

Care Dorset Shareholder Committee

2 December 2024

Change of Financial Year

For approval

Report author: Chris Best
Title: Managing Director
Email: chris.best@caredorset.co.uk
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Report status: **PUBLIC**

Brief summary:

This paper recommends a change to Care Dorset's financial reference period to bring it in line with Dorset Council's fiscal year from 1 April 2026.

Recommendation:

It is recommended the Shareholder approves a change to the financial reference period for Care Dorset to operate an April to March fiscal year from 1 April 2026.

This change means there will be an 18 month financial year from 1 October 2024 to 31 March 2026.

Reason for recommendation:

This change is recommended in order to bring Care Dorset in line with Dorset Council's financial reference period and avoid complication with Care Dorset operating over two financial years with Dorset Council.

1. This paper proposes a change of Care Dorset's accounting reference date from 30 September to 31 March to align Care Dorset's accounting reference date or year-end date with the Dorset Council. This is a change requested by Dorset Council officers.

RATIONALE FOR THE REQUEST

2. Care Dorset began to operate in October 2022 and in order to avoid a short financial year and the resultant year end process so soon after its inception, Care Dorset opted for a financial year period from October to September each year.
3. While this arrangement meant the organisation had easier access to auditors, it has resulted in some challenges with Dorset Council commissioners given that Care Dorset's financial year crosses two financial years.

IMPLEMENTING THE CHANGE

4. The change requires a simple notification to Companies House, which will be undertaken following the report and accounts for the year ended 30 September 2024.
5. The Care Dorset Board considered the matter at their meeting on 25 November 2024 and has asked the Shareholder to approve a change that would result in Care Dorset operating an 18-month financial year for the period 1 October 2024 to 31 March 2026.
6. Care Dorset's second financial year has just finished and the year-end accounts will now be finalised. This proposed change will not impact on that process.

APPENDICES

7. None

BACKGROUND PAPERS

8. None