

## **PEOPLE AND HEALTH OVERVIEW COMMITTEE**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 13 JUNE 2024**

**Present:** Cllrs Beryl Ezzard (Chair), Will Chakawhata (Vice-Chair), Jindy Atwal, Louise Bown, Carole Jones, Jon Orrell and Andy Todd

**Apologies:** Cllrs Stella Jones, Cathy Lugg and Steve Murcer

**Also present:** Cllr Jon Andrews, Cllr Steve Robinson and Cllr Clare Sutton

**Also present remotely:** Cllr Gill Taylor

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

Andrew Billany (Corporate Director for Housing), George Dare (Senior Democratic Services Officer), Amanda Davis (Corporate Director for Education and Learning), Paul Dempsey (Corporate Director - Care & Protection), Julia Ingram (Corporate Director for Adult Social Care Operations), Jonathan Price (Executive Director of People - Adults and Housing), Mark Tyson (Corporate Director for Adult Commissioning & Improvement), Adam Fitzgerald (Programme Manager for the accommodation with Support programme), Joshua Kennedy (Democratic Services Officer), Sarah Sewell (Head of Service - Commissioning for Older People, Prevention and Market Access) and David Webb (Manager - Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service)

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

Lisa Reid (Corporate Director for Quality Assurance & Safeguarding Families)

1. **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Stella Jones, Cathy Lugg, and Steve Murcer.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

3. **Minutes**

**Decision:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 6 February 2024 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. **Committee's Work Programme and Cabinet's Forward Plan**

A member raised an issue with allocating housing to people without cars, causing isolation and loneliness. They were advised that housing allocation was a choice based letting system so people may apply for housing where they may not have transport. Particular cases need a conversation with a Housing Officer.

The Senior Democratic Services Officer raised that there would be a work programming session following the next meeting. Members could attend directorate webinars and days before the next meeting to find out more about the opportunities and challenges in services which could contribute to the work programme.

8. **Youth Justice Plan 2024/25**

The Corporate Director for Care and Protection introduced the Youth Justice Plan, which covers Dorset and BCP Council. The Head of the Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service outlined the plan for the multi-disciplinary service. The key indicators for the service were reducing first-time entrants, reducing reoffending, and minimising the use of custodial sentences.

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

- There was an increase in the number of first-time entrants in the Dorset Council area, whereas a decrease in BCP Council in 2023-24. The average across the whole area was the same, however the increase was due to delays in the judicial process.
- When a young person has 2 suspensions from school, there is a targeted youth offer. Speech and language therapy is available to children at risk of exclusion.
- The budget for the service was from the youth justice grant. This grant was often received late which made long-term planning more difficult. Some funding was from the Police and Crime Commissioner.

- There was a concern about young people entering the justice system due to drugs. If this happened, early intervention, such as a health approach, did not work. There could also be a restorative response, so offenders understand the point or views of the victim and community.
- School exclusion and criminal behaviour had common causes. Two key priorities in the report were to do with education. There were also other plans such as the extra-familial harm strategy.
- A young person being excluded can be a significant step, which can lead to criminal behaviour.

Proposed by Cllr Andy Todd, seconded by Cllr Carole Jones.

**Decision:**

That the committee endorse the Youth Justice Plan so that Cabinet can recommend approval to Full Council.

**9. Extra Care Housing Strategy & Accommodation with Support Programme**

The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care introduced the report.

The Corporate Director for Adult Commissioning and Improvement and the Corporate Director for Housing gave a presentation on the strategy. The presentation explained what extra care housing was, where it was already located in Dorset, and the need for more extra care housing. The 5 strategic priorities for extra care housing were outlined. There were two sites already identified: Wareham and Bridport, and two further sites would be commissioned, developing at least 240 properties over the next 10 years. The council would procure a partner to enter a strategic partnership to develop the 4 projects.

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

- There would be potential for at least 60 units on each site. There was a need to explore where there was need for affordable to buy and rent.
- The strategic partnership with a developer would ensure that the council and developer worked together. Rents would be the same as the housing register and there would be no greenbelt development.
- The 4 sites would be a starting point and there could be more in the future. It would provide some provision in areas which did not have any. It could encourage other developers to run similar schemes.
- There was a concern about whether assets would remain with Dorset Council or the developer. In response, members were advised that no firm decision had been made on assets, at this stage, but the expectation was that land would transfer to the development partner. The strategic partnership and separate governance arrangements and development agreement for each site would ensure that the council had control over what

was delivered on the sites. The developer would bring their own expertise and experience in developing extra care housing sites.

- There was also a concern that if tenants could purchase the homes then there would be less provision in the future, and it could be passed on to someone who many not need care. There would be restrictions around future use of properties so there was continual use of the extra care element.
- Leases would state who could live in the properties so that families would sell the property to the right person, or for it to be brought back by the company.

Members explored the option of the council delivering the schemes directly as a local authority, rather than through a developer, which would include advertising new positions and attracting people to new roles at the council. Members were supportive of recommending this as an option for Cabinet to give further consideration, alongside the recommendations in the report. Officers advised that this option would require significant redevelopment of the strategy and the financial implications would need to be fully considered.

Proposed by Cllr Jon Orrell, seconded by Cllr Jindy Atwal.

**Decision:**

That the committee make the following recommendations to Cabinet:

- 1) To adopt the Extra Care Housing Strategic Statement and Appendices as Dorset Council's publicly stated strategic direction as part of the suite of Adult Social Care Commissioning Strategies
- 2) To approve in principle the use of Dorset Council land assets to deliver these development projects, with the inclusion of specific sites to be agreed by the Executive Lead for the Place Directorate and in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Assets and Regeneration.
- 3) To approve public procurement for a Strategic Development Partner as the preferred delivery mechanism, and to approve commencement of this procurement process.
- 4) To delegate to the Executive Director for People (Adults) and the Executive Director for Corporate Development, acting jointly:
  - a. To agree the terms for the agreement with the Strategic Development Partner,
  - b. To award the Strategic Partnership Agreement to the preferred bidder. The final award decision shall be made in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Public Health, Environmental Health, Housing, Community Safety and Regulatory Service, and the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care.
- 5) To approve that the terms of the property related transactions (whether freehold, leasehold, or contractual dispositions) will be agreed in project-

specific development agreements with the selected Strategic Development Partner.

- 6) To approve that the decision to complete each development agreement will be taken by the Executive Director for People (Adults and Housing), the Executive Lead for the Place Directorate and the Executive Director for Corporate Development acting jointly.

**Or**

- 7) To investigate and give further consideration to the option of delivering these developments directly.

10. **Exempt Business**

There was no exempt business.

**Duration of meeting:** 10.00 - 11.55 am

**Chairman**

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