

PEOPLE AND HEALTH OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 28 JUNE 2022

Present: Cllrs Mike Parkes (Chairman), Pauline Batstone (Vice-Chairman), Tony Alford, Beryl Ezzard, Ryan Holloway and Cathy Lugg

Apologies: Cllrs Jean Dunseith and Stella Jones

Also present: Cllr Laura Beddow, Cllr Byron Quayle, and Cllr Rebecca Knox (In attendance virtually)

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

Jonathan Price (Interim Corporate Director for Commissioning), Deborah Smart (Corporate Director – Transformation, Innovation and Digital), Ed Denham (School Admissions Manager), Sam Crowe (Director of Public Health), Steve Veevers (Corporate Director Operations, Adult Care), Vik Verma (Interim Director of Education and Learning), Chris Gillie (Change Consultant), Mark Tyson (Commissioning Consultant), George Dare (Senior Democratic Services Officer) and John Miles (Democratic Services Officer Apprentice)

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jean Dunseith and Stella Jones.

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Alford said that he had previously commented on the Dorset Council Plan Refresh at the Place and Resources Scrutiny Committee and therefore would not discuss the item at this meeting. The Chairman advised that he was able to take part in the item.

Cllr Holloway declared that he had a pecuniary interest in Dorset Innovation Park and therefore would not participate or vote in the item on the Dorset Council Plan Refresh 2022-24.

3. Minutes

Proposed by Cllr Batstone, seconded by Cllr Parkes.

Decision:

That the minutes of the meetings held on 3 May and 11 May be confirmed and signed.

4. **Public Participation**

There was no public participation.

5. **Councillor Questions**

There were no questions from councillors.

6. **Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items.

7. **Home to School and Post 16 Transport Policies**

The School Place Sufficiency Manager introduced the home to school and post 16 transport policies. The policies are renewed each year and they provide they set out transport support for children in mainstream schools. After consultation, the policies were fundamentally unchanged. The cost of a surplus seat was increased to £825 and families with free school meals would have a 50% discount.

The committee discussed the policies, and the following points were raised:

- The policies should be straight forward, but they are not easy to understand.
- Policies should be written in plain English.
- The £25 cost rise for surplus seats was in line with the RPI at the time of consultation.

Proposed by Cllr Alford, seconded by Cllr Batstone.

Decision: That the committee recommends to Cabinet that the Home to School and Post 16 Transport Policies are rewritten in plain English.

Officers suggested creating a 'parent friendly' version of the policies. Members felt that a parent friendly version should be A4 size but does not solve the problem of the policies not being in plain English.

Proposed by Cllr Batstone, seconded by Lugg.

Decision: That the committee recommends to Cabinet that:

1. The Home to School Transport Assistance Eligibility Policy for Children and Young People attending School 2022-2023 be approved and adopted, which includes a rise in the surplus seat price from £800 to £825.

2. The Dorset Post 16 Transport Support Policy for 2022-2023 which includes a rise in the surplus seat price from £800 to £825 be approved and adopted.
3. A schedule of increase of the Surplus Seat Cost in line with the prevailing Retail Price Index is implemented each year without the need to reconsult.
4. The Home to School Transport Assistance Eligibility Policy for Children and Young People attending School and Post 16 Transport Support Policy are re-consulted on only either when there is a significant change to the eligibility criteria; or where there are changes to the statutory guidance that would require significant change to either policy; or in October 2026 for the 2027-2028 policy – whichever is the earliest.

8. **Council Plan Refresh 2022-24**

The Corporate Director for Transformation, Innovation and Digital introduced the Council Plan Refresh 2022-24. The draft council plan was recently reviewed by the Place and Resources Overview Committee and the Corporate Leadership Team have been working to update it since that meeting.

The Portfolio Holder for Culture, Communities and Customer Services felt that there was a good economic case to prioritise culture in the council plan.

The Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care & Health said that adult social care linked to 9 of the 10 priorities set out in the council plan refresh.

Members of the committee made the following comments:

- Working with the Integrated Care Systems should lead to ‘better outcomes’ rather than ‘better deals.’
- When writing about partner organisations in the plan, the language should not be confrontational.
- The word ‘residents’ should be included.
- The cross-cutting diagram rather than the circle diagram was better as it emphasised how the council works with communities.

9. **Adult Social Care White Paper Reforms**

The Corporate Director for Adult Social Care and Corporate Director for Commissioning introduced the adult social care white paper reforms and gave a presentation to the committee, which is attached to these minutes.

The reforms were extensive and included a new assurance and support framework, funding reforms, and market reform. The white paper sets a 10-year vision to transform support and care based on 3 objectives.

Committee members asked questions related to the adult social care reform. The following points were raised:

- The requirements were being fed into the Local Plan by the Corporate Director for Housing.
- Houses should be built with technology in. The TEC lounge showed some of what could be put in a new home.
- Building accommodation for staff which reduces travel.
- The committee would like input on policy that relates to Planning.
- Adult social care services were preparing for an inspection by the CQC.
- Waiting for detail about what the inspection would include. There was an expectation the inspection would not be in isolation and there would be key lines of enquiry to understand problem points.
- The care account was a very significant change to how the council was currently working.
- A briefing to this committee on the cost of care cap and the requirements would be appropriate.
- It was not clear if the council would receive additional funding for this work.
- Dorset has an ageing population so it would affect Dorset more than other Local Authorities.
- There would be a communications plan for the funding reforms which would include health and care staff, customer services, and libraries. It would communicate what residents should or should not expect.
- Wider support networks could help people find information, such as at doctors' surgeries or libraries.
- Any data used would need to be precise and supportable.
- Colleagues in the Place Directorate should attend future meetings where adult social care reform is being discussed.

Decision:

1. That the proposed reforms to adult social care and health systems, and their implications for Dorset, be noted.
2. That the proposed approach to addressing those implications be endorsed.

ADJOURNMENT

At 11.35am there was an adjournment and the committee reconvened at 11.55am.

As the meeting was likely to extending beyond 3 hours, it was proposed by Cllr Parkes and seconded by Cllr Batstone that the meeting be extended to 13.30pm.

Decision: That the meeting be extended beyond 3 hours until 13.30pm.

10. **Developing a Strategy for the Dorset Integrated Care Partnership**

The Director of Public Health introduced the item to the committee. A new health system known as the Integrated Care System (ICS) replaced the Clinical Commissioning Group on 1 July. The Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) would be part of the system. A presentation, which is attached to these minutes, was given to the committee to outline the ICP Strategy development.

Members discussed the strategy development, and the following points were raised:

- Success would be getting greater alignment with health organisations and reducing health variations in communities.
- The strategy would need to be clear and unambiguous as it would be influential to other organisations.
- Populations are important and services are taken up differently by groups of populations.
- The system would bring a new way of working between organisations which would lead to organisations effectively working in partnerships.

There was upcoming national guidance on health overview and scrutiny which would help shape the role of overview and scrutiny in the ICS.

The committee was supportive of the work being done to develop the ICP strategy.

11. **Developing Commissioning Strategies for Adult Social Care**

The Corporate Director for Commissioning provided a summary of the content in the 4 documents related to these commissioning strategies. There was a presentation given to the committee which is attached to these minutes.

Members asked initial questions about the commissioning strategies. It was confirmed that the co-production process would engage with a cross-section of people, including engagement at town and parish council level. In a response to a question on respite for carers, the committee was informed that there were dedicated carers case officers and there were carer assessments.

Overarching Commissioning Strategy

The Corporate Director for Commissioning and the Commissioning Consultant explained the like to national policy and adult social care reform. The overarching strategy would include a glossary of adult social care terms.

There were no questions from members on the overarching commissioning strategy.

Older People with Support Needs

The strategy and outcomes for older people were outlined. There would be a move from day services to day opportunities. The strategy focussed on care

and support at home, accommodation with care, and residential and nursing care.

A member asked a question on underutilised care homes and planning for the future. The Corporate Director for Commissioning said that capacity could be changed to areas where there were shortfalls, and it would be data led.

Working-Age People with Support Needs

The strategy and its outcomes were outlined. the strategy included the birth to settled adulthood programme, day opportunities, and accommodation with care. There were a series of service reviews which would add further content to the strategy. It also included shaping provision which addressed some issues and ambitions to meet needs.

Members made the following comments:

- The strategy was complex and diverse. It feels like there was too much in one strategy.
- The voice of a person with a learning disability should be captured, rather than their parent.
- The Shared Lives Panel was a marvellous thing to do in Dorset.

Carers Strategy

The strategy outcomes for carers were outlined. The strategy needed to have definitions and terminology of carers. The strategy included the vision for carers, services for carers, and improvement priorities.

A member asked how carers would be involved with the co-production process. The Commissioning Consultant said that a small number of carers were already involved which was insightful. There would be further co-production with carers during the summer.

12. Committee's Forward Plan and Cabinet's Forward Plan

The Chairman expected more items to be added to the forward plan which would follow on from the items discussed at this meeting.

13. Exempt Business

There was no exempt business.

Duration of meeting: 9.30 am - 1.28 pm

Chairman

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