

SHAREHOLDER COMMITTEE FOR CARE DORSET HOLDINGS LTD

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 7 OCTOBER 2024

Present: Cllrs Richard Biggs (Vice-Chair, in the Chair), Ryan Holloway, Steve Robinson and Gill Taylor

Also present: Cllr Jane Somper (Remote)

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

Chris Best (Managing Director - Care Dorset)

Aidan Dunn (Executive Director - Corporate Development S151)

Chris Harrod (Senior Democratic Services Officer)

Tony McDougal (Communications Business Partner - Adults and Housing),

Jonathan Price (Executive Director of People - Adults and Housing)

Matt Prosser (Chief Executive)

Nicola Rowland (Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors - Care Dorset)

Caroline Tapster (Chair of the Board of Directors - Care Dorset)

Mark Tyson (Corporate Director for Adult Commissioning & Improvement)

Lindsey Watson (Senior Democratic Services Officer)

13. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Nick Ireland.

14. Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were signed and confirmed as a correct record.

15. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Gill Taylor declared an interest as her husband was a service user of Care Dorset.

16. Public Participation

No public participation requests had been received.

17. Councillor Questions

No councillor questions had been received in advance of the meeting.

18. Forward Plan

The draft forward plan was noted.

19. **Dorset Council Organisational Update**

The Interim Corporate Director for Commissioning and Improvement introduced the report which set out the recent commissioning activity.

Officers responded to Members' comments and requests for clarification, details included:

- One of the key challenges for Care Dorset related to the estate that been inherited from its predecessor and there was a great need to establish what was currently possible in terms of service delivery and level of care as a result of limitations in some settings, and how it could be improved over time. The core focus of this exercise would be to ensure that service users could be in receipt of the best level of care according to their requirements.
- Early in the development of Care Dorset, there had been discussions surrounding the need for bedded reablement support and Care Dorset had been able to acquire and redevelop the building next door to the Castleman develop which had been impactful in a short space of time in terms of avoiding the requirement for long term care for people leaving hospital. The commissioning team monitored length of stay at reablement centres and were comfortable with the average lengths of stay in those beds not exceeding six weeks.
- In respect of the St Martin's development, Care Dorset were commissioned to provide the background support which covered 'waking nights' and additional support that certain individuals needed such as community support. Care Dorset would like to be the provider for all individual care needs but accepted that some residents moving in already had a domiciliary care provider in place.

NOTED

20. **Care Dorset Update - Report of the Chair of the Board**

The Chair of the Independent Board of Directors and Managing Director of Care Dorset introduced the report which provided a company update for the past period.

Officers responded to Members' comments and requests for clarification, details included:

- In relation to ongoing contract renegotiations, there had been some constructive conversations between Care Dorset and the commissioning team and both parties were seeking to finalise arrangements towards the end of the calendar year.
- Funding for carers picking up certain healthcare roles in order to reduce the need for district nurses to visit centres was included within the funding available for reablement beds, which was provided by the better care fund.
- Voluntary staff turnover was 20%, which was common in the sector and Care Dorset was working to reducing this figure where possible.

- Care Quality Commission spot checks for registered settings were unannounced. For supported living settings however, they were announced.
- The Shared Lives transfer was to be an 'as-is' transfer and staff would be transferring from the employment of Dorset Council to Care Dorset. Payments would not change and would continue to be administered by the Local Authority and carers would continue to be well supported. Care Dorset were looking at how the service could be expanded upon and how it could be used in the rehabilitation space. The priority at present was to ensure smooth transition for both staff and carers.

The Chair took the opportunity to thank Care Dorset colleagues for their report and comprehensive responses and congratulate its reablement team on being nominated for 'Care Team of the Year' at the National Care Awards.

NOTED

21. Urgent Items

There were no urgent items.

22. Exempt Business

It was moved by Cllr Richard Biggs, seconded by Cllr Gill Taylor and subsequently **carried**:

That In accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the public from the meeting for the business specified in the item(s) below because it is likely that if members of the public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of schedule 12A to the Act and the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information to the public.

23. Care Dorset 5 Year Strategy Update

The Chair of the Independent Board of Directors and Managing Director of Care Dorset introduced the report which set out the framework for the emerging Care Dorset 5 Year Strategy.

Officers responded to questions and comments in relation to the following topics:

- Inclusion of input received from service users
- Inclusion of commercialisation opportunities
- Offers to be broadened
- Better advertisement of Care Dorset and what it offered
- Capital investment towards improvement of existing estate where required to ensure quality of service remains.
- Appropriate staffing levels to meet growing demands.

The Chair thanked Members for their input and Care Dorset for their comprehensive responses.

RESOLVED that

1. The direction of travel with the strategy development be endorsed.

Duration of meeting: 10:00 – 11:07am

Chairman

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