

Shareholder Committee for Care Dorset Holdings Ltd

2 December 2024

Commissioners' Update

For Review and Consultation

Cabinet Member and Portfolio:

Cllr S Robinson, Adult Social Care

Local Councillor(s):

All

Executive Director:

J Price, Executive Director of People - Adults

Report Author: Mark Tyson

Job Title: Corporate Director, Commissioning & Improvement

Tel:

Email: mark.tyson@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Report Status: Public

Brief Summary:

This update presents the developments on the part of the Council relevant to Care Dorset. This report summarises significant developments in the 2 months since the last Shareholder Committee.

Recommendation:

1. For Committee to note the continued progress made in development of the relationship between Commissioners and Care Dorset.
2. For Committee to note 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.

Reason for Recommendation:

Care Dorset is a key part of delivering the Council's 'Commissioning for A Better Life' strategies, and for improving the quality and sustainability of the care and support delivered to adults in Dorset.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report provides an update on work with Care Dorset since the last Shareholder Report, and relevant developments in the wider commissioning landscape.

2. Significant service developments since the last report

- 2.1 The interval between committee meetings has been short time around, so the report is briefer than usual.

Development of new reablement centres

- 2.2 A report was submitted to Cabinet in October, which approves the demolition of the current Sidney Gale House building and, more importantly, approves progress to RIBA Stage 2 planning for the design and building of the new centre. The Council will be managing the programme for construction of the new centre, supported by external partners. There will be mechanisms for ensuring the involvement of important stakeholders, one of which is Care Dorset as the anticipated operator of the final service.
- 2.3 The timelines for the construction are laid out in the Cabinet report, in summary seeing first admissions in early 2028. RIBA Design phases will be concluded by May 2025, which is the important horizon for ensuring that there is a clearly-specified facility as the basis for moving on to construction.

Extra care housing at St Martin's, Gillingham

- 2.4 A small number of moves into the new extra care facilities at Gillingham have now happened, with more lined up. The expectation is that the development will be fully occupied by the end of the year.

Day services

- 2.5 Following Cabinet's approval of the day opportunities model in September, planning is underway for the wide range of community consultations that will be required in individual places, to scope effective implementation. The decision has been made to start these in the New Year, and Care Dorset have been involved in the planning.

3. Key Council decisions

- 3.1 At the time of submitting the report to Committee, Cabinet is due to consider an important suite of documents, which will set a framework for the priorities in adult social care delivery for the coming years.

3.2 First amongst them is the new Council Plan, focusing on four priorities:

- Provide affordable and high-quality housing;
- Grow our economy;
- Communities for all;
- Responding to the climate and nature crisis.

The delivery of adult social care support, and the high level of ambition for the wider preventive and supportive community infrastructure around it, are set out in the 'Communities for all' priority. However, Care Dorset has contributions to make to the delivery of all of the priorities, and these will frame conversations and planning work with the company into the future.

3.3 There is also an important report on the future finances of the Council, setting out the medium-term financial planning position. This is a challenging year for the Council, as is set out in the report, and again Care Dorset is an important part of adult social care's contribution to delivering a balanced budget. This includes, for example:

- Avoiding long-term care costs through effective reablement;
- Effective block contract management for residential care, driving down costs incurred to the Council from spot purchasing elsewhere;
- Delivery of the new, flexible and less building-focused model of day services delivery;
- Seeking further efficiencies in delivering all services.

3.4 Finally, there is a report on the next stages of Our Future Council, the council-wide transformation plan. Whilst much of this is focused on customer journey through the Council's 'front door', there is also a significant focus on commissioning and commercial activity, in which there may be opportunities for Care Dorset or further developments in the relationship between commissioners and the company.

4. Finance

4.1 We are nearing completion of the final service costs and volumes that will allow final sign-off on the Council's contract with Care Dorset.

4.2 There are a number of strands of work on the development of Care Dorset's estate, and potential for service developments supported by either Council investment or the different use of Council-owned assets. The reablement centre development is the most notable of these. A proposal is being developed for a more structured group to work through these programmes and issues, strengthening the relationship between the council more corporately and the

company. We would anticipate this being a good basis on which to support the company commercially into the future, alongside both routine and strategic discussions between the company and its commissioners.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 No specific decisions are requested from this report; as such, there are no specific financial implications raised by this report. Note should be taken of the Cabinet papers on the medium-term financial plan for the Council, and the context that it sets for Care Dorset's work.

6. Natural Environment, Climate and Ecology Implications

- 6.1 There are no specific implications raised by this report. The work underway on day services, as well as the change to Sidney Gale House, present opportunities to improve the environmental efficiency of Care Dorset's estate and operations. Now the Sidney Gale redevelopment has been agreed, it can be confirmed that the new site will strive for BREEAM 'excellent' status.

7. Well-being and Health Implications

- 7.1 The services described, and their journey of improvement, are significant contributors to the maintenance and improvement in the health and wellbeing of people who draw on support.

8. Other Implications

- 8.1 No other implications identified.

9. Risk Assessment

- 9.1 No decision is required; no risk assessment therefore needed.

10. Equalities Impact Assessment

- 10.1 No decision is required. Equalities impacts are assessed in connection with decision made on specific service developments.

11. Appendices

- 11.1 None.

12. Background Papers

- 12.1 Cabinet report on Reablement Centres development (15 October 2024):
<https://moderngov.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/documents/s42711/Cabinet%20-%20Reablement%20Centres%20-%20Final%20Report.pdf>

- 12.2 Cabinet report on the draft Council Plan (19 November 2024):
<https://moderngov.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/documents/s43154/Cabinet%20report%2019%20Nov%202024%20draft%20Council%20Plan%20final.pdf>
- 12.3 Cabinet report on the Medium Term Financial Plan (19 November 2024):
<https://moderngov.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/documents/s43153/2024-11-19%20MTFP%20and%20budget%20report%20to%20Cabinet%20-%20Cleared.pdf>
- 12.4 Cabinet report on Our Future Council (19 November 2024):
<https://moderngov.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/documents/s43159/241119%20Our%20Future%20Council%20Cabinet%20v5%20Final%20version%20with%20Appendix%20A%20-%20C.pdf>

13. Report Sign-Off

- 13.1 This report has been through the internal report clearance process and has been signed off by the Director for Legal and Democratic (Monitoring Officer), the Executive Director for Corporate Development (Section 151 Officer) and the appropriate Portfolio Holder(s)