

SHAREHOLDER COMMITTEE FOR CARE DORSET HOLDINGS LTD

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 27 FEBRUARY 2024

Present: Cllrs Laura Beddow (Vice-Chairman), Spencer Flower (Chairman), Byron Quayle, Jane Somper and Gary Suttle

Apologies: None

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

Chris Best (Interim Managing Director), Vivienne Broadhurst (Executive Director - People Adults), Aidan Dunn (Executive Director - Corporate Development S151), Jonathan Mair (Director of Legal and Democratic and Monitoring Officer), Jonathan Price (Corporate Director for Commissioning), Caroline Tapster (Interim Chair), Kate Critchel (Senior Democratic Services Officer), Mark Tyson (Commissioning Consultant) and Elaine Tibble (Senior Democratic Services Officer)

27. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 December 2023 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

28. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest to report.

29. Public Participation

There were no public questions.

30. Councillor Questions

There were no councillor questions.

31. Forward Plan

The forward plan update and the draft plan was received and noted.

32. Dorset Council Commissioner Update

The Interim Programme Director, Commissioning, Market Relationships, Major Contracts & over 65's introduced the report that sets out the developments on the part of the Council relevant to Care Dorset and highlighted the following points.

- Positive dialogue continued between commissioners, other council teams and Care Dorset.
- The Business Plan for Care Dorset was due to be considered by the committee in October 2024.
- Officers were working towards specification services, including residential care framework tendering which meant that the council was talking to Care Dorset around the specification of their services along with the wider market.
- Plans for building new bedded reablement services were also reaching key gateways in the outline design development phases.
- Work had been undertaken to agree a position on the rent and maintenance of the premises occupied by Care Dorset.
- In respect of performance and services, there remained continued discussions as to the bed based which transferred from Tricuro. General occupancy had greatly improved and the rapid conversion of some beds to flexi-beds or short term reablement beds continued to deliver positive results.
- Discussions continued around day opportunities.
- In respect of new long-term developments, there had been several constructive planning sessions to move forward on the Council's plans. This included to construct further reablement and rehabilitation facilities. Progress around the option to build on the Dorset County Hospital site, as well as other options continued to be investigated.
- Referred to value delivery by Care Dorset, sighting a diagram set out in the report at figure 1.

In response to a question, the Programme Director confirmed that there was a lot of positives in Dorset having its own care company. However, it was important to work to strengthen Care Dorset, but there was also a need to respect and sustain the council's responsibilities in the wider private sector market of adult social care.

The Portfolio Holder for People - Adult Social Care and Health welcomed the report and the opportunities to shape the market, this approach would have a vital impact on the market and provision of services in a rural setting.

Members welcomed the report and the ongoing work, and the Programme Commissioner confirmed that the Business Plan would build on the commissioning strategy going forward.

Noted

- (a) That the continued progress made in development of the relations between Commissioners and Care Dorset, be noted.
- (b) That the priority areas being addressed and plans in place to further develop Care Dorset priorities in line with Dorset Council "A Better Life" Commissioning Strategies, be noted.

33. **Care Dorset Update**

The Chair of the Independent Board of Directors presented the report setting out a company update. The following points were highlighted.

- Since the last meeting, an all-councillor webinar had been held and was well attended.
- Residential bed occupancy at the end of January 2024 was at 91%.
- Community reablement was working well with significant savings in hours of prescribed care. Care Dorset continued to aim to use beds more flexibly.
- With the support of the commissioning team, Care Dorset was working more closely with NHS colleagues.
- Recruitment activity was continuing to do well and was above the national average.
- Significant work was taking place on the 5-year strategy which was going to be closely aligned with the Council's commissioning strategies.

The Managing Director for Care Dorset provided an update on the most recent colleague survey. There had been an increase in the response rate compared to the previous survey in 2022, with 27.3% of submissions. Areas for focus going forward included communication, senior management visibility and transport.

In response to a question regarding the levels of recruitment retention, the Managing Director indicated there was room for improvement. In respect of a further question around development opportunities, the Managing Director advised that an apprenticeship offer was being developed and Care Dorset had a healthy training budget for core and additional training. Preparations were in place for a leader programme to be launched later in the year.

In response to a question around the communication offer, members were advised that the following communication vehicles were already in place, a weekly bulletin, and a fortnightly letter from the managing director. He further advised that the service was planning to run a series of town hall events to facilitate community engagement.

In response to a question around feedback from users, members were advised of the current practice which was an evolving process.

Noted

34. **Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items.

35. **Exempt Business**

There were no exempt items for this meeting.

Duration of meeting: 10.00 - 10.35 am

Chairman

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