

Cabinet
25 February 2025
Public Questions

Question 1 from Mr Robert Horne

The background

I hold joint Power of Attorney for an elderly Dorchester resident with dementia. After two months in acute care for a leg injury she was discharged by Dorset County Hospital in May 2024 to a residential care home in Dorchester. That care home could not meet her care needs and neither could a second one from which we moved her to a nursing home in January 2025. In October 2024 we asked for her eligibility for NHS Continuing Health Care (CHC) to be assessed.

A Multidisciplinary Team (MDT), which included a CHC Social Worker employed by Dorset Council, conducted the Decision Support Tool (DST) assessment in October 2024. The MDT recommended she was eligible for CHC but in December we were informed that NHS Dorset denied eligibility.

The regulations

- NHS Dorset is an Integrated Care Board (ICB) subject the ***National Health Service Commissioning Board and Clinical Commissioning Groups (Responsibilities and Standing Rules) Regulations 2012*** issued under the ***National Health Service Act 2006***. Regulation 22 is entitled ***Duty of relevant bodies: joint working with social services authorities***.
- The 2012 regulations require an ICB to comply with the ***National Framework for NHS Continuing Healthcare and NHS funded Nursing Care 2022*** which sets out the DST procedure in Practice Guidance under the heading ***What are the elements of a good multidisciplinary assessment of needs?*** in Section PG 21.
- Within PG 21 is this clause:-

21.4 ICBs and local authorities should consider agreeing joint models of assessment documentation and having regular training or awareness events to support them.

The joint model

The implicit purpose of a joint model is to avoid an MDT producing a DST that is open to review by an ICB applying a differing interpretation of the evidence when making its decision on eligibility for CHC.

In the case of the person for whom I hold Power of Attorney, the existence of a properly effective joint model with both the MDT members and the ICB staff trained in its operation would have avoided a disagreement over the interpretation of evidence. The DST process would not have been prolonged by more than a month and I would be unlikely to have grounds for lodging an appeal against the decision of the ICB to deny CHC.

The current version of the National Framework came into effect in July 2022 since when its guidance and advisory provisions should have been considered and, where deemed appropriate, implemented.

My question to the Cabinet

Has Dorchester Council considered agreeing with NHS Dorset a joint model of assessment?

Question 2 from David Redgewell, Southwest Transport Network Dorset catch the bus campaign

With the government allocation of the bus services improvement plan bus Grant 2025 2026 of £ 3.8

We're are disappointed with about of money compared with Devon £ 11 million and £ 10 million pounds this should be raised with county mps .

By we are concern that under Department for transport funding regulation their should be Bus advisory Board meetings with consultation with bus forum before decision are made.

Since the new administration took over

We had no forum meeting.

First Group plc South buses are changing timetables in June 2025 x53

Is an example changing the 1915 from Axminster railway station to Lyme Regis

Bridport bus and coach station to Weymouth kings statue arrive at 21 11

Meeting First group plc MTR South western railway company Ltd FROM Exeter Central and London Waterloo Axminster station.

National railway from may 20 25 DFT rail

But will in June depart at 1855 miss the trains and intergrated Transport connection UK government policy.

Will the council now call bus users Forum to carry out passengers and stakeholders consultation with Dorset Public Transport unit First group plc buses and Trains go ahead group South coast buses. National Express coaches and others western Gateway Transport Board ect .