

SHAREHOLDER COMMITTEE FOR CARE DORSET HOLDINGS LTD

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 29 JUNE 2026

Present: Cllrs Richard Biggs (Vice-Chair), Steve Robinson and Gill Taylor

Apologies: Cllrs Nick Ireland and Ben Wilson

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

Chris Best (Chief Executive Officer), Jen Cook (Lawyer - Contracts and Commercial), Sean Cremer (Director - Resources (Section 151 Officer)), Julia Ingram (Director - Adult Social Care), Sarah Sewell (Head of Service - Commissioning for Older People and Home First), Caroline Tapster (Chair of the Board, Care Dorset) and Lindsey Watson (Senior Democratic and Governance Officer)

VICE-CHAIR IN THE CHAIR

Due to the Chair of the shareholder committee having given apologies for the meeting, the Vice-chair, R Biggs, chaired the meeting.

1. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 March 2026 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

3. **Public Participation**

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

4. **Councillor Questions**

There were no questions from councillors.

5. **Review of Terms of Reference**

The terms of reference for the shareholder committee were noted.

6. **Forward Plan**

The shareholder committee forward plan was noted.

The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health reported that it was planned to hold a further summit between Dorset Council as shareholder and Care Dorset later in the year, which would provide an opportunity to meet informally to look at future development opportunities.

7. Dorset Council Organisational Update

The shareholder committee considered a report of the Corporate Director, Commissioning and Improvement, which presented the developments led by the council, relevant to Care Dorset, and summarised key progress since the last meeting of the shareholder committee.

In presenting the report, the Head of Older Peoples' Commissioning and Homes First noted that full implementation of the new model for day opportunities was progressing which included a transition to a more flexible and sustainable model of delivery and focus on promoting independence. In addition, reference was made to supported living, with work to progress a second transitions property in Weymouth, strong performance in community reablement, the progression of redevelopment of Sidney Gale and work to explore opportunities for service development being undertaken by commissioners and Care Dorset.

In response to a question on progression to redevelop Sidney Gale, it was noted that further work was required to look at costs and other factors. A discussion paper would be brought to Cabinet at the appropriate time, later in 2026.

In respect of reablement centres, work was continuing with Care Dorset to develop the operational model for the future service. This would include consideration of issues around leasing properties and how the business model needed to be set up. Options would be discussed with the shareholder.

The Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness reported that work would be starting soon on a review of supported living, which would include consideration of the need for move-on accommodation. Input into this review was welcomed.

The report was NOTED.

8. Care Dorset Update

The shareholder committee considered a report, which provided an update on matters relating to Care Dorset since the previous meeting.

The Chair of the Board reported that recruitment for a Non-Executive Director with commercial and business development expertise, would commence at the end of June 2026. This would ensure a range of expertise on the board and would support the board's aspirations for growth of Care Dorset. In addition, it was noted that Dorset Council's Chief Executive had joined a meeting of the board last week for a helpful discussion on how Care Dorset could support the council in its wider transformation programme, with further discussions to be held, and it was noted that a governance review was to be undertaken by Care Dorset to ensure the company was working in line with good corporate governance.

The Chief Executive Officer (Care Dorset) thanked all Care Dorset colleagues for their efforts in supporting people within the service during the recent hot weather. In addition, he provided an overview of the areas covered by the report including occupancy levels, day opportunities, community reablement and staff turnover and sickness levels. In respect of revenue, it was hoped that this would increase in the coming months and would be supported by a comprehensive marketing programme.

In response to a question regarding the council's transition to a new model for day opportunities, it was reported that the service was performing well, with attendance above commissioned levels, including use on a private basis. The service was supporting people to be able to continue living in their own homes.

The Chief Executive Officer (Care Dorset) provided an overview of action taken in response to the recent period of hot weather. Lessons were being learnt and plans to be put in place to respond to hot weather situations in the future. A report would be provided to the shareholder.

The report was noted.

9. **Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items.

10. **Exempt Business**

There was no exempt business.

Duration of meeting: 2.05 - 2.24 pm

Chairman

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