



Dorset
Council

Health and Wellbeing Board Strategy Development

People and Health Overview Committee 2 February 2026

Context

- Health and Wellbeing Board has a primary purpose as a partnership board – LA, NHS, VCS, Healthwatch, DWFRS
- Responsible for promoting **integration** and **prevention**
- Statutory functions including needs assessment to help build a **strategy**, oversight of **Better Care Fund**, pharmacy needs assessment
- **NHS Dorset ICB is changing** – ICB will be a cluster operating as a more strategic commissioner from April 2026
- **More focus on place-based commissioning** on the Dorset Council geography (along with 5 other ‘places’ in Wessex)

Current position

- This paper sets out an approach to building the new strategy for the Health and Wellbeing Board
- Taking a co-production approach – testing and learning as we go
- External involvement of partners through the process
- Internal connection within Dorset Council across all directorates
- Will develop a clear outcomes framework and indicators to support monitoring of improvement
- Strategy should also include major change programmes – such as family hubs, best start in life, Working age adults, public health provision, and Future Care

Opportunities

- Provides clear steer on priorities, focus for improvement for our place, working closely with Neighbourhood health plans of the NHS
- Allows Board oversight and visibility of major change programmes
- Ability to report on progress through clear outcomes framework
- Develop joined up services, and clearer investment in prevention approaches
- Clearer benefits for residents in Dorset Council from joint working
- Work differently to support delivery of council plan priorities under Communities for All

Recommendations

- Asking Committee to support the approach to strategy development
- Endorse HWB overseeing development of prevention focused, joined up care via a partnership approach
- Note the establishment of an internal steering group and external reference group to oversee production