

SHAREHOLDER COMMITTEE FOR CARE DORSET HOLDINGS LTD

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 2 DECEMBER 2024

Present: Cllrs Nick Ireland (Chair), Richard Biggs (Vice-Chair), Steve Robinson and Ben Wilson

Apologies: Cllrs Gill Taylor

Also present remotely: Cllr Jane Somper, Cllr Hannah Hobbs-Chell

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

Chris Best (Interim Managing Director), Aidan Dunn (Executive Director - Corporate Development S151), Grace Evans (Head of Legal Services and Deputy Monitoring Officer), Caroline Tapster (Chair of the Board of Directors - Care Dorset), Mark Tyson (Corporate Director for Adult Commissioning & Improvement), Lindsey Watson (Senior Democratic Services Officer) and George Dare (Senior Democratic Services Officer)

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

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

24. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 October 2024 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

25. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

26. Public Participation

There were no questions or statements from members of the public or local organisations.

27. Councillor Questions

There were no questions from councillors.

28. Forward Plan

The Forward Plan was noted.

29. **Dorset Council Organisational Update**

Councillors received a report of the Corporate Director, Commissioning and Improvement, which summarised significant developments in the period since the last Shareholder Committee in October.

In response to a question, an update on progress with the reablement site at Dorset County Hospital was provided.

The report was **NOTED**.

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

The Chair of the Board of Directors and Managing Director of Care Dorset introduced the report, which provided an update on matters relating to Care Dorset since the previous meeting.

Councillors considered the contents of the report and during discussion, points were raised in the following areas:

- The approach to considering strategic risks was welcomed
- Consideration of opportunities would be captured as part of a review of Care Dorset's strategic risk framework, which was being facilitated with support from Gallagher Bassett
- The role of the part time Marketing Director and the activity around the marketing of beds, the link to block contract funding and a particular focus on St Martins
- The pause in the transfer of the shared lives service and current recruitment issues in this area
- The impact of the Government's budget announcement to increase employer National Insurance contributions and discussions with Dorset Council commissioners about how additional cost pressures were accounted for within overall costings.

The report was **NOTED**.

31. **Care Dorset - Change of Financial Year**

The Shareholder Committee received a report of the Care Dorset Managing Director, which recommended a change to Care Dorset's financial reference period to bring it in line with Dorset Council's fiscal year from 1 April 2026.

In response to a question, the Managing Director noted that the Finance Director met with auditors and also the Dorset Council Finance Team on a quarterly basis which enabled appropriate checks and balances.

It was proposed by S Robinson seconded by N Ireland.

Decision

That a change to the financial reference period for Care Dorset to operate an April to March fiscal year from 1 April 2026, be approved.

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

Reason for decision

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.

32. Care Dorset - Annual Performance Report for the period September 2023 to October 2024

The Shareholder Committee received and considered the Annual Performance Report for the period September 2023 to October 2024, which provided a comprehensive review of the second year of Care Dorset's operation.

Councillors considered the contents of the Annual Report and comments were raised in the following areas:

- The arrangements in place to prepare for an inspection by the Care Quality Commission and how facilities could work towards being rated as outstanding
- Detail of work being undertaken and investment made in electronic record keeping systems
- There was a good working relationship between Dorset Council and Care Dorset in respect of the council owned buildings occupied by Care Dorset. It was noted that an annual schedule for maintenance was to be put in place and discussions around a longer-term plan for the estate
- Consideration would be given to the communication channels between Care Dorset and Dorset Council in respect of property matters
- Risks relating to the maintenance of facilities were recognised in the risk management section of the report, in the section relating to health and safety
- Savings made in the area of reablement and further improvements planned.

The report was **NOTED**.

33. Urgent Items

There were no urgent items.

34. Exempt Business

It was proposed by S Robinson seconded by B Wilson

Decision

That the press and the public be excluded for the following item in view of the likely disclosure of exempt information within the meaning of paragraph 3 of Schedule 12 A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

Reason for taking the item in private

Paragraph 3 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

The livestream was concluded at this juncture.

35. Your Life, Your Way - Care Dorset's Five-Year Strategy

The Shareholder Committee received a report of the Care Dorset Managing Director, which presented Care Dorset's Five-Year Strategy 'Your Life, Your Way', and considered the issues arising. Officers responded to questions and comments relating to a range of issues and noted that Dorset Council and Care Dorset would continue to work closely on the consideration of the issues.

It was proposed by S Robinson seconded by R Biggs

Decision

That the strategy be approved.

Reason for decision

Setting a clear strategic direction for Care Dorset is necessary and important to realise the aspirations for the organisation. Having a longer-term strategic direction also provides a positive message to the organisation, including the people we support, their families and colleagues and supports decision making and financial planning. This strategy also provides a response to Dorset Council's Commissioning Strategies.

Duration of meeting: 10.00 - 11.12 am

Chairman

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