



People and Health Scrutiny Committee

Date: Thursday, 16 April 2026
Time: 10.30 am
Venue: Meeting Room 1, County Hall, Dorchester, DT1 1XJ

Members (Quorum: 3)

Toni Coombs (Chair), Jane Somper (Vice-Chair), Barry Goringe, Sally Holland, Carole Jones, Chris Kippax, Robin Legg, Andy Todd and Carl Woode

Chief Executive: Catherine Howe, County Hall, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1XJ

For more information about this agenda please contact Democratic & Governance 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. If you would like to attend this meeting and have any specific requirements please contact the Democratic Services Officer named above.

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Agenda

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

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 21 January 2026.

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, 13 April 2026.

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, 13 April 2026.

[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. 2025/26 QUARTER 3 PERFORMANCE REPORT 11 - 32

To consider a report by the Strategic Performance and Risk Lead.

8. EHCP WORKING GROUP - FINAL REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

To consider the final report and recommendations of the committee's working group on Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP's).

(Report to follow)

9. CHILDREN OUT OF SCHOOL OR IN HOME EDUCATION 33 - 42

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

10. CONTINUING HEALTH CARE AND JOINT FUNDING (ADULTS) PERFORMANCE IN DORSET 43 - 46

To receive a report by the Head of Specialist Services / CHC Lead for Dorset Council Adult Social Care.

11. COMMITTEE'S WORK PROGRAMME AND CABINET'S FORWARD PLAN 47 - 80

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

12. EXEMPT BUSINESS

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

There are no exempt items scheduled for this meeting.



PEOPLE AND HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 21 JANUARY 2026

Present: Cllrs Toni Coombs (Chair), Jane Somper (Vice-Chair), Sally Holland, Carole Jones, Chris Kippax, Robin Legg, Andy Todd and Carl Woode

Present remotely: Cllr Barry Goringe

Apologies: Cllr Bridget Bolwell

Also present: Cllr Shane Bartlett, Cllr Simon Clifford, Cllr Ryan Hope, Cllr Nick Ireland, Cllr Steve Murcer, Cllr Steve Robinson, Cllr Clare Sutton and Cllr Gill Taylor

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

Sean Cremer (Corporate Director for Finance and Commercial), Liz Crocker (Head of Strategy), Sam Crowe (Director of Public Health), George Dare (Senior Democratic and Governance Officer), Paul Dempsey (Executive Director of People - Children), Marc Eyre (Service Manager for Assurance), Paula Golding (Corporate Director for Care and Protection), Chris Heighway (Performance and Analytics Team Manager), Julia Ingram (Corporate Director for Adult Social Care Operations), Sam Poole (Interim Corporate Director for Commissioning & Improvement), Jonathan Price (Executive Director of People - Adults and Housing), Amy-Jane White (Quality Assurance and Programme Lead), Sharon Attwater (Service Manager for Housing Strategy and Performance) and Lee House (Service Manager for Finance)

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

47. **Apologies**

An apology for absence was received from Cllr Bridget Bolwell.

48. **Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Todd declared that his daughter had an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

49. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 November 2024 were confirmed and signed.

50. **Public Participation**

There was no public participation.

51. Councillor Questions

There were no questions from councillors.

52. Urgent Items

There were no urgent items.

53. 2025/26 Quarter 2 Performance Report

The Strategic Performance and Risk Manager introduced the quarterly performance report and invited the Executive Director of Children's Services to outline the narrative for the performance indicators.

The committee discussed the Children's performance indicators, and the following matters were raised during the discussion:

- A member sought assurance on whether delays to EHCP's would improve following implementation of the new case management system. The Executive Director of Children's Services explained that delays were not just caused by the implementation of the new system, and that AI can help with improvements and robustness.
- A new locality model was launching in April, and it would centralise the EHCP capacity. The use of AI was aiming to be launched within 6 months, however this needed to be done in a sensible way.
- It was confirmed there were no children in care in unregistered provision.
- The national data for SEND tribunals against local authorities was 98% of tribunals were lost by the local authority. In the last quarter, the council had won 3 tribunals which was considered a success.
- Children's services were working closely with the government and Department for Education, who wanted the council to continue to perform well in the Families First pathfinder and to roll it out nationally. Therefore, the Executive Director was confident that government support for the pathfinder would continue.

A written response would be provided to address a question from Cllr Kippax regarding an app that was being used.

The Committee noted the Quarter 2 Performance report.

54. Medium Term Financial Plan and Budget Strategy report

The Corporate Director for Finance and Commercial (Section 151 Officer) introduced the Budget and Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP). The proposed net revenue budget for 2026/27 was £482.6m. The underlying cost pressure was approximately £37m, the pressures in the proposed budget were addressed

through a range of efficiencies, savings, grants and income. The proposed budget presented a balanced budget to the council.

The Committee discussed the report and asked questions of the Section 151 Officer, Cabinet Members, and relevant directors. Non-committee members were also given the opportunity to ask questions. Each of the appendices relevant to the committee's remit were discussed in-turn, following an introduction from the senior officer responsible for the service.

Appendix 1d – Adults and Housing

The demand in adult social care was predicted to continue rising, although it was not expected to increase above the growth included in the budget. Pressures on the wider system could create pressure on the budget. Savings were to be achieved during the year.

The following points were raised during discussion on the Adults and Housing budget:

- Whether the FutureCare savings target was realistic. The Executive Director for Adults and Housing was very confident for that these savings would be made.
- A 3% vacancy factor was expected to be built into the budget. Recruitment for social workers was a challenge but vacancies for these posts were not deliberately held.
- The unfunded staffing posts pressure in housing were being extended into this financial year as they were on a 2-year basis but were needed to continue investment and transformation in housing.
- With regards to the council's transport offer and making savings, the Executive Director advised the council was looking at more cost-efficient ways of funding this, such as using more direct payments.

Appendix 1e – Children's Services

There was a 5.7% increase in the Children's Services budget with £3.5m of pressures from pay increases and inflation. The largest pressure was the children in care placement budget. The budget included a £1.5m investment into fostering and kinship care, which was the least expensive option for children in care.

The following points were raised during the Children's Services budget discussion:

- There was a concern from the committee about the council's High Needs Block deficit. The Section 151 Officer advised this was a national issue and the government planned to introduce a SEND white paper which would set out policy reform options. The council was managing SEND well and there may be additional funding in the final settlement.
- A specific timeline was not attached to the introduction of AI. Additional capacity from remodelling the service, along with using AI to support staff, would mean the council does not need to rely on agency staff. The

Transformation Management Office were reviewing the options for the implementation of AI.

Appendix 1f – Birth to Settled Adulthood

There had been significant growth in the budget for Birth to Settled Adulthood to reflect the service need. The service should help prevent growth in need and supporting children to stay with families. Some cost avoidance has been achieved through accommodation for young adults.

The following points were raised during the discussion:

- The Dorset Parent Carer Council was praised for their involvement in developing the Birth to Settled Adulthood service.
- There was concern about the increasing demand and overspend for the service and £1 million savings had not been achieved. The Corporate Director for Adult Care Operations advised that financial benefits from Birth to Settled Adulthood would take time and would develop as a person matures into adulthood. There was evidence that the approach was making a difference, and this was recognised by the Dorset Parent Carer Council.
- Birth to Settled Adulthood has helped Adult Social Care to forecast their future demand. However, there were targets in the health system to reduce spending which could have impacts on social care budgets and performance in the future.

Appendix 1h – Public Health and Prevention

There were no questions or discussion following an introduction by the Director of Public Health and Prevention.

It was noted earlier in the meeting that there was a small uplift in the ringfenced Public Health grant and that some other funding streams had been consolidated into this grant. Some pressures had emerged following the transfer of some services from the Place directorate; however, the Director was confident that the service could remain within budget.

At the end of the discussion, the Chairman summed up and reinforced the need for clear contingencies within the budget, with pressures caused by increasing demand and unachieved savings.

The Committee made the following recommendation to Cabinet:

Recommendation: That Cabinet clarifies what contingency and resilience exists in the proposed 2026/27 budget should pressures exceed assumptions.

55. Corporate Complaints Team Annual Report 2024-25

The Service Manager for Assurance introduced the Corporate Complaints Team Annual Report. The key messages raised in the report included a 17% increase in complaints, greater use of AI in complaints, and improved processes where a complaint is sent to an MP or the Chief Executive.

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

- The complaints team tracks learning from complaints, which was set out in the appendix to the report. There can be less complaints after lessons learnt, however some services can continue to have complaints, such as SEND due to a lack of specialist school places.
- The complaints team can use AI to summarise complaints.
- Complaints in Children's and Adults social care were prioritised due to the impact it could have on their lives.
- Poor communication was a theme in this and previous year's complaints reports. This could be caused due to complainants sending multiple emails a day and expecting quick responses. Children's Services recognised that communications issues have not been solved, but staff capacity was being increased which would give staff more time to respond to communication.
- There are regular complaints meetings with directorates to review complaints and issues arising from them. Direct conversations with the complaints team take place when an individual complaint needs to be resolved.
- Complaints about providers go through the usual complaints process as the council commissions the providers. These complaints could come in through a number of routes, such as safeguarding referrals.
- Seeing learning from complaints embedded in services and considering how communication can be improved would be a positive next step for improvement.

The Committee noted the Annual Complaints Report for 2024/25.

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

The work programme would be updated to schedule timelines for the current unscheduled items, and these items would be added to future meetings following the approval of the Calendar of Meetings.

The following items were to be added to the work programme:

- CQC Inspection report and action plan
- EHCP Working Group final report and recommendations

57. Exempt Business

There was no exempt business.

Duration of meeting: 2.00 - 4.46 pm

Chairman

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People & Health Scrutiny Committee

16 April 2026

2025/26 Quarter 3 Performance Report

For Review and Consultation

Cabinet Member:

Cllr N Ireland, Leader of the Council, Climate, Performance and Safeguarding

Local Councillor(s): All

Senior Leadership Team:

S Ford, Corporate Director, Strategy, Performance and Sustainability

Report author and job title: Chris Heighway, Strategic Performance & Risk Lead

Email: chris.heighway@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Statutory Authority: N/A

Report status: Public

1. Executive summary

- 1.1 This report provides the People & Health Scrutiny Committee with an overview of key performance trajectories, indicators and exceptions for Quarter 3 of 2025/26 (October – December 2025). It builds on the Quarter 2 2025/26 performance report (presented to the Committee on 21 January 2026).
- 1.2 Across Adult's & Housing, Children's Services and Public Health and Prevention, Quarter 3 performance remained broadly positive, with 36 out of 81 indicators rated Green and 49 indicators showing stable or improving trends, reflecting continued progress despite ongoing demand and financial pressures.
- 1.3 Adults & Housing improved homelessness prevention and supply, supporting more households into settled homes and delivering new affordable housing. Children's Services sustained key strengths, including zero unallocated cases, reduced children in care and strong Education, Employment and Training (EET) outcomes for care leavers. Public Health reported improvements across breastfeeding, healthy weight, timely new-birth visits

and drug and alcohol treatment outcomes, all performing above target or national comparators.

- 1.4 The report and annexes presents red-rated performance indicators, alongside amber indicators showing a worsening trend, with narrative context and improvement actions. Based on the data the Committee's key area of focus this quarter is:

- Percentage of looked after children placed outside the council area

- 1.5 For this area, performance has been contextualised using a mix of quantitative data (trends, benchmarking, demand) and relevant resource context, providing a rounded and meaningful narrative to support scrutiny discussion.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Committee:

- notes the Quarter 3 (October–December 2025) performance overview available via the Scrutiny dashboard, with an accompanying exceptions extract provided in Annex 1 and 2.
- considers the contextual analysis for the identified areas of performance focus, to inform actions and recommendations.

3. Reason for the recommendations

- 3.1 To support the council's commitment to robust governance, transparency and continuous improvement by adhering to the reporting mechanisms set out within Dorset Council's Strategic Performance Reporting Framework.

Specifically, this approach:

- aligns with the council's constitution, particularly provisions relating to performance monitoring, decision-making, transparency, and democratic oversight
- promotes public transparency by ensuring performance-related information is accessible, clear, and reported consistently
- supports effective tracking and oversight of the scrutiny committee's actions and decisions, reinforcing accountability and enabling timely follow-up
- supports the council's wider performance management framework by ensuring the committee's work is integrated into quarterly reporting mechanisms

4. The report

- 4.1 The scrutiny dashboard now includes Quarter 3 (October–December 2025) performance data, alongside historic trends where available, enabling Members to interrogate key metrics and emerging issues. The dashboard is publicly accessible via the following [link](#).
- 4.2 Across People, Housing and Public Health, performance in Q3 remained broadly positive, with 36 of 81 indicators rated Green and 49 of 81 indicators showing either static or improving trends, demonstrating continued progress despite demand and financial pressures.
- 4.3 Adults & Housing have strengthened homelessness prevention and housing supply, with 192 households prevented from homelessness and 133 supported into settled homes, 82 new affordable homes have been delivered and 11 long term empty homes brought back into use. Also, continued to support more people aged 65+ to live independently in their own homes using a range of preventative approaches designed to maintain and strengthen independence with 1,379 supported individuals, the highest recorded figure since the introduction of this measure back in April 2024.
- 4.4 Children’s directorate performance includes 0 unallocated children’s cases, reduced children in care rates compared with Q2, and strong outcomes for care leavers, with Employment, Education and Training (EET) levels above target across all age groups.
- 4.5 Public Health & Prevention shows improving breastfeeding (61%), infant healthy weight, Percentage of all births that received a face-to-face new birth visit within 14 days by a health visitor and drug and alcohol treatment outcomes, all above target or national comparators.
- 4.6 The areas of focus are indicated below and are considered in turn within the report:
- 4.7 **Children’s Services: Percentage of looked after children placed outside the council area**

Children in care who are living outside of Dorset reduced from 213 at the end of Q2, to 208 at the end of Q3, which is 45.22% down to 44.92%. Dorset's target is 30%. When compared to Good + Local Authorities and Statistical Neighbours the average is 33.14% and the England average is 44%.

This change from Q2 to Q3 equates to 7 fewer children recorded as living out of area. Between the two quarters, 5 additional children moved out of area, while 12 children are no longer recorded as living out of area.

99 children, which equates to 47.60% of children in care, who live outside Dorset, are living in neighbouring authorities: Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole, East Devon District, New Forest District, Somerset and Wiltshire.

Of those who are in neighbouring authorities, 12.12% are living with family or friends, or are placed for adoption, 21.21% are in regulated supported accommodation (i.e. children's homes or residential schools). 66.66% are in other foster carers; half of these are in long term matched foster homes.

Of the 109 that are not placed in neighbouring Authorities, 39 are best placed out of Dorset because they are unaccompanied children who are living in culturally matched areas more suited to their needs.

Of the remaining 70, 17 are placed with family or friends, 26 in children's homes or Supported Accommodation, 6 are placed with parents, and 26 are living with foster carers, of which 12 are long term carers.

In late 2025 the government announced its intentions to roll out Regional Care Cooperatives (RCC's). RCC's is a national model being introduced by the Department for Education (DfE) to transform how local authorities commission, plan, and provide placements for children in care, following two pilots in England. RCC's are designed to address longstanding challenges in the children's social care placement market, including insufficient local provision, rising costs, and variable quality. As a member of the SW Sufficiency Group, we are actively considering how this will impact our region, while also preparing plans for RCC requirements and developing funding bid applications to establish an RCC.

In February 2026 the Government announced plans to reverse the decline in foster carers, create 10,000 more fostering places by 2029, and rebuild the fostering system so more children can live in family homes. Nationally there has been a 12% decline in foster carers since 2019 and a national action plan has been developed to expand fostering. This is designed under 7 pillars which include enhanced regional collaboration, £12.4m to support innovation programmes, identify stronger support for foster carers & review the current fostering standards and regulations. The drive and commitment to reform fostering by 2028 is progressing at pace. The reforms will aim to simplify the assessment and approval processes, expand the role and function of fostering hubs and ultimately create more homes through fostering for children and young people in care.

Quarter 3 Exceptions Extract 2025/26

- 4.8 The Quarter 3 (October–December 2025) performance overview is available via the Scrutiny Dashboard, with supporting exceptions extracts provided in **Appendices 1 and 2**.
- Appendix 1 provides red-rated indicators accompanied by narrative context and improvement actions.
 - Appendix 2 presents amber-rated indicators, with a worsening direction of travel, also supported by narrative and improvement actions.

Quarter 3 Risk Update

- 4.9 The performance dashboard incorporates strategic risks to acknowledge their critical role in shaping and influencing overall performance. Strategic risks are those that, if realised, could have the most significant impact on delivering the Council Plan or other key organisational priorities. Strategic risks may be considered by the Scrutiny Committee within the context of performance.

- 4.10 It is important to note that the responsibility for assessing the adequacy of risk controls and management rests with the Audit and Governance Committee, which holds the authority to make recommendations on the effectiveness of the council's risk management arrangements.

- 4.11 Whilst this is the case, it is acknowledged that the committee has an overarching interest in Risk ID 200, rated Very High:

“As a result of health service reform, Dorset Council may incur additional unprovisioned responsibilities, leading to increased resourcing & budgetary pressures, unmet health needs and potential harm to individuals”.

- 4.12 This risk position is expected to improve following the forthcoming joint partnership summit, which will focus on resolving outstanding issues and cases. Establishing a clear escalation route and a consistent resolution approach between partners will enable this risk to be re-scored.

Quarter 4 Performance Report

- 4.13 The next performance report, presenting Quarter 4 data, will be brought to the Committee 22 June 2026. Within this report committee has requested to receive a report focusing on Housing performance.

5. Alternative options considered

- 5.1 Not applicable. The report presents information on past performance and does not recommend any change to council policy or new action.

6. Legal considerations

- 6.1 There are no legal implications arising directly from this report; however some indicators are based on statutory returns, which the council must make to the Government.

7. Financial implications

- 7.1 There are no financial legal implications arising directly from this report.

8. Natural environment, climate & ecology implications

- 8.1 The report does not have direct climate change implications.

9. Well-being and health implications

- 9.1 The People and Health Committee scrutinise performance within its area of expertise and any improvement actions resulting from this process may improve the well-being and health outcomes of our communities.

10. Other implications

- 10.1 None.

11. Risk implications

- 11.1 Not applicable. The report presents information on past performance and does not seek a decision.

12. Equalities

- 12.1 There are no direct equality, diversity or inclusion implications resulting from this report. Equality impact assessments are carried out, when necessary, across the council to ensure service delivery meets the requirements of the Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act 2010.

13. Appendices

- 13.1 **Appendix 1:** Summary of performance exceptions (red RAG-rated measures) – People and Health Scrutiny Committee, Quarter 3 2025/26 (October–December 2025)
- 13.2 **Appendix 2:** Summary of performance exceptions (Amber and ‘worsening’ RAG-rated measures) – People and Health Scrutiny Committee, Quarter 3 2025/26 (October–December 2025)

14. Background papers

- [Dorset Council's Strategic Performance Reporting Framework](#)
- [People and Health Scrutiny Committee, 21/01/2026](#)
- [People and Health Scrutiny Committee, 17/11/2025](#)
- [People and Health Scrutiny Committee, 30/07/2025](#)

15. Report sign-off

- 15.1 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).

Appendices

Appendix 1. Summary of performance exceptions (red RAG-rated measures) – People and Health Scrutiny Committee, Quarter 3 2025/26 (October - December 2025)

Service Area	Indicator	Data	RAG	DOT	Narrative
Adults & Housing	Net number of single households in B&B at the end of the month (taking in to account households newly placed in B&B and those moving out into alternative accommodation)	51	RED	RED	The recent increase has primarily been driven by the activation of the severe weather emergency protocols (SWEP) due to falling temperatures. This has placed upward pressure on numbers at the same time as 30 units of accommodation have been handed back, reducing our available stock. We are working with an external provider to onboard additional units, however, these will not come until later in the year.
Adults & Housing	Number of pregnant women / families in B&B exceeding 6 week stay	1	RED	RED	Move on plans are in place with accommodation identified and arranged, however, the properties are not yet ready. We are awaiting the completion of void works in Temporary Accommodation before these moves can progress. Intensive work is ongoing with Assets to address the high number of voids across our stock, and we expect to see a significant improvement in void turnaround times over the coming weeks. Close monitoring and joint planning will continue to ensure the accommodation needs of all families approaching for assistance are identified as early as possible, enabling alternative options to be explored quickly and avoiding the use of B&B placements where more suitable options exist.

Service Area	Indicator	Data	RAG	DOT	Narrative
Children's Services	Number of Independent Special School places taken up by children and young people	550	RED	RED	Currently there are 550 children with an EHCP in an independent non-maintained setting. Whilst the number of children continues to increase, approximately a quarter of these children are attending Coombe House, which is an independent special school for which the Council is the only shareholder. This means our placement prices are 25% below the wider independent market fee - equating to a £2.7m saving. We must ensure that children are in the right setting equipped to support their individual needs. We are taking action to further understand our children's needs and are taking a 'deep dive' into our data. To support inclusion in mainstream we have a planned programme of work to create an additional 14 mainstream Specialist Resourced Provisions (SRP) in our existing schools to bring the number of settings across Dorset with SRPs to 32. When completed by January 2029 the projected Communication and Interaction (C&I) and Social, Emotional, and Mental Health (SEMH) SRP capacity will be 406 places, with 234 designated for C&I needs and 172 provided for SEMH needs. The number of Physical Disability (PD) SRP places is likely to remain at or around 21. This programme will reduce the need to place children in independent special schools and will ensure more children and young people with SEND - including those with Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs - can be educated locally.

Service Area	Indicator	Data	RAG	DOT	Narrative
Children's Services	Percentage of 16 and 17 year olds not in education, employment or training	4.1%	RED	RED	The NEET rate for December represents 325 young people, with an increase from November of 38. Chesil retains the highest NEET rate (4.7%) with the North (4.4%) now exceeding Purbeck (4.3%). 65 young people were newly identified as NEET, with the majority coming from FE colleges. This trend is a focus for the Next Steps working group which is now undertaking data analysis around vulnerable groups, localities and schools. In December? 27 young people have become EET with the majority starting employment. We are currently awaiting data on EET and NEET nationally, regionally and by our statistical neighbours, to provide a benchmark for our performance, though we know NEET rates are an issue nationally. The figures are very similar to this time last year, and whilst there is no improvement, it is positive there is no deterioration. We are working to encourage collaboration between DC teams, schools, and FE Providers targeted at those identified as most at risk – based on learning from the approaches of high performing statistical neighbours.

Service Area	Indicator	Data	RAG	DOT	Narrative
Children's Services	Percentage of Education, Health & Care Plans (EHCPs) issued within 20 weeks	35.82%	RED	GREEN	The number of EHCPs issued within 20 weeks continues to improve. In September 22.86% of plans were issued within 20 weeks and by December this had increased to 35.82%. Indicative data for January 2026 continues to suggest improvement. Next steps include completing the current consultation on a new model for some of our SEND work and to introduce AI solutions which will hopefully have a significant impact on performance, once embedded.
Children's Services	Rate of Early Help open cases at month end	178.11	RED	RED	The rate of Early Help is sitting at its lowest point in 6 months, and now sits below the target of 200, it has been marked as worsening. We acknowledge that some reduction was due to the B2SA data cleaning in September however the rate continues to fall and examination of step-ups and step-downs compared to practice two years ago shows: We are stepping up more children to Children In Need and stepping down fewer children from CIN to EH than we were two years ago. We recognise that there continues to be some challenges in step up/step downs between early help and CIN, although on a practical level for families they are still receiving family help.
Children's Services	Rate of permanent exclusions from schools (all schools) (%)	1.27%	RED	GREEN	There were 6 permanent exclusions recorded in December; 1 in Chesil, 1 in West, 2 Dorchester, 2 North. No Children In Need or Child Protection, 1 with EHCP, 1 SEN support and only 1 with CSC in last six years. 50% of these were from primary schools.

Service Area	Indicator	Data	RAG	DOT	Narrative
Public Health & Prevention	Percentage of deaths registered within 5 calendar days	79%	RED	AMBER	Since 9 September 2024 the national target has been to register deaths within five days of the receipt by Registration Services of the Medical Certificate of Cause of Death. The national target of 95% is extremely challenging for rural areas such as Dorset where most of the registration offices are part-time due to local demand and a lack of capacity to be able to increase the opening hours. Whilst customers are likely to be able to book an appointment at any office in the area within the five-day timeframe, they frequently wish to attend the office that is most convenient to them rather than travelling to a different town in order to register more quickly and will choose to wait a little longer for this reason. In Dorset we place significant emphasis on providing our customers with the best experience for registering deaths at what is often a sensitive time for them, listening to their preferences as to where they attend to do this, over seeking to maximise performance against the target. For instance, a customer living in Gillingham is unlikely to wish to travel to Weymouth in order to register a death as quickly as possible and will choose to wait a few days longer so that they can attend the Gillingham office. Performance decreased during December due to an increase in the death rate and a loss of appointment capacity arising from the Bank Holiday closures. Looking ahead, the national civil registration transformation agenda is likely to see a move away from the current in-person

Service Area	Indicator	Data	RAG	DOT	Narrative
					requirements for registration appointments that tie these to physical offices. The temporary move to conducting death registration appointments by telephone enabled during the pandemic proved that these could be undertaken much more quickly when the location and travel issue was removed in areas like Dorset. The ability to register deaths remotely will make a significant difference to performance in this respect. However the timeframe will be driven nationally, and we are unable to implement such changes locally.

Appendix 2. Summary of performance exceptions (Amber and ‘worsening’ RAG-rated measures) – People and Health Scrutiny Committee, Quarter 3 2025/26 (October - December 2025)

Service Area	Indicator	Data	RAG	DOT	Narrative
Children's Services	Percentage of 3 and 4 yr olds benefitting from funding EY education in Met/Good/Outstanding setting	95.35%	AMBER	RED	The EY Lead holds a monthly meeting to discuss settings performance including those we are required to statutorily support. There is a coaching circle held monthly to explore the elements and complexities of each case of 'less than good' settings or those where quality is a concern. Ofsted outcomes are monitored through the EY dashboards and settings are RAG rated. Only 1 of the Requires Improvement outcomes is for a Private setting. The others are all School-based Nurseries. There are 2 Inadequate settings identified. The day care setting outcome related to staffing recruitment processes and safeguarding children. Less than good settings receive tailored in-person support. 16% are waiting for an inspection.
Children's Services	Percentage of children in care for 12 months or more with Annual Health Assessment completed on time	85.11%	AMBER	RED	There has been a drop in performance during Q.3, bringing us below the target of 90%, below national average (90%) and below Good+ statistical neighbours. However, December's figure represents a dip compared to the stronger performance seen earlier in the quarter, with October at 90.85% and November at 87.42%. Seasonal pressures over the Christmas period are likely to have

Service Area	Indicator	Data	RAG	DOT	Narrative
					influenced December's performance, with an expectation that performance will improve as these pressures ease.
Children's Services	Percentage of children in care placed outside the council area	44.92%	AMBER	RED	Having seen this area improve slightly in the earlier part of this quarter, we have seen a slight worsening of this indicator to 44.92% at the end of Q3, which is slightly above national average of 44% and above Good + statistical neighbours 29.1%. This is slight improvement from Q2 where 201 children were living out of county in Sept 25 compared to 208 in December 25. This is an area of continued focus. We recognise that we are working in a highly challenging national context of reduced numbers of foster carers. We remain ambitious and continue to develop creative recruitment campaigns to stimulate interest in fostering. We continue to work with our foster carers to better understand the support they need to expand their fostering family to meet the needs of our children locally.
Children's Services	Percentage of Section 47 investigations completed within 10 days	82.88%	AMBER	RED	Performance at the end of Q3 stands at 82.88%, broadly unchanged from 82.76% at the end of Q2. Across the quarter, performance was strong in October and November (both 95%) before dipping in December due to workforce absence and school holiday impacts. Although December is below the 90% target, Q3 overall remained above target on average, and performance continues to stabilise following earlier locality-specific issues.

Service Area	Indicator	Data	RAG	DOT	Narrative
					This remains an area of focus for managers and is discussed weekly in the management meetings. It is expected that given the previous 2 months of 95% this will again improve in January 26.
Children's Services	Rates of children in need per 10,000 (including CP, CIC and 18+)	330.31	AMBER	RED	The rate of children in need is now equal to the national average but above good+ statistical neighbours and slightly higher than this time last year. The rate has fluctuated during the Quarter, with the lowest rate at 323.91 in October. We recognise that there continues to be some challenges in step up/ step downs between early help and CIN, although on a practical level for families they are still receiving family help. QA to support a thematic dip sample and observation of Family Help line of sight to support practice development on stepping up and stepping down between early help and child in need
Adults & Housing	The total number of contacts into adult social care each month	1653	AMBER	RED	The demand at the front door of Adult Access Team is difficult to manage as it is direct access from members of the public. The volume over the last year has risen since the same period last year . This is reflected in demand across the service in other areas and is reflected in the complexity we are seeing in the population of Dorset who have Care Act eligible needs. A key indicator is the impact this has in terms of how many people they are able to help at the point of contact.

Service Area	Indicator	Data	RAG	DOT	Narrative
					At the moment the Adult Access Teams resolves 75% of all requests for support which helps to manage the demand that comes to the complex care teams. The New Prevention and Early Intervention Team has also been supporting people in the 'front door' of Adults Service, which has further reduced the demand into the ongoing teams and increased our preventative offer for adults.
Adults & Housing	Adults - Number of outstanding assessments (Care Act)	651	AMBER	RED	We have prioritised the allocation and completion of our most overdue assessments to reduce backlogs and improve timeliness, with the impact of the Prevention and Early Intervention Team starting to show our throughput and number of completed assessments. However, we are experiencing a sustained increase in demand at the front door, which continues to drive up the volume of work to be completed. Our focus remains on our longest outstanding cases or those which present as higher priority due to risk and adjusting capacity where possible to prevent further delays.
Adults & Housing	Adults Safeguarding Activity - number of safeguarding concerns received during the month	601	AMBER	RED	During December we have seen an increase of 59 referrals into the team when compared to last month. This is also a higher referral rate when comparing to last year and is consistent with the continued demand into the service. However due to the realignment of our safeguarding model we continue to manage the waiting list positively with the average waiting list (post completion of initial risk screen) averaging between 0-10 cases.

Service Area	Indicator	Data	RAG	DOT	Narrative
					We continue to hold High Risk Transitional Safeguarding meetings on a monthly basis and in the past 14 months since they were launched have considered 32 cases. This has ensured more timely intervention and risk management approaches to those young people requiring our support as they step into adulthood. Primary referral routes into the service, do however remain unchanged with over 50% of concerns being received from the provider sector. This continues to be an area of focus for the team to ensure providers feel supported and equipped to appropriately identify and refer safeguarding concerns to the service. The team continue to work closely with partners across Dorset to support timely response and robust risk management approaches. Making Safeguarding Personal which is an approach to safeguarding adults that emphasises a person-centred and outcome focussed methodology is a consistent focus for the team and they continue to strive to ensure that all individuals are asked what their desired outcomes and to receive feedback following the person safeguarding journey to embed any learning and change required within the service.

Service Area	Indicator	Data	RAG	DOT	Narrative
Adults & Housing	Number of cases where the Council has a duty to secure permanent accommodation (applicant is eligible, in priority need, unintentionally homeless and has a local connection) and has issued a decision to accept a main housing duty.	38	AMBER	RED	In December, there were 38 accepted cases out of 52 decisions made - still showing a 73% acceptance rate which is broadly in line with the English average. Complexity of cases mean it is often taking longer for decisions to be made due to officers having to go back and investigate areas that they had not previously considered. The acceptance rate of 73% is in line with other councils of a similar size and nature. All decisions are monitored closely by senior staff.
Public Health & Prevention	Number of health checks delivered	1098	AMBER	RED	The local target for NHS Health Checks is to invite 10% of the eligible population annually, with a goal of achieving a 50% uptake. For the Dorset Council area, this equates to delivering 5,799 checks per year, or approximately 1,450 per quarter. In Quarter 3 of 2025/26, 1,098 checks were completed, falling short of the quarterly target and lower than the 1,465 delivered in the same period of the previous year. The 1098 checks were delivered as follows: Universal health checks, offered to all eligible individuals, are primarily delivered through contracts with primary care providers. The annual target for universal checks is 4,899, or 1,225 per quarter. In Quarter 3, 977 checks were delivered, 20% below target. Although primary care are

Service Area	Indicator	Data	RAG	DOT	Narrative
					exceeding the 10% invitation target, there were fewer invitations sent in Q3 than in previous quarters of this year. A smaller number of targeted health checks are delivered by LiveWell Dorset, aimed at reaching individuals at higher risk. In Quarter 2, 121 targeted checks were completed against a target of 225. Although representing a shortfall, performance has been sustained from Q1 despite recruitment and retention challenges. Additionally, LiveWell Dorset was impacted by reduced social media advertising to promote the service due to the disaggregation of Public Health Dorset which has impacted its website. Seasonality also affects uptake of the LiveWell service.

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People and Health Scrutiny Committee

16 April 2026

Children out of School or in Home Education For Review and Consultation

Cabinet Member:

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

Local Councillor(s):

All

Senior Leadership Team:

P Dempsey, Executive Director of People - Children

Report author:

Miriam Leigh

Job title:

Head of Children Thriving in Education and Principal
Educational Psychologist

Tel:

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Email:

miriam.leigh@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Report status: Public [Choose an item.](#)

Executive summary (maximum of 500 words)

1. This report provides a summary of the current position of children of statutory school age who are considered to be Children Missing Education (CME) or Children Missing out on Education (CMOOE) including those who are Electively Home Educated.
 - 1.1 The report sets out that it is anticipated that local authorities will acquire additional responsibilities with regards to children missing education and children electively home educated as a result of the imminent Children Wellbeing and Schools Bill, and that additional resources are likely to be required.
 - 1.2 There are several positive areas of performance highlighted within the report as follows:
 - Dorset's rate of children missing education is lower than the national and Southwest average
 - Dorset's rate of children electively home educated is lower than the Southwest average

- The number of permanent exclusions overall have decreased year on year for the last two years in Dorset
- The number of fixed term suspensions has decreased in Dorset

2. Recommendation

2.1 Members are asked to note:

- The current position regarding children missing education, children missing out on education, and children who are electively home educated, and Children's Services approach to supporting these children, and,
- The strong possibility that the imminent Children Wellbeing and Schools Bill will result in additional responsibilities being placed on local authorities with regards to the above cohorts of children and that this is highly likely to require additional resources.

3. Reason for the recommendation(s)

3.1 The Children and Schools Wellbeing Bill is currently at the final stages for consideration of amendments in the House of Lords and the timescale for amendments is unknown. We believe that there will be practice and resource implications for Children's Services and our partners.

3.2 It is expected that the White Paper will include making it compulsory for all LAs to:

- maintain a register of children who are not in school
- remove the automatic right for parents to home educate their children

4. Context

4.1 Who are children missing education

CME are children of compulsory school age who are not registered pupils at a school and are not receiving suitable education otherwise than at a school.

CME includes children who:

- are in the process of applying for a school place
- have been offered a school place for a future date but have not yet started
- are receiving elective home education (EHE) that has been assessed as unsuitable
- have been recorded as CME for an extended period, for example where their whereabouts is unclear or unknown

4.2 CME are not children who:

- are receiving suitable education otherwise than at a school (for example, pupils who are electively home educated or attending alternative provision) which is suitable to the child's age, ability, aptitude and any special educational needs they may have
- are EHE but the local authority has not had an opportunity to assess whether the education being provided is suitable
- are registered at a school, even if they are persistently or severely absent from that school

(Children missing education: statutory guidance for local authorities and schools September 2025)

5. Current situation

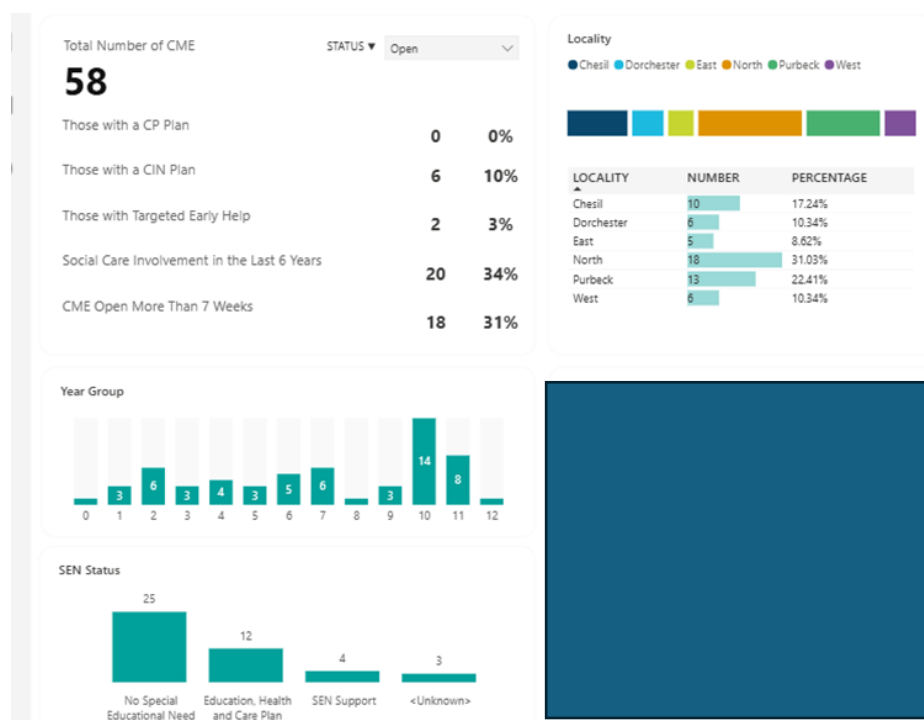
Children Missing Education (CME)

5.1 There are currently 58 children who are CME in Dorset. These are children where their whereabouts are unknown to their registered educational provider, home education has been deemed unsuitable, they are in the process of applying for a school placement or they are not yet accessing an offered school placement.

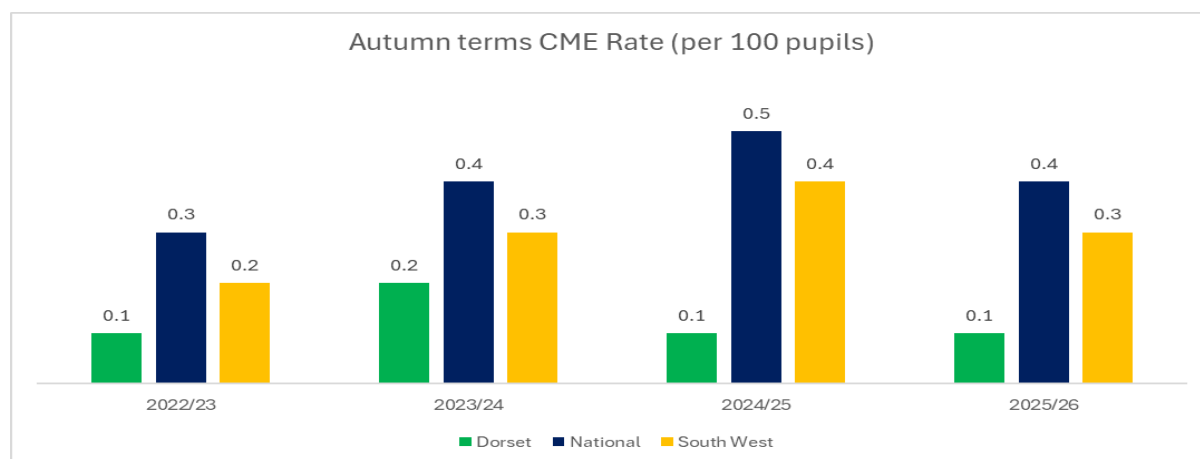
5.2 Of the current children identified as CME:

- none are on a child protection plan or in care
- 10% (6 children) are on a child in need plan
- 3% (2 children) are supported at targeted early help
- 86% (50) are not currently known to Family Help or Child Protection services
- 34% have been known to social care within the last 6 years
- 34% have identified Special Educational needs (including 26% who have an Education and Health Care Plan [EHCP]).

We have been actively working with 31% of the families and children identified as CME to make suitable education arrangements as elective home education (EHE) has been deemed not suitable. Our data enables us to understand when a young person is removed from a school roll by locality and by school. This provides us with the details to work with a specific school to understand the reasons for this and work within the locality to ensure children are safe and receiving a suitable education.



- 5.3 Since September 2025, 93 children have been identified as CME and 89% (83) of all CME are found suitable education within 7 weeks. Dorset CME rate is lower than National and South West rates.



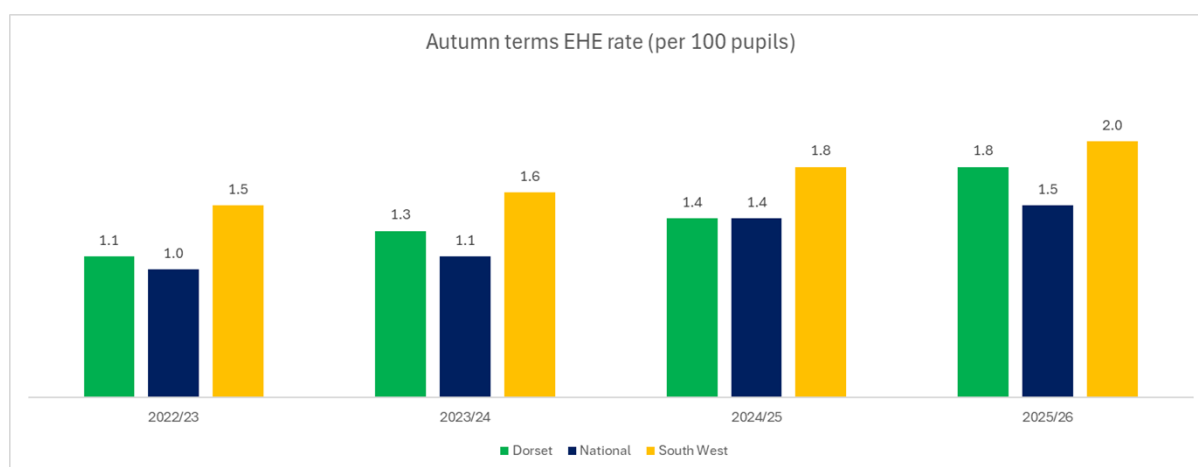
6. Children with an EHCP

- 6.1 There are a small number of children with an EHCP who are not attending the school we have offered them. We will have agreed this school placement based on the Code of Practice of whether the school has agreed they can meet the child's needs set out in the EHCP and whether they are able to deliver the provision in the EHCP.
- 6.2 In these circumstances the SEND provision lead works with the family to understand what school setting and provision the family believe is more

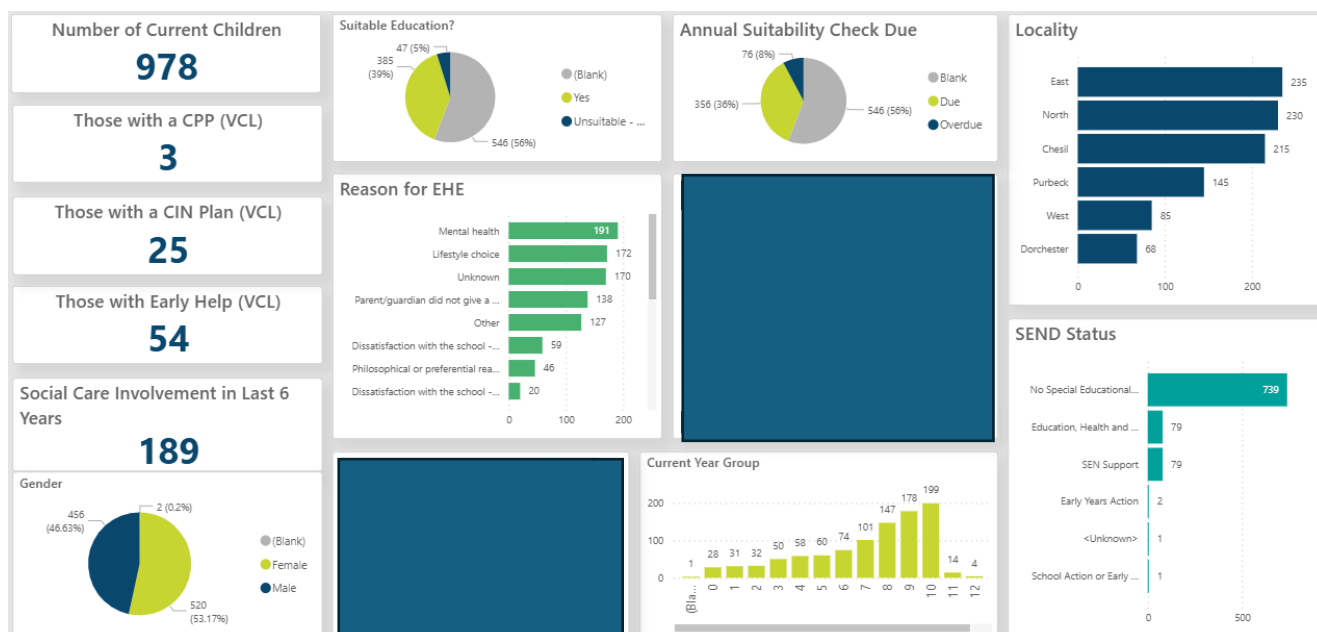
suitable. While we work to resolve this, we may provide the child with suitable alternative provision. We have a duty to follow the attendance guidance and may have to take legal action in relation to non-attendance. The SEND provision lead will seek support and guidance from the inclusion lead to secure education for the child.

7. Elective Home Education (EHE)

- 7.1 Dorset Council currently has 978 children who are electively home educated. Dorset has seen a rise in children and families electing to home educate every year since 2022. This is also in line with the National and South West trends.



- 7.2 From our data dashboard we can see that '*Mental Health*' is now cited as the most likely reason for families to choose home education for their child in Dorset. The Children's and Schools Wellbeing Bill will place additional responsibilities on local authorities to monitor the suitability of home education if introduced into legislation.

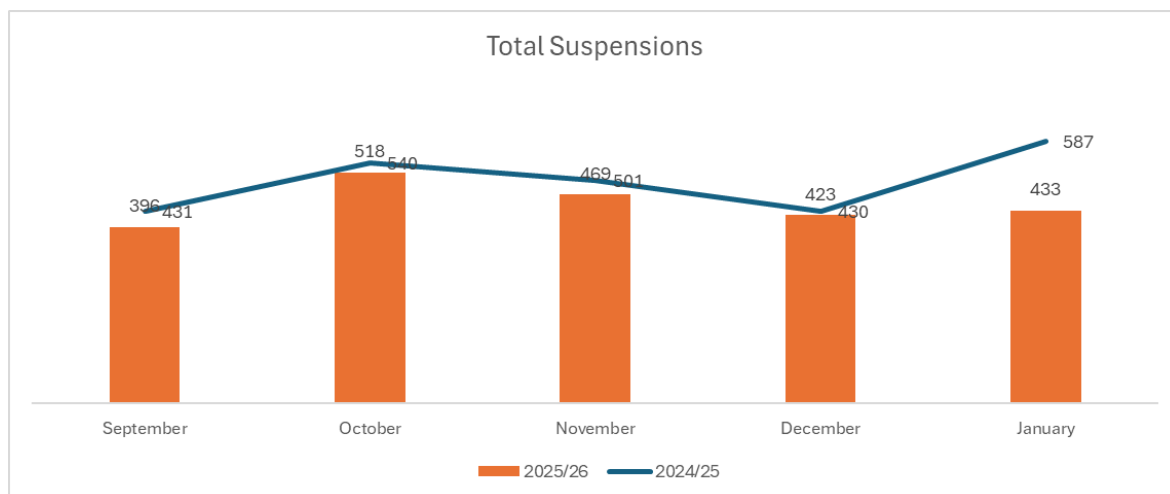


- 7.3 With the rise in the number of children and families choosing to electively home educate there has been a notable increase in the workload of our Learning and Belonging Workforce which is having an impact on being able to complete the initial 10-day contact when we receive an EHE notification. Inclusion Leads are currently responsible for annual suitability monitoring for children who do not have an EHCP who are electively home educated. SEND Provision Leads are responsible for monitoring the suitability of home education for children with an EHCP.
- 7.4 The SWAP Audit partnership audit on Elective Home Education practice identified the risk of the potential of increased work due to the introduction of the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill.

8. Permanent Exclusions and Suspensions

- 8.1 There have been 34 children permanently excluded from Dorset schools within the current academic year 2025-2026 (from September 2025). This represents a year-to-year decrease in permanent exclusions compared to the same period last academic year. We have seen a notable decrease in children being permanently excluded in secondary schools. However, there has been an increase in children in primary schools being permanently excluded most notably 2 children in the Early Years Foundation Stage (year R). Although the numbers are small this requires our attention and scrutiny. The learning and belonging workforce are working together with Dorset schools to ensure we have a clear process in place to prevent children being permanently excluded due to unmet needs.
- 8.2 We are also seeing an improving trend in children being suspended with a year-to-year decrease in the total number of suspensions within Dorset

Schools. The four schools with the highest number of suspensions remain the same to the previous year. These schools are governed by academy trusts and we are working closely with the Academy Trust leadership to support culture change and thinking differently about children's behaviours. We continue to work with these schools and trusts to learn and implement a different approach to suspensions and in meeting children's needs.



- 8.3 Children's Services continues to roll out Therapeutic Thinking and Relational practice for schools with further support to embed this into school practice. This is an evidenced based approach with a proven impact of improving inclusion in schools. Several Dorset schools have adopted this whole school approach evidenced by their school Behaviour policy which takes a relational approach. It is noticeable that schools that have adopted this practice have seen a reduction in recorded suspensions.

9. Reduced Timetables

- 9.1 There are currently 188 children and young people (CY) who attend a Dorset school who are on a reduced timetable. Reduced timetables are intended to be a short-term reasonable adjustment implemented to support the needs of a child who may be unable to attend school full time due to health needs. Currently 54% of children on a reduced timetable have known special educational needs (21.3% supported at SEN Support in school and 33.5% have an EHCP).
- 9.2 The Learning and Belonging inclusion leads are the lead for children who do not have an EHCP. They work with schools to ensure that there is a robust plan in place to ensure the child is receiving a suitable education and that there is a joint plan in place with the family, child and school.

9.3 The SEND provision leads take the lead for children with an EHCP and have responsibility for ensuring we are meeting the child's needs as stated in their EHCP.

9.4 Dorset Council Children's Services continues to offer workforce SEND and Inclusion training that supports understanding of the needs of children out of Education or Electively Home Educated.

10. Financial implications

10.1 There are no current financial implications. We are mindful that the Children's Schools and Wellbeing Bill may result in changes in practice and workforce needs.

11. Natural environment, climate & ecology implications

N/A

12. Well-being and health implications

N/A

13. Other implications

N/A

14. Risk implications

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

Current Risk: Low

Residual Risk: Low

15. Equalities

N/A

16. Appendices

N/A

17. Background papers

None

18. Report sign-off

18.1 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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People and Health Scrutiny Committee

16 April 2026

CHC and Joint Funding (adults) performance in Dorset

For Review and Consultation

Cabinet Member:

Cllr S Robinson, Adult Social Care

Local Councillor(s):

Cllr Steve Robinson

Senior Leadership Team:

J Price, Executive Director of People - Adults

Report author and job title:

Sue Evans, Head of Specialist Services/CHC Lead for Dorset Council Adult Social Care

Email: sue.evans@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Statutory Authority: Dorset Council Adult Social Care and Housing Directorate

Report status: Public Choose an item.

1. Executive summary (maximum of 500 words)

1.1 This report is submitted following a request of the Chair and Vice Chair of the People and Health Scrutiny Committee, subsequent to a meeting held with the DASS and Corporate Director for Adult Social Care Operations to understand the current CHC and Joint funding performance in Dorset.

1.2 NHS Continuing Health Care (CHC) is a package of care for adults aged 18 years or over which is arranged and funded solely by the NHS. In order to receive NHS CHC funding, individuals must be assessed by ICB's according to a legally prescribed decision making process to determine whether an individual has a primary health need. The National Framework for NHS Continuing Healthcare and NHS funded nursing care (revised 2022) sets out the principles and processes for determining eligibility.

[National framework for NHS continuing healthcare and NHS-funded nursing care - GOV.UK](#)

1.3 When an individual is not considered to be eligible for NHS CHC funding but are deemed to have some health needs, the NHS may contribute to the funding of a joint package of care. Within a joint funding arrangement, the Local Authority should meet the Care Act eligible outcomes for an individual as defined through a Care Act assessment. [Care and support statutory guidance - GOV.UK](#) The Local Authority is not permitted to meet health needs. S22 Care Act 2014 sets this out as follows:

Exception for provision of health services

(1) A local authority may not meet needs under sections 18 to 20 by providing or arranging for the provision of a service or facility that is required to be provided under the National Health Service Act 2006 unless—

(a) doing so would be merely incidental or ancillary to doing something else to meet needs under those sections, and

(b) the service or facility in question would be of a nature that the local authority could be expected to provide.

1.4 Dorset Council has noted a significant shift in the outcomes of assessment for CHC and joint funding over the last three years and a particularly marked increase in the numbers of people being deemed non eligible for CHC and joint funding in this current financial year (2025/2026), either following a new application or following a review of those already in receipt of CHC or fast track funding. Dorset Council believes the trends seen within Dorset ICB, particularly in 2025/6 to date, to be significantly out of line with the trends seen in both South West region and National data as reported in NHS England statistics for Continuing Healthcare and NHS funded nursing care. [Statistics » Continuing Healthcare and NHS-funded Nursing Care](#)

1.5 The reduction in those being deemed eligible for CHC or receiving joint funding impacts those residents in Dorset who would, as a result, be required to fund their own care and support (self funders) or those who would need to draw on care and support from the Local Authority and who may be required to contribute towards the cost of that care and support following financial assessment. In addition to the financial impacts, the CHC assessment/reassessment processes resulting in a change in their care funding arrangements can bring uncertainty, additional anxiety and distress for an individual and/or their family/representatives

1.6 A presentation of the evidence and concerns will be made to the scrutiny committee on the 16 April 2026.

2. **Recommendation(s)**

2.1 That a deep dive is carried out into the CHC and Joint Funding arrangements in the Dorset area.

2.2 That the report presented to People and Health Scrutiny committee on 16/4/26 is reviewed.

3. Reason for the recommendation(s)

3.1 To understand the CHC and Joint Funding performance in the Dorset area.

4. The report

4.1 To be presented to People and Health Scrutiny committee on 16/4/26

5 Background papers

None

6. Report sign-off

6.1 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 Corporate Director for Finance and Commercial (Section 151 Officer) and the appropriate Portfolio Holder(s)

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People and Health Scrutiny Committee Work Programme

Meeting Date: 16 April 2026

Report Title	Aims and Objectives	Lead Officers / Members	Other Information
Quarterly Performance Monitoring	To review the most recent performance information and use this to agree items to add to the committee work programme for further analysis.	Chris Heighway – Performance and Analytics Team Manager Cllr Nick Ireland – Leader and Cabinet Member for Climate, Performance and Safeguarding	
Children out of school or in home education		Jen Furnell – Corporate Director for Education and Learning Cllr Clare Sutton – Cabinet Member for Children’s Services, Education and Skills	
EHCP Working Group – Final Report and Recommendations	To review the final report, findings and recommendations from the committee’s working group on EHCP provision.	Cllr Toni Coombs – Chairman, People and Health Scrutiny Committee	
Continuing Healthcare		Julia Ingram – Corporate Director for Adult Social Care	

		Cllr Steve Robinson – Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care	
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Meeting Date: 22 June 2026

Report Title	Aims and Objectives	Lead Officers / Members	Other Information
Housing Strategy	To scrutinise and review the Housing Strategy.	Iain Sim – Interim Corporate Director for Housing Cllr Gill Taylor – Cabinet Member for Health and Housing	
CQC Inspection Outcome	Feedback from the CQC Inspection and action plan	Cllr Steve Robinson – Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care Jon Price – Executive Director for People – Adults & Housing	
Quarterly Performance Monitoring	To review the most recent performance information and use this to agree items to add to the committee work programme for further analysis.	Chris Heighway – Performance and Analytics Team Manager Cllr Nick Ireland – Leader and Cabinet Member for Climate, Performance and Safeguarding	

Annual Community Safety Scrutiny Report	It is a legal requirement to provide a report on community safety activity to the Council's statutory Crime & Disorder Committee at least once a year.	Andy Frost – Service Manager for Community Safety Cllr Gill Taylor – Cabinet Member for Health and Housing	
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Meeting Date: 20 July 2026

Report Title	Aims and Objectives	Lead Officers / Members	Other Information
Young Carer Support		Cllr Clare Sutton – Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills	• Raised at meeting on 17 November • Summer 2026

Meeting Date: 5 October 2026

Report Title	Aims and Objectives	Lead Officers / Members	Other Information
Children and Young People's Mental Health		Cllr Clare Sutton – Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills	• Raised at the meeting on 22 September 2025. • To review the changes to CYP Mental Health services after 12 months

Quarterly Performance Monitoring	To review the most recent performance information and use this to agree items to add to the committee work programme for further analysis.	Chris Heighway – Performance and Analytics Team Manager Cllr Nick Ireland – Leader and Cabinet Member for Climate, Performance and Safeguarding	
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Meeting Date: 30 November 2026

Report Title	Aims and Objectives	Lead Officers / Members	Other Information
Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report			
Complaints Annual Report			

Meeting Date: 26 January 2027

Report Title	Aims and Objectives	Lead Officers / Members	Other Information
Budget and Medium-Term Financial Plan			
Quarterly Performance Monitoring	To review the most recent performance information and use this to agree items to add to the committee work programme for further analysis.	Chris Heighway – Performance and Analytics Team Manager	

		Cllr Nick Ireland – Leader and Cabinet Member for Climate, Performance and Safeguarding	
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Meeting Date: 5 April 2027

Report Title	Aims and Objectives	Lead Officers / Members	Other Information
Quarterly Performance Monitoring	To review the most recent performance information and use this to agree items to add to the committee work programme for further analysis.	Chris Heighway – Performance and Analytics Team Manager Cllr Nick Ireland – Leader and Cabinet Member for Climate, Performance and Safeguarding	

Meeting Date: 10 May 2027

Report Title	Aims and Objectives	Lead Officers / Members	Other Information

Meeting Date: Unscheduled Committee Items

Report Title	Aims and Objectives	Lead Officers / Members	Other Information
Integrated Neighbourhood Teams		Cllr Steve Robinson – Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care	•
Better Care Fund		Sarah Sewell – Head of Commissioning for Older People, Home First and Market Access Cllr Steve Robinson – Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care	•
Reablement service performance		Cllr Steve Robinson – Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care	• Raised at meeting on 17 November • TBC 2026
University Hospitals Dorset Transformation Plans	Presentation on transformation plans for University Hospitals Dorset.		•

Informal Work of the Committee:

Date	Topic	Format	Members	Lead Officers / Members	Other Information
May 2026	Annual NHS Quality Accounts		People & Health Scrutiny Committee	George Dare – Senior Democratic Services Officer	To provide a response to local NHS Trust Quality Accounts.

Quarterly	Review of the committee's performance and risk dashboards.	Informal Meeting	People & Health Scrutiny Committee	Chris Heighway – Performance and Analytics Team Manager	Review of the dashboards to identify potential future areas for review by the committee.
In progress	Educational Health and Care Plans (EHCPs)	Enquiry Day / Working Group	Cllrs Coombs, Somper and Bolwell	Kath Saunders – Head of Locality and Strategy (North)	Decision to establish an enquiry day was made at the People & Health Scrutiny Committee on 24 October 2024.

Annual Items:

Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report – November

Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report

Complaints Annual Report and statutory children's services complaints reporting

Budget and Medium-Term Financial Plan – January

Community Safety Annual Report

Birth to Settled Adulthood – Independent Chair's Annual Report

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The Cabinet Forward Plan - April to July 2026 (Publication date – 24 MARCH 2026)

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

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
2026					

April

Housing Standards Enforcement Policy & Statement of Principles for Determining Financial Penalties Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open To agree the adoption of a new Housing Standards Enforcement Policy & Statement of Principles for Determining Financial Penalties to account for legislative changes being enacted under the Renters Rights Act 2025.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 21 Apr 2026	People and Health Overview Committee 16 Mar 2026 Place and Resources Overview Committee 26 Mar 2026	Cabinet Member for Health and Housing	Steven March, Service Manager for Housing Standards steven.march@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Iain Sim, Interim Corporate Director for Housing iain.sim@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, People - Adults (Jonathan Price)
Local Authority Housing Fund (LAHF) 4 Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open In the Spending Review in June, the Government announced a fourth round of the Local Authority Housing Fund (LAHF) 4 committing £950m to deliver a four-year programme nationally (from April 2026). This report will inform Cabinet that DC had	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 21 Apr 2026		Cabinet Member for Health and Housing	Paul Derrien, Housing Enabling and Delivery Manager paul.derrien@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Vikki Jeffrey, Senior Housing Funding and Delivery Officer vikki.jeffrey@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, People - Adults (Jonathan Price)

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
been awarded £662,000 of capital grant and £4, 796 of revenue grant from MHLG to acquire 4 properties. Two of these properties were to be used as settled housing for refugees from Afghanistan and the other two to be used as temporary accommodation for those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.					
Dorset National Landscape grant funding 2026-2029 Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open By January 2026 the hosted Partnership team for the Dorset National Landscape should be notified of its grant allocation from Defra for 2026-2027 and indicative allocations for 2027-2029. All support delivery of the Management Plan previously adopted by Cabinet.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 21 Apr 2026		Cabinet Member for Planning and Emergency Planning	<i>Mike Garrity, Corporate Director for Planning</i> <i>mike.garrity@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Tom Munro, Dorset National Landscape Manager</i> <i>tom.munro@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, Place (Jan Britton)</i>
Transformation Update Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open Sets out the context, progress to date, and the rationale for targeted investment for transformation. This will ensure Dorset Council remains resilient and fit for the future, full aligned with Council Plan priorities and our medium-term financial plan.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 21 Apr 2026		Cabinet Member for Corporate Development and Transformation	<i>Nina Coakley, Head of Transformation and Design</i> <i>nina.coakley@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Lisa Cotton, Corporate Director for Transformation, Customer and Cultural Services</i> <i>lisa.cotton@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Chief Executive</i>

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
Strategic Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) - prioritisation of CIL funded infrastructure projects Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open To provide an update on arrangements for spending strategic CIL. The report will address the clarification of current CIL funding commitments, and the identification and prioritisation of CIL funded projects to be supported through the Capital Programme process.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 21 Apr 2026		Cabinet Member for Planning and Emergency Planning	Andrew Galpin, Infrastructure & Delivery Planning Manager andrew.galpin@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, Place (Jan Britton)
Culture Strategy Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open Strategy document to shape the future direction of arts, culture and heritage across the Dorset Council area.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 21 Apr 2026	Place and Resources Overview Committee 26 Mar 2026	Cabinet Member for Customer, Culture and Community Engagement	Paul Rutter, Service Manager for Leisure, Arts and Cultural Services paul.rutter@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, Place (Jan Britton)
Nitrogen Credit Pricing methodology Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open To set out an agreed methodology for how we set the price of our nutrient credits ensuring legal defensibility, financial sustainability, a credible and trusted credit market, and strong governance through transparent, accountable pricing.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 21 Apr 2026		Cabinet Member for Finance & Capital Strategy	Bridget Betts, Environmental Advice Manager bridget.betts@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, Place (Jan Britton)

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
New Forest District Council Local Plan consultation Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open New Forest District Council Local Plan Regulation 18 consultation response.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 21 Apr 2026		Cabinet Member for Planning and Emergency Planning	Mike Garrity, Corporate Director for Planning mike.garrity@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Terry Sneller, Strategic Planning Manager terry.sneller@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, Place (Jan Britton)
Marnhull Neighbourhood Development Plan 2024 - 2038 Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open Report relating to the making (adoption) of the neighbourhood plan following examination and referendum.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 21 Apr 2026		Cabinet Member for Planning and Emergency Planning	Ed Gerry, Community Planning Manager ed.gerry@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, Place (Jan Britton)
Microsoft Licensing 2026 - 27 renewal Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open Changes to the licensing arrangements with Microsoft have extended the current agreement term by an additional year incurring spending.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 21 Apr 2026		Cabinet Member for Corporate Development and Transformation	James Ailward, Head of ICT Operations james.ailward@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, Corporate Development - Section 151 Officer

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
Procurement arrangements for alternative provision services Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open Increasing the level of authorised spend on alternative provision services, following the conversion of the Supporting Progress & Inclusion Framework to a DSP, and extension from August 2026 to February 2029.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 21 Apr 2026		Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills	<i>Claire Webb, Strategic Commissioner</i> <i>claire.webb@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> , <i>Ross Bowell, Head of Service - Health, Education & SEND Commissioning</i> <i>ross.bowell@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, People - Children (Paul Dempsey)</i>
Leisure Facilities Strategy Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Part exempt Strategy report to determine the future of leisure centre provision.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 21 Apr 2026		Cabinet Member for Customer, Culture and Community Engagement	<i>Paul Rutter, Service Manager for Leisure, Arts and Cultural Services</i> <i>paul.rutter@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, Place (Jan Britton)</i>
May					

Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategic Funding Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open A strategic funding paper seeking Council Support for Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) Capital Programme and pipeline.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 19 May 2026		Cabinet Member for Place Services	<i>Jack Wiltshire, Corporate Director for Highways and Engineering</i> <i>jack.wiltshire@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> , <i>Matthew Penny, Service Manager - Flood & Coastal Erosion</i> <i>matthew.penny@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, Place (Jan Britton)</i>
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Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
Financial Provision for the Voluntary Community Sector Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open The current 5-year financial agreement for the VCS will be coming to an end in October 2026. This paper will propose the new support for them.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 19 May 2026	People and Health Overview Committee	Cabinet Member for Customer, Culture and Community Engagement	<i>Laura Cornette, Business Partner - Communities and Partnerships</i> <i>Laura.cornette@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Jennifer Lowis, Head of Strategic Communications and Engagement</i> <i>jennifer.louis@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, Corporate Development - Section 151 Officer</i>
Dft rental E-scooter trial Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open Seeking Cabinet approval to enable two areas of Dorset to introduce an e-scooter rental service trial. The two areas are: 1) Upton and Corfe Mullen 2) Weymouth, Portland, Chickereil and Dorchester.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 19 May 2026		Cabinet Member for Place Services	<i>Christopher Whitehouse, Projects Team Manager</i> <i>christopher.whitehouse@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Kate Tunks, Service Manager for Infrastructure and Assets</i> <i>kate.tunks@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, Place (Jan Britton)</i>
Future direction of public health contracts following disaggregation of the Shared Service Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open This report will update Cabinet on commissioning intentions, and preferred arrangements for commissioning public health services following disaggregation of the shared	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 19 May 2026		Cabinet Member for Health and Housing	<i>Sam Crowe, Director of Public Health</i> <i>sam.crowe@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Director of Public Health and Prevention (Sam Crowe)</i>

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
service in 2024-25. Cabinet is asked to support the recommendations on future direction of travel for public health contracts. A mirror paper is going to BCP Council Cabinet with the same recommendations.					
Green Seafront Ground Stabilisation & Shore Road Improvement Projects - Funding Request Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open Funding request for Swanage Town Council's Green Seafront stabilisation project and Dorset Highway's Shore Road Improvements project.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 19 May 2026		Cabinet Member for Place Services	<i>Jack Wiltshire, Corporate Director for Highways and Engineering</i> <i>jack.wiltshire@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, Place (Jan Britton)</i>
June					

Bridport Reablement Centre Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open A report to provide an update on the Bridport Reablement Centre Project, including approval on the Stage 2 Scheme and award of the build contract to the preferred construction partner.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 23 Jun 2026	People and Health Overview Committee 29 Apr 2026	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care	<i>Sam Poole, Interim Corporate Director for Commissioning & Improvement</i> <i>samuel.poole@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, People - Adults (Jonathan Price)</i>
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Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
Draft Outturn Report 2025/26 Key Decision - No Public Access - Open To consider the 2025/26 Outturn report.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 23 Jun 2026		Cabinet Member for Finance & Capital Strategy	<i>Sean Cremer, Corporate Director for Finance and Commercial</i> <i>sean.cremer@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Sian Hedger, Deputy s151 Officer</i> <i>sian.hedger@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, Corporate Development - Section 151 Officer</i>
Youth Justice Plan Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open To approve the Youth Justice Plan for 2026/27.	Decision Maker Dorset Council	Decision Date 16 Jul 2026	Cabinet 23 Jun 2026	Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills	<i>David Webb, Head of Service - Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service</i> <i>david.webb@bcpcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, People - Children (Paul Dempsey)</i>
September					
End of year performance report Key Decision - No Public Access - Open An end of year report on council plan delivery and broader organisational health.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 28 Jul 2026		Leader and Cabinet Member for Climate, Performance and Safeguarding, Chris Heighway, Performance and Analytics Team Manager	<i>Liz Crocker, Head of Strategy</i> <i>liz.crocker@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Chief Executive</i>
September					

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
July 2026 (period 4) financial management report 26/27 Key Decision - No Public Access - Open To consider the Period 4 financial management report.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 8 Sep 2026		Cabinet Member for Finance & Capital Strategy	Sean Cremer, Corporate Director for Finance and Commercial <i>sean.cremer@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> , Sian Hedger, Deputy s151 Officer <i>sian.hedger@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> Executive Director, Corporate Development - Section 151 Officer
November 2026 Page 64					
September 2026 (period 6) financial management report 26/27 Key Decision - No Public Access - Open To consider the period 6 financial management report 2026/27.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 10 Nov 2026		Cabinet Member for Finance & Capital Strategy	Sean Cremer, Corporate Director for Finance and Commercial <i>sean.cremer@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> , Sian Hedger, Deputy s151 Officer <i>sian.hedger@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> Executive Director, Corporate Development - Section 151 Officer
December 2026					
Mid year performance update Key Decision - No Public Access -	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 8 Dec 2026		Leader and Cabinet Member for Climate, Performance and Safeguarding	Liz Crocker, Head of Strategy <i>liz.crocker@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> , Chris Heighway, Performance and Analytics

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
To provide an update on mid-year progress in council plan delivery and broader organisational health.					Team Manager chris.heighway@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Chief Executive
February 2027					

December 2026 Quarter 3 financial management plan 2026/2027 Key Decision - No Public Access - Open To consider the Quarter 3 financial management plan 2026/27.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 2 Feb 2027		Cabinet Member for Finance & Capital Strategy	Sean Cremer, Corporate Director for Finance and Commercial sean.cremer@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Sian Hedger, Deputy s151 Officer sian.hedger@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, Corporate Development - Section 151 Officer
Budget & Medium-term financial plan strategy report (MTFP) Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open To consider the medium Term Financial (MTFP) and budget strategy.	Decision Maker Dorset Council	Decision Date 11 Feb 2027	Cabinet 2 Feb 2027	Cabinet Member for Finance & Capital Strategy	Sean Cremer, Corporate Director for Finance and Commercial sean.cremer@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Sian Hedger, Deputy s151 Officer sian.hedger@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, Corporate Development - Section 151 Officer

Private/Exempt Items for Decision

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

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



Shareholder Committee for Care Dorset Holdings Ltd
Forward Plan - March to June 2026
(Publication date – 18 FEBRUARY 2026)

Explanatory Note:

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

Definition of Key Decisions

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

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

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

Committee Membership 2025/26

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

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

Cllr Steve Robinson – Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care

Cllr Gill Taylor – Cabinet Member for Health and Housing

Cllr Ben Wilson – Cabinet Member for Corporate Development and Transformation

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Cabinet Member	Officer Contact
March 2026				

Dorset Council Delegated Decisions (as required) Key Decision - No Public Access - Open To note any decisions taken under delegation.	Decision Maker Shareholder Committee for Care Dorset Holdings Ltd	Decision Date 23 Mar 2026	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care	<i>Executive Director, People - Adults (Jonathan Price)</i>
Dorset Council Organisational Update Key Decision - No Public Access - Part exempt To present the developments on the part of the Council relevant to Care Dorset.	Decision Maker Shareholder Committee for Care Dorset Holdings Ltd	Decision Date 23 Mar 2026	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care	<i>Sam Poole, Interim Corporate Director for Commissioning & Improvement samuel.poole@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, People - Adults (Jonathan Price)</i>
Care Dorset Update Key Decision - No Public Access - Part exempt To provide an update for shareholder members on matters relating to Care Dorset.	Decision Maker Shareholder Committee for Care Dorset Holdings Ltd	Decision Date 23 Mar 2026	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care	<i>Managing Director, Care Dorset Executive Director, People - Adults (Jonathan Price)</i>

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Cabinet Member	Officer Contact
Care Dorset Annual Business Plan Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Part exempt For the Shareholder Committee to consider progress in delivering the 5 year business plan, and any review of the plan as necessary.	Decision Maker Shareholder Committee for Care Dorset Holdings Ltd	Decision Date 23 Mar 2026	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care	<i>Managing Director, Care Dorset Executive Director, People - Adults (Jonathan Price)</i>
Remuneration Policy 2026-29 Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Fully exempt Care Dorset Remuneration Policy for 2026-29	Decision Maker Shareholder Committee for Care Dorset Holdings Ltd	Decision Date 23 Mar 2026	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care	<i>Managing Director, Care Dorset Executive Director, People - Adults (Jonathan Price)</i>
Chair of the Board - tenure for a further 3 years until June 2029 Key Decision - No Public Access - Open Supporting paper for the Shareholder to endorse the continued tenure of the Chair of the Board for a further 3 years until June 2029.	Decision Maker Shareholder Committee for Care Dorset Holdings Ltd	Decision Date 23 Mar 2026	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care	<i>Senior Independent Director & Chair of the Remuneration & Nominations Committee, Care Dorset Executive Director, People - Adults (Jonathan Price)</i>

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Cabinet Member	Officer Contact
June 2026				

Dorset Council Delegated Decisions (as required) Key Decision - No Public Access - Open To note any decisions taken under delegation.	Decision Maker Shareholder Committee for Care Dorset Holdings Ltd	Decision Date 29 Jun 2026	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care	<i>Executive Director, People - Adults (Jonathan Price)</i>
Dorset Council Organisational Update Key Decision - No Public Access - Part exempt To present the developments on the part of the Council relevant to Care Dorset.	Decision Maker Shareholder Committee for Care Dorset Holdings Ltd	Decision Date 29 Jun 2026	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care	<i>Sam Poole, Interim Corporate Director for Commissioning & Improvement samuel.poole@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, People - Adults (Jonathan Price)</i>
Care Dorset Update Key Decision - No Public Access - Part exempt To provide an update for shareholder members on matters relating to Care Dorset.	Decision Maker Shareholder Committee for Care Dorset Holdings Ltd	Decision Date 29 Jun 2026	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care	<i>Managing Director, Care Dorset Executive Director, People - Adults (Jonathan Price)</i>

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Cabinet Member	Officer Contact
Review of Terms of Reference Key Decision - No Public Access - Open To note the shareholder committee terms of reference.	Decision Maker Shareholder Committee for Care Dorset Holdings Ltd	Decision Date 29 Jun 2026	Leader and Cabinet Member for Climate, Performance and Safeguarding	<i>Grace Evans, Head of Legal Services and Deputy Monitoring Officer</i> <i>grace.evans@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i>
Care Dorset Annual Performance Report Key Decision - No Public Access - Open To consider the Care Dorset Annual Performance Report.	Decision Maker Shareholder Committee for Care Dorset Holdings Ltd	Decision Date 29 Jun 2026	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care	<i>Managing Director, Care Dorset</i> <i>Executive Director, People - Adults</i> <i>(Jonathan Price)</i>
Annual report and Year end accounts Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open To receive the annual financial report.	Decision Maker Shareholder Committee for Care Dorset Holdings Ltd	Decision Date 29 Jun 2026	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care	<i>Managing Director, Care Dorset</i> <i>Executive Director, People - Adults</i> <i>(Jonathan Price)</i>
Trading Company proposal Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Fully exempt Proposal to establish a new trading company.	Decision Maker Shareholder Committee for Care Dorset Holdings Ltd	Decision Date 29 Jun 2026	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care	<i>Managing Director, Care Dorset</i> <i>Executive Director, People - Adults</i> <i>(Jonathan Price)</i>

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Cabinet Member	Officer Contact
Annual Reports				
Care Dorset Annual Business Plan (March) Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Part exempt For the Shareholder Committee to consider progress in delivering the 5 year business plan, and any review of the plan as necessary.	Decision Maker Shareholder Committee for Care Dorset Holdings Ltd	Decision Date March	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care	<i>Managing Director, Care Dorset</i> <i>Executive Director, People - Adults</i> <i>(Jonathan Price)</i>
Review of Terms of Reference (June) Key Decision - No Public Access - Open To note the shareholder committee terms of reference.	Decision Maker Shareholder Committee for Care Dorset Holdings Ltd	Decision Date June	Leader and Cabinet Member for Climate, Performance and Safeguarding	<i>Grace Evans, Head of Legal Services and Deputy Monitoring Officer</i> <i>grace.evans@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i>
Care Dorset Annual Performance Report (June) Key Decision - No Public Access - Open To consider the Care Dorset Annual Performance Report.	Decision Maker Shareholder Committee for Care Dorset Holdings Ltd	Decision Date June	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care	<i>Managing Director, Care Dorset</i> <i>Executive Director, People - Adults</i> <i>(Jonathan Price)</i>

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Cabinet Member	Officer Contact
Annual report and Year end accounts (June) Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open To receive the annual financial report.	Decision Maker Shareholder Committee for Care Dorset Holdings Ltd	Decision Date June	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care	<i>Managing Director, Care Dorset</i> <i>Executive Director, People - Adults</i> <i>(Jonathan Price)</i>

Private/Exempt Items for Decision

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

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



The Shareholder Committee for the Dorset Centre of Excellence (DCOE) Forward Plan February to June 2026 (Publication date – 5 FEBRUARY 2026)

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 2025/26

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

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

Cllr Ryan Hope – Cabinet Member for Customer, Culture and Community Engagement

Cllr Clare Sutton – Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education & Skills

Cllr Gill Taylor – Cabinet Member for Health and Housing

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Cabinet Member	Officer Contact
March 2026				

Dorset Council Delegated Decisions (if required) Key Decision - No Public Access - Open To note any decisions taken under delegation.	Decision Maker Shareholder Committee for the Dorset Centre of Excellence (DCOE)	Decision Date 9 Mar 2026	Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills	<i>Executive Director, People - Children (Paul Dempsey)</i>
Dorset Council Commissioner's Report Key Decision - No Public Access - Part exempt To provide an overview of the current position in relation to delivery by the Dorset Centre of Excellence against the commissioning agreement.	Decision Maker Shareholder Committee for the Dorset Centre of Excellence (DCOE)	Decision Date 9 Mar 2026	Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills	<i>Ross Bowell, Head of Service - Health, Education & SEND Commissioning ross.bowell@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, People - Children (Paul Dempsey)</i>
DCoE - Report of the Chair of the Board Key Decision - No Public Access - Part exempt To provide an update of the	Decision Maker Shareholder Committee for the Dorset Centre of Excellence (DCOE)	Decision Date 9 Mar 2026	Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills	<i>Chair, Dorset Centre of Excellence Executive Director, People - Children (Paul Dempsey)</i>

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Cabinet Member	Officer Contact
current situation at the Dorset Centre of Excellence and the Coombe House School, including progress made in relation to governance, leadership, staffing, estate, community use and finance.				
June 2026				

Dorset Council Delegated Decisions (if required) Key Decision - No Public Access - Open To note any decisions taken under delegation.	Decision Maker Shareholder Committee for the Dorset Centre of Excellence (DCOE)	Decision Date tbc	Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills	<i>Executive Director, People - Children (Paul Dempsey)</i>
Dorset Council Commissioner's Report Key Decision - No Public Access - Part exempt To provide an overview of the current position in relation to delivery by the Dorset Centre of Excellence against the commissioning agreement.	Decision Maker Shareholder Committee for the Dorset Centre of Excellence (DCOE)	Decision Date tbc	Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills	<i>Ross Bowell, Head of Service - Health, Education & SEND Commissioning ross.bowell@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, People - Children (Paul Dempsey)</i>

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Cabinet Member	Officer Contact
DCE - Report of the Chair of the Board Key Decision - No Public Access - Part exempt To provide an update of the current situation at the Dorset Centre of Excellence and the Coombe House School, including progress made in relation to governance, leadership, staffing, estate, community use and finance.	Decision Maker Shareholder Committee for the Dorset Centre of Excellence (DCE)	Decision Date tbc	Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills	<i>Chair, Dorset Centre of Excellence</i> <i>Executive Director, People - Children</i> <i>(Paul Dempsey)</i>
Review of Terms of Reference Key Decision - No Public Access - Open To note the shareholder committee terms of reference.	Decision Maker Shareholder Committee for the Dorset Centre of Excellence (DCE)	Decision Date tbc	Leader and Cabinet Member for Climate, Performance and Safeguarding	<i>Grace Evans, Head of Legal Services and Deputy Monitoring Officer</i> <i>grace.evans@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i>
Annual Reports				

Review of Terms of Reference (June) Key Decision - No Public Access - Open	Decision Maker Shareholder Committee for the Dorset Centre of Excellence (DCE)	Decision Date June	Leader and Cabinet Member for Climate, Performance and Safeguarding	<i>Grace Evans, Head of Legal Services and Deputy Monitoring Officer</i> <i>grace.evans@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i>
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Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Cabinet Member	Officer Contact
To note the shareholder committee terms of reference.				
Annual Performance Report (December) Key Decision - No Public Access - Open To consider the Coombe House Annual Performance Report.	Decision Maker Shareholder Committee for the Dorset Centre of Excellence (DCOE)	Decision Date December	Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills	<i>Chair, Dorset Centre of Excellence</i> <i>Executive Director, People - Children</i> <i>(Paul Dempsey)</i>

Private/Exempt Items for Decision

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

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