

Dorset Parent Carer Council Annual General Meeting

Chair's Report 2025

Welcome and thank you for giving your time to attend today, the purpose of this meeting is to reflect on our activities this year. Also, I would like to introduce our new trustee Dawn Tattersall, who will be formally added to our trustee list for the Charity Commission. She brings a wealth of knowledge and understanding of the SEND world through her work in Children Services and as a specialist consultant we are so pleased to welcome her.

Last year we welcomed two participation workers, regretfully Tamsin has since left us for full time paid employment. However Rowan and I are working successfully to fulfil attendance at all the boards and groups we are committed to alongside Tracey and Nic with their areas of knowledge for their groups and boards. Also the upsetting news was shared that we had one of our Beach Huts stolen just before it was sited for the Easter and Summer period it was probably stolen to order and now, we are in the tricky situation of trying to get insurance if we want to replace it, ongoing conversations are happening.

Following the commencement of the Birth to Settled Adulthood Service mentioned last year, we are part of the many subgroups to keep the challenge ongoing as the service beds in. For example, an action from cabinet members via a scrutiny committee - we took that action for the cabinet members to have a better understanding of the Education, Health and Care Plan process. A welcomed meeting with the three councillors of the scrutiny board and a group of parent carers, with children or young people each at different education stages, different localities and different needs of their child / young person was organised. This opportunity and good conversations and learning was valued by all that day. My thanks go to those parents who shared their stories. However, as I mentioned last year we have new political leadership which is starting to bed in "but doing so there is still a warning of financial risk impacting possibly on children's services. Plus, all the National challenges that are coming very soon across

Local Authorities and Health is very unsettling for Parent Carers.

We do have representation through the National Network of Parent Carer Forums at Parliamentary level and wait firstly the new paper on Education and Wellbeing Bill followed by the SEND white paper, both of which keep being delayed to the angst of everyone waiting to see the impact in their area of working.

We have also been making sure that letters, documents and surveys that go out to families must and do come to us for proofreading and usually plenty of suggestions for tweaks on our part. My thanks to those parents who help with this.

You will hear a report from Rowan our participation worker, but I would like to share that the Let's Talk termly webinars also the Let's Talk Live, and Let's Talk Local events are still a brilliant means of listening and capturing the views and concerns of our members and the wider community. This approach has been recognised across the Southwest Local Authorities Association as being innovative and good practice. I attend quarterly face to face meetings and it's so helpful to hear what Councils on our borders are doing.

The Let's Talk Live information event at Kingston Maurward was funded by DPCC but delivered and organised in partnership with DPCC, by Children's Services my thanks to Max Simmons, it is a massive planning and coordination headache. We will be funding another event in 2026 with a different emphasis on inviting the wider voluntary sector groups to be there as in this time of uncertainty nationally we all have to work together on sharing information and supporting/learning from families.

As chair of the DPCC because of my knowledge and understanding of the challenges being a parent carer and from talking directly to parents whilst successfully working with Children Services and Health, I have been presenting at some national conferences and parliamentary groups this year. This has been such an opportunity to share the experiences faced daily by parents whilst it gives me terrible butterflies. I had over 600 delegates from Local Authorities across the country this week listening to me after I'd finished, calmed down, I was so chuffed that we, through my voice on behalf of Dorset families are being listened to.

Once again, I thank all those involved with Dorset Parent Carer Council and the families who contribute their time and views to help us in our work. I am the Chair, but they are the leaders.

Lesley Mellor

Chair



Registered Charity Number: 1191487

Trustees and Finance Report 2024/2025

for the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

Reference and administration details

The charity's principal address:

Unit 12
Herrington Barn
Dorchester
DT2 9PU

Names of the charity trustees:

Lesley Mellor (Chair)
Tracey Richards
Julie Parham
Nicola Smith
Annmarie Carter

Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document:	Constitution
How the charity is constituted:	Unincorporated association
Trustee selection method:	Appointed by Members

Staff and volunteers:

During the year to 31 March 2025, DPCC had a total of four employees as follows:

Part Time Admin – (12hrs) 06/09/2023 - ongoing
Part Time Participation Coordinator (15hrs) 03/06/2024 - 21/02/2025
PT Parent Participation Coordinator (15hrs) 03/06/2024 – ongoing
Finance Officer 28/08/2024 - ongoing

Business Support (Finance) for the Autism in Schools project was provided on a self-employed basis (from June 2023), and there were also volunteers in the following roles:

- DPCC membership co-ordinator
- Beach hut co-ordinator
- Parent Representatives
- Steering Group members
- Trustees
- Treasurer

Objectives and activities

Summary of the objective outlined in Dorset Parent Carer Council's governing document:

To relieve the needs of parent carers of children aged 0-25 years who are disabled or have additional needs in Dorset through the provision of (in particular, but not exclusively) events where parents and carers will have an opportunity to share views and gain information, advice and support.

The charity's activities are outlined in the Chair and Participation Co-Ordinator reports.

Financial review

For the year 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025, receipts and payments were as follows:

	£
Total receipts	67,799
Total payments	65,950

For the year 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025, the balance at bank and gift vouchers were as follows:

	£
Reconciled bank balance at 31/03/25	138,546.25
Cash in hand at 31/3/25	5

We are grateful for the financial support of the Department for Education, Dorset Council, NHS Dorset ICB and other local partners via grants and project funding. This has enabled Dorset Parent Carer Council to offer opportunities for co-production participation, training, and peer support, as well as to work collaboratively with partners to produce information and resources for parent carers and families.

The charity ended the financial year with funds allocated as follows:

	£
Reserves	35,000
Unrestricted funds	55,865
Restricted funds	47,686
Total	138,551

Reserves

Dorset Parent Carer Council aims to maintain reserves at a level necessary to function effectively for a period of 12 months, should financial difficulties occur beyond the control of the charity. This equates to our core costs relating to staffing, administrative expenses, information and digital resources, and parent carer support. If required, additional funding streams would be sourced to facilitate a seamless continuation of service to our members.

Amounts held in reserve have been allocated with due consideration of the following:

- An analysis of existing funds
- The reliability of current income sources and new income opportunities
- Expenditure on planned activities
- Future needs, contingencies, and risks
- Consequences of being unable to meet forecasted need.

There are no uncertainties about the charity as a going concern. There are sufficient funds in reserves to ensure continuity for twelve months after year end.

There are no funds in deficit at the year end.

Statement of financial activities

Dorset Parent Carer Council

	2025	2024
	£	£
A1 Receipts		
Dept. for Education	17,499	17,457
Somerset PC Forum	-	428
Dorset Council	22,500	20,000
Magdalen Farm	2,500	-
PINS	25,000	-
Other Income	300	-
Total receipts	67,799	37,885
A3 Payments		
Staffing costs	22,152	16,474
Training	6	-
Meeting costs	253	7
Infrastructure costs	5,551	2,673
Development info & resources	24	1,560
Website charges/ licences	-	1,099
Parent Carer remuneration	-	120
Other (events)	24,409	-
Parent Carer expenses	2,659	1,708
Autism in Schools project	10,896	43,418
Total payments	65,950	67,059
Net receipts/payments	1,849	-29,174
A6 Cash funds last year end	136,702	165,876
Cash funds this year	138,551	136,702

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signature	_____
Full name	_____
Position	_____
Date	_____



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