

SHAREHOLDER COMMITTEE FOR CARE DORSET HOLDINGS LTD

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 19 JANUARY 2026

Present: Cllrs Nick Ireland (Chair), Richard Biggs (Vice-Chair), Steve Robinson and Gill Taylor

Present remotely: Cllrs Ben Wilson

Apologies: None

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

Chris Best (Managing Director, Care Dorset), Dr Felix Davies (Non-Executive Director, Care Dorset), Grace Evans (Head of Legal Services and Deputy Monitoring Officer), Sam Poole (Interim Corporate Director for Commissioning & Improvement), Jonathan Price (Executive Director of People - Adults and Housing), Caroline Tapster (Chair of the Board, Care Dorset), Tony McDougal (Communications Business Partner - Adults and Housing) and Lindsey Watson (Senior Democratic and Governance Officer)

21. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 October 2025 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

22. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

23. Public Participation

There were no questions or statements from members of the public or local organisations.

24. Councillor Questions

There were no questions from councillors.

25. Forward Plan

The Forward Plan was noted.

26. Dorset Council Organisational Update

The shareholder committee considered a report of the Corporate Director, Commissioning and Improvement, which presented the developments led by the

Council, relevant to Care Dorset, and summarised key progress since the last meeting of the shareholder committee.

In presenting the report, particular reference was made to progress with the development of a new model for day opportunities with a report and findings now published, an update on the extra care housing scheme at St Martin's in Gillingham and improving occupancy levels, the redevelopment of Sidney Gale House in Bridport into a modern 56-bed reablement centre and system wide transformation that was underway. In addition, it was noted that a summit event with Care Dorset was planned for early February.

Councillors considered the issues covered in the report and discussion was focused on the following areas:

- The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care reported that he had attended a Birth to Settlement Board meeting along with the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills, which demonstrated a positive partnership between Adult Social Care and the NHS. In addition, he noted a recent visit he had undertaken with Care Dorset to a site on Dorchester Road, Weymouth, with positive discussions that had taken place with a number of young people
- In respect of the extra care scheme at St Martin's in Gillingham, it was noted that following a planning determination in November 2025, eligibility criteria had been relaxed to encourage broader uptake, which had improved occupancy levels. This would be replicated for other extra care schemes moving forward
- Discussions were ongoing with health colleagues about options for reablement sites
- Reference was made to progress with supported living sites in Weymouth
- Opportunities within the Future Care programme were noted

The report was NOTED.

27. Care Dorset Update

The shareholder committee considered a report, which provided an update on matters relating to Care Dorset since the previous meeting. This included Care Dorset's financial and operational performance, workforce trends, governance and strategic priorities.

The Chair of the Board introduced Dr Felix Davies, a Non-Executive Director who had joined the board in August 2025 to strengthen clinical governance on the board. In addition, the Chair of the Board reported that Andrew Billany had left the board and expressed thanks for his contribution and experience.

In presenting the report, the Managing Director provided an overview of the areas covered including an update on average occupancy levels, continued partnership work with the council on day opportunities, community reablement and supported living. In addition, and in response to a request at the last meeting regarding the projected year-end financial position and re-forecasting work to be undertaken, further information had been provided in the report.

Councillors considered the issues arising from the report and points were noted in the following areas:

- In respect of the Annual Business Plan update and the priority to transition to a hub and spoke model for day opportunities, a question was raised about opportunities to market provision. In response, the Managing Director noted that the outcome of the consultation was awaited, but that a set of proposals would be developed and that marketing, both in print and online, would be undertaken including a new website and working with community partners to signpost and promote opportunities
- Thanks were expressed for information on the updated financial position and Care Dorset were commended on providing a position that showed a surplus. In response, the Managing Director reported that there was a continued focus on managing the use of agency staff, which had been assisted through the role of the neutral vendor and a new roster system. In addition, Care Dorset had worked hard with suppliers in relation to costs for products purchased
- Reference was made to the importance of cyber security

The report was NOTED.

28. **Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items.

29. **Exempt Business**

There was no exempt business.

Duration of meeting: 2.30 - 2.54 pm

Chairman

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