

## **DORSET COUNCIL - PEOPLE AND HEALTH OVERVIEW COMMITTEE**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 4 MARCH 2021**

**Present:** Cllrs Andrew Kerby (Chairman), Pauline Batstone (Vice-Chairman), Tony Alford, Pete Barrow, Toni Coombs, Beryl Ezzard, Ryan Holloway, Stella Jones, Rebecca Knox and Daryl Turner

**Also present:** Cllr Graham Carr-Jones, Cllr Laura Miller, Cllr Molly Rennie and Cllr Gill Taylor

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

Andrew Billany (Corporate Director of Housing, Dorset Council), Mark Blackman (Corporate Director - Education and Learning), Andrea Breen (Head of Specialist Services), Eryl Doust (Project Manager), Louise Drury (Quality & Assurance), Simon Fraiz-Brown (Service Manager - Adolescent Services), Andy Frost (Community Safety and Drug Action Manager), Tony Meadows (Head of Commissioning), George Dare (Democratic Services Officer) and Fiona King (Senior Democratic Services Officer)

**28. Apologies**

There were no apologies for absence.

**29. Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests were made at the meeting.

**30. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 December 2020 were agreed as a correct record and would be signed by the Chairman at a later date.

**31. Public Participation**

There were no submissions from town or parish councils or from members of the public.

**32. New Domestic Abuse Act**

The Committee considered a report which set out the work to consider and prepare for the forthcoming Domestic Abuse Act 2021. The report also included partners' work which was being coordinated through the Dorset Community Safety Partnership (CSP).

Members' attention was drawn to the focus on prevention in respect of domestic abuse and the extensive training programme in place for staff.

The Member Champion for Domestic Abuse, Cllr Rennie, highlighted that the report showed how far forward the authority had come and paid tribute to those that delivered the work that was highlighted in the report. She felt there was a need to find a way to make domestic abuse a core service and part of the Council's budget to ensure continued support.

Areas highlighted and discussed included:-

- The effects on children in respect of domestic abuse
- The work being done in schools in respect of guidance and support
- Making health and wellbeing a corporate goal
- The Local Partnership Board
- Important to not fragment things but to build on the good work that has already been done
- Youth Centres and youth work and support for young people in the workstreams
- Concern adult social care may perhaps miss cases of domestic abuse as someone's health has deteriorated – training programmes in this area highlighted
- Mental health issues as a result of domestic abuse

Members' paid tribute to the Community Safety Team and to Cllr Rennie for their continued good work.

### **Decision**

That the Committee endorsed the work to prepare for the forthcoming Domestic Abuse Act 2021 (as set out in the report).

### **33. The Care Leaver Offer**

The Committee considered a report which highlighted the range of financial support available to Care Leavers. This support covered all aspects of a Care Leaver's life as they moved into adult life.

The Corporate Director for Education and Learning highlighted the responsibilities and duties of members as corporate parents.

The Portfolio Holder for Children, Education, Skills and Early Help advised the Council's aim was to achieve a settled adulthood for our young people.

Areas highlighted and discussed included:-

- Support for care leavers in terms of mentoring
- Budget and projected overspend
- Cost pressures
- Request for an update before next winter
- Winter fuel payment
- Housing issues in respect of homelessness
- Young carers
- The various types of support available
- To encourage thinking outside of the box

## **Decisions**

1. That the adoption of the Care Leaver Financial Offer be supported.
2. That an update be brought to Committee later in the year.

### **34. The Harbour**

Members received a presentation from the Performance and Quality Assurance Consultant on the Harbour Project within Children's Services.

The presentation is attached as an annexure to these minutes.

The Portfolio Holder for Children, Education, Skills and Early Help noted that the Harbour Project had taken on a transformational role for the Council.

Areas highlighted and discussed included:-

- Alternative accommodation with relevant activities
- Engagement with outdoor education colleagues and the voluntary sector
- Relationship building and preparing young people for adult life
- Support for those young people wanting to broaden their horizons

## **Decision**

That members endorsed the Harbour Project and the work detailed within it.

### **35. Committee and Cabinet Forward Plans**

The Committee considered its Forward Plan and that of the Cabinet.

Actions for the Committee's Forward Plan

- Add topics from the Reset and Recovery EAP to the Forward Plan following a prioritisation exercise
- Include an update from Children's Services in respect of the return to schools following the latest lockdown, including provision for the future.

### **36. Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items of business.

### **37. Exempt Business**

There was no exempt business.

**Duration of meeting:** 10.00 am - 12.02 pm

**Chairman**

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