 2023 - Dorset Council](#)
- [Partnership Framework](#)
- [ISOS Report](#)
- [\(Public Pack\)Agenda Document for Cabinet, 11/06/2024 18:30 \(dorsetcouncil.gov.uk\)](#)
- [Education Strategy 2024 to 2027 - Dorset Council](#)

12. **Report Sign Off**

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

SEND Strategy 2024 to 2027

Foreword

We are delighted to share our revised Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Strategy for 2024-2027. This work is overseen by the Dorset SEND Partnership Board for children and young people from birth to 25.

This has been developed in partnership with NHS Dorset Integrated Care Board and the Dorset Parent Carer Council (DPCC) alongside our parents and carers and children and young people. The strategy sets out key things we want to achieve as part of our longer-term [Children, Young People and Families Plan](#).

We want the best for our children and young people and have listened to them as we have revised this plan – we wanted to understand ‘what matters’ to them. We have also taken into account feedback from our parents and carers through the survey in 2023 and from our recent Ofsted and CQC Inspection ([report published May 2024](#)).

The SEND Partnership Board

The Dorset SEND Partnership Board was formed in 2023 to provide robust multi-agency oversight for the delivery of services across the SEND partnership and the programme of change required to provide an outstanding service to children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities across Dorset. The Board provides key governance, ensuring pace, challenge and oversight for all aspects of SEND Improvement, the High Needs Block and the SEND Strategy.

The Board is led by the Director of Children's Services and brings together:

- Dorset Council officers
- NHS Dorset Integrated Care Board officers
- Dorset Parent Carer Council (DPCC)
- Maintained and academy school leaders of all phases from early years to post-16, including special schools
- Dorset SEND Information, Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS)

The board will:

- Foster a culture of inclusivity and collaboration through co-production.
- Oversee reforms and improvements to SEND services across Dorset.
- Ensure a clear and shared strategy for improving services is put into action and that improvements make a positive difference to the lives of children and young people with SEND.
- Ensure equitable access to provision.
- Enable and ensure improvement of systems and processes.
- Ensure delivery plans for SEND are ambitious and on track.
- Identify and remove any barriers to improvements for children and young people with SEND.
- Enhance the lived experience of children and young people with SEND by effectively delivering Education, Health, and Care Plans (EHCPs) and providing appropriate SEND support.

Our shared values

Our shared values are:

- always putting children and families at the heart of everything we do – including how we develop and shape services
- no child or family left behind – we strive for equity of outcomes for all
- focus on early intervention and prevention – offering the right help in the right place at the right time
- working restoratively – doing things with families, not to or for them
- thinking family – providing a joined-up approach
- focusing on and building on the strengths with individuals, families, and communities
- being inclusive – challenging discrimination where we see it and promoting a sense of belonging for all our children in communities
- taking a rights-based approach to our work
- delivering best value for money – spending the Dorset £ on the things that get the best outcomes for children and families
- always remaining hopeful and determined to achieve good outcomes for all

Partnership Vision

Our vision is clear and focused:

"We want our children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) to be healthy, happy and safe and able to achieve their potential to lead a fulfilling life.

We want them to have, and to expect the same opportunities in life as other children and young people."

Our Partnership has a bold and courageous vision:

- To deliver the best education for all our children and young people,
- To prepare our young people for independence and adulthood, and
- For our children and young people to experience the best possible health and wellbeing.

Our Priorities

- **Priority 1: Early Identification** – we identify need early and put in plans to support, both early in life and when issues arise
- **Priority 2: Inclusion** – our children and young people feel like they belong at home, at school and in their community. There is a commitment to services and support that is inclusive of children, young people and adults with special educational needs and disabilities
- **Priority 3: SEND Pathway** – everyone understands what services are available and how to access them – we make sure that children and young people with SEND and their families can access the right support from services as early as possible
- **Priority 4: Next Steps and Preparation for Adulthood** – young people move into adulthood successfully with the right support; we make sure that moving between phases of education or changes in what we provide as support are smooth and supportive across all ages
- **Priority 5: Sufficiency and Provision** – we have access to enough resources to meet need – we make sure that wherever possible, we provide education for all children and young people with SEND in Dorset to enable them to thrive in their local communities
- **Priority 6: Managing Money and Resources** – we spend our money sensibly to meet need. We want to ensure we make the best impact and have the best outcomes for our children and young people

Priority 1: Early Identification

We will ensure that children's needs are identified, assessed and supported both early in life and when issues arise. Providing support early should avoid unnecessary assessment and ensure that those who need an Education, Health and Care Plan receive one in a timely way.

Outcomes will be:

- Children and young people's needs are accurately identified and assessed. Workers are able to confidently identify SEND needs when undertaking assessment and direct work.
- We have an effective system to screen the health of school entrants to enable prompt identification of health needs. Robust processes will be in place for health care practitioners to notify the SEND team to let them know that a child may need additional help in an educational setting as per Section 23 notification.
- The Local Offer provides IAA to support families and carers across education, health and care, including clear information on pathways and eligibility
- Children, young people and families report satisfaction on the EHCP process and timescales. Quality Assurance have a robust evidence base of the provision and production of high quality EHCPs. Children and young people receive services that meet their needs.
- We meet the 20-week timescale in all cases. Whilst our performance is better than Southwest, Statistical Neighbours and England, our performance in this area has slipped in recent years
- The Partnership for inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS) pilot project will enable schools to provide early interventions at school level, promoting inclusivity to support a wider cohort of neurodiverse children in primary schools
- Identification, assessment and support for mental health and emotional wellbeing needs will be timely and appropriate to the level and type of need
- Children, young people and families with SEND have Annual Reviews that continue to improve outcomes, reflecting the services required to meet their needs.
- Annual Reviews are high quality, evidenced through multi-agency quality assurance audits and dip samples. There is evidence of high levels of attendance of partners at Annual Reviews in audit and dip sampling.
- Feedback from families identifies improved satisfaction of effective and timely services. Families report that EHCPs make a difference to understanding their child's needs and long-term outcomes. Inspection reports identify strong information and data sharing across the partnership.

There will be a consistent offer and range of services and interventions for emotional health and wellbeing.

Priority 2: Inclusion

We will make sure there is a commitment to services and support that is inclusive of children, young people and adults with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

In Dorset, we are committed to inclusion in mainstream settings. We firmly believe every teacher is a teacher of special needs. This means we will:

- build the capabilities of our mainstream schools to support more children and young people with SEND
- make sure more children can attend a local school

At the core of our strategy, we want to strengthen the capacity of our maintained school system to support more children in mainstream schools.

Outcomes of this vision will be:

- We have a skilled workforce both internally and externally to improve understanding and implementation of ordinarily available provision.
- EHCPs are co-produced with families and young people.
- The majority of schools and settings have accessed training to help all staff understand and provide for children and young people's needs in mainstream settings.
- Children and young people experience a continuum of support which starts in mainstream settings, through a universal entitlement (ordinarily available provision/ graduated approach).
- Children and young people's behaviour and needs are understood, and settings provide an appropriate response.
- Our Learning Centre leaders and Mainstream leaders work together to improve the numbers of children and young people returning to mainstream school.
- The partnership will work together to ensure early intervention whenever possible, avoiding the need for time within a learning centre.
- Academic outcomes and attainment improve. Improved outcomes that meet, if not exceed national standard at KS2 maths, at KS2 for reading, at KS2 for writing and improved outcomes in English specifically for children with SEND.
- We will deliver our Key Stage 4 (KS4) plans, being progressed through our [Education Strategy 2024-27](#) to improve KS4 attainment. A full curriculum review of KS3 and 4 curriculum will be carried out to quality assure the intent, implementation and impact of each subject. We will focus on specific curriculum areas where attainment is below national average and using both local, regional (hubs) and national support, work with schools to address and influence academic data over time. We will draw upon regional and national best practice around the teaching of young people with SEND to ensure the best adaptive strategies are in place to meet need.
- Staff working in our settings feel confident and are able to effectively support children and young people with SEND.
- There are more enhanced facilities in mainstream schools to ensure that young people with SEND have the best environment and resources to meet their needs, close to home within their local community.

- We have agreed our “local inclusion plan”, clearly communicating to providers and parents/carers about the provision that is available in the local area, including within mainstream, specialist and Alternative Provision.
- We will further embed and implement ‘Therapeutic Thinking’ with the schools that have completed the 3-day tutor training with a specific focus on the settings that have proportionally high numbers of children and young people with EHCPs and suspensions.
- All settings have a shared understanding of inclusion and understand what interventions and strategies improve outcomes for different needs.
- Settings work together and with partners to identify appropriate support and interventions to maintain belonging and inclusion within their setting and across the partnership.
- Inclusion in the early years enables all children, including those with additional needs to access their early education entitlements.
- Children and young people’s needs are identified and discussed through joint planning meetings and support, and next steps identified.

Priority 3: SEND Pathway

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

Outcomes of this vision will be:

- Children, young people and families will receive timely support and have access to support across the partnership. Areas to improve and streamline processes are shared across the partnership with recommendations to improve pathways.
- We will see decreased waiting times for assessment with a focus on enhancing our support offer, and early and timely identification of health needs.
- When requesting a Needs Assessment, we respond in a timely way and meet statutory deadlines. As a result children and young people's needs are identified early, and the right support is provided.
- Needs Assessments have input from the appropriate practitioners meaning that a holistic picture of the child/young person is gathered, and their needs correctly identified, enabling the right support at the right time.
- Children and young people with an EHCP who are educated at home receive the right support. Where it is appropriate, we will support families to help children back into a formal setting.
- Reporting enables overdue health advice to be shared with Designated Clinical Officer (DCO) to provide support to health services to meet the 6-week statutory timescale.
- The parental and child's voice is strengthened within the Quality Assurance (QA) process. This process encourages children, young people and families to provide feedback on their experiences of participating in decision making of their planning and support.
- The new speech, language and communication needs pathway and approach empowers parents and carers to be effective primary communication partners to their child through access to information, tools and support.
- Leaders take effective action to improve the quality of the EHC plan process. This will include continuously refining a fair and robust decision-making system to decide on a child or young person's education, health and care needs or plan; issuing plans in a timely way; and assessing the quality of EHC plans.
- Every child/young person who has an EHCP has their plan reviewed at least annually, so that their needs are accurate, and provision is suitable.
- The implementation of the balanced system framework and pathways will ensure that there is a whole system approach to supporting children and young people's speech, language and communication across five strands of environment, family support, wider workforce, identification and intervention, and at universal, targeted and specialist levels.
- We will embed a new SEND case management system that will improve the efficiency of delivery and bring on board professionals and schools to genuinely coproduce EHCPs in partnership.
- Family feedback will be used to monitor the impact and effectiveness of the Development and Behaviour pathway. Families will report an increase in satisfaction.
- Improved visibility and understanding amongst system partners of key data regarding waits for assessment and intervention for the CAMHS pathway. Children, young people and families are supported earlier where children are at risk of attending accident and emergency or being admitted to a mental health bed.

Priority 4: Next Steps and Preparation for Adulthood

We will make sure that moving between phases of education or changes in what we provide as support are smooth and supportive across all ages.

Outcomes of this vision will be:

- EHC Plans contain SMART actions so that children and young people's aspirations and needs are captured accurately, leading to the right provision being offered.
- More young people with SEND progress into suitable post-16 provision.
- Statutory timescales are met for phase transfers.
- Our children and young people with SEND achieve positive educational outcomes. A higher proportion of our young people remain in education, training and employment and a higher proportion to go on to achieve paid employment. We reduce the number of suspensions and exclusions and the use of reduced timetables. Attendance rates for children and young people with SEND improve, particularly where there are post Covid challenges, linked to anxiety and social, emotional and mental health issues.
- Families participate in decision making therefore do not feel they need to appeal through the SEND tribunal process.
- More young people with SEND have planned next steps to move into education, employment or training beyond 16-years of age.
- Pathways and provision pre and post 16 enable young people to make good progress and achieve their aspirations.

Priority 5: Sufficiency and Provision

We will make sure we increase the education we provide for all children and young people with SEND so that our children can stay in Dorset and thrive in their local communities.

This includes access to:

- health services
- early years provision
- post-16 services
- adults with learning disabilities (LD)

Outcomes of this vision will be:

- Health advice will be provided within the 6-week statutory timescale to ensure timely assessment and identification of need to inform EHCNAs.
- We have helped local area partnership stakeholders consider the 'wider determinants' or 'social determinants of health'; the things that affect our health and wellbeing and include parents on young people having a job and income, living somewhere where we feel safe, having social contact with others and our lifestyle choices.
- We realise the additional special school places for young people whose complex learning needs can best be met in special schools.
- We strengthen our business intelligence around Alternative Provision (AP) specifically to ensure we are tracking outcomes.
- Family feedback provides evidence of increased satisfaction of access to short break provision. Families will have access to short break provision that will best support them and particularly for families whose children have more complex needs. There is suitability of short break provision across the 14-25 age group.
- Children, young people and families are supported earlier and especially where children are at risk of admission to a mental health bed.
- All partners know what provision is suitable to meet the range of children's needs. Children and young people will receive appropriate provision at the right time. Family and setting feedback tell us that the provision supports the child to progress in their learning. Provision for children and young people with SEND is commissioned from providers who can evidence positive outcomes and are of good quality.

- Commissioning and delivery of interventions and services will be informed by impact evidence. The partnership will know when and how decisions lead to positive outcomes. The partnership will know what provision is needed and have a plan to implement it.
- We can monitor the realisation of Outcomes from the child or young person's perspective. Further work is required on developing an Outcomes Framework.

Priority 6: Managing Money and Resources

We will make sure that we manage our SEND funding from the dedicated schools grant (DSG) effectively and efficiently so that we can have the best impact and outcomes for our children and young people with the resources available.

Outcomes of this vision will be:

- We have an agreed highlight report structure for the reporting of progress against all the plans, that ensures key messages are clear within the governance structure.
- The Partnership Agreement principles are understood and shared by all partners, including schools, early years settings, post 16 providers, GP's and commissioned health services.
- Voices of children and families will continue to influence and shape the services as the partnership will be fully sighted on their views. Utilising this data will further provide assurance to the partnership about the satisfaction of effective and timely services to our families. Inspection reports and Quality Assurance activity identifies strong information and data sharing across the partnership.
- We will have an accurate understanding of the needs of children and young people via shared data and intelligence.
- We strengthen our work to effectively evaluate and measure impact for children and young people. This includes work currently underway focussed on children and young people receiving progress and inclusion support (Alternative Provision - AP).
- We complete the roll-out of Inclusion Hubs and other measures to improve inclusion in schools.
- We have delivered our Capital Strategy to increase the number of specialist places, in line with need.

A further outcome will be an increase in multi-agencies overseeing moving on to adulthood, including:

- health
- housing
- education
- community safety
- children's and adults' social care

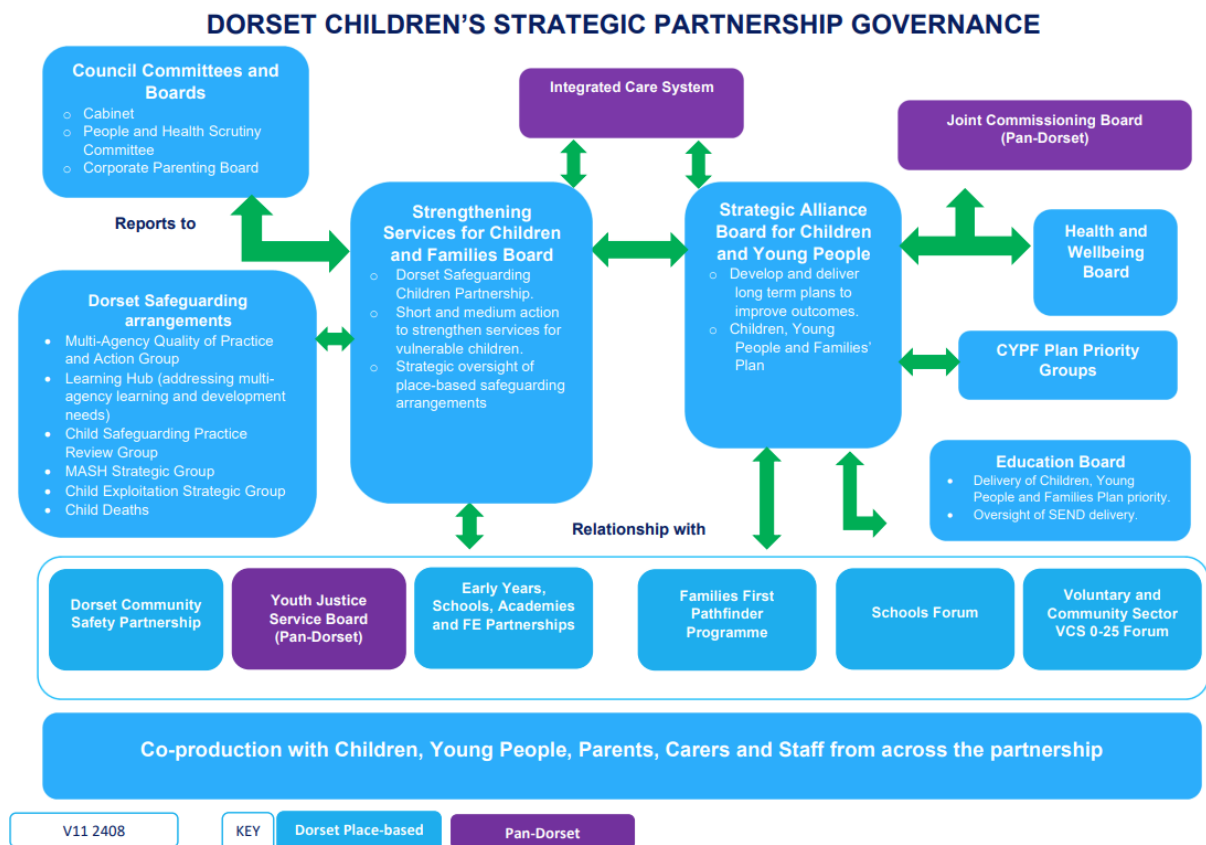
How we will deliver our SEND Strategy

The progress of this strategy will be reviewed at the Dorset SEND Partnership Board.

A termly report detailing evidence and impact of actions will be presented for each of the priority areas.

Key performance indicators will also be monitored through the Education Performance and Practice meeting and Children’s Services Performance Board.

Our SEND Board was created in 2023 and reports to the Dorset Education Board. The diagram below shows our strategic partnership governance arrangements.



References and further reading

Dorset Education Strategy [Education Strategy 2024 to 2027 - Dorset Council](#)

Department of Education [Children with special educational needs and disabilities \(SEND\): Overview - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Department for Education (2021) [SEND: old issues, new issues, next steps - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Department of Education (2023) [SEND and alternative provision improvement plan - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Local Government Association (2024) [Towards an effective and financially sustainable approach to SEND in England | Local Government Association](#)

Department for Education (from April 2024) [Area SEND inspections: framework and handbook - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

The RISE Partnership (Research and Improvement for SEND Excellence) [Home - What Works in SEND \(whatworks-send.org.uk\)](#)

Review

- This strategy was last reviewed in 2024
- The next expected review date is 2027

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People and Health Scrutiny Committee

24 October 2024

Educational Outcomes in Dorset

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: Amanda Davis
Job Title: Corporate Director for Education and Learning
Tel: 01305 224393
Email: amanda.davis@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

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

Brief Summary: This paper provides detail on key educational outcomes for academic year 2023/24

Recommendation: That committee considers the details of key educational outcomes and the context of these in Dorset. That committee understands the strategies and plans in place to address some of the challenges of the national and local context.

Reason for Recommendation: Educational outcomes for children and young people in Dorset are crucial for their personal development and future opportunities. High-quality education equips them with essential skills and knowledge, fostering critical thinking, creativity, and resilience. It also plays a significant role in promoting social mobility, enabling young people from diverse backgrounds to achieve their full potential. Moreover, strong educational outcomes contribute to the overall well-being of the community, as educated individuals are more likely to engage in civic activities and contribute positively to society. In Dorset, where there is a mix of urban and rural areas, ensuring equitable access

to quality education is vital for addressing regional disparities and supporting sustainable economic growth.

1. Report

Please note the main report is provided with graphs and diagrams in Appendix 1

1.1 Summary and Analysis of Provisional Dorset Outcomes 2023/4

While performance outcomes for 2023/24 have been mixed, there are some notable positive improvements areas. Key Stage 4 outcomes improved, overall, we closed the disadvantage gap a little, and attendance has been good. Less positively Key Stage 2 outcomes have declined.

Key Stage 2 Outcomes:

- **Overall Performance:** Dorset is in the bottom 20% of local authorities for attainment in Writing, Maths, GPS, and the combined Reading, Writing, and Maths (RWM).
- **Maths:** Attainment for all pupils is in the bottom 20%. Boys' attainment dipped by 3%, now 5% below national average. Girls' attainment remained the same but is 6% below national.
- **Disadvantaged Pupils:** Attainment for disadvantaged pupils in RWM is 8% below national, with a slight reduction in the attainment gap.

Key Stage 4 Outcomes:

- **English and Maths:** Improvements noted in English (4% at grade 4+, 3% at grade 5+) and Maths (3% at grade 5+). Overall, the 4+ basics improved by 1%, and the 5+ basics improved by 3%.

Achievement Rankings:

- **Quintile Rankings:** Dorset ranks in the lower quintiles for most indicators, with significant areas of concern in Maths and Writing.

Locality Performance:

- **Variations by Locality:** Dorchester and the West show the largest concerns, despite some improvements. The East and North localities also show mixed results.

Disadvantaged Pupils:

- **Attainment Gap:** Disadvantaged pupils in Dorset improved at a better rate than their peers, but the attainment gap remains significant compared to national averages.

Attendance and Absence:

- **Attendance Rates:** Overall attendance is relatively high, with slight variations across days of the week and between primary and secondary schools.
- **Absence Reasons:** Illness and family holidays are the primary reasons for authorised and unauthorised absences.

Ofsted Ratings:

- **Quality of Education:** Dorset's schools generally perform below national averages in terms of quality of education, though leadership and personal development ratings are relatively higher.

Analysis:

The document highlights several critical areas for improvement in Dorset's educational outcomes, particularly in Maths and Writing at Key Stage 2. The performance of disadvantaged pupils, while improving, still lags behind national averages, indicating a need for targeted interventions. Locality-specific strategies may be required to address the disparities in performance across different areas. Attendance rates are generally good, but the reasons for absences suggest areas where additional support might be beneficial. Overall, the data underscores the importance of continued efforts to enhance educational quality and equity in Dorset.

2. The National Context for Education

- 2.1 Several significant changes are anticipated in UK education policy. The Children's Wellbeing Bill aims to place children's well-being at the heart of the education and social care systems, with measures such as free breakfast clubs in every primary school and limits on branded school uniform items to reduce costs for parents. Additionally, local authorities will be required to maintain registers for children not in school, and Ofsted will gain more powers to investigate unregistered schools.
- 2.2 The Skills England Bill focuses on addressing skills shortages and supporting economic growth by simplifying the skills system and transferring responsibilities to a new Skills England organisation.

2.3 These changes reflect a broader effort to improve educational outcomes, reduce inequalities, and ensure that all children, regardless of their background, have access to quality education and opportunities for personal and professional development.

3. The Educational Landscape in Dorset

3.1 Our education community is made up of around 350 early years settings, 158 schools and 2 Further Education Colleges (soon to merge to form one college.) A proportion of our children are educated out of county, at all stages of learning.

3.2 There is a small higher education facility at Kingston Maurward College but no university in Dorset.

3.3 67% of our schools are now academies.

3.4 There are 2 Free Schools in Dorset.

3.5 The Dorset Education Board (DEB) was established in 2022 to oversee and enhance educational outcomes for children and young people in Dorset. Led by independent Chair Stephen Twigg, the board includes representatives from the Department for Education, local school leaders, the Diocese, the Dorset Parent Carer Forum, the police, the NHS, and Dorset Council officers.

3.6 The DEB's core aims are to ensure every child receives education in an Ofsted-rated 'Good' or 'Outstanding' setting, to close the attainment gap for disadvantaged and vulnerable children, and to prepare all young people with the skills needed for adulthood. The board actively engages with children and young people to ensure their views are considered in decision-making processes.:

3.7 Since the single word judgement for school inspections has now been removed, the DEB will review the statement for Ofsted ratings but will continue to seek high quality education for all our children and young people.

3.8 In 2023, the Dorset Education Board outlined several key priorities to enhance educational outcomes for children and young people in the region, through its education strategy. These priorities include:

1. Listening to Children and Young People: Ensuring that their voices are heard and considered in decision-making processes.

2. **Fostering a Sense of Belonging:** Making sure all children and young people feel included and valued within their educational settings.
3. **Achieving Potential:** Helping children and young people reach their full potential and succeed in preparing for post-16 education and adulthood.
4. **Strengthening the Workforce:** Continuously improving the skills and capabilities of educators and support staff.
5. **Financial Sustainability:** Ensuring that educational settings are financially strong and sustainable.

These priorities aim to create a supportive and inclusive educational environment that promotes the well-being and success of all students in Dorset.

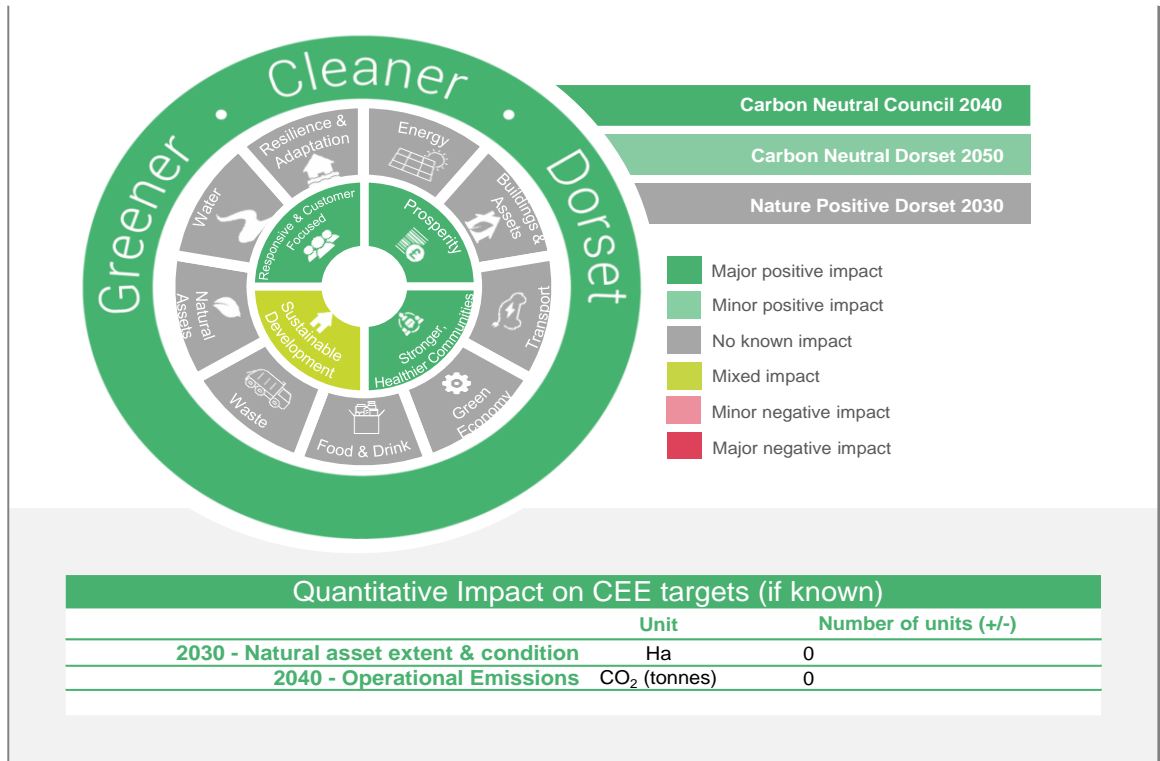
3.9 In early 2024 an additional element to improve outcomes was created. Facilitated by the Regional Department for Education, Chief Executives of all multi-academy trusts and of the Diocese were invited to join the Executive Director of Children's Services and the Corporate Director of Education and Learning to a round table discussion, with the aim of creating additional commitment and capacity to realising the aims of the Dorset Education Board.

3.10 This group is continuing to develop their work in this academic year.

4. **Financial Implications**

4.1 Investment in good educational outcomes is essential to economic growth and the prosperity of residents in Dorset. Funding for improving outcomes is partially funded by general funds in order to deliver our statutory duties on school improvements. A proportion is de-delegated from the Designated Schools Grant by Schools' Forum.

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



5.1 There are no significant environmental factors to consider in relation to this work. However, if more children attended their local, mainstream school alongside their neighbours and friends, we would see less impact on home to school travel budgets and reduced carbon emissions.

6. Well-being and Health Implications

6.1 Our education strategy has the immediate and long-term health and wellbeing of children, young people and families at its heart. Evidence shows that children and young people experience social and wellbeing benefits from high quality education as well as academic achievement.

7. Other Implications

N/A

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**

9.1 As described above, education can play a significant role in reducing inequalities.

10. **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Educational Outcomes and Analysis.

11. **Background Papers**

None

12. **Report Sign Off**

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

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Dorset Council

Provisional Dorset Outcomes
2023/4 Summary

Themes:

Key Stage 2:

- Dorset is in the bottom 20% of local authorities for attainment at the expected standard for Writing, Maths, GPS and the combined Reading Writing and Maths (RWM).
- Maths: Attainment at the expected standard for all pupils, boys and girls is in the bottom 20% of local authorities. Boys' attainment dipped by 3% and is 5% below national. Girls' attainment stayed the same and is 6% below national. There was significant improvement in Girls' outcomes in some areas, but this was matched by dips in some areas, and this was not enough to improve overall outcomes.
- Disadvantaged pupils (for the combined RWM at the expected standard) were 8% below national, non-disadvantaged were 7% below. The gap has reduced by 1 – 2% above national.
- There are no progress outcomes for key stage 2 in 2024 – due to key stage 1 outcomes not being collected during the pandemic.

Key Stage 4 (note this is provisional as yet to be ratified)

- Outcomes in English improved by 4% at grade 4 and higher, and 3% at grade 5 and higher.
- Maths at grade 5 or higher improved by 3%. (Last year Dorset was 4% below national).
- Overall the 4+ basics improved by 1% and the 5+ basics improved by 3%.
- There are no national comparators at this stage.

Achievement Rankings – All pupils

All 152 local authorities are divided into 5 equal size quintiles based on each indicator, with Q5 being the lowest and Q1 the highest.

Dorset Ranking against other LAs		Q5	Q4	Q3	Q2	Q1	Dorset 2024	Dorset 2023	Trend	Nat 2024	Nat 2023	Nat Trend
		<-- Lowest		Highest -->								
Key Stage 2 Expected Standard (2024)	Reading			86			73%	73%	↑	74%	73%	↑
	Writing	128					68%	68%	↑	72%	71%	↑
	Mathematics	144					67%	68%	↓	73%	73%	↑
	GPS	128					68%	70%	↓	72%	72%	↓
	RWM	135					55%	53%	↑	60%	59%	↑

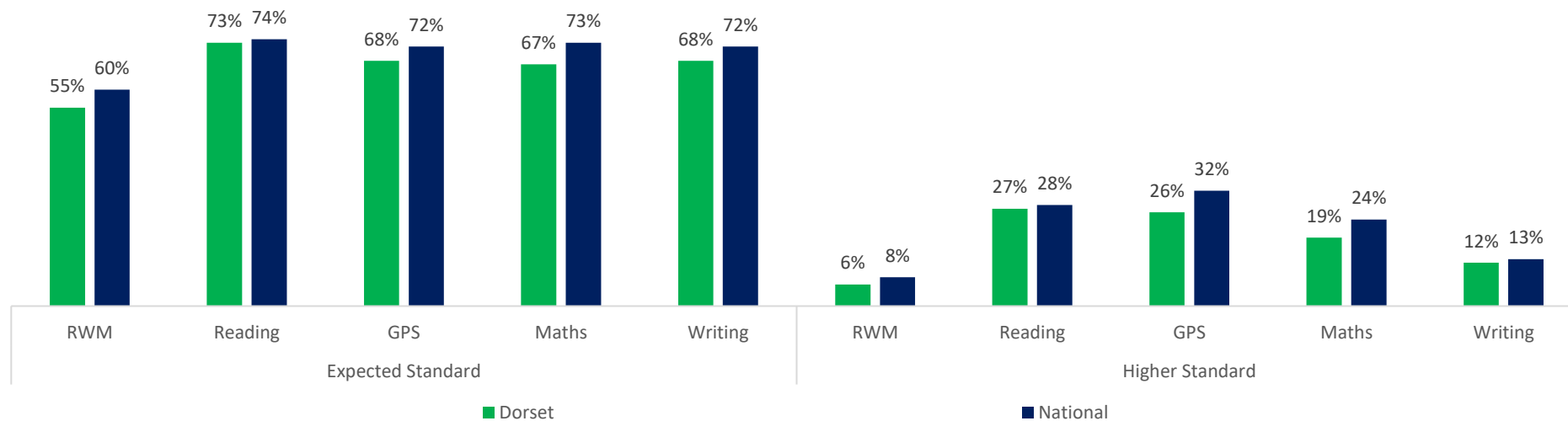
Reading has been a significant area of focus for our schools, with projects in partnership with the National Literacy F

Dorset Ranking against other LAs (EHCP)		Q5	Q4	Q3	Q2	Q1	Dorset 2024	Dorset 2023	Trend	Nat 2024	Nat 2023	Nat Trend
		<-- Lowest		Highest -->								
Key Stage 2 Expected Standard (2023)	Reading	137					12%	22%	↓	19%	18%	↑
	Writing	142					6%	10%	↓	12%	12%	↔
	Mathematics	140					10%	18%	↓	17%	16%	↑
	GPS	147					8%	17%	↓	12%	16%	↓
	RWM	148					3%	7%	↓	9%	8%	↑

Dorset Ranking against other LAs (SEN Support)		Q5	Q4	Q3	Q2	Q1	Dorset 2024	Dorset 2023	Trend	Nat 2024	Nat 2023	Nat Trend
		<-- Lowest			Highest -->							
Key Stage 2 Expected Standard (2023)	Reading				49		51%	45%	↑	48%	45%	↑
	Writing			71			36%	33%	↑	36%	34%	↑
	Mathematics		92				42%	38%	↑	44%	42%	↑
	GPS		94				37%	35%	↑	39%	38%	↑
	RWM			88			24%	19%	↑	26%	24%	↑

Dorset Ranking against other LAs (FSM/Disadv)		Q5	Q4	Q3	Q2	Q1	Dorset 2024	Dorset 2023	Trend	Nat 2024	Nat 2023	Nat Trend
		<-- Lowest			Highest -->							
Key Stage 2 Expected Standard (2024)	Reading			75			61%	57%	↑	62%	61%	↑
	Writing	126					52%	50%	↑	58%	58%	↓
	Mathematics	134					51%	50%	↑	59%	59%	↔
	GPS	126					52%	53%	↓	59%	59%	↓
	RWM	133					37%	34%	↑	45%	44%	↑

Key Stage 2 outcomes:



- Outcomes at the expected standard and higher standard are all below national.
- Maths is 6% below at the expected standard and GPS/Writing are 4% below. The overall RWM is 5% below – and Dorset is in the bottom 20% of local authorities for all of them.
- Reading (to a degree) bucks this trend – 1% below.
- Due to Key Stage 1 assessments not being collected during the pandemic, there are no progress measures this year. This hampers interpretation at the overall level (where the prior attainment of cohorts cannot be taken into account), and particularly at school level.

Dorset Ranking:

	Expected Standard					Higher Standard				
	RWM	Reading	GPS	Maths	Writing	RWM	Reading	GPS	Maths	Writing
All pupils										
National	60%	74%	72%	73%	72%	8%	28%	32%	24%	13%
South West	58%	74%	69%	70%	70%	7%	28%	28%	21%	12%
SN Avg	57%	73%	68%	70%	69%	6%	27%	26%	19%	11%
Dorset	55%	73%	68%	67%	68%	6%	27%	26%	19%	12%
Dorset Rank	135	86	128	144	128	99	78	130	129	80

Boys										
	RWM	Reading	GPS	Maths	Writing	RWM	Reading	GPS	Maths	Writing
National	57%	71%	69%	74%	65%	6%	25%	29%	27%	10%
South West	55%	70%	66%	71%	64%	6%	25%	25%	23%	9%
SN Avg	53%	70%	64%	71%	63%	5%	23%	23%	22%	8%
Dorset	50%	69%	63%	68%	60%	5%	22%	24%	21%	9%
Dorset Rank	142	96	137	145	136	95	111	119	134	75

Girls										
	RWM	Reading	GPS	Maths	Writing	RWM	Reading	GPS	Maths	Writing
National	64%	78%	76%	73%	78%	9%	32%	35%	21%	16%
South West	61%	77%	73%	69%	77%	8%	32%	31%	18%	15%
SN Avg	60%	77%	72%	69%	76%	7%	31%	28%	17%	14%
Dorset	59%	77%	73%	66%	76%	8%	31%	29%	16%	16%
Dorset Rank	131	77	113	143	108	77	77	127	132	74

Key Stage 2 – Localities:

2023/4 KS2	Expected Standard				
	RWM	Reading	GPS	Maths	Writing
National	60%	74%	72%	73%	72%
Dorset	55% (-5%)	73% (-1%)	68% (-4%)	67% (-6%)	68% (-4%)
Chesil	56% (-4%)	73% (-1%)	67% (-5%)	70% (-3%)	73% (1%)
Dorchester	49% (-11%)	68% (-6%)	67% (-5%)	65% (-8%)	61% (-11%)
East	58% (-2%)	77% (3%)	73% (1%)	71% (-2%)	72% (0%)
North	57% (-3%)	76% (2%)	73% (1%)	70% (-3%)	70% (-2%)
Purbeck	56% (-4%)	78% (4%)	67% (-5%)	68% (-5%)	67% (-5%)
West	52% (-8%)	70% (-4%)	61% (-11%)	65% (-8%)	67% (-5%)

(Figures show locality average and difference to National in brackets)

- Dorchester and the West remain the localities with the largest concerns, despite significant improvements from last year.

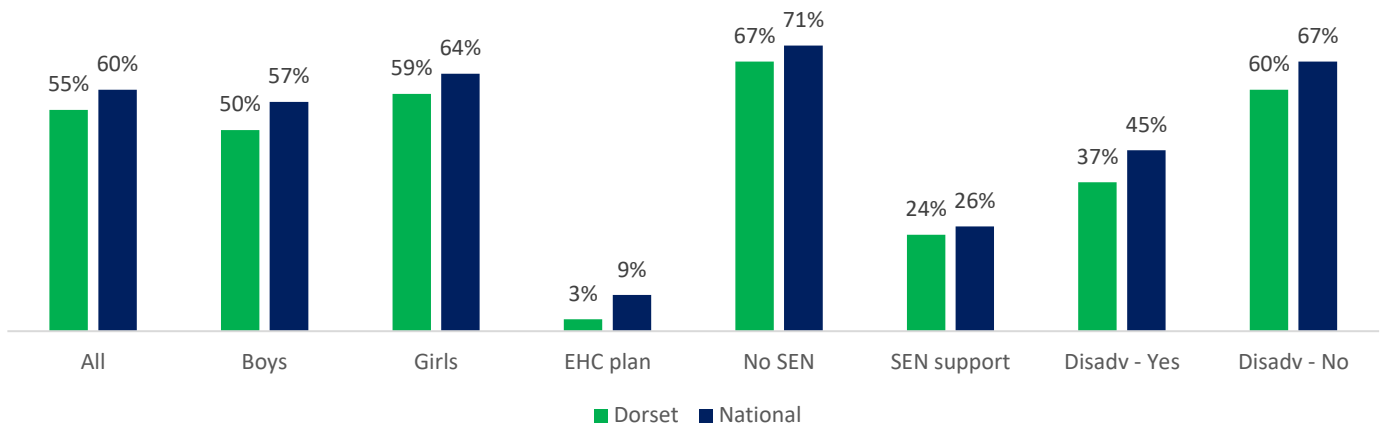
Key Stage 2 Localities – change from 2022/23:

2023/4	Expected Standard				
	RWM	Reading	GPS	Maths	Writing
Chesil	56% (4%)	73% (4%)	67% (-2%)	70% (2%)	73% (2%)
Dorchester	49% (6%)	68% (-3%)	67% (1%)	65% (6%)	61% (7%)
East	58% (1%)	77% (1%)	73% (1%)	71% (-2%)	72% (4%)
North	57% (0%)	76% (3%)	73% (0%)	70% (-1%)	70% (-1%)
Purbeck	56% (3%)	78% (6%)	67% (2%)	68% (1%)	67% (-2%)
West	52% (0%)	70% (-1%)	61% (-5%)	65% (4%)	67% (0%)

(2023/4 outcomes shown, with change from 2022/23 in brackets)

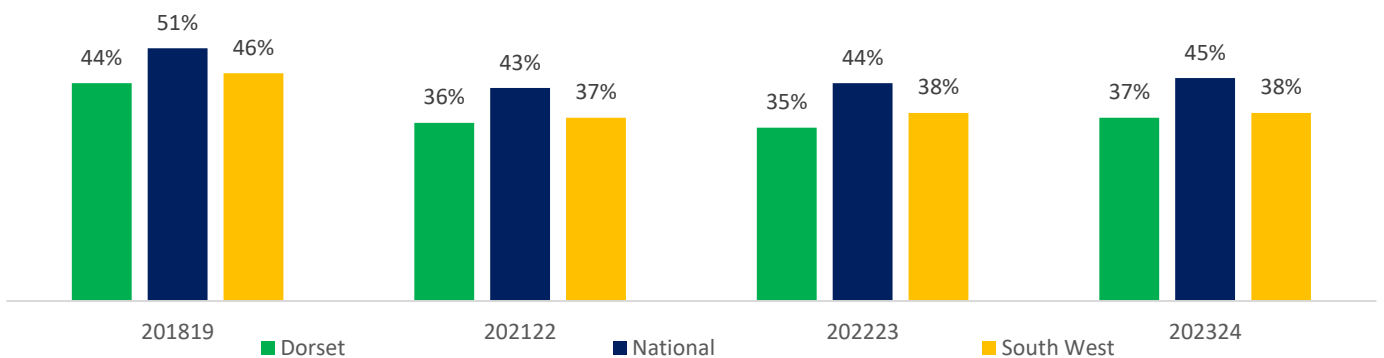
- Changes from last year are mixed, particularly in Maths. The 1% drop in Maths looks to have been down to the drop in the North (biggest locality) and the East.
- Dorchester showing good improvement in Maths and Writing. The West has improved Maths outcomes.

Key Stage 2 RWM Group Outcomes:



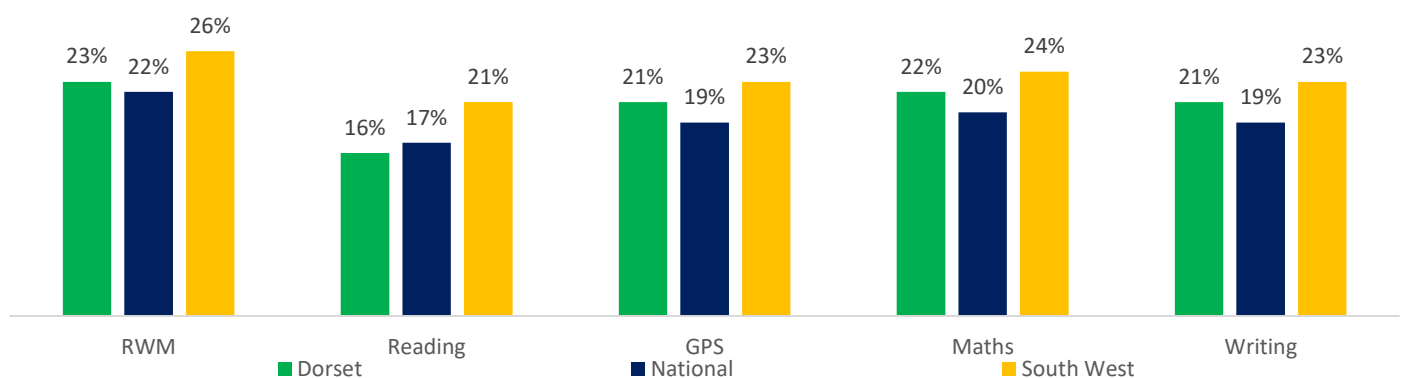
- Boys 7% below, girls 5% below.

Disadvantaged pupils RWM Expected Standard:



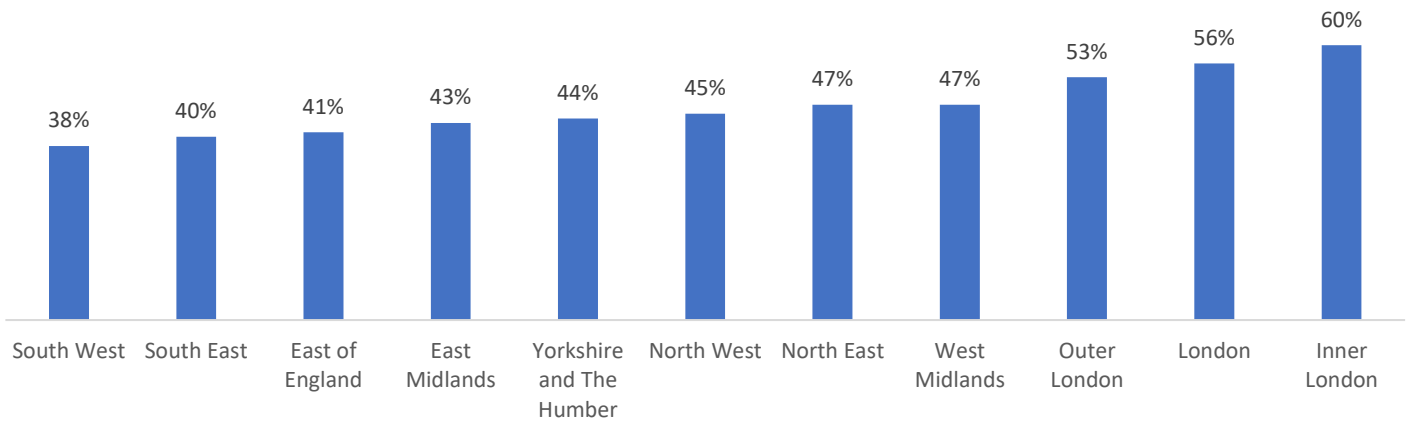
- Disadvantaged pupils improved at a better rate than their peers in Dorset from last year, with a 2% rise in RWM, 4% rise in Reading, 1% rise in Maths, 2% rise in Writing, but a 1% drop in GPS. National results rose slightly, and Dorset's attainment gap reduced by 1% for RWM, however, Dorset is still significantly below National.

Disadvantaged Gap:



- Disadvantaged pupils in Dorset attain at similar levels to those in the South-West and for statistical neighbours, although they are 3% above both areas for Reading.
- Outcomes for disadvantaged pupils in the South-West are the lowest of all the regions.
- London outperforms the rest of the country by some way. Outer London is 6% higher than the next nearest region, (West Midlands), and Inner London is 13% above.

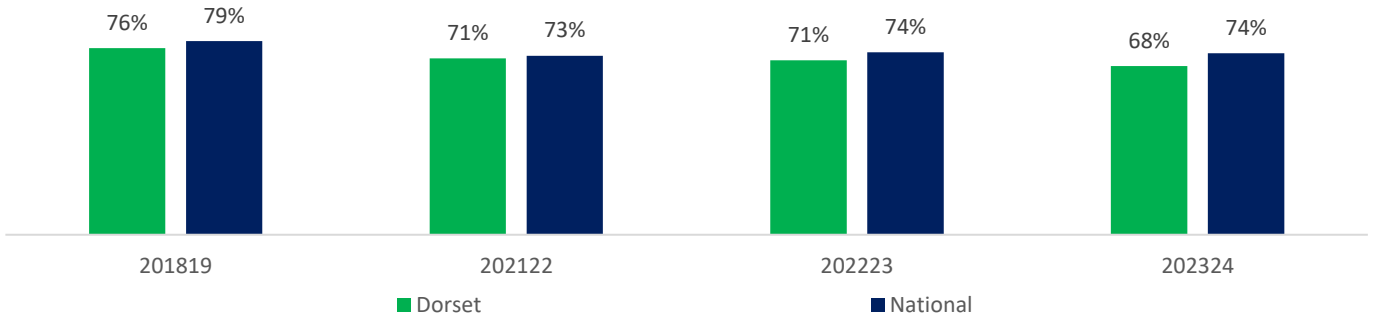
Disadvantaged RWM Expected Standard



Maths focus:

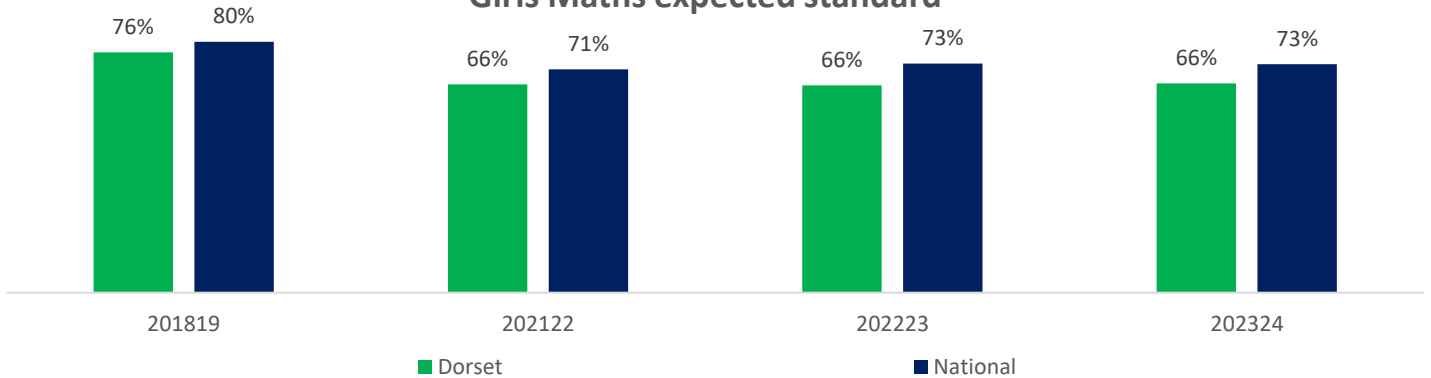
- Maths at Key Stage 2 has been a area of concern for some time – and remains so – Dorset continues to perform in the lowest 20% of local authorities. 67% of pupils achieved the expected standard in 2024, down from 68% in 2023. Overall Dorset was 6% below national in 2024, 5% below in 2023 and 3% below in 2022.
- In previous years the emphasis has been on progress as well as attainment – and particularly on girls.
- This year boys attainment has fallen into the bottom 20% of Local Authorities.
- Boys maths attainment at the expected standard in 2024 was 68%, down from 71% and now 5% below national (3% below in 2023). It is this dip that has caused the overall dip in Dorset.

Boys Maths expected standard



- 66% of girls in Dorset achieved the expected standard in 2024 – the same as 2023. Dorset girls are now 6% below national (up from 7% below last year).

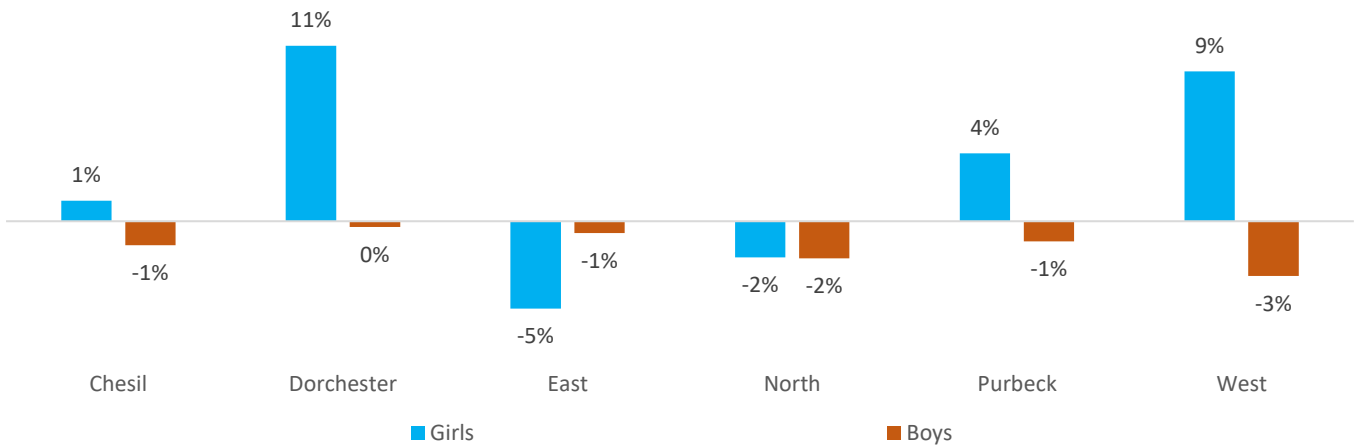
Girls Maths expected standard



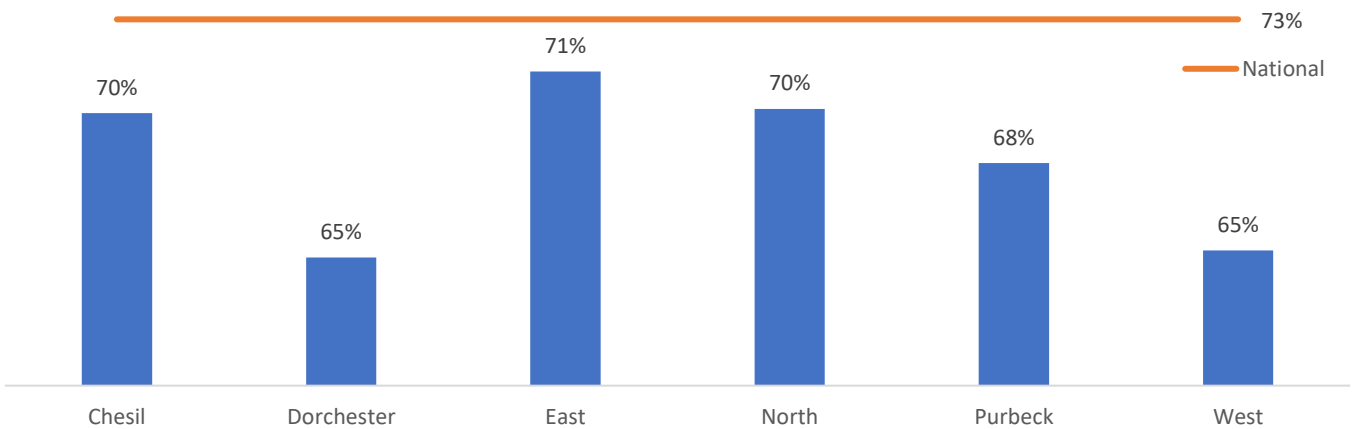
- Whilst Dorset girls are still further below national than boys, the trend for boys is declining at a faster rate.

- Looking at the changes from 2023 by gender shows that there have been significant changes for girls across the localities (with particular improvements in Dorchester and the West – both areas that underperformed in 2023), although girls attainment in the East and North dipped. Boys attainment dropped in all localities, although the west dipped by the largest degree:

Maths expected standard - changes from 2023 - by gender

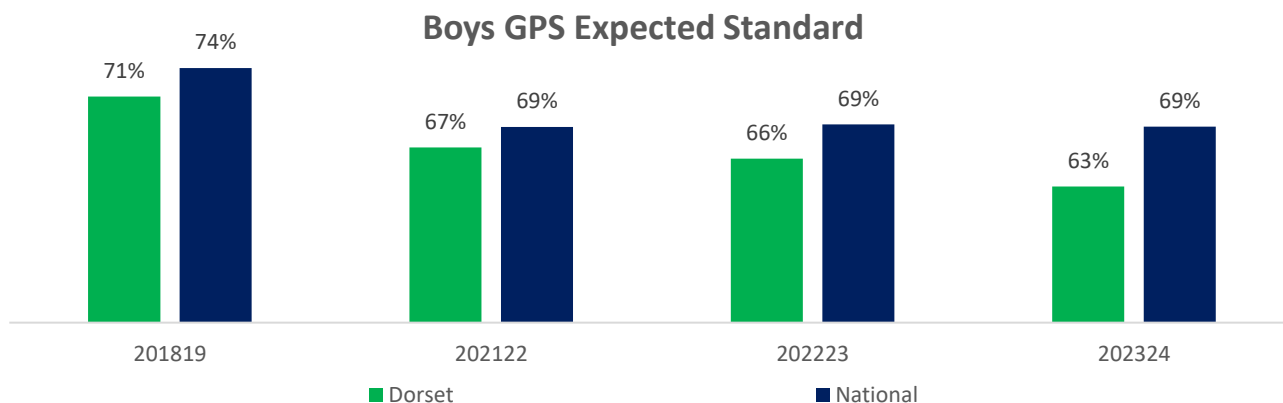


- All localities are below national for Maths at the expected standard. Significant improvements from last year.
- in Dorchester (+6%), West (+4%), and to a lesser degree in Chesil (+2%) and Purbeck (+1%) are positive but further improvement is needed. The East dropped by 2% and the North by 1% from the previous year.

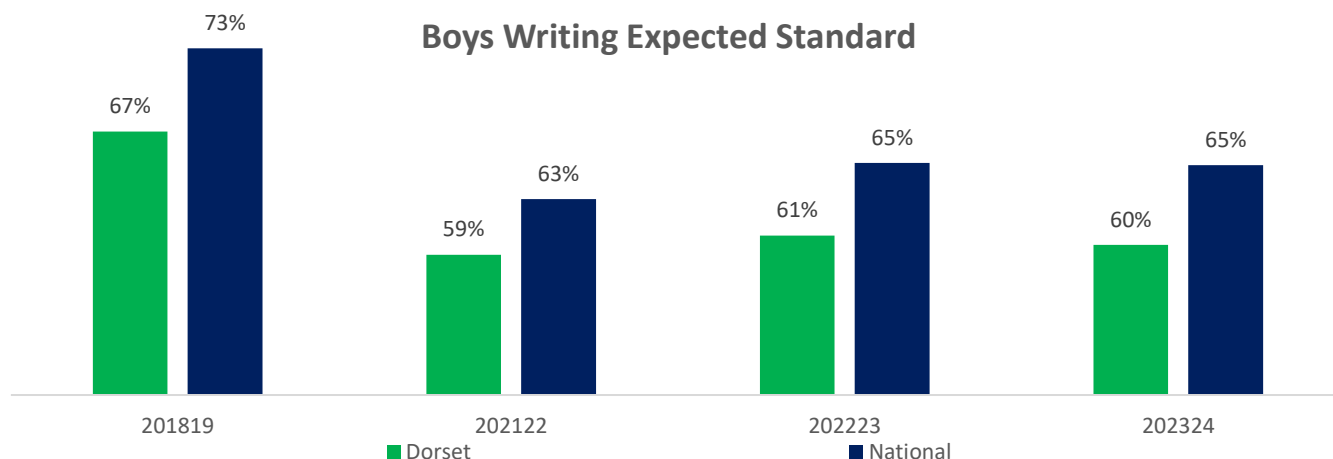


Writing and GPS:

- Whist Maths is 6% below national at the expected standard, GPS (Grammar, punctuation and Spelling) is now 4% below (from 3% last year), and Writing is 4% below (same as last year).
- As with Maths, there are gender issues here, with boys attainment in Writing and GPS both in the bottom 20% of Local Authorities in 2024.
- In GPS Boys are now 6% below national, whilst girls are 3% below, and the trend is of declining performance:



In Writing, boys are 5% below, and girls 2% below:



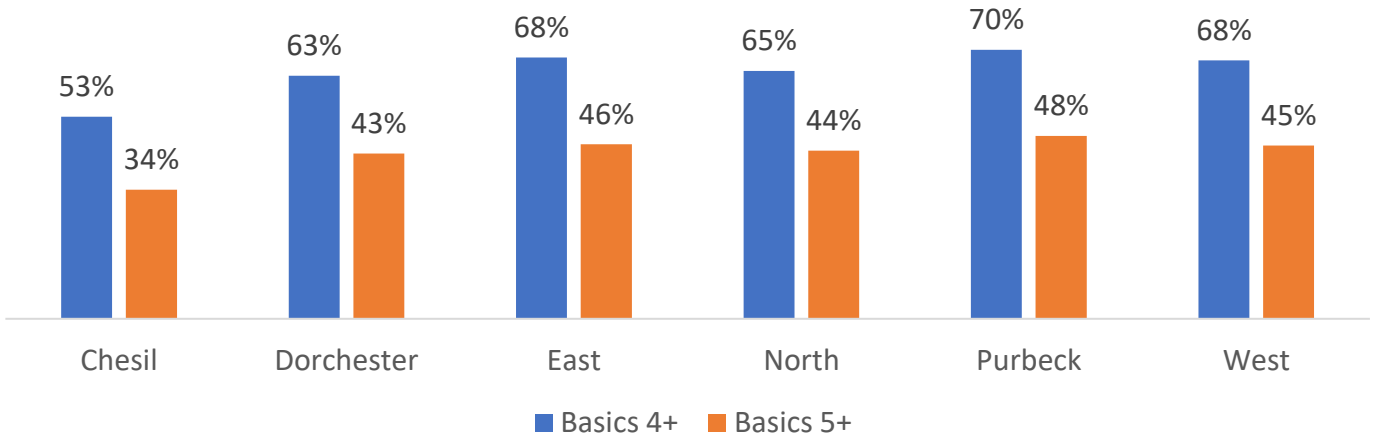
Provisional Key Stage 4 outcomes:

Note: These results are from the school's submission on the August results day:

Area	% 4+ English	% 4+ Maths	% 5+ English	% 5+ Maths	% 4+ English & Maths	% 5+ English & Maths
Dorset 2023	72%	69%	57%	47%	63%	40%
National 2023	75%	70%	61%	51%	65%	46%
Provisional Dorset 2024	76%	71%	60%	50%	64%	43%
Dorset change from 2023:	4%	1%	3%	3%	1%	3%

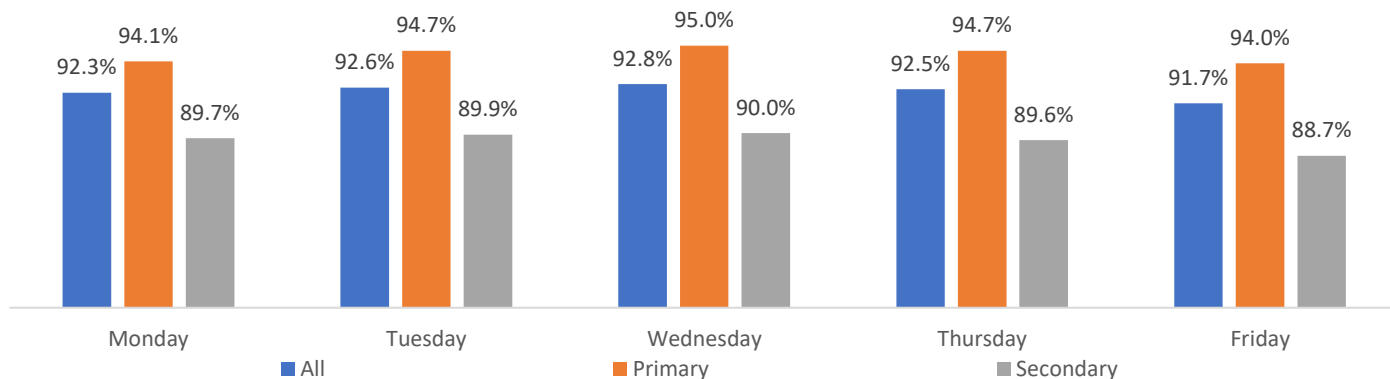
- Outcomes in English improved by 4% at grade 4 and higher, and 3% at grade 5 and higher.
- Maths at grade 5 or higher improved by 3%. (Last year Dorset was 4% below national).
- Overall, the 4+ basics improved by 1% and the 5+ basics improved by 3%.
- There are no national comparators at this stage.

(Note: the top three schools in outcomes this year were all non-academies.)



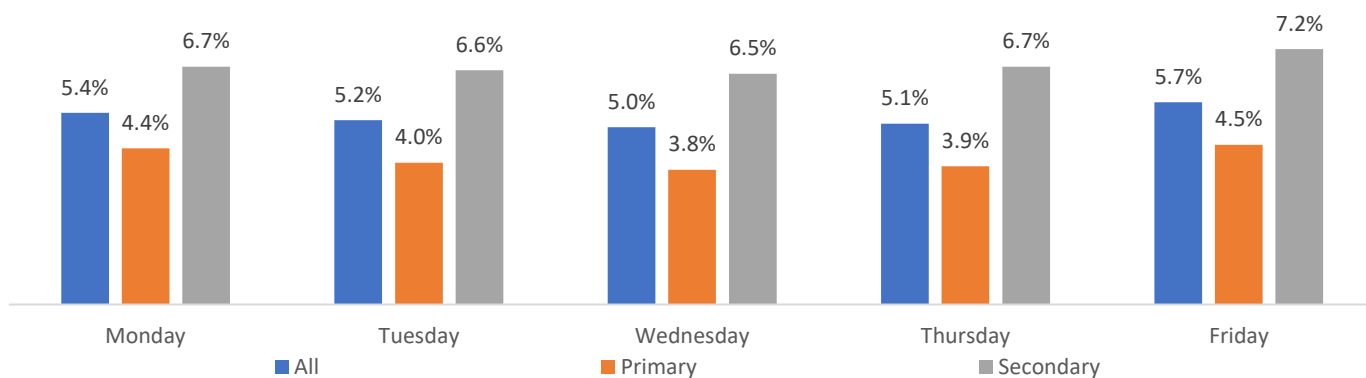
Daily attendance rates 2023/2024:

Overall attendance



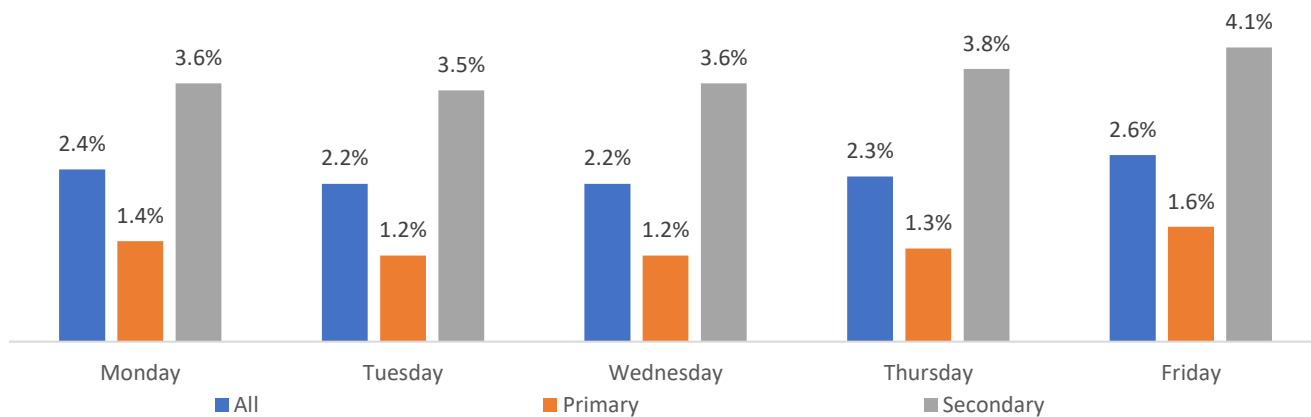
Authorised absence 2023/2024:

Authorised absence



Unauthorised absence 2023/2024:

Unauthorised absence

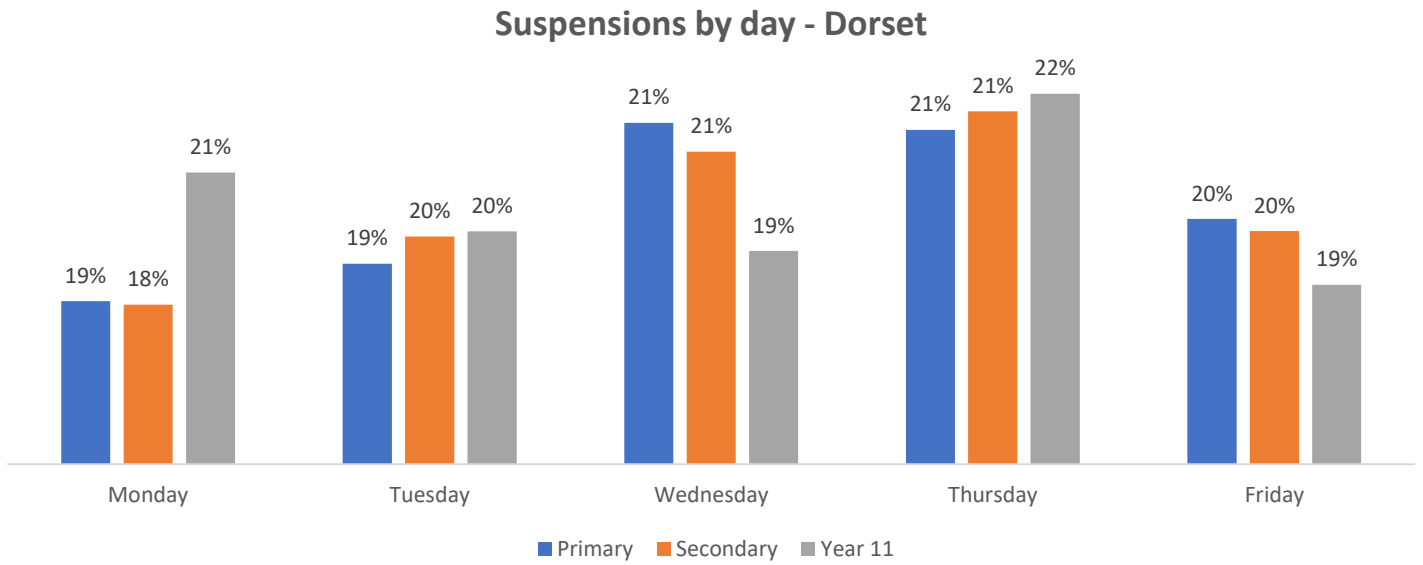


Unauth absence	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Reception	1.2%	1.1%	1.1%	1.1%	1.3%
NC Year 1	1.4%	1.1%	1.1%	1.2%	1.4%
NC Year 2	1.4%	1.2%	1.2%	1.2%	1.5%
NC Year 3	1.4%	1.2%	1.3%	1.3%	1.5%
NC Year 4	1.4%	1.1%	1.1%	1.2%	1.5%
NC Year 5	1.4%	1.2%	1.2%	1.3%	1.6%
NC Year 6	1.7%	1.6%	1.4%	1.6%	1.9%
NC Year 7	2.0%	1.8%	1.9%	2.0%	2.4%
NC Year 8	2.9%	2.9%	2.7%	3.0%	3.3%
NC Year 9	4.0%	3.8%	3.9%	4.1%	4.5%
NC Year 10	4.7%	4.6%	4.7%	4.9%	5.3%
NC Year 11	4.9%	4.8%	4.9%	5.1%	5.3%

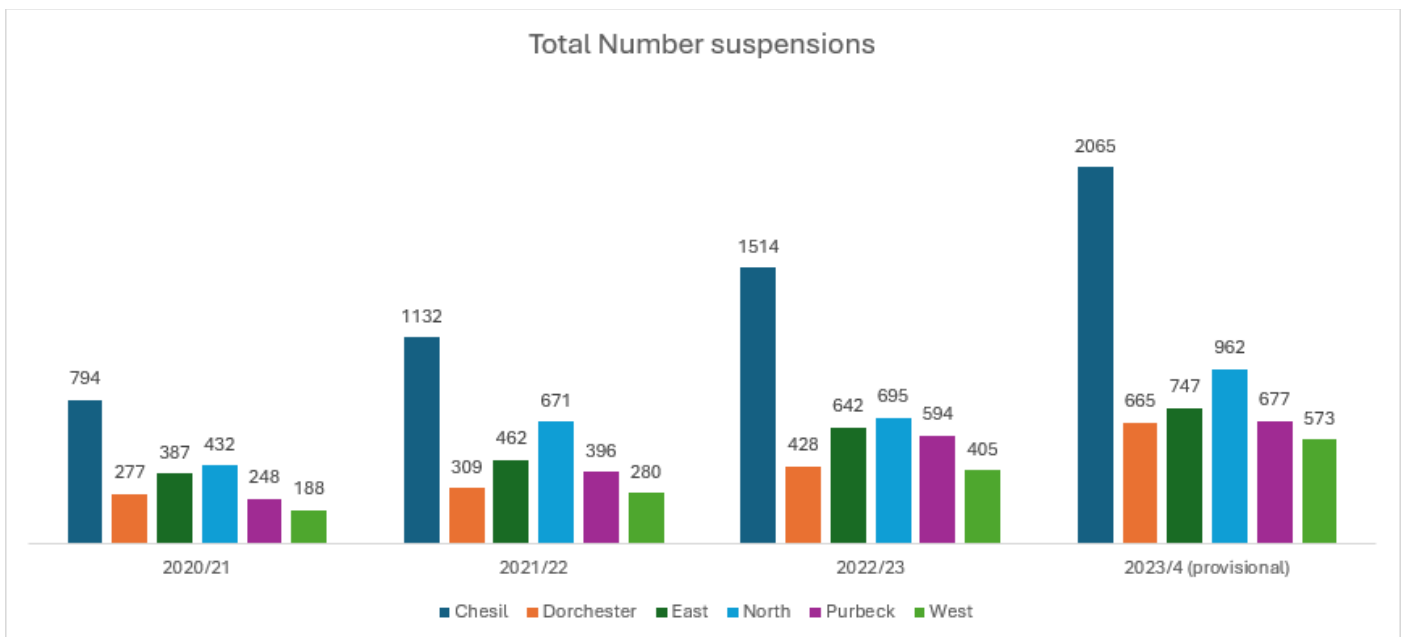
Absence 2023/2024 – reasons:

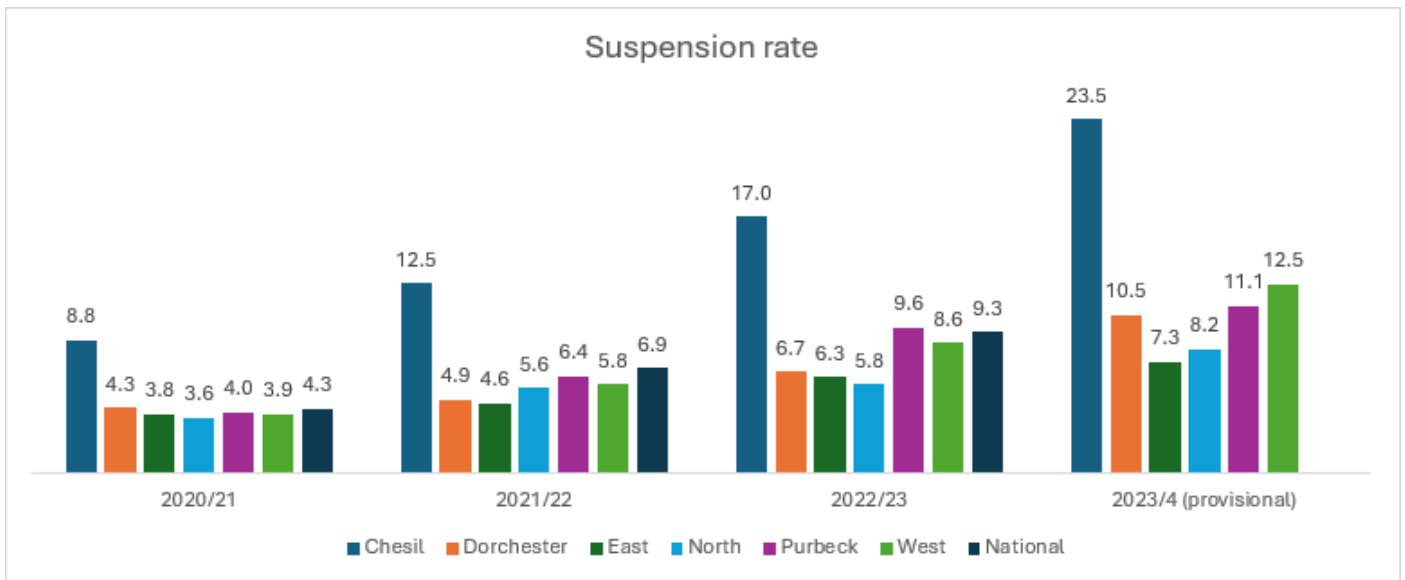
	Authorised - other	Unauthorised - family holiday	Authorised - illness	Late	Unauthorised - other	Unauthorised - after register closed
Monday	2.3%	3.9%	16.1%	7.3%	4.3%	1.6%
Tuesday	2.2%	3.6%	15.6%	7.1%	3.8%	1.4%
Wednesday	2.3%	3.6%	15.2%	7.0%	3.6%	1.4%
Thursday	2.4%	3.8%	15.2%	7.0%	3.9%	1.4%
Friday	2.7%	4.3%	15.7%	6.6%	4.5%	1.3%

Suspensions (% of total) by day:



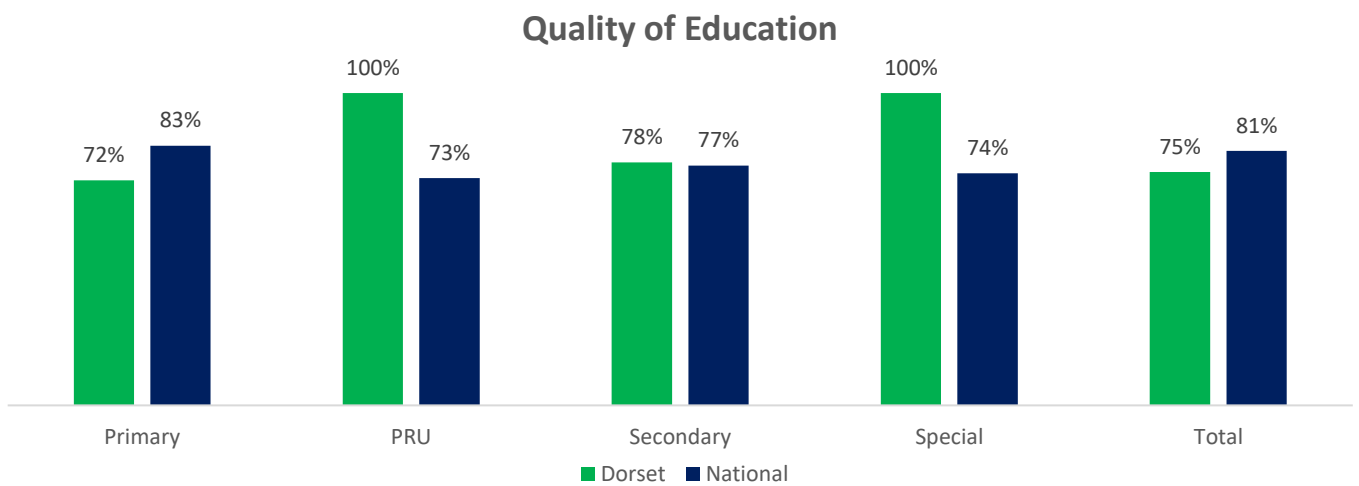
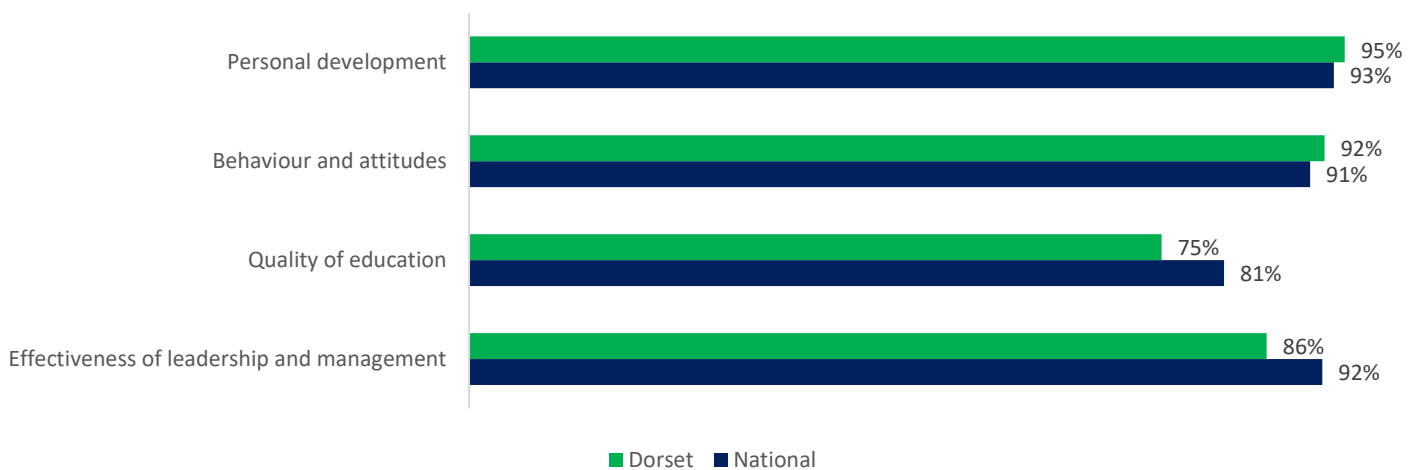
These graphs show the number of suspensions by locality. Year 23/24 is provisional as not yet validated by the DFE (therefore no national data.) The second graph shows the rate (numbers of pupils).





Ofsted:

Note: Results show most recent inspection with valid outcome (58% of schools for strands other than leadership):



People and Health Scrutiny Committee

24 October 2024

Good Care Provision

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: Kelly Henry,
Job Title: Head of Good Care Provision, Safeguarding and Business Support
Tel: 01305 225538
Email: kelly.henry@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

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

Brief Summary:

This report provides an update and progress regarding our delivery of Good Care Provision to the children, young people and families of Dorset.

Recommendation:

Members of the People and Health Scrutiny Committee are requested to consider the content of this report and support the work undertaken to date to achieve our objectives regarding Good Care Provision as set out in the Dorset Children, Young People and Families Plan 2023 – 2033.

Reason for Recommendation:

Members of the People and Health Scrutiny Committee are Corporate Parents for our children in care and care leavers and they need to be assured that we are delivering a range of Good Care Provision when our children and young people cannot remain cared for by their immediate or extended family.

1. Background

- 1.1 Dorset Children, Young People and Families' Plan '23 – 2033 identifies 7 priority areas the Strategic Partnership has committed to focusing on to ensure a bright and ambitious future for all of Dorset's children. This report is concerned with Priority 3, Good Care Provision.



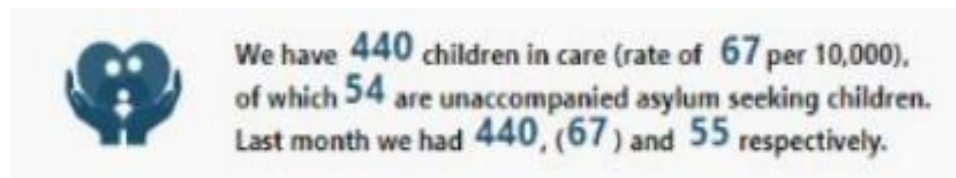
- 1.2 Our aim is to keep our children close to home and to be the best corporate parents we can be. We will always strive for children to remain living with their families and where this is not possible, we will actively seek out and work with a child's extended family and friends to provide family-based care. Alongside this and when children cannot be placed with extended family, we have an obligation to ensure we have a range of high-quality care provisions for young people to live locally which meets their needs, inclusive of their culture, language and religious needs.
- 1.3 We will prioritise loving relationships for all children in care and care leavers and ensure we have a wide range of care options in place locally by ensuring we have the right number, type and quality of foster carers, residential homes,

and other types of regulated accommodation. Where children cannot return to birth family, we want to secure timely and successful permanence through adoption wherever this is the best plan for the child.

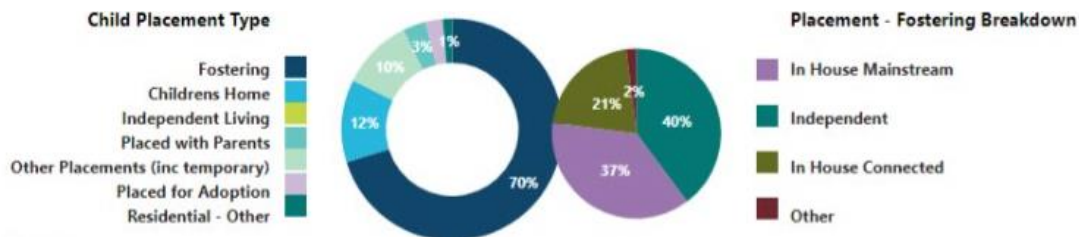
- 1.4 We want to reduce inequalities for children in care and care leavers ensuring we improve their health and wellbeing and are ambitious for them to achieve their potential, recognising the important foundation that stability and consistency of relationships with care providers gives. In addition, we want to make sure that there are a range of short breaks available to support families with children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities to be able to continue to care for their children.
- 1.5 Our ambition is that more of our children and young people, who need care, are cared for in Dorset. When a child or young person needs care, if they are closer to their home and community, the people, and the services they already know will be able to continue to help them. This helps to ensure better outcomes for young people.

2. Dorset’s Children in Care and Care Experienced Young People

- 2.1 In Dorset we have seen a reducing local child in care population. In the last year the numbers of older children have increased as we have welcomed unaccompanied children through the National Transfer Scheme. Our children we currently care for:



- 2.2 Types of care arrangements our children live in.



- 2.3 The majority of our children and young people live in fostering arrangements with over half placed with Dorset Council approved foster carers, both

mainstream and in connected carers arrangements. This meets our objectives of striving for our children to be in family based care.

- 2.4 Children placed with parents means that the local authority still shares parental responsibility and the child has returned home as part of our rehabilitation work. Within this rehabilitation work will be a plan to discharge the Care Order so children can remain within their family without our legal oversight.
- 2.5 Residential Other, relates to children placed in Residential School placements as opposed to children homes for young people who attend mainstream education in the local area or Parent and Child Residential Assessment Homes. We use these and parent and child foster placements to inform our assessments of a parent's ability to care for their child safely.
- 2.6 Supported accommodation and supported lodgings are for young people aged 16 years and older which offer young people with a good level of independence skills an opportunity to further develop these skills in preparation for adulthood. Supported accommodation is now a regulated activity and will be inspected under its own Inspection Framework by Ofsted.
- 2.7 We have no children under the age of 18 years living in independent accommodation and we have no care leavers living in Bed and Breakfast accommodation.
- 2.8 Where our children live,



45 % of our children in care live over 20 miles away from home (excluding our unaccompanied asylum seeking children). Last month it was 45 %.

Living 20 miles from home can still mean children are living in Dorset given its geographical size. Most young people who live outside Dorset are living in neighbouring authorities and/or with family and friends foster carers. While this goes against our wish for children to remain in Dorset these young people are remaining within their extended family.

3. What our children and young people have told us about where and who they live with?

- 3.1 As part of the development of the Corporate Parenting Strategy '24 – 2027 we worked with children and young people to ensure that the strategy

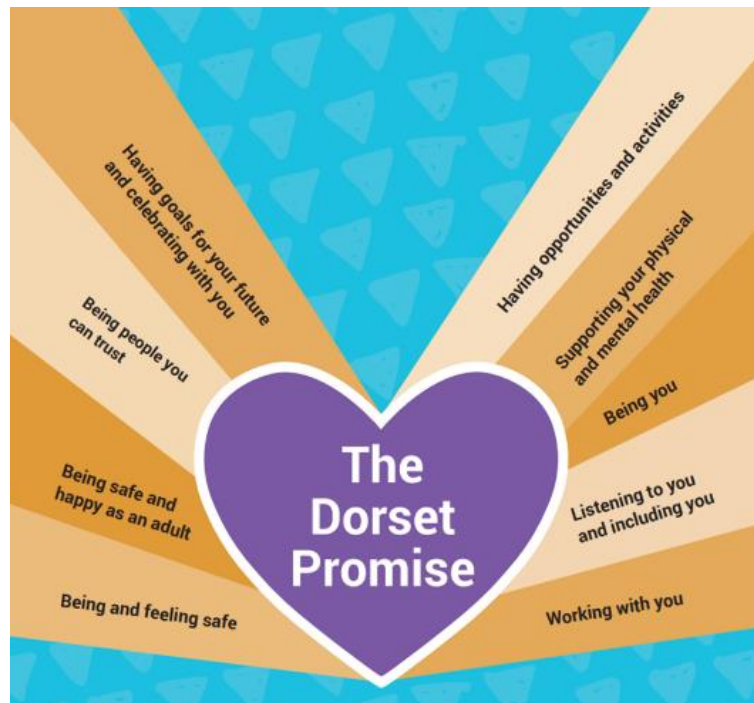
reflected what children and young people believed was important. We did this by listening to what our children and young people told us in through the 'Your Life, Your Care' and 'Your Life Beyond Care' surveys and through the work of our Youth Voice Service. This is what our children and young people told us.

- 89% children feel safe where they live compared to 61% young people and 82% general population.
- Nearly all children trust their carers and felt that their carers are interested in their education.
- Nearly all children and young people trusted their social worker and personal adviser and most had a say in decisions.
- Nearly all children had a trusted adult, spent time outdoors and were taught life skills.
- Fewer children said they liked school and more reported feeling bullied.
- Older children were more likely to say they did not have a really good friend.
- Over half said they did not spend enough time with their siblings or parents.
- Adolescents more likely to report being unhappy with how they looked and felt their lives were not worthwhile.
- Nearly all children said they were taught life skills, although 27% young people said that they find it difficult to cope financially and 14% said they were lonely always or often.
- Having a pet was important and were felt to give emotional support.
- More children and young people would like a really good friend.
- More care experienced young people in Dorset reported that they had a long-term health problem or disability.

3.2 The Dorset Promise to Children and Young People is our commitment to care experienced children and young people. As corporate parents, we want our children and young people to do their best and make a success of their lives. It takes a community to make a difference and in making this promise we share our responsibilities by working with people who can make this happen.

3.3 Corporate Parenting Board provides challenge and scrutiny to ensure the best outcomes are achieved and children in care and care experienced young people have opportunities to thrive and be the best they can be.

3.4 Being a good corporate parent means making sure children and young people have their own say in keeping themselves safe and making sure children and young people are not treated differently or unfairly because of being in, or from care.



4. How do we know our children and cared for and safe?

- 4.1 There are several national and local mechanisms to ensure our children are kept safe.
- 4.2 Ofsted is our main regulator body and are responsible for inspecting Local Authority Childrens Services either through 'Inspections of Local Authority Children Services' (ILACS) or Focused Visits. (If local authorities run their own fostering services, these are looked at within the remit of ILACS inspections) Ofsted will undertake targeted inspections of Independent Fostering Agencies.
- 4.3 Residential Children's Homes, Residential Special Schools and Supported Accommodation Provisions, regardless of if these are private providers or run 'in house'. these have their own dedicated inspections by Ofsted. We use these reports to understand how well a provision can meet the needs of children who we are considering placing. However, we have a number of means in which we monitor provision and its quality which leads to good outcomes for children.
- 4.4 Children in Care have allocated Social Workers who are required to visit children at least every 6 weeks and Quality Assurance Reviewing Officers (QAROs) who oversee the delivery of children's care plans, see the child every 6 months at their Children in Care Reviews as well as contacting the child and Social Workers between reviews. Children are offered an advocate in such circumstances if they do not already have one. The Local Authority

Designated Officer (LADO) is a statutory role within local authorities to review and investigate allegations against professional's working with children.

- 4.5 Internally we have systems in place to monitor external provisions between inspections, these range from annual Quality Assurance visits to provisions, reviewing monthly reports from providers regarding activity in the month (to pick up themes such as how providers are responding to children going missing). Our Contracts Team oversee contract delivery of services and support the Brokerage and Social Work teams with advice and guidance on managing any issues.
- 4.6 We always strive to place children in provision judged 'Good' or 'Outstanding'. If a provision is downgraded to either 'Requires Improvement' or 'Inadequate' following an Ofsted inspection, we have a process to swiftly understand the safety of our children placed which includes an urgent review to understand if we need to take steps to find an alternative home. If a child remains within a provision we will increase visiting by the allocated social worker and will review and monitor progress of improvement against the providers Quality Improvement Plan (QIP). Children who remain in the downgraded provision are monitored through Placement and Resource Panel. We have no children placed in 'Inadequate' provision.
- 4.7 In March '24 we welcomed Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) who undertook an inspection of our partnership arrangements for children with disabilities and special needs. They recognise the work we undertake in keeping our children safe;

'There is strong oversight of children and young people in care living in homes away from Dorset. They are not considered 'out of sight, out of mind'. There is Area SEND inspection report: Dorset Local AREA Partnership, 11 to 15 March 2024 5 increased oversight of children's progress and experience by social workers and quality assurance reviewing officers, particularly when there are issues of concern, such as allegations made against staff or a less than good Ofsted judgement'

5. Good care Provision Progress to date

Good Care Provision had 23 actions when the Children, Young People and Families Plan was launched in late 2023. The following section highlights our progress in delivering on these actions:

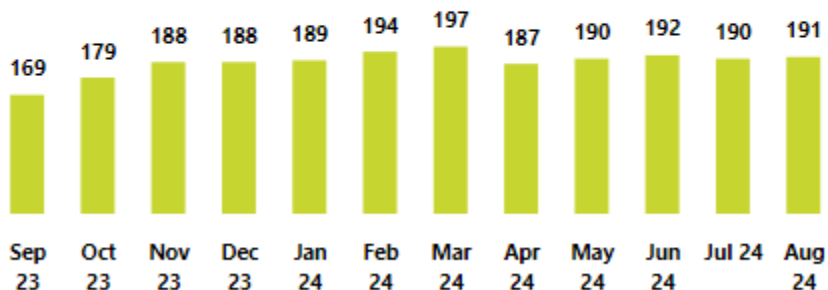
- 5.1 We have developed and published our Sufficiency Strategy 2024 – '27. The strategy sets out the authority's intentions in respect to developing both internal and external care arrangements (fostering/supported

accommodation/residential and a range of short breaks) as well as the support services required to ensure children can remain at home when it is safe to do so.

- 5.2 Proposal for Phase 2 of Harbour Model delivery in the East of Dorset approved. Care accommodation at Rowans and outreach delivered from Carey Camp is in progress with Registered Manager appointed and staff team recruited to.
- 5.3 Development of dedicated Kinship Care Service embedded within delivery of Families First for Children Pathfinder to go live October 2024. Progress of delivery of Family Network and Kinship Care Strategy monitored through governance of Kinship Strategic Delivery Group.
- 5.4 Family led decision making embedded within delivery of Families First for Children Pathfinder model.
- 5.5 This year we have developed the Dorset Council Foster Carer Recruitment and Retention Strategy 2023 – '25 which aims to;
 - increase the number of Dorset Council foster carers through improved recruitment and carer retention outcomes.
 - increase the range of in-house foster carer provision to provide a wider range of homes and especially more for disabled children, teenagers, and children and young people from different ethnic backgrounds
 - increase the proportion of our children in care who are placed in Dorset with Dorset Council foster carers.
- 5.6 Foster carer recruitment and retention programmes effective at increasing capacity. We are delivering the Fostering Recruitment and Retention Strategy 2023 – '26. We have audited capacity of foster families to foster children with additional needs. We continue to analyse predicted need for fostering families to home children with additional needs and are developing training and recruitment to ensure children with additional needs, who need foster families, have access to trained/qualified foster families. Rollout of Mockingbird Constellations across Dorset have increased Foster Carer relationships and communications. We launched our first Mockingbird Constellation in November 2022. We currently have 6 constellations, with a seventh in progress making us the largest in the South-West region and on par with Leeds in the country. We aim to have a total of 10 Constellations over the 5-year programme. Children and young people continue to select

the name of each constellation. The Mockingbird Society in Seattle (creators on the model) have been so impressed with our progress that they invited us over to Seattle to share our learning and achievements.

Number of Foster carers at end of month



- 5.7 We have seen an increase in the number of foster carers over the last year. Some of the fluctuation is as a result of the number of Early Permanence placements where children are placed in foster to adopt households and carers cease to be foster carers once placement orders are sought.
- 5.8 Between Sept 23 – Aug 24, 3 mainstream households have resigned and 12 mainstream households have been recruited. This is an improvement from last year where we had a downward trend, and we seeing an upward trend since Feb 2024. In August 2023 there were 172 fostering households (mainstream and connected carers) compared to August 2024 where there were 191 fostering households. Our recruitment target is to recruit 24 mainstream fostering households over a 12 month period and so although we are seeing an improvement there is more to do.
- 5.9 We have developed an unaccompanied children and young people service within the Care and Protection portfolio. This service is fully integrated into children's services to ensure unaccompanied children and young people's placements are considered as part of the Placement Sufficiency Strategy. We are extending our current Supported Accommodation Framework provision for 16+ young people to create 20 additional places in Dorset for our unaccompanied young people.
- 5.10 The Birth to Settled Adulthood Service has been developed, implemented and recruited to. It is now fully operational and reports into existing, robust governance structures. We continue to work jointly with colleagues in Adult

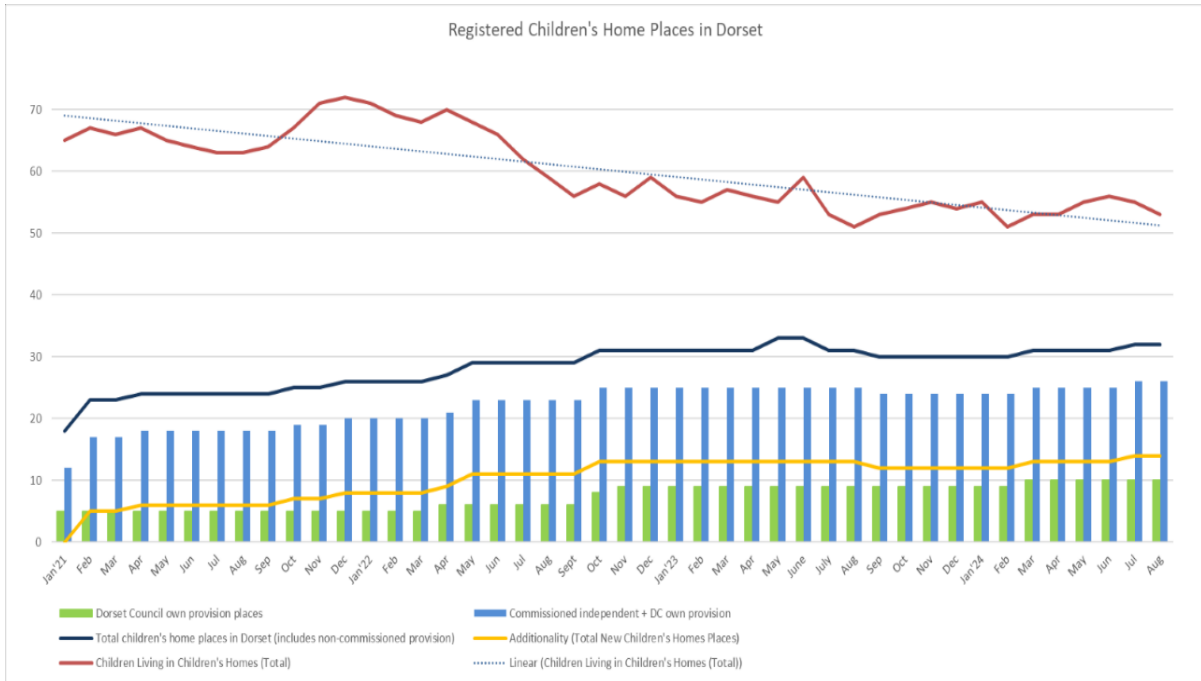
Services regarding developing accommodation options for young people cared for by this service that will take them into adulthood without having to experience a move at 18 years old as well as developing a joint brokerage model to support early planning of support, care and resource management for the service.

5.11 We have created and appointed a dedicated Permanence Service Manager who will provide significant oversight in terms of stability and children stepping down from residential care to fostering. This work is supported by the Brokerage Service (when we are unable to match children with our internal foster carers so we seek Independent Fostering Agencies (IFA)) and progress is monitored through the Placement and Resource Panel, this work will be further supplemented when the Fostering Service recruit a dedicated Family Finder position within the team. Placement stability is also being supported through Harbour Outreach with involvement of Harbour Therapist and Speech and Language Therapist with strengthening of approach through whole day assessments.

5.12 There are two performance measures in respect to placement stability, children who have had 3 or more placements in the previous 12 months (*Short Term Stability*) and children who have been looked after for over 2.5 years (Under the age of 16 years old) and have remained in the same placement for 2 or more years (*Long Term Stability*). The national average for short term placement stability is 10%, Dorset's position as of August '24 was 10%. The long-term placement stability national average is 69% and Dorset's position as of August '24 was a stronger 72.%.

Indicator	Unit	Good is	National Av.	Good + SN	Target	Mar 24	Apr 24	May 24	Jun 24	Jul 24	Aug 24
% of CIC for 2.5 years or more, aged under 16 who have been in their placement for 2 or more years	%	High	69.00	69.13	69.00	71.05	70.51	70.59	74.15	73.97	72.11
% CIC at end of month with 3+ placements in previous 12 months	%	Low	10.00	11.25	10.00	9.13	8.35	9.98	9.63	9.77	10.00

5.13 We have had an increase in the total number of available children's homes beds (internally and externally commissioned) within the county by 6% since launching our new Sufficiency Strategy.



5.14 We continue to develop our Dorset Supported Accommodation Framework to increase the volume of provision within the county, currently we have 87 places in Dorset on our Framework. We are adding extra capacity to ensure our Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children can be placed in the county. The framework officially reopens in December '24 where new provider will be able to apply to join the Framework. Internal Supported Lodgings are actively recruiting more supported lodgings carers.

5.15 All of our external Supported Accommodation providers and Dorset Council Supported Accommodation submitted their applications to register with Ofsted by the 31st October 2023 deadline. We have worked with our internal and external providers to ensure compliance, unfortunately due to the unprecedented volume of applications (Ofsted Data set shows a total of 9961 individual premise subject to registration, not providers) it has taken Ofsted a significant period of time to complete the registration process.

5.16 We have reviewed and updated the Joint Housing Protocol for young people aged 16 & 17 years and present to the council as being at risk of homelessness and this is monitored through our Sufficiency Board.

5.17 We have developed and delivered an innovative Level 4 Certificate in Therapeutic Childcare in the Harbour. We have developed of a Psychology Hub located at The Harbour under the oversight of the Service Manager for Residential Services, with clinical line management being provided by Clinical Lead - Specialist CAMHS for Care, Adoption and Permanence. The Hub enables the co-location of clinical psychologists who deliver services to

Adoption, Fostering and Kinship Service, alongside the embedded Harbour psychologist, creating flexibility across the system and the potential to develop extended roles of assistant psychologist and mental health practitioners.

- 5.18 Core CAMHS prioritises access for children in care, offering a 24-hour response for urgent referrals and an 8-week response for all other referrals. Digital platforms for the service were developed quickly during the initial phases of the pandemic and the website has been updated with signposting and podcasts. The service now uses a hybrid approach to support. We have established an operational monthly meeting to track children in care open to CAMHS and the Emotional Wellbeing services, both within and beyond Dorset
- 5.19 We have undertaken a re-tender of our Short Breaks Framework earlier this year which comprises of two lots - Lot A - Residential and Individual Support, in home and community (Specialist Short Breaks) and Lot B - Group Activities (Targeted Short Breaks). The Framework includes an expectation for providers to prioritise Learning Disabilities and Physical Disabilities to ensure that children and young people with the most complex needs are best supported. It is also expected that providers offer short breaks that are fun and enable the child or young person to develop in areas such as independence, life skills and a sense of belonging. The specification introduces locality-based provision in line with the Children's Services delivery model which will reduce the environmental impact of travel across the council's area for families to access this specialist provision.
- 5.20 There are 7 young people accessing short breaks through our own residential provision at Hayeswood, with a further 3 young people being assessed. In September 2024 we welcomed Ofsted as they undertook their inspection of the home. Once the report has been finalised, we will share the outcome. Feedback from parents during SEND Inspection earlier this year has been overwhelmingly positive.
- 5.21 We have reviewed best practice and process, feeding into co-production workshops for the Families First for Children Pathfinder. We have developed our local model, linking into co-production of Family Group conferences and family networks within the Families First for Children Pathfinder.
- 5.22 We have developed and published our Joint Housing Protocol and review the impact of the Joint Housing Protocol through monthly meeting with Housing.

- 5.23 We are developing a refreshed reunification strategy which will set out what steps we will take when a parent’s circumstances change that would enable them to have their child returned to their care, this will be completed by November ‘24.
- 5.24 We are in the process of working with Aspire (Regional Adoption Agency) to return the assessment and support of Special Guardianship carers back within the Fostering Service, this is due to be in place by April '25. The Special Guardianship Order (SGO) Financial Policy is being reviewed and updated in line with national guidance to ensure that financial circumstances are not a barrier to achieving permanence through an SGO.
- 5.25 An Adoption Marketing Strategy has been completed and presented to Aspire Operational Board and Strategic Board in May '24. Its impact will be monitored through these boards. We remain above national average and good+ stat neighbours regarding the % of children leaving care through adoption and our timeliness continues to be good.

Indicator	Unit	Good is	National Av.	Good + SN ▲	Target	Mar 24	Apr 24	May 24	Jun 24	Jul 24	Aug 24
% Children Achieved Permanence Adoption (Rolling 6 months)	%	High	9.00	13.88	12.00	13.00	11.00	12.00	18.00	16.00	14.00

- 5.26 Building on the success of the 12 flats for care leavers in the Weymouth area we have in the last year created accommodation for a further 9 care leavers in the Weymouth and Portland areas.
- 5.27 We are in the final year of delivering the Staying Close programme, this was a 3-year DfE grant to pilot the programme in Dorset to support up to 12 care leavers at any one time to retain links through formalised support arrangements. We await updates from DfE if this grant will be extended.

6. Governance arrangements.

- 6.1 Good Care Provision is delivered through our Sufficiency Strategy [Placement Sufficiency Strategy for Children in Care and Care Leavers 2024 to 2027 - Dorset Council](#).
- 6.2 The Children Act 1989 requires each local authority is required to create a Sufficiency Strategy to set out their approach to ensuring a range of high-quality care arrangements. The Sufficiency Board meets monthly and is chaired by the Executive Director for Children’s Services.

- 6.3 Dorset Sufficiency Strategy has 7 strategic priorities that not only report on developments within our internal fostering and residential provision but our approach to working with local, regional and national commissioned providers to ensure Good Care Provision.

7. Conclusions and next steps

- 7.1 We have worked at pace to ensure our children in care and care leavers have suitable living and care arrangements that will support them as they grow up.
- 7.2 As we progress and embed the work set out in Section 5 of this report and our Sufficiency Strategy 2024 – '27, we also acknowledge the national picture regarding sufficiency of care placements and the cost of external provisions.
- 7.3 We will put significant focus on the means and mechanisms in which we commission and manage all provisions for children to ensure they meet our children's needs and provide value for money.

8. Financial Implications

- 8.1 Whilst there are no financial implications from this report it should be noted that Dorset is not immune to the budgetary pressures of placing children in externally commissioned provision creates. External Placements budget was overspent by £3.4m 23-24 (£2.9m in 22-23).
- 8.2 Nationally all Children's Services are facing significant budget pressure, a survey undertaken by the County Council Network last year states; England's largest councils are 'running out of road' to prevent financial insolvency, as in-year overspends by over £639m this year, as 'uncontrollable' spending pressures drive up the cost of delivering services to vulnerable children. These overspends are contributing to a projected total funding deficit of £4bn for these councils over three years up to 2026. While all council frontline services are experiencing higher than expected costs, the survey shows a combination of stubbornly high inflation, rising demand and 'broken' provider markets for children's care placements mean in-year spending on children's services is spiralling out of control, with almost half of the projected £639m overspend attributable to this service.
- 8.3 It is of significant importance that we continue to invest in developing our internal provision particularly in respect to foster care as this not only provides children in care with family-based care but also keeps our children local to their families and communities thus reducing the need for expensive external provision, outside of Dorset.

9. Natural Environment, Climate & Ecology Implications

N/A

10. Well-being and Health Implications

Having a range of high-quality care provisions for children and young people can contribute to better outcomes in respect to wellbeing and health.

11. Other Implications

N/A

12. Risk Assessment

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

Current Risk: N/A

Residual Risk: N/A

13. Equalities Impact Assessment

- 13.1 The Strategic Alliance co-produced its initial Children, Young People and Families' Plan 2020-23 with children, young people, families and stakeholders from across the partnership. The 2023-33 plan builds on the vision and values of that plan, taking a longer-term view of impacting and improving outcomes. The Strategic Alliance regularly reviews the activity in the delivery plans to ensure that actions progress the improvement of outcomes and consider equality, inclusion and accessibility.
- 13.2 A range of engagement and consultations were undertaken when developing the Plan such as, strategic alliance workshops and meetings (multi-agency partnership including senior people from police, health, schools and early years settings, voluntary and community sector), think tank sessions, social media campaigns for Children and Young People promoting the development of the Children, Young People and Families Plan through the Family Information Service and inviting feedback and contributions from staff and partners throughout the development of the plan.
- 13.3 Good Care Provision contributes to positive impacts for our children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, as described in section 5 of this report we have increased our internal residential short breaks provision and retendered our framework for targeted short breaks, creating

a range of opportunities families and children can avail of, locally. Furthermore, the plan seeks to positively impact on carers and the development of our Mockingbird contributes to this, growing our Mockingbird family with our foster carers provides them with better support to care for young people which in turn provides more stability for our children in care.

- 13.4 The Equalities Impact Assessment will continue to be reviewed by the Strategic Alliance at quarterly meetings.

14. Appendices

N/A

15. Background Papers

N/A

16. Report Sign Off

- 16.1 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)

People and Health Scrutiny Committee Work Programme

Meeting Date: 24 October 2024

Report Title	Aims and Objectives	Lead Officers / Members	Other Information
SEND Strategy and Delivery Plan	Updates on strategy, performance and progress for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities	Amanda Davis – Corporate Director for Education and Learning Cllr Clare Sutton – Cabinet Member for Children’s Services, Education and Skills	
Educational Outcomes for Young People	Employment, education and training- including specific vulnerabilities, ethnicity breakdown, how we're performing compared to others, strategies in place- impact for young people and detailing children not in full time education- report/presentation including exclusions, suspensions, attendance, home education and alternative provision	Amanda Davis – Corporate Director for Education and Learning Cllr Clare Sutton – Cabinet Member for Children’s Services, Education and Skills	
Good Care Provision	Sufficiency strategy, performance, special guardianship (SGO), Kinship, foster care, in-house care, children out of county, care leavers accommodation - and related transformation programmes and impact for children.	Kelly Henry – Head of Good Care Provision, Safeguarding and Business Support Cllr Clare Sutton – Cabinet Member for Children’s	

		Services, Education and Skills	
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Meeting Date: 14 November 2024

Report Title	Aims and Objectives	Lead Officers / Members	Other Information
Performance Dashboard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To review the most recent performance information and use this to agree items to add to the committee work programme for further analysis. 	David Bonner – Service Manager for Business Intelligence & Performance Cllr Nick Ireland – Leader and Cabinet Member for Climate, Performance and Safeguarding	
Cost of Living Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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
Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feedback from a working group which reviewed and scrutinised the annual report. 	Sian Walker-McAllister – Independent Chair Cllr Steve Robinson – Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care	

Prisoner Early Release Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Briefing note or verbal update on the early release of prisoners through September and October. 	<p>Andrew Billany – Corporate Director for Housing</p> <p>Cllr Gill Taylor – Cabinet Member for Health and Housing</p>	Request for an update from the People & Health Scrutiny Committee on 1 August
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Meeting Date: 16 January 2025

Report Title	Aims and Objectives	Lead Officers / Members	Other Information
Budget Strategy and Medium-Term Financial Plan Page 77	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To scrutinise the council's budget and medium-term financial plan for the year 2025-26 To make any recommendations to Cabinet. 	<p>Aidan Dunn – Executive Director of Corporate Development / Section 151 Officer</p> <p>Cllr Simon Clifford – Cabinet Member for Finance and Capital Strategy</p>	Consideration by Cabinet on 30 January 2024 and Full Council on 13 February 2024.

Meeting Date: 6 February 2025

Report Title	Aims and Objectives	Lead Officers / Members	Other Information
Dorset Safeguarding Children's Partnership	To review the effectiveness of the new arrangements for the Dorset Safeguarding Children's Partnership	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)

Performance Dashboard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To review the most recent performance information and use this to agree items to add to the committee work programme for further analysis. 	<p>David Bonner – Service Manager for Business Intelligence & Performance</p> <p>Cllr Nick Ireland – Leader and Cabinet Member for Climate, Performance and Safeguarding</p>	
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Meeting Date: 8 April 2025

Report Title	Aims and Objectives	Lead Officers / Members	Other Information
Page 78 Housing Strategy	To scrutinise and review the Housing Strategy.	<p>Andrew Billany – Corporate Director for Housing</p> <p>Cllr Gill Taylor – Cabinet Member for Health and Housing</p>	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.	<p>Laura Cornette – Business Partner for Communities and Partnerships</p> <p>Cllr Ryan Hope – Cabinet Member for Customer, Culture and Community Engagement</p>	Regular reports to scrutiny on Cost of Living Support requested by the Place and Resources Overview Committee

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	Cllr Clare Sutton – Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update in 6 and 12 months (i.e. February and August 2025)
Integrated Neighbourhood Teams			<ul style="list-style-type: none">
Better Care Fund		Cllr Steve Robinson – Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
Hospital Flow			<ul style="list-style-type: none">

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	David Bonner – Service Manager for Business Intelligence & Performance	Review of the dashboards to identify potential future areas for review by the committee.
31 October 2024	Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report	Working Group	Cllrs Beddow, Holland, Somper, and Woode	George Dare – Senior Democratic Services Officer	Review of the Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report, to report back to the meeting on 14 November.



The Cabinet Forward Plan - October 2024 to January 2025 (Publication date – 16 SEPTEMBER 2024)

Explanatory Note:

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

Definition of Key Decisions

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

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

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

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 Holloway	Corporate Development and Transformation
Ryan Hope	Customer, Culture and Community Engagement
Steve Robinson	Adult Social Care
Clare Sutton	Children's Services, Education & Skills
Gill Taylor	Health and Housing.

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

<p>Waste Strategy for Dorset 2024</p> <p>Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open</p> <p>To consider and approve the Waste Strategy for Dorset.</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 15 Oct 2024</p>	<p>Place and Resources Overview Committee 12 Sep 2024</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Place Services</p>	<p><i>Gemma Clinton, Head of Commercial Waste and Strategy</i> <i>gemma.clinton@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Lisa Mouny, Service Development Manager</i> <i>lisa.mouny@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Lead for Place Directorate (Jan Britton)</i></p>
<p>Strategic Asset Management Plan 2024 - 2030</p> <p>Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open</p> <p>To present the Strategic Asset Management Plan 2024-2030 and seek endorsement.</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 15 Oct 2024</p>	<p>Place and Resources Overview Committee 12 Sep 2024</p>	<p>Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Property & Assets and Economic Growth</p>	<p><i>Tim Hulme, Corporate Director of Assets and Regeneration</i> <i>tim.hulme@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Julian Wain, Strategic Property Advisor</i> <i>Julian.wain@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Lead for Place Directorate (Jan Britton)</i></p>
<p>Allocation S106 Funding for community facilities at Mampitts Green Shaftesbury</p> <p>Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open</p> <p>To determine the award of the s106 developer contribution funding for the delivery of community facilities at Mampitts Green, Shaftesbury.</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 15 Oct 2024</p>		<p>Cabinet Member for Planning and Emergency Planning</p>	<p><i>Andrew Galpin, Infrastructure & Delivery Planning Manager</i> <i>andrew.galpin@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Mike Garrity, Head of Planning</i> <i>mike.garrity@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Lead for Place Directorate (Jan Britton)</i></p>

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
<p>Planning Service Local Enforcement Plan</p> <p>Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open</p> <p>To seek adoption of an updated local Enforcement Plan for the Planning Service, setting out service aims, how to deal with breaches of planning control and how cases are investigated</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 15 Oct 2024</p>	<p>Place and Resources Overview Committee 12 Sep 2024</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Planning and Emergency Planning</p>	<p><i>Anna Lee, Service Manager for Development Management and Enforcement anna.lee@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Lead for Place Directorate (Jan Britton)</i></p>
<p>Reablement Centre</p> <p>Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open</p> <p>An update on the reablement centre programme in Adult & Housing.</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 15 Oct 2024</p>		<p>Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care</p>	<p><i>Mark Tyson, Corporate Director for Adult Commissioning & Improvement mark.tyson@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Corporate Director of Commissioning, People – Adults</i></p>
<p>BCP Council unmet need request response</p> <p>Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open</p> <p>Response to BCP Council on their request.</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 15 Oct 2024</p>		<p>Cabinet Member for Planning and Emergency Planning</p>	<p><i>Mike Garrity, Head of Planning mike.garrity@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Terry Sneller, Strategic Planning Manager terry.sneller@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Lead for Place Directorate (Jan Britton)</i></p>

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
<p>'Dorset Council Nurseries - Service Sustainability Plan'</p> <p>Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open</p> <p>To consider alternative arrangements for the management/future ownership of the childcare provisions Dorset Council run in Blandford and Shaftesbury.</p> <p>Our objectives are to:</p> <p>Meet our statutory duty¹ to secure sufficient childcare, so far as is reasonably practicable, for working parents, or parents who are studying or training for employment, for children aged 0-14 (or up to 18 for disabled children)</p> <p>Ensure the provisions are run by an organisation with the dedicated leadership, experience, resources, and skills to do this effectively.</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 15 Oct 2024</p>		<p>Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills</p>	<p><i>Alice Deacon, Corporate Director for Commissioning and Partnerships alice.deacon@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, People - Children (Theresa Leavy)</i></p>
<p>Sturminster Marshall Neighbourhood Plan</p> <p>Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open</p> <p>This item relates to the making (adoption) of a neighbourhood plan following examination and a referendum.</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 15 Oct 2024</p>		<p>Cabinet Member for Planning and Emergency Planning</p>	<p><i>Ed Gerry, Community Planning Manager ed.gerry@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Lead for Place Directorate (Jan Britton)</i></p>

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
<p>Growth & Economic Regeneration Strategy</p> <p>Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open</p> <p>To consider and agree an approach for the production of a new Economic Growth Strategy including the approach to consultation with the business community and key stakeholders.</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 15 Oct 2024</p>		<p>Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Property & Assets and Economic Growth</p>	<p><i>Jon Bird, Service Manager for Growth and Economic Regeneration jon.bird@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Nick Webster, Head of Growth and Economic Regeneration nicholas.webster@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Lead for Place Directorate (Jan Britton)</i></p>
<p>Lease renewal of land at Sherborne Household Recycling & Waste Transfer Centre</p> <p>Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Part exempt</p> <p>The Council's 25 yearlong lease of the Waste Management Centre at Sherborne came to an end on 28 September 2023. Head of terms (that are subject to contract and Council ratification) for a new lease, for a further 15 years, have been negotiated and agreed in principle with the landlord. A Cabinet decision is required due to aggregate value of this leasehold acquisition.</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 15 Oct 2024</p>		<p>Cabinet Member for Place Services</p>	<p><i>Tim Hulme, Corporate Director of Assets and Regeneration tim.hulme@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Lead for Place Directorate (Jan Britton)</i></p>

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
<p>Dorset Innovation Park Management Options</p> <p>Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Part exempt</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 15 Oct 2024</p>		<p>Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Property & Assets and Economic Growth</p>	<p><i>Nick Webster, Head of Growth and Economic Regeneration</i> <i>nicholas.webster@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Lead for Place Directorate (Jan Britton)</i></p>
<p>November</p>					
<p>Quarter 2 Financial Monitoring Report 2024/25</p> <p>Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open</p> <p>To consider the Quarter 2 Financial Monitoring Report 2024/25</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 19 Nov 2024</p>		<p>Cabinet Member for Finance & Capital Strategy</p>	<p><i>Sean Cremer, Corporate Director for Finance and Commercial</i> <i>sean.cremer@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, Corporate Development - Section 151 Officer (Aidan Dunn)</i></p>
<p>Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) and budget strategy - update</p> <p>Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open</p> <p>To receive a budget update for 2025/26.</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 19 Nov 2024</p>		<p>Cabinet Member for Finance & Capital Strategy</p>	<p><i>Sean Cremer, Corporate Director for Finance and Commercial</i> <i>sean.cremer@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, Corporate Development - Section 151 Officer (Aidan Dunn)</i></p>

November

8

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
<p>Private Sector Housing Assistance Policy</p> <p>Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open</p> <p>This policy set out the discretionary and mandatory financial assistance Dorset Council offer to eligible residents to improv or adapt their property in the DORSET Council area. The Council are required by the Regulatory Reform (Housing Assistance) (England and Wales) Order 2002 to agree and publish a policy for any housing assistance it wishes to offer.</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 19 Nov 2024</p>	<p>People and Health Overview Committee 29 Oct 2024</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Health and Housing</p>	<p><i>Richard Conway, Service Manager for Housing Standards richard.conway@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, People - Adults (Jonathan Price)</i></p>
<p>Designing out severe hardship and improving social mobility in Dorset</p> <p>Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open</p> <p>To establish a cross-directorate and multi-agency taskforce with the purpose of improving social mobility, reducing poverty, and ensuring cohesive responses across the Council and with wider partners.</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 19 Nov 2024</p>	<p>Health and Wellbeing Board 26 Jun 2024</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills</p>	<p><i>Alice Deacon, Corporate Director for Commissioning and Partnerships alice.deacon@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, People - Children (Theresa Leavy)</i></p>
<p>Draft Contaminated Land Strategy</p> <p>Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open</p> <p>Draft Contaminated Land Strategy and report of consultation findings on the draft strategy.</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 19 Nov 2024</p>	<p>Place and Resources Overview Committee 12 Sep 2024</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Customer, Culture and Community Engagement</p>	<p><i>Steven Horsler, Environmental Health Officer steven.horsler@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Janet Moore, Service Manager for Environmental Protection Janet.Moore@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Lead for Place Directorate (Jan Britton)</i></p>

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
<p>Enterprise Resource Performance System (Outline Business Case)</p> <p>Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open</p> <p>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 Socitrm Advisory (external consultancy) to investigate the options available. The outline business case is to be presented to Cabinet for their approval.</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 19 Nov 2024</p>		<p>Cabinet Member for Corporate Development and Transformation</p>	<p><i>James Ailward, Head of ICT Operations</i> <i>james.ailward@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, Place</i></p>
<p>Dorset SACRE Common Agreed Syllabus</p> <p>Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open</p> <p>To consider a report on the Dorset SACRE agreed syllabus.</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 19 Nov 2024</p>	<p>People and Health Overview Committee 29 Oct 2024</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills</p>	<p><i>Amanda Davis, Corporate Director for Education and Learning</i> <i>amanda.davis@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, People - Children (Theresa Leavy)</i></p>
<p>Future of Wareham Pedestrian Level Crossing</p> <p>Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open</p> <p>The report considered a letter and report issued by Network Rail and will present to Cabinet recommendations on a long-term solution to provide a safe, permanent, sustainable form of step free pedestrian access connecting Northport to Wareham Town Centre.</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 19 Nov 2024</p>		<p>Cabinet Member for Place Services</p>	<p><i>Jack Wiltshire, Head of Highways</i> <i>jack.wiltshire@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Lead for Place Directorate (Jan Britton)</i></p>

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
<p>Draft Council Plan 2024-2029</p> <p>Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open</p> <p>A draft of the new Council Plan for discussion and approval, setting out the council's strategic priorities for the next 5 years.</p>	<p>Decision Maker Dorset Council</p>	<p>Decision Date 5 Dec 2024</p>	<p>Joint Overview Committee 29 Oct 2024</p> <p>Cabinet 19 Nov 2024</p>	<p>Leader and Cabinet Member for Climate, Performance and Safeguarding</p>	<p><i>Jennifer Lewis, Head of Strategic Communications and Engagement</i> <i>jennifer.lewis@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Chief Executive (Matt Prosser)</i></p>

December

<p>Dorset Council Workplace Travel Plan 2024-29</p> <p>Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open</p> <p>Proposal to introduce a workplace travel plan for the authority that will transform the way employees will travel to work and travel whilst at work.</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 17 Dec 2024</p>	<p>Place and Resources Overview Committee 21 Nov 2024</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Place Services</p>	<p><i>Matthew Piles, Corporate Director - Economic Growth and Infrastructure</i> <i>matthew.piles@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i>, <i>Christopher Whitehouse, Projects Team Manager</i> <i>christopher.whitehouse@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Lead for Place Directorate (Jan Britton)</i></p>
<p>Transformation Strategy 2025-2029</p> <p>Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open</p> <p>Presentation of the new transformation strategy 2025 – 29. This is being brought forward alongside the new council plan and the new People and Culture Strategy as part of the council's refresh of strategic documentation post-election.</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 17 Dec 2024</p>	<p>Joint Overview Committee TBC</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Corporate Development and Transformation</p>	<p><i>Nina Coakley, Head of Change</i> <i>n.coakley@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i>, <i>Lisa Cotton, Corporate Director for Customer and Cultural Services</i> <i>lisa.cotton@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, Corporate Development - Section 151 Officer (Aidan Dunn)</i></p>

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
<p>Customer Strategy</p> <p>Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open</p> <p>The Customer Strategy will underpin the Transformation Strategy going to cabinet in December as part of the councils approach to provide easy access, responsive services that meet the needs and expectations of our customers.</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 17 Dec 2024</p>	<p>Joint Overview Committee TBC</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Customer, Culture and Community Engagement</p>	<p><i>Lisa Cotton, Corporate Director for Customer and Cultural Services lisa.cotton@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Anthony Palumbo, Head of Service - Customer & Libraries anthony.palumbo@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, Corporate Development - Section 151 Officer (Aidan Dunn)</i></p>
<p>Independent Reviewing Officer's Annual Report</p> <p>Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open</p> <p>To consider the Independent Reviewing Officer's Annual Report.</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 17 Dec 2024</p>		<p>Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills</p>	<p><i>Lisa Reid, Corporate Director for Quality Assurance & Safeguarding Families lisa.reid@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, People - Children (Theresa Leavy)</i></p>
<p>Annual Local Authority Designated Officer Report</p> <p>Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open</p> <p>To consider the Annual LADO Report.</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 17 Dec 2024</p>		<p>Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills</p>	<p><i>Lisa Reid, Corporate Director for Quality Assurance & Safeguarding Families lisa.reid@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, People - Children (Theresa Leavy)</i></p>
<p>January 2025</p>					

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
<p>Quarter 3 Financial Monitoring 2024/25</p> <p>Key Decision - No Public Access - Open</p> <p>To consider the Quarter 3 financial Monitoring Report 2024/25</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 28 Jan 2025</p>		<p>Cabinet Member for Finance & Capital Strategy</p>	<p><i>Sean Cremer, Corporate Director for Finance and Commercial</i> <i>sean.cremer@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, Corporate Development - Section 151 Officer (Aidan Dunn)</i></p>
<p>Budget strategy and medium-term financial plan (MTFP)</p> <p>Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open</p> <p>To consider a report and recommendation of the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Commercial and Capital Assets.</p>	<p>Decision Maker Dorset Council</p>	<p>Decision Date 11 Feb 2025</p>	<p>People and Health Scrutiny Committee 16 Jan 2025</p> <p>Place and Resources Scrutiny Committee 17 Jan 2025</p> <p>Cabinet 28 Jan 2025</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Finance & Capital Strategy</p>	<p><i>Sean Cremer, Corporate Director for Finance and Commercial</i> <i>sean.cremer@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, Corporate Development - Section 151 Officer (Aidan Dunn)</i></p>
<p>Growth & Economic Regeneration Strategy</p> <p>Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open</p> <p>To consider and agree a refresh of the Council's strategy for economic growth. This will encompass the functions to be taken over by the Council from Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership in accordance with devolution and promote the needs and actions required to drive forward the economy in the Dorset Council area.</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 28 Jan 2025</p>	<p>Place and Resources Overview Committee TBC</p>	<p>Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Property & Assets and Economic Growth</p>	<p><i>Jon Bird, Service Manager for Growth and Economic Regeneration</i> <i>jon.bird@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i>, <i>Nick Webster, Head of Growth and Economic Regeneration</i> <i>nicholas.webster@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Lead for Place Directorate (Jan Britton)</i></p>

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

<p>Update of Carbon Reduction Targets</p> <p>Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open</p> <p>Paper to revise and bring forward the carbon reduction targets set out in the Council's Natural Environment, Climate and Ecology Strategy.</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 25 Mar 2025</p>	<p>Place and Resources Overview Committee 30 Jan 2025</p>	<p>Leader and Cabinet Member for Climate, Performance and Safeguarding</p>	<p><i>Antony Littlechild, Sustainability Team Manager antony.littlechild@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, Corporate Development - Section 151 Officer (Aidan Dunn)</i></p>
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Private/Exempt Items for Decision

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

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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 1 SEPTEMBER 2024 to 31 DECEMBER 2024 (Publication date – 19 JULY 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 Portfolio Holder for Governance, Performance, Communications, Environment, Climate Change and Safeguarding

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

Cllr Ryan Hope - Portfolio Holder for Customer, Culture and Community Engagement

Cllr Clare Sutton - Children's Services, Education & Skills

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

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
Standing items for consideration				
September				
Dorset Council Delegated Decisions Key Decision - No Public Access - Open	Decision Maker The Shareholder Committee for the Dorset Centre of Excellence (DCOE)	Decision Date 16 Sep 2024	Councillor Clare Sutton	<i>Executive Director, People - Children (Theresa Leavy)</i>
Dorset Council Commissioning Report Key Decision - No Public Access - Part exempt	Decision Maker The Shareholder Committee for the Dorset Centre of Excellence (DCOE)	Decision Date 16 Sep 2024	Councillor Clare Sutton	<i>Executive Director, People - Children (Theresa Leavy)</i>
DCoE - Report of the Chair of the Board Key Decision - No Public Access - Part exempt	Decision Maker The Shareholder Committee for the Dorset Centre of Excellence (DCOE)	Decision Date 16 Sep 2024	Councillor Clare Sutton	<i>Executive Director, People - Children (Theresa Leavy)</i>
December				

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
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	Councillor Clare Sutton	<i>Executive Director, People - Children (Theresa Leavy)</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	Councillor Clare Sutton	<i>Executive Director, People - Children (Theresa Leavy)</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	Councillor Clare Sutton	<i>Executive Director, People - Children (Theresa Leavy)</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	Councillor Clare Sutton	<i>Executive Director, People - Children (Theresa Leavy)</i>
Annual Reports				

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5. Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.
6. Information which reveals that the shadow council proposes:-
 - (a) to give under any enactment a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person; or
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Shareholder Committee for Care Dorset Holdings Ltd
Forward Plan
For the period 1 SEPTEMBER 2024 to 31 DECEMBER 2024
(Publication date – 19 JULY 2024)

Explanatory Note:

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

Definition of Key Decisions

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

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

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

Committee Membership 2023/24

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

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

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

Cllr Steve Robinson – Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care

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

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

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
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</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	Councillor Steve Robinson	<i>Mark Tyson, Corporate Director for Adult Commissioning & Improvement mark.tyson@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, People - Adults</i>
Care Dorset Update Key Decision - No Public Access - Part exempt	Decision Maker Shareholder Committee for Care Dorset Holdings Ltd	Decision Date 2 Dec 2024	Councillor Steve Robinson	<i>Executive Director, People - Adults</i>
Annual Performance Update for Council Key Decision - No Public Access - Open	Decision Maker Shareholder Committee for Care Dorset Holdings Ltd	Decision Date	Councillor Steve Robinson	<i>Executive Director, People - Adults</i>
Annual Reports				

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

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