

## **PEOPLE AND HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 8 NOVEMBER 2022**

**Present:** Cllrs Gill Taylor (Chairman), Molly Rennie (Vice-Chairman), Robin Cook, Nick Ireland, Louie O'Leary, Jon Orrell, Mary Penfold and Bill Pipe

**Apologies:** Cllr Belinda Ridout

**Also present:** Cllr Stella Jones, Cllr Andrew Parry and Cllr Jane Somper

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

Theresa Leavy (Executive Director of People - Children), Vivienne Broadhurst (Executive Director - People Adults), Jonathan Price (Interim Corporate Director for Commissioning), Claire Shiels (Corporate Director - Commissioning, Quality & Partnerships), Sian Walker McAllister (Independent Chair, Safeguarding Adults Board), Vik Verma (Interim Director of Education and Learning), George Dare (Senior Democratic Services Officer), Joshua Kennedy (Apprentice Democratic Services Officer), Chris Harrod (Senior Democratic Services Officer) and Karen Maher (Business Manager - Dorset Safeguarding Adults Board)

**36. Apologies**

An apology for absence was received from Cllr Ridout.

**37. Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Ireland declared that he was a governor at Dorset HealthCare and his wife worked at Yeovil District hospital.

**38. Minutes**

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

**Decision**

That the minutes of the previous meeting be confirmed and signed.

**39. Chairman's Update**

The chairman said that the committee would be receiving a briefing from officers of NHS Dorset on a decision to merge Portesham and Prince of Wales Surgeries.

**40. Public Participation**

There was no public participation.

#### 41. **Councillor Questions**

There were no questions from councillors.

#### 42. **Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items.

#### 43. **Resettlement and the Homes for Ukraine Scheme**

The Corporate Director for Commissioning introduced the report to the committee. The approach to resettlement was being delivered by services across the council. There were a number of people who volunteered to take part in the Homes for Ukraine Scheme but have not been matched. Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children are received in Dorset through two different ways, such as a national scheme.

The committee asked questions and officers provided responses. The following points were raised:

- There were 62 cases where Ukrainian refugees needed to be rematched with host families after 6 months. Some of these cases have not been rematched and were staying in bed and breakfasts until a host family can be found.
- Winter fuel payments are an application-based process. Officers check that guests are still staying with them before it is paid.
- The scheme has been positively received.
- There was a lack of public transport in rural areas, so some refugees were finding it difficult to travel.
- Some matching arrangements were made independently and did not take some factors into account.
- There was not a plan for families who wanted to return to Ukraine when the war is over, although officers would start looking at a plan.
- There were different requirements for the resettlement schemes. Housing Ukrainian families was different to housing unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.
- Some of the customer services team working on the covid response were diverted to working on the resettlement schemes.
- Unaccompanied children unable to be cared for in Dorset were being cared for out of county in Croydon, Swindon, and Gloucestershire.
- Information about further funding into the second year was expected.

The Portfolio Holder for Children, Education, Skills and Early Help welcomed the support and feedback of the wider community who were helping with the response.

It was agreed that the committee receives a report in 6 to 9 months covering the details of future funding and the future effect on council services.

#### 44. **Sufficiency of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Provision**

The Corporate Director of Education and Learning introduced the report. The strategy included the expansion of some schools and capital investments in others. It ensured that the needs of children in Dorset could be met, whilst effectively managing resources.

The committee asked questions and the following points were raised:

- There would be 14 inclusion hubs attached to mainstream schools
- Where there was a significant change, there would need to be a consultation.
- In relation to paragraph 2.14 of the report, the average cost for a placement in an independent special school was higher than a maintained special school because of the way that the primary market operated, and the sector was fragmented.
- Members were encouraged to talk to officers if there were concerns about funding for any school.
- Officers have worked with all schools regardless of their governance. The governance structure gave different statutory relationships.
- The remaining third of mainstream schools would need to academize by 2030.
- The achievements of young people varied depending on their needs.

The item was continued in exempt business.

#### 45. **Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2021-22**

The independent chair of the Safeguarding Adults Board introduced the board's annual report. The board was a strategic partnership between 3 statutory organisations and had wide engagement from public services. The independent chair shared a presentation highlighting key areas of the report which is attached to these minutes.

The committee asked questions of the independent chair and the following points were raised:

- The data for Dorset and BCP Councils were presented in different formats, so it was difficult to compare.
- There could be comparisons to other authorities which were similar to Dorset.
- Dorset's contribution to the board would increase in line with BCP's contribution. It would also include an uplift from other partners in line with the RPI in January.
- The Integrated Care Board was a statutory partner.
- The board would need to be assured that adult social care teams are effectively finding support and referring people to the right agencies in domestic abuse cases.
- Data could be used to look for improvements.

The committee noted the report.

46. **Forward Plan**

The committee reviewed their forward plan.

A member raised the Dorset County Hospital – Building a new ED and Critical Care Unit item listed under potential agenda items. The chair informed the committee that this would be held as a briefing for councillors.

There would be a report on CareDorset at a future meeting.

47. **Exempt Business**

Proposed by Cllr Taylor, seconded by Cllr Pipe.

**Decision**

That the press and the public be excluded for the following item(s) in view of the likely disclosure of exempt information within the meaning of paragraph 3 of schedule 12 A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

**Sufficiency of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Provision**

The committee discussed the information included in the exempt Appendix 2 of the report.

The committee requested an all-member briefing on SEND provision and the information contained in the exempt appendix. A discussion would be had with the Executive Director of Place and relevant portfolio holder on bringing an update to the committee at an appropriate time.

**Duration of meeting:** 10.00 am - 12.18 pm

**Chairman**

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