

## **Gainsborough Care Home – People & Health Scrutiny Committee Statement**

Background At 7.16am on 23 October 2024, Dorset Police received a report regarding three residents who had been found deceased at the Gainsborough Care Home in Ulwell Road. This prompted a large multi-agency emergency response involving officers from Dorset Police, Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service and South Western Ambulance Service.

Dorset Council is deeply saddened to hear of the deaths at the Gainsborough care home in Swanage. We are working with the home's owners Agincare, emergency services and other partner agencies to support the residents of the care home who have been evacuated.

Many of the residents are vulnerable people with significant care needs, and so we are working with them to understand how to meet their needs in the short term and identify their next steps.

We understand this incident will have a significant impact on the Swanage community and our thoughts are very much with the families of those who have sadly died at this extremely difficult time.

The Coroner and the families of those who have died were informed. Four other people, including three other residents and a member of staff, have been taken to hospital as a precaution and other residents of the address were evacuated to a location where they could be supported and receive appropriate care, by Agincare staff, Dorset Council and the health service.

A significant multi-agency presence will remain in the area – including a police cordon – as we work with our partners to carry out an investigation.

Following the sites evacuation the multi agency team has successfully moved all residents to temporary care home placements. We continue to support the residents in their temporary settings and would like to thank all partners who supported the work as a priority action.

Following early enquiries, both Dorset Police and Dorset Fire and Rescue have confirmed that potential carbon monoxide poisoning is the primary line of enquiry with investigations ongoing. Dorset Police has stressed that there is nothing to indicate that there is currently any risk to the wider public.

Dorset Police, who are leading this work and the communications, will continue to provide updates in relation to the investigation. The public are being asked to refrain from any speculation out of respect for all those affected.

I will not be taking any questions on this statement. There will be a confidential briefing for councillors at the end of this meeting.