SHAREHOLDER COMMITTEE FOR CARE DORSET HOLDINGS LTD

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 14 APRIL 2025

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

Present remotely: Cllrs Ben Wilson

Apologies: Cllrs Gill Taylor

Also present remotely: Cllr Jane Somper

Officers present (for all or part of the meeting):
Chris Best (Managing Director), Aidan Dunn (Executive Director - Corporate Development S151), Grace Evans (Head of Legal Services and Deputy Monitoring Officer), Mark Tyson (Corporate Director for Adult Commissioning & Improvement), Kate Critchel (Senior Democratic Services Officer) and Lindsey Watson (Senior Democratic Services Officer)

43. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meetings held on 2 December 2024 and 15 January 2025 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

44. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

45. **Public Participation**

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

46. **Councillor Questions**

There were no questions from councillors.

47. **Forward Plan**

The Forward Plan was noted.

48. **Commissioners' Update**

The shareholder committee considered a report of the Corporate Director, Commissioning and Improvement, which presented the developments on the part of the Council, relevant to Care Dorset, and summarised significant developments since the last meeting of the shareholder committee. Particular reference was made to progress with consultation on the impact of the new model of day opportunities on current service commissioning and thanks were expressed to the staff in the day centres that had been visited. A report would be considered by Cabinet later in the year.

Councillors considered the areas covered in the report and discussion was focused on the following areas:

- An update was provided on the development of a new bedded reablement service at Sidney Gale House. It was noted that a procurement phase was underway for the demolition and clearance of the current site alongside work on configuration and design of the service with specialists in dementia care. The planning process would start during the summer
- In response to a question about the awareness of activities in day centres, the Corporate Director noted the flexibility of ways within which people and groups engaged with day centres, which included commissioned services and one-off community activities including people coming in to the centres for lunch. There was a need to understand the different uses in order to plan and commission services based on awareness of outcomes.

The report was **NOTED**.

49. **Care Dorset Update**

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. This included work relating to governance arrangements to increase levels of assurance, key staff appointments and engagement with service users.

Councillors considered the issues arising from the report and during discussion, the following points were raised:

- With regard to St Martins, there were around 30 flats to be filled in line with the council's nominations process. The fill rate was in line with the expectation of the commissioning service
- Occupancy across reablement beds had been impacted by challenges with local general practice provision for one setting. This had been resolved in part through discussions with Dorset Council colleagues, in order to manage the needs of individuals leaving hospital and the pressure on the general practice. It was thought that there was a capacity issue in the specific case
- The budget had been impacted by higher than expected agency costs. Although there were still challenges with agency use, a plan had been put in place to assist with managing the costs. A role for the new chief commercial officer was to continue to grow the organisation, to assist with managing costs
- The Cabinet member for Adult Social Care commended the report for the progress made, particularly with regard to the governance improvements. In addition, he noted the Care Quality Commission (CQC) routine inspection

for Castleman House, which had rated the service as “Good” across all five domains and demonstrated ongoing progress.

The report was **NOTED**.

50. **Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items.

51. **Exempt Business**

It was proposed by S Robinson seconded by R Biggs

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.

52. **Care Dorset Annual Business Plan 2025/26**

The shareholder committee considered a report of the Managing Director, Care Dorset, which presented the Annual Business Plan for Care Dorset for 2025/26.

Councillors reviewed the business plan and responses were provided to questions and comments raised.

It was proposed by N Ireland seconded by S Robinson

Decision

That the Annual Business Plan for the period 2025-26 be approved.

Reason for the decision:

Establishing a clear strategic direction for Care Dorset is essential to achieving the organisation's aspirations. A longer-term strategic vision not only conveys a positive message to the organisation – encompassing the people we support, their families and colleagues – but also aids in effective decision-making and financial planning.

Duration of meeting: 3.30 - 4.00 pm

Chairman

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