

Report subject	Adult Social Care Prevention Strategy
Meeting date	29 October 2025
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	The Adult Social Care Prevention Strategy (2025-2030) sets out 5 key strategic priorities to reduce, delay or prevent the need for long term care and support for people living in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole. The strategy has been shaped by the views and experiences of local people, carers, the voluntary and community sector and partners. It aims to develop a sustainable approach to prevention in adult social care. The strategy emphasises early intervention, the promotion of wellbeing, and collaboration with key partners, to not only prevent the development of long-term needs, but also to enhance the overall quality of life for people living in the BCP Council area.
Recommendations	It is RECOMMENDED that Cabinet: A) approves the Adult Social Care Prevention Strategy, contained in Appendix 1 to this Report B) approves an investment of £203,000 on-going funding for the ASC Prevention Strategy, to counteract the effect of temporary funding not being available from April 2026 and protect the current level of service delivery C) approves an investment of a further £441,000 over a 3-year period (£147,000 per year in 2026/27, 2027/28 and 2028/29) to be drawn down via flexible use of capital receipts in order to increase the total ASC Prevention Strategy envelope to the required level
Reason for recommendations	The Strategy: i) Delivers a sustainable, preventative approach to delaying, reducing, or preventing the need for long-term care and support services. It contributes to improved outcomes for people while generating financial benefits for adult social care through more effective demand

	management
	ii) Meets the requirements of the Care Act (2014)
	iii) Supports the priorities of the Corporate Strategy and Adult Social Care Strategy; and
	iv) Supports the Fulfilled Lives transformation programme

Portfolio Holder(s)	Councillor David Brown – Health and Wellbeing
Service Director	Zena Dighton, Interim Director of Adult Social Care Commissioning
Report Authors	Emma Senior, Strategic Commissioning Manager for Prevention and Wellbeing
Wards	Council-wide
Classification	For Decision

Background

1. BCP Council is facing increasing demand for adult social care services. There was an increase in new requests of support of 28% from 2022/23 to 2023/24 for people aged 18-64, and an increase of 7% for older people aged 65+.
2. The number of residents aged 65 and over is set to increase by 15% between 2018 and 2028. By 2028, 24% of the local population will be aged 65+. Living longer does not always equate to living healthier lives. While healthy life expectancy in the BCP area is better for both males and females compared to nationally, the difference between life expectancy and healthy life expectancy shows that locally, people may live between 15 to 18 years in ill health.
3. Mental health conditions such as depression and anxiety are the leading cause of disability in those aged 15-49, accounting for around a fifth of disability in this age group in the BCP Council area.
4. In order to manage this increase in demand, we need to shift the focus from crisis management to prevention and enable people to live happier, healthier and independently for longer.
5. In February 2025 we began engagement with local communities, the voluntary and community sector, the local market and the adult social care workforce, to understand their needs, preferences, aspirations and ideas for a new adult social care approach to prevention.

6. We delivered 30 presentations at community events, team meetings and conferences and met with over 30 different Voluntary and Community Sector organisations to hear their views.
7. We produced a series of surveys and offered 1:1 support and easy read copies, to which we received 180 responses.
8. We held a multi partner prevention event which brought together 117 key partners and stakeholders. We shared insights from public health and our adult social care fulfilled lives programme, celebrated best practice from voluntary and community sector organisations and hosted workshops to explore key questions about prevention and our developing priorities.
9. Overall, we had a combination of over 400 attendees at various events who collaboratively shaped the priorities of the adult social care prevention strategy.
10. The 5 key strategic priorities for the Adult Social Care Prevention Strategy are:

Priority 1: A change in culture

- Strengths based and holistic approaches
- Equality and diversity
- Co-production
- Language and listening

Priority 2: Living and ageing well

- Falls Prevention, strength and balance
- Better physical health
- Financial stability and security
- Age friendly communities

Priority 3: Individual resilience to build on wellbeing

- Information, advice, guidance and self-education
- Supporting people with sight and/or hearing loss and impairment
- Hoarding and self-neglect
- Self-funders and people on the cusp of eligibility
- Supporting Carers
- Occupational Therapy and Care Technology

Priority 4: Supporting the Workforce

- Workforce wellbeing
- Staff development and training
- Leadership commitment
- First, think prevention
- Integration, collaboration and communication

Priority 5: Connecting Communities

- Connection and a sense of belonging
- Addressing health and social inequalities
- Community first

- Safety and security
 - Supporting the voluntary and community sector
11. The strategy identifies the areas where success will be measured and a detailed action plan with timescales is provided in appendix 2.
 12. The Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee reviewed the strategy on 23 September 2025 and supported the recommendations to Cabinet.

Summary of financial implications

13. Current preventative services are based on short term contracts revised and renewed every year. These are limited in scope and do not offer the sustainability required to support long-term preventative initiatives. To achieve meaningful and lasting outcomes, a long-term, sustainable financial commitment is essential, one that embraces an 'invest to save' approach.
14. The Commissioning expenditure budget includes an identified £317,000 of on-going funding to support the ASC Prevention Strategy. Additionally, £150,000 of Public Health funding is currently allocated to the service unit to enhance the budget envelope. In the 2025/26 financial year, a further £203,000 of temporary funding, expiring in March 2026, is supporting current preventative services. On-going funding is required to replace temporary funding streams that have been utilised over the last few years and maintain the level of preventative support necessary to meet the demand anticipated in the Medium Term Financial Plan.
15. The ASC Prevention Strategy estimates that a total commitment of £817,000 is required to fully realise the Strategy's potential. In addition to the above resources defined in point 2, an investment of £441,000 is sought, spread over 3 years (£147,000 per year), to secure the full budget envelope for the ASC Prevention Strategy. This will offer additional savings to the Adult Social Care budget once the services are fully embedded in practice, with the aim of £1,050,000 per annum of demand led savings by 2030, realised in annual increments. The table below outlines the current funding, additional investment as a proof of concept and savings to be realised, in absolute figures and an incremental format.

ASCPrevention Strategy - current funding, additional investment and demand avoidance savings

	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
Current ASC Prevention Strategy - Absolute Values				
Base revenue budget resources	317	317	317	317
Public Health Funding	150	150	150	150
Temporary Funding (ends 31 March 2026)	203	0	0	0
Total Current Resources for ASC Prevention Strategy	670	467	467	467
Growth Bid to maintain current business as usual prevention strategy		203	203	203
Total Current Resources for ASC Prevention Strategy	670	670	670	670
Growth Bid - MTFP - Incremental Basis		203	0	0
Demand Reduction Savings	(1,537)	(3,074)	(4,611)	(6,148)
Incremental Demand Reduction Savings (already factored into in MTFP)		(1,537)	(1,537)	(1,537)

	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	Total
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
Additional ASC Prevention Strategy - Absolute Values					
3 Year - Invest to Save - Time limited one-off revenue budget resources (proof of concept)	147	147	147	0	441
Total Additional Resources for ASC Prevention Strategy	147	147	147	0	441
Additional Demand Reduction Savings	0	(330)	(680)	(1,050)	(2,060)
Incremental Demand Reduction Savings (MTFP Format)	0	(330)	(350)	(370)	

16. Using best practice and tools that have been developed by other Local Authorities to measure the benefits of preventative services, we will work with our data analytics and management information colleagues to create our own BCP Council bespoke benefits realisation methodology. This will evaluate both the financial impact and the broader societal value of preventative initiatives within the ASC Prevention Strategy. The tool will enable ongoing measurement of effectiveness and success, ensuring that the strategy delivers its intended outcomes and achieves the additional savings target.

Summary of legal implications

17. Under The Care Act (2014) and associated statutory guidance, the first two general duties placed on local authorities are to promote individual wellbeing and to prevent, reduce or delay the development of needs for care and support, for people and carers.
18. The strategy aims to support and encompass the statutory duties placed on the local authority to people and carers living in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole.

Summary of human resources implications

19. To ensure the successful delivery of the Adult Social Care Prevention Strategy, it is essential that the senior commissioning officer for prevention and wellbeing

post is extended beyond its current funding period, which ends on 30 April 2026 and is currently funded by transformation funding. Continued investment in this role will maintain the strategic capacity to implement the strategy and embed prevention across adult social care.

Summary of sustainability impact

20. A decision impact assessment report has been produced and is showing a positive impact on:

- Communities and culture
- Economy
- Health and Wellbeing
- Learning and Skills
- Transport and Accessibility

Summary of public health implications

21. The Adult Social Care Prevention Strategy will improve the health and wellbeing of people living in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole. Priority 2 focuses on enabling people to live and age well and priority 3 supports individual resilience to build on wellbeing.

Summary of equality implications

22. An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) screening tool has been completed and reviewed by the EIA Panel. A copy is contained in appendix 3 to this report.
23. The priorities of the Adult Social Care Prevention Strategy will have positive equality implications. Throughout its implementation, the experiences of people with different needs will continue to be considered to ensure that everyone can access preventative support to remain as independent as possible and live healthier happier lives.

Summary of risk assessment

24. If a dedicated fund for preventative services cannot be identified, there is a significant risk that current commissioned preventative services e.g. the BCP Handyvan Service, will need to be decommissioned. These services play a vital role in reducing long-term demand on statutory provision and improving outcomes for people.
25. The absence of a financial commitment would undermine the ability to plan and deliver preventative work effectively, potentially leading to increased pressures on adult social care services and missed opportunities for early intervention.
26. A lack of sustained investment would also compromise our ability to meet our statutory requirements under the Care Act (2014), to delay, reduce, or prevent the development of long-term care and support needs.
27. Continued funding is also vital to support the delivery of the Fulfilled Lives programme, as prevention is a key element underpinning its success.

28. As the priorities of the strategy were developed through engagement with people, carers and the voluntary and community sector, if these are not supported there is a risk of reputational damage to BCP Council for not taking into account the views of the people the strategy has been written for.

Background papers

None

Appendices

1. The Adult Social Care Prevention Strategy
2. The Adult Social Care Prevention Strategy Action Plan
3. Equality Impact Assessment Screening Tool for the Adult Social Care Prevention Strategy