

Links to the People & Health Overview Committee Task & Finish Group on Day Opportunities

1. To focus the role of 'hubs' on co-ordinating broader community activity, separate from commissioning decisions on specialist service provision
 - This is addressed in the definition of a 'hub', and is very much part of the intentions behind the commissioning of hubs.
2. To make on-going responsiveness and adaptability, both day-to-day and in response to changing population needs, more important in the commissioning of day opportunities, so that people's needs are more responsively met.
 - This is a key principle in the commissioning model, and the main intention behind our work to reduce reliance on building-based services.
3. Ensure that commissioning mechanisms (direct payment, block contracts, spot purchases) support innovation, flexibility and responsiveness, and together build a fuller picture of the range of general community support that people are drawing on, linking to the prevention agenda
 - Again, we are clear on the intention to widen the options for how day opportunities are commissioned and paid for, both by the Council and by individuals.
4. Initiate dedicated discussions with people who draw on support, and the market, about responding to emerging and changing needs, including in the first instance young adults and older people with learning disability.
 - The Better Days 2023 work was very much this discussion – and the further conversations will continue as we implement the new model.
5. Ensure that where services respond to multiple different needs, there is a reasonably clear picture of how activities tailor support to those differing needs.
 - Through the implementation of the model, we will address any concerns about not responding to individual needs appropriately.
6. Develop a clearer market position statement on day opportunities to set out for providers a view on the future needs, services, types, locations for day

opportunity provision, which should include some easy visual mapping of linked provision in localities.

- This is planned as part of the initial implementation phase, linked to the wider work that is being done on information and advice provision.
7. That Commissioners use the list presented in Appendix 2 as a starting point for considering the future configuration of services commissioned under the Care Dorset block contract, and bring forward proposals for consultation and development at the earliest opportunity.
 - Care Dorset will be provided with this work by the Task & Finish Group, to inform their own individual reviews of service provision, in line with the new model.
 8. Care Dorset continues to be supported to develop an independent commercial approach to service development and delivery, including for day opportunities.
 - This is part of the model, in how we develop a more flexible commissioning approach to Care Dorset, and move away from a single block contract.
 9. Commissioners should be provided with a clearer picture of the scale and nature of commercial activities by Care Dorset whilst ever this is enabled and supported by block contracting arrangements for types of care, rather than being genuinely independent commercial activity.
 - This is more connected to wider conversations with Care Dorset, and we have been provided with more insight on the company's wider business.
 10. Develop stronger links between different 'hub' strands of work, in order to better use the wider building portfolio and more seamlessly support local communities with the spaces and services that they need.
 - We acknowledge the need to make these links, and have identified the importance of them being made at local level as we implement the vision for hubs and spokes in each area of the county.
 11. Develop plans for increasing direct payment and individual service funds, and ensure that any block contracting arrangements can accommodate where people are wanting to use this method for arranging their care and accessing services.
 - This is part of the model.
 12. Clearer benchmarking, or a Fair Cost assessment, be undertaken for provision of commissioned day opportunities.

- We propose to work on this as we roll out the model, in time for the 2025/26 financial year.
13. Commissioners to consider the fee structure for day opportunities and how to recognise different tiers of complexity in a more straightforward way through the Dorset Care Framework in future.
- As above, we propose to work on this as we roll out the model, in time for the 2025/26 financial year.
14. Commissioners consider options for future reinvestment of efficiencies into supporting independent sector innovation in day opportunity provision, linked to any new fee structure – but, as always, subject to the financial position supporting such an approach.
- With the caveat about the Council’s financial position, we intend to work on this for the 2025/26 financial year and into future years as the model evolves.
15. Commissioners, working with other stakeholders as necessary, proceed through a clearly set out communication plan and consultation process – both for relevant internal stakeholders (transport, property principally) and people in Dorset who rely on support – to set the vision or the future and the changes being proposed to existing services.
- Better Days 2023 was the start of this consultation process. Individual service changes will be subject to formal consultation, which will include continued work with partners in transport and property.
16. Commissioners should consider ways of broadening the day opportunities discussion to include other providers of adult social care services, to encourage thinking about opportunities to broaden their business models into this space.
- This is included as part of the model, and once implementation begins we plan to take this discussion into provider forums, etc. to widen involvement in the plans.