

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 17 JUNE 2026

Present: Cllr Steve Robinson (Chair), Dean Spencer (Vice-Chair), Matt Bell, Paula Bennetts, Sam Crowe, Alice Deacon and Matthew Piles

Present remotely: Cllr Gill Taylor, Margaret Guy and Simone Yule

Apologies: Paul Dempsey, Marc House and Julia Ingram

Also present: Dan Worsley (BSW, Dorset and Somerset ICB Joint Non-Executive Director)

Also present remotely: Cllr Sally Holland and Cllr Clare Sutton

Officers present (for all or part of the meeting):

Sarah Howard (Deputy Director of Modernisation and Place), Rachel Partridge (Deputy Director of Public Health), George Dare (Senior Democratic and Governance Officer), Sam Poole (Corporate Director for Commissioning), Sarah Sewell (Head of Service - Commissioning for Older People and Home First), Sue Evans (Head of Specialist Services), Adam Fitzgerald (Programme Manager - Building Better Lives) and Amy-Jane White (Quality Assurance and Programme Lead)

Officers present remotely (for all or part of the meeting):

Iain Sim (Interim Corporate Director for Housing)

1. **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Julia Ingram, Paul Dempsey, and Marc House.

2. **Election of Chair**

Proposed by Cllr Matt Bell and seconded by Sam Crowe

Decision

That Cllr S Robinson be appointed Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board for the Year 2026-27.

3. **Election of Vice-Chair**

Proposed by Cllr Steve Robinson and seconded by Cllr Matt Bell.

Decision

That Dean Spencer be appointed Vice-Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board for the Year 2026-27.

4. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 March 2026 were confirmed and signed.

5. **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests were made at the meeting.

6. **Public Participation**

There was no public participation.

7. **Councillor Questions**

There were no questions from councillors.

8. **Urgent items**

There were no urgent items.

9. **Work Programme**

The Chair encouraged members to suggest items for the work programme and updated the Board that there were ongoing discussions about pieces of work.

The Board noted its work programme.

10. **Better Care Fund in Dorset: End of Year 2025/26 Template & 2026/27 Plans**

The Head of Service for Commissioning for Older People introduced the report and gave a presentation. The presentation covered the narrative for the End of Year template, the plans for 2026/27, and outlining the shift in policy direction to align the Better Care Fund with the development of Integrated Neighbourhood Teams.

Members of the Health and Wellbeing Board discussed the report and raised the following points:

- There were opportunities to think differently about the Better Care Fund, now that it connected to other initiatives in the health system, such as Integrated Neighbourhood Teams.
- Changes to the Better Care Fund would enable a new start for the Integrated Care Board to focus on prevention and neighbourhood health.

- In addition to focussing on meeting the Better Care Fund targets, learning should be sought from previous years Better Care Fund plans.

Proposed by Sam Crowe, seconded by Dean Spencer.

Decision:

That the Health and Wellbeing Board endorses the Better Care Fund (BCF) End of Year Reporting Template for 2025/26, and the Narrative Plan and Reporting Template for 2026/27; approved under delegated authority.

11. **Developing the Board and its Purpose**

The Executive Director for Housing, Communities and Prevention gave a presentation to the Board. The presentation is attached as an appendix to these minutes. The Executive Director discussed the need for the Health and Wellbeing Board to reset and become a strategic board for driving integration, prevention and place-based leadership. He outlined the need for change and that the Health Bill would likely make changes to Health and Wellbeing Boards.

The Executive Director for Housing, Communities and Prevention introduced new members of the Health and Wellbeing Board. He also discussed the potential for representation of lay members or people with lived experience on the Board in the future.

Board members discussed the report and the future direction of the Health and Wellbeing Board. Members discussed: areas for delivery under the Board; how health inequalities could be embedded in delivery areas; how outcomes could be used for improving lives; the role of the Board in children's partnerships and safeguarding arrangements; and the role that the Board could have if Healthwatch was disbanded.

Members discussed establishing a working group for supporting the development of the Board.

Proposed by Sam Crowe, seconded by Cllr S Robinson.

Decision:

That a working group be established to support the development of the Board.

12. **Supported Housing Strategy**

The Programme Manager for Building Better Lives introduced the report and gave a presentation to the Board. The presentation is attached as an appendix to these minutes. The presentation covered the purpose of the Supporting Housing Strategy, the statutory requirements, the core components of the strategy, expected challenges, and the approach to engagement.

Board members discussed the report and raised the following points:

- Supported housing can improve mental health and life expectancy as a core determinate of health.
- Health commissioners and providers were included in stakeholder mapping, which helps map the needs and demands for supported housing and enables partners to work together.
- A member expected issues around access to housing and supported housing to come through in Community Conversations. Having conversations with parish and town councils can help identify small sites for housing.
- A range of data was being used to see who is using supported housing, for example people who have been discharged from hospital.
- There may be cases when ensuring that someone is in the right type of housing can be an option to prevent admission to hospital.

Following the discussion and before closing the meeting, the Chair placed on record their thanks to Sarah Howard, Deputy Director of Modernisation and Place, and a previous Vice-Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board who was leaving NHS Dorset.

13. **Exempt Business**

There was no exempt business.

Duration of meeting: 2.00 - 3.26 pm

Chairman

.....