March update to LMU TC

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Grass cutting

Following on from previous reports, and in response to conversations at previous meetings, we have investigated the potential for parishes to take on responsibility for grass cutting and kerb maintenance and, if Parish & town Councils are willing, can arrange for a meeting to discuss the scope and potential funding available. One option may be to potentially extend the scope to include neighbouring areas as an income generator. This would most likely not be in the 2025/26 FY but could be an option to explore for 2026 onwards.

Day Opportunities

We are currently consulting on the potential to change our current model of day services for people with infirmity or disability to be more flexible and person centred, moving away from traditional formal institutions and closer to their own communities. In practice this will enable people to be supported in local community spaces such as care homes, churches, cafes and community centres rather than having to travel to large, often outdated buildings that are no longer fit for purpose. The consultation is open until 9 June and it may be that Upton will be able to develop new services as a result.

Thriving Communities

We are about to tender for a core delivery partner for our new Thriving Communities model. A part of our Health & Wellbeing strategy within the Communities for All work stream, Thriving Communities is a programme that will work strategically, regionally and locally and alongside the new NHS Integrated Neighbourhood Teams, to bring local charities together and find "local solutions to local issues". This will play a key role in enabling Dorset take its place as a national leader, recognising our unique demographic and ambition to be an "All Ages Friendly County".

Urgent and Emergency Care from Hospital. (Future Care)

Look out for the information and consultation event in Wimborne in April! Now retitled "Future Care" we have been leading on this programme with the NHS which is projected to make efficiency saving of around £900k in 2025-26 through clearing away blockages to assessments and developing communication between teams with the ambition that;

1. *Fewer people develop needs that can only be met through a hospital stay*
2. *When in hospital people are assessed and referred on a "whole person" approach rather than by symptoms or departments.*
3. *Communication and support packages are developed to help people leave hospital as soon as they are ready.*
4. *People are supported to recover and not relapse into needing to return to hospital.*

Residential Care Commissioning Framework

Having been through a commissioning process we are now launching new contracts to residential care providers. In the same way that our "Fair Cost of Care" framework has been based on discussion and assessments with providers to agree hourly rates that are a good balance between Dorset Council affordability and care provider costs, our new residential contracts will save money and bring stability in an area that is frequently subject to higher prices in a complex market.

Purbeck Blueprint

The Purbeck Blueprint is the name given to a new model of working with NHS Integrated Neighbourhood Teams and based on learning from Weymouth & Portland, Our Thriving Communities and Communities For All engagements will become a model for working with local areas in the future. This is currently at the stage of engaging with local GPs but will become more visible, working with charities, schools and town/parish councils over time. The next stage is for 3 further Teams across North Dorset.

University Links

We have been talking to a medical University and the NHS to develop a local base, linked to accommodation, in Dorset. Delivering qualifications from our Castleman Plus Reablement Centre in Blandford and the future Sidney Gale site in Bridport this has the potential to be a major achievement and maybe a "global first". We are exploring student accommodation options to create an integrated and intergenerational community.

Community check ins

We are currently trialling a "community check in" service, where we train and support known and trusted professionals in the community to look out for those who are potentially vulnerable. Our first trial is with our Postmen/women, who are being shown things to ask and look out for if they have concerns.

Extended Library Access

Verwood library is trialling a new idea whereby members will be offered out of hours access to the library outside of normal opening hours to use the library at a time that suits them. An interesting idea but no suggestion as to whether it will come here.

Local Surgeries

We continue to hold regular surgeries every first Saturday of the month, there is very poor takeup most contact from residents is by phone email or coming to a Win on Waste session.