

People and Health Scrutiny Committee

16 April 2026

CHC and Joint Funding (adults) performance in Dorset

For Review and Consultation

Cabinet Member:

Cllr S Robinson, Adult Social Care

Local Councillor(s):

Cllr Steve Robinson

Senior Leadership Team:

J Price, Executive Director of People - Adults

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Statutory Authority: Dorset Council Adult Social Care and Housing Directorate

Report status: Public Choose an item.

1. Executive summary (maximum of 500 words)

1.1 This report is submitted following a request of the Chair and Vice Chair of the People and Health Scrutiny Committee, subsequent to a meeting held with the DASS and Corporate Director for Adult Social Care Operations to understand the current CHC and Joint funding performance in Dorset.

1.2 NHS Continuing Health Care (CHC) is a package of care for adults aged 18 years or over which is arranged and funded solely by the NHS. In order to receive NHS CHC funding, individuals must be assessed by ICB's according to a legally prescribed decision making process to determine whether an individual has a primary health need. The National Framework for NHS Continuing Healthcare and NHS funded nursing care (revised 2022) sets out the principles and processes for determining eligibility.

[National framework for NHS continuing healthcare and NHS-funded nursing care - GOV.UK](#)

- 1.3 When an individual is not considered to be eligible for NHS CHC funding but are deemed to have some health needs, the NHS may contribute to the funding of a joint package of care. Within a joint funding arrangement, the Local Authority should meet the Care Act eligible outcomes for an individual as defined through a Care Act assessment. [Care and support statutory guidance - GOV.UK](#) The Local Authority is not permitted to meet health needs. S22 Care Act 2014 sets this out as follows:

Exception for provision of health services

(1) A local authority may not meet needs under sections 18 to 20 by providing or arranging for the provision of a service or facility that is required to be provided under the National Health Service Act 2006 unless—

(a) doing so would be merely incidental or ancillary to doing something else to meet needs under those sections, and

(b) the service or facility in question would be of a nature that the local authority could be expected to provide.

- 1.4 Dorset Council has noted a significant shift in the outcomes of assessment for CHC and joint funding over the last three years and a particularly marked increase in the numbers of people being deemed non eligible for CHC and joint funding in this current financial year (2025/2026), either following a new application or following a review of those already in receipt of CHC or fast track funding. Dorset Council believes the trends seen within Dorset ICB, particularly in 2025/6 to date, to be significantly out of line with the trends seen in both South West region and National data as reported in NHS England statistics for Continuing Healthcare and NHS funded nursing care. [Statistics » Continuing Healthcare and NHS-funded Nursing Care](#)

- 1.5 The reduction in those being deemed eligible for CHC or receiving joint funding impacts those residents in Dorset who would, as a result, be required to fund their own care and support (self funders) or those who would need to draw on care and support from the Local Authority and who may be required to contribute towards the cost of that care and support following financial assessment. In addition to the financial impacts, the CHC assessment/reassessment processes resulting in a change in their care funding arrangements can bring uncertainty, additional anxiety and distress for an individual and/or their family/representatives

- 1.6 A presentation of the evidence and concerns will be made to the scrutiny committee on the 16 April 2026.

2. **Recommendation(s)**

2.1 That a deep dive is carried out into the CHC and Joint Funding arrangements in the Dorset area.

2.2 That the report presented to People and Health Scrutiny committee on 16/4/26 is reviewed.

3. Reason for the recommendation(s)

3.1 To understand the CHC and Joint Funding performance in the Dorset area.

4. The report

4.1 To be presented to People and Health Scrutiny committee on 16/4/26

5 Background papers

None

6. Report sign-off

6.1 This report has been through the internal report clearance process and has been signed off by the Director for Legal and Democratic (Monitoring Officer), the Corporate Director for Finance and Commercial (Section 151 Officer) and the appropriate Portfolio Holder(s)