

Health and Wellbeing Board

17 June 2026

Supported Housing Strategy For Review and Consultation

Cabinet Member:

Cllr S Robinson, Adult Social Care & Health
Cllr G Taylor, Housing & Homelessness

Local Councillor(s):

N/A

Senior Leadership Team:

S Crowe - Executive Director, Housing, Prevention and Communities

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Statutory Authority:

Report status: Public

1. **Executive summary (maximum of 500 words)**
 - 1.1 The Supported Housing (Regulatory Oversight) Act 2023 introduced the intention to begin regulation and licencing of Supported Housing services in England.
 - 1.2 The first requirement of the act is that Local Authorities produce a Supported Housing Strategy.
 - 1.3 In February 2026 MHCLG published statutory guidance on production of the Supported Housing Strategy, confirmed that all Local Authorities must publish their strategies by the deadline of 31 March 2027, and provided new burdens funding to support this work.
 - 1.4 Dorset Council has engaged the Housing Learning Improvement Network (Housing LIN) to undertake the Needs Assessment and produce a first draft of the strategy, using the new burdens funding available to us.
 - 1.5 Officers will deliver a presentation to the Board summarising the Act, the statutory guidance, and Dorset Council's approach to delivering this strategy by the deadline.
2. **Recommendation(s)**

- 2.1 That the board are brought up to date with progress of this work, and the next steps and timescales for delivering a Supported Housing strategy by 31 March 2027

3. Reason for the recommendation(s)

- 3.1 No decisions are required at this stage, but the completed draft strategy will be brought back for review and approval at a later stage.

4. The report

- 4.1 The board will hear a short presentation explaining the Supported Housing (Regulatory Oversight) Act 2023, the requirements of the statutory guidance for production of a Supported Housing Strategy, and an update on Dorset Council's progress.
- 4.2 The presentation will cover the needs assessment methodology, the approach to stakeholder and community engagement, and will explain that the Housing Learning Improvement Network (Housing LIN) have been commissioned to support production of the needs assessment and strategy via the new burdens funding.
- 4.3 The strategy will cover a 10-year period, dating from 2026 to 2036. There is a requirement to review the strategy after 5 years, but by covering a longer period this will give confidence to supported housing providers to invest in Dorset over the long-term.
- 4.4 The strategy will cover a wide range of supported housing service types, providing services to a wide range of cohorts of people. This will be fully explained in the presentation.

5. Alternative options considered

- 5.1 None

6. Legal considerations

- 6.1 None

7. Financial implications

- 7.1 Production of the strategy is cost neutral due to new burdens funding made available by MHCLG

8. Natural environment, climate & ecology implications

- 8.1 None

9. Well-being and health implications

- 9.1 Delivery of a Supported Housing Strategy will provide Dorset Council and system partners with a comprehensive understanding of current need, the current pattern of services – both commissioned and non-commissioned – and will project future demand over the next 10 year. The gap analysis will help inform commissioning priorities, which will form the delivery plan for the strategy.
- 9.2 This will lead to Dorset being able to offer an improved range of appropriate supported housing services for the people of Dorset who need these services.

10. Other implications

- 10.1 None

11. Risk implications

- 11.1 HAVING CONSIDERED: the risks associated with this decision; the level of risk has been identified as:

Current Risk: Low

Residual Risk: Low

12. Equalities

- 12.1 The strategy will be accompanied by a full Equality Impact Assessment.

13. Appendices

- 13.1 None

14. Background papers

- 14.1 Supported Housing (Regulatory Oversight) Act 2023 - [Supported Housing \(Regulatory Oversight\) Act 2023](#)

- 14.2 Local Supported Housing Strategies – Statutory Guidance Feb 2026 - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-supported-housing-strategies/local-supported-housing-strategies>

15. Report sign-off

- 15.1 This report has been through the internal report clearance process and has been signed off by the Director, Assurance and Governance (Monitoring Officer), the Director, Resources (Section 151 Officer) and the appropriate Portfolio Holder(s)