

Appendix 2 – Supplementary information from NHS Dorset

Meeting	Dorset Council, People and Health Scrutiny Committee 08.04.2025
Report Title	Birth to Settled Adulthood Phase 2 Approach and Progress Update
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1. Introduction

NHS Dorset have agreed to work in partnership with Dorset Council in the next phase of the development of the Birth to Settled Adulthood (B2SA) Service. With a remit to develop integrated approaches to support the improvement of health outcomes for children and young people in by the B2SA Service, Phase 2 of the B2SA Programme focuses on the following aims:

1. The health needs of the children and young people being supported by the B2SA Service are clearly identified and understood by the teams supporting them.
2. An assessment of whether these needs are being met for each Child and Young Person (CYP) and are supporting an improvement in their health and well-being outcomes and
 - Where their needs are being met, good practice is recognised and shared across teams
 - Where their needs are not being met, the B2SA Service is able to work with the appropriate NHS service/s to achieve improved health goals and outcomes as agreed with the CYP and their families.
3. Develop and embed new ways of working between the B2SA Service and the NHS in Dorset that brings together organisations, services, teams and individuals to support the health needs and improve the health outcomes for children and young people in a more holistic way.

This is supported through the following objectives:

- Work as a system to identify and meet the health outcomes of Children and Young People (CYP) supported by the B2SA Service, as identified both in the B2SA Outcomes Framework and by the individual CYP and their families.
- Develop and embed local pathways, approaches, and working practices to enable multi agency working and a co-ordinated approach to holistic support for those supported by B2SA Service to meet these health needs.
- Improve our local collection and sharing of data and intelligence regarding the health needs of the B2SA cohort.
- Provide clear information through a range of mechanisms (including through the Local offer) so CYP and families, as well as others who are supporting them (including professionals), understand what NHS and wider health related support is available and when.

- Ensure the most effective and approach to any joint commissioning and use of resources.
- The voice of CYP and their families drives the improvement of support and provides a measure of impact and level of success from any changes made.

2. Commitments and Proposed Approach

NHS Dorset has provided financial commitment to the B2SA programme through the joint funding of the B2SA Head of Service post and the Independent Chair of the B2SA Delivery Board.

The following section outlines the approach from NHS Dorset in their commitment to support the achievement of the aims above.

Focus 1: Stronger alignment with All Age Continuing Care (AACC)

- a) Ensure effective planning is in place as part of an individual's preparation for adulthood journey.
 - Agreement of a protocol for:
 - CYP already accessing All Age Continuing Care move seamlessly between the child and adult frameworks where appropriate.
 - CYP who are not eligible as a child, but may be as an adult, are assessed in a timely way so that support is in place when they reach 18.
 - Joint working arrangements are in place between B2SA and AACC to include:
 - Transition tracking meetings– new Terms of Reference to be agreed
 - Regular touchpoint conversations
 - Preparation for Adulthood tracking process developed
- b) Ensure that all B2SA Teams are aware of the AACC Frameworks and are able to undertake screening for CYP they think may be eligible and make contract with the AACC Team to agree next steps.
- c) Identify CYP who have jointly funded support between Dorset Council and NHS Dorset and understand the needs, cost and provision involved.
 - Consider any needs that could be met differently to improve their longer-term outcomes and experience

Focus 2: Preparation for Adulthood (PfA)

CYP and their families are able to prepare for any transition between health services and the B2SA Service is able to recognise any health needs that will need additional support.

- The PfA Team is able to undertake an assessment of the health needs of each CYP and develop an appropriate plan of support.
- Transition arrangements and processes for all providers and specific services will be available to the B2SA PfA Team.

- A list of all NHS services that are being commissioned and provided in Dorset for ages 14-25 will be available to the PfA Team with key contacts and links to resources.
- These will be available for CYP and their families through the Dorset Council Local Offer information.

Focus 3: B2SA Outcome Framework

Understand which NHS services are, or could, support CYP in meeting the “I know how to look after my health and wellbeing” outcomes within the B2SA Outcomes Framework.

- Ensure that B2SA Teams know about the support available and how to access it.
- Learning from the assessment of achievement of individual outcomes by the B2SA Service is used to inform any future NHS service development, joint working arrangements or commissioning needs.

Focus 4: Mental Health and Neurodiversity

The B2SA Service, and the individual teams within it, are able to identify the needs of CYP relating to their emotional well-being and mental health and/ or neurodiversity.

They will be able to offer appropriate levels of support and know where and how to access additional support as appropriate to the individual CYP.

This will include the Service being able to play an active role in the development and implementation of existing local transformation programmes for CYP Mental Health and All Age Neurodiversity, to highlight any specific needs of the B2SA cohort and subsequent considerations in being able to support these effectively.

Focus 5: Other B2SA Teams identification of health needs.

All teams within the B2SA Service will have a process in place to identify, understand and share the following:

- What are the health needs being experienced by the CYP they are supporting?
- Are these being met and how?
- Where are they not being met?
- Process and approaches that are in place to access the right support or to for escalating / share details of unmet needs.

3. Progress To Date

The following actions have commenced and are being progressed to support the ambitions of the programme:

3.1 Phase 2 Implementation Board set up and meeting monthly. Membership includes NHS Dorset, Dorset Council, Dorset County Hospital and Dorset HealthCare. Support and input as needed by Public Health Dorset (to be reviewed).

3.2 All Age Continuing Care (AACC):

- Transition tracking meetings have started with a new Terms of Reference being developed.
- A draft protocol is being progressed.

3.3 Preparation for Adulthood (PfA)

- Agreement that NHS services need to start to consider where ether might be future health needs into adulthood and working with CYP and their families from age 14.
- The PfA Team have a health needs assessment section within their assessment tool to be used with non-Care Act eligible young people.
- DCH Transitions Nurse working with PfA Team to look at ways to identify CYP that are (or should be) being supported by the two organisations and how they can work together.

3.4 Local NHS Services

- NHS Commissioning landscape, key provider organisations and levels of care information document developed.
- Mapping of all NHS services for CYP age 0-25 in Dorset is underway.

3.5 Engagement with the Dorset Care Record Team to support access to the Dorset Care Record by B2SA team members and improve take up by NHS professionals to support identification of CYP and support joint working across services.

3.6 CYP Mental Health Transformation Programme

- The modelling and design phase has been completed for Dorset, and the Business case is working through the approval process. An implementation plan for Dorset is now starting to be developed.
- The B2SA Head of Service is now a member of the Dorset design group.
- Initial work is underway to design a single front door that brings together children's services and CAMHS.

3.7 Neurodiversity Programme

- Review undertaken to local position.
- Short term plan being implemented to address capacity issues for assessments though use of independent sector provider.
- The current focus is on the development and implementation of a medium-term plan that would provide an interim approach during 2025-26 while a more sustainable service model is developed for 2026-27 onwards.
- Proposals and business cases for the medium terms approach are currently being presented to Integrated Care Board and System Execs and the outcomes of decisions will be shared when appropriate.

- Working and Operational Groups are in place to develop, oversee and deliver the work programme.
- The Keyworker Service is being commissioned as a joint piece of work and delivered by Dorset Council with the Keyworker Team being part of the B2SA Service.

It has been recognised that the CYP Mental Health Transformation Programme and the Neurodevelopmental (diverse) Review have strong links. While they are currently separate programmes with their own workstreams and timescales, the plan is to connect the two elements at operational level given 50% of mental health presentations have a neurodiverse element.

3.8 Through work with Oxford Brookes, evaluation surveys have been developed for use across the B2SA service users. These will provide an opportunity for CYP and their families to feedback on any areas that are important to them which could include how well their health needs are being supported. This will provide valuable insight to inform future developments.

4. Future Actions

- Programme Board membership to be reviewed and engagement from appropriate partners is strengthened to support achievement of programme outcomes.
- Project plan is reviewed to reflect proposed actions, with timescales agreed.
- Relationships and interdependences with other NHS programmes are understood and effective communications about progress are in place that avoid duplication of reporting.
- Work with the SEND Health Forum to engage NHS provider services and avoid duplication of work.
- Recognise the learning from the integrated working developed through the Pathfinder pilot and understand where there may be similar opportunities the B2SA Service development.

5. Conclusion and Recommendation

The nature of the changing landscape of the NHS and the roles and responsibilities of its constituent parts means that the local approach to developing integrated working across organisations and services will need to be an organic process that responds to identified gaps in being able to effectively meet needs and improve health outcomes for CYP.

The Committee is requested to note the proposed approach that supports the ambitions of the B2SA programme while recognising the current operating environment.