

Notice of Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee



Date: Monday, 14 September 2026 at 6.00 pm

Venue: HMS Phoebe, BCP Civic Centre, Bournemouth BH2 6DY

Membership:

Chairman:

Cllr S Carr-Brown

Vice Chairman:

Cllr S Bull

Cllr O Brown
Cllr P Cooper
Cllr D Farr

Cllr E Pankhurst
Cllr B Hitchcock
Cllr S Mackrow

Cllr D Martin
Cllr T Slade
Cllr O Walters

Parent Governor Co-opted Representatives

Jeremy Payne and Matt Tuddenham

Diocesan Co-Opted Representatives

Mark Saxby

Youth Parliament Representatives

Polly Homan and Yakub Maatoug

All Members of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee are summoned to attend this meeting to consider the items of business set out on the agenda below.

The press and public are welcome to view the live stream of this meeting at the following link:

<https://democracy.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?MIId=6546>

If you would like any further information on the items to be considered at the meeting please contact: Democratic Services on 01202 096660 or email sinead.ocallaghan@bcpCouncil.gov.uk

Press enquiries should be directed to the Press Office by email at press.office@bcpCouncil.gov.uk or tel: 01202 118686

This notice and all the papers mentioned within it are available at democracy.bcpCouncil.gov.uk

AIDAN DUNN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

4 September 2026

**DEBATE
NOT HATE**



Available online and
on the Mod.gov app

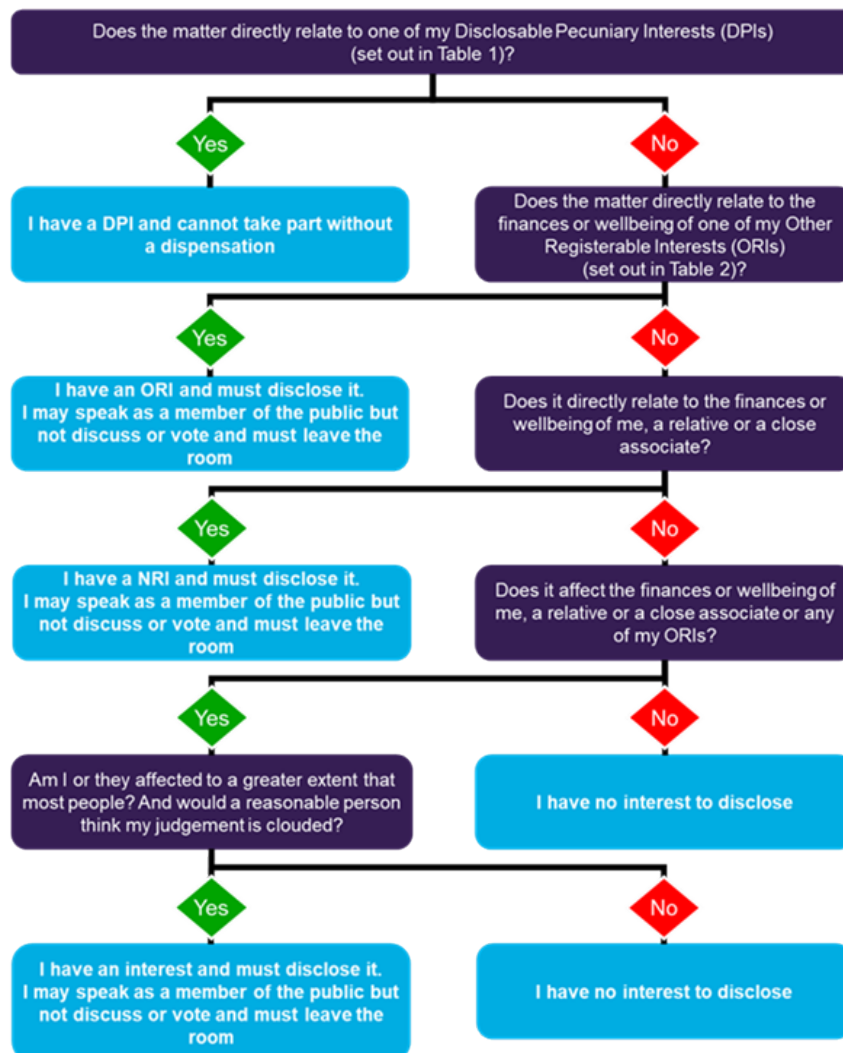


Maintaining and promoting high standards of conduct

Declaring interests at meetings

Familiarise yourself with the Councillor Code of Conduct which can be found in Part 6 of the Council's Constitution.

Before the meeting, read the agenda and reports to see if the matters to be discussed at the meeting concern your interests



What are the principles of bias and pre-determination and how do they affect my participation in the meeting?

Bias and predetermination are common law concepts. If they affect you, your participation in the meeting may call into question the decision arrived at on the item.

Bias Test

In all the circumstances, would it lead a fair minded and informed observer to conclude that there was a real possibility or a real danger that the decision maker was biased?

Predetermination Test

At the time of making the decision, did the decision maker have a closed mind?

If a councillor appears to be biased or to have predetermined their decision, they must NOT participate in the meeting.

For more information or advice please contact the Monitoring Officer

Selflessness

Councillors should act solely in terms of the public interest

Integrity

Councillors must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships

Objectivity

Councillors must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias

Accountability

Councillors are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this

Openness

Councillors should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing

Honesty & Integrity

Councillors should act with honesty and integrity and should not place themselves in situations where their honesty and integrity may be questioned

Leadership

Councillors should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour. They should actively promote and robustly support the principles and be willing to challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs

AGENDA

Items to be considered while the meeting is open to the public

1. **Apologies**

To receive any apologies for absence from Councillors.

2. **Substitute Members**

To receive information on any changes in the membership of the Committee.

Note – When a member of a Committee is unable to attend a meeting of a Committee or Sub-Committee, the relevant Political Group Leader (or their nominated representative) may, by notice to the Monitoring Officer (or their nominated representative) prior to the meeting, appoint a substitute member from within the same Political Group. The contact details on the front of this agenda should be used for notifications.

3. **Declarations of Interests**

Councillors are requested to declare any interests on items included in this agenda. Please refer to the workflow on the preceding page for guidance.

Declarations received will be reported at the meeting.

4. **Minutes**

To confirm and sign as a correct record the minutes of the Meeting held on 16 June 2026.

5. **Public Issues**

To receive any public questions, statements or petitions submitted in accordance with the Constitution. Further information on the requirements for submitting these is available to view at the following link:-

<https://democracy.bcpccouncil.gov.uk/documents/s2305/Public%20Items%20-%20Meeting%20Procedure%20Rules.pdf>

The deadline for the submission of public questions is 3 clear working days before the meeting.

The deadline for the submission of a statement is midday the working day before the meeting.

The deadline for the submission of a petition is 10 working days before the meeting.

6. **Members of Youth Parliament Update**

To receive a verbal update from the Members of Youth Parliament (MYPs).

9 - 16

Verbal
Report

7. Recommendation Tracker To note the latest updates to the recommendation tracker, including consideration of recommendations made by the Committee.	17 - 62
ITEMS CIRCULATED BETWEEN MEETINGS	
8. Corporate Performance Report - Q4 BCP Council adopted 'A shared vision for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole 2024-28' in May 2024. The shared vision is the corporate strategy which sets out the council's vision, priorities and ambitions as well as the principles which underpin the way the council works as it develops and delivers its services. Incorporated in the vision is a set of measures of progress for achieving the vision, priorities and ambitions. This is the performance monitoring report for Quarter Four 25-26, presenting an update on the progress measures. The council's delivery against its priorities and ambitions can also be monitored through the performance dashboard which is available on the council's website providing up-to-date real time information on the progress measures.	63 - 96
9. Risk Management - Children's Services This report updates councillors on the position of those corporate risks relating specifically to Children's Services.	97 - 118
ITEMS OF BUSINESS	
10. SEND Reform Plan Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council, working with NHS Dorset and wider local area partners, submitted its Local SEND Reform Plan to the Department for Education in June 2026. The Plan sets out a three-year roadmap to improve outcomes for children and young people with SEND, strengthen inclusive mainstream provision, improve family confidence and support the long-term sustainability of the High Needs Block. The Plan is underpinned by co-production with children, young people, parents, carers and practitioners, a local partnership maturity assessment, an Inclusive Place Sufficiency Strategy, an Experts at Hand partnership model and a clear Theory of Change.	119 - 314

It responds to increasing demand, including sustained growth in Education, Health and Care Plans, whilst building on BCP's strengths and improving partnership arrangements. A key component of delivery is the introduction of a Targeted Cluster Funding Model, funded through £1.5m per annum from the High Needs Block, to support earlier intervention, inclusion and prevention activity.

The Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the proposed approach at their meeting on 14 September 2026.

11. **BCP SEND and Alternative Provision Strategy 2026 - 2029**

315 - 344

Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council, working with NHS Dorset and wider local area partners, has developed the BCP SEND and Alternative Provision (AP) Strategy 2026-2029. The strategy sets out the partnership's shared vision, ambitions and priorities for improving outcomes for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and those who require Alternative Provision. The strategy has been developed through extensive engagement and co-production with children and young people, families, schools, settings and partner organisations. The shared vision is:

"We belong. We are listened to. We can thrive."

The strategy responds to increasing levels of need and demand across the SEND system whilst recognising the need to strengthen inclusion, improve consistency of support and ensure that children and young people receive help at the earliest possible stage. The strategy establishes a shared partnership framework built around six priorities:

- Inclusive Practice and Belonging in Every Setting;
- Earlier Help Through a Locality Model;
- The Right Support in the Right Place;
- A Strong and Purposeful Alternative Provision Offer;
- Preparation for Adulthood; and
- Trust, Communication and Co-production.

The SEND and AP Strategy should be viewed as the partnership's overarching strategic framework. It describes what the local area is seeking to achieve and the outcomes it wishes to deliver for children, young people and families. Delivery of the strategy will be supported through the BCP Local SEND Reform Plan, which is presented elsewhere on this agenda and provides greater detail regarding how these ambitions will be implemented.

Implementation of the strategy will be supported through a comprehensive governance framework bringing together education, health, care, commissioning and wider partnership arrangements. Strategic oversight will be provided through the SEND and AP System Leadership Group and associated boards responsible for key workstreams including inclusion, alternative provision, preparation for adulthood, co-production, sufficiency planning and SEND reform delivery. The governance framework also provides routes for accountability through Council and partnership structures including Cabinet, Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Schools

Forum, the Children and Young People Partnership Board and the Health and Wellbeing Board.

The Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the proposed strategy at their meeting on 14 September 2026.

The report asks Cabinet to consider the proposed strategy, note the governance arrangements that will oversee implementation and recommend adoption of the BCP SEND and Alternative Provision Strategy 2026-2029.

12. Short Breaks

345 - 352

Local authorities have a statutory responsibility to provide a range of Short Breaks services for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). These services offer opportunities for children and young people to participate in enjoyable activities, build independence, and develop social connections, while providing parents, carers, and siblings with valuable respite from caring responsibilities. Short Breaks can include daytime, evening, weekend, holiday, and overnight provision, ranging from universal community services to specialist support for more complex needs.

Effective Short Breaks provision is an important part of the wider SEND support offer. It helps strengthen family resilience, prevents the escalation of needs, and contributes to better outcomes for children, young people, and their families.

During the recent OFSTED Inspections, it was acknowledged by inspectors that short breaks are a valued and important source of support for children with disabilities and their families, helping to meet needs and prevent escalation. However, they concluded that there was a need for a greater variety of current short breaks provision offer, including overnight provision, and a better sufficiency to meet growing demand and increasingly complex levels of need. As a result, Ofsted identified in their reports that the expansion of short breaks capacity and improving the accessibility and usability of the offer for families should be key priorities for improvement across BCP.

Current strengths within the Short Breaks offer include the Positive Activities Programme and commissioned provision for some complex and overnight needs. However, there is a need to expand capacity, increase the range of services available, and improve families' awareness of available support. Planned improvements include increasing opportunities for community participation, reviewing resources, enhancing accessibility through a user-friendly SEND Local Offer, and developing a single point of entry via the Front Door to ensure evidence-based responses to identified needs.

Future developments will explore expanding commissioned services, introducing a Gateway Card, and increasing access to Direct Payments supported by practical brokerage, payroll, recruitment, and employment assistance. A key principle of this work will be co-production, ensuring that children, young people, families, and wider stakeholders are actively involved in shaping the design and delivery of services. This approach aligns with national SEND reforms by strengthening local support, promoting early intervention, and using data and evidence to inform

decision-making.

13. Portfolio Holder Update

To receive a verbal update from the Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People.

14. Work Plan

The Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) Committee is asked to consider and identify work priorities for publication in a Work Plan.

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No other items of business can be considered unless the Chairman decides the matter is urgent for reasons that must be specified and recorded in the Minutes.