

FORM FOR PROPOSALS FOR DAPTC AGM

To be submitted by 12 noon Friday 30th September 2021

NAME OF COUNCIL Swanage Town Council.....

Please note that the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) requests this information and careful completion of the form will increase the chances of a proposal being accepted by NALC

1. Please give the motion your Council would like considered at the DAPTC AGM

DAPTC asks Dorset Council to use its statutory authority to challenge changes to health services that reduce residents' access to health care, including in emergency. Furthermore, that it requires the Integrated Care Board to deliver the improved access to health care, including for rural residents, that was promised as part of the Clinical Services Review and account to Dorset Council regarding their plan.

If approved, the resulting actions:

DAPTC to write to Dorset Council in support of the motion and to include the following points as part of the correspondence relating to the motion:

- That there is a realistic plan to address the shortage of acute, and community, staff, and beds; to increase access to, and quality of, health care in Dorset; and to reduce ambulance handover delays.
- That access to local health care services is urgently improved: GP's, Walk-in Minor Injury Units, Community Hospital clinics, tests and minor surgery, and NHS dentistry services.
- That the Ambulance Service is better resourced so that it is able to meet target emergency response times, including in rural areas.
- That Poole A&E and Maternity units continue to operate fully, as promised, until two years after the new BEACH centre at Bournemouth opens, and there is a realistic and urgent plan to improve A&E at Dorset Council Hospital
- That there is a realistic plan to address planned operation waiting lists.

2. Please give the reason (as thoroughly as possible) why your Council is submitting this motion.

Swanage Town Council is very concerned about rural residents' deteriorating access to healthcare, including in emergency. Dorset Council area is predominantly rural, with poor public transport, single lane roads often at a standstill in summer, and a significant percentage of the population – for example, 25% in Swanage – with no access to a car. Swanage is at the end of the Purbeck Peninsula, and residents and visitors will have approaching 30 miles to travel to access emergency, maternity and paediatric hospital care. This long journey will increase the risk of deaths and lives lived in disability.

The Clinical Services Review was based on the premise that local health services would be enhanced to reduce the demand for acute care. In fact, access to local health care has declined. Community hospital beds have been closed, there are long waits for GP appointments, reduced or no walk-in access to minor injury units, a reduced range of tests, outpatient clinics, and minor surgery services available in

Community Hospitals, the promised Wareham Hub has been cancelled and there is reduced or no access to NHS dentistry.

Yet plans continue to reduce acute service sites and beds. There is concern that Poole A&E and Maternity units are being run down before the new services at Bournemouth have opened, the timeframe for accessing funding to improve A&E at Dorset County Hospital is unclear, South West Ambulance Services are overstretched and unable to meet emergency response time targets, particularly in remote areas, putting thousands of lives at unnecessary risk, and there are long waits for planned operations, with many people having to spend savings to avoid waiting immobile, with unnecessary impairments, unable to see, or in pain.

To mitigate this, and protect life, it is imperative that, at a minimum, local primary care for rural residents is improved as promised, to avoid the need to access acute care wherever possible, and that the acute care pathway – ambulance response, handover at hospital, shorter waiting times for assessment in A&E, and the availability of the necessary clinical staff, tests, beds and treatment – runs as smoothly as possible.

3. Please state how this issue is affecting parish and town councils in Dorset (with case study evidence please) and try not to duplicate answers from previous questions please.

Parish and Town Councils represent the residents affected by the issues described above. We have a responsibility to make representations on behalf of our residents and visitors to try to improve services, particularly where declining services put lives at risk and increase lives lived in disability.

The issues raised will be familiar to anyone living in Dorset Council area – it is unlikely that any family has not been touched by the issues listed above as these are endemic. There are regular news reports of these issues in the media.

In terms of emergency response times, we have data showing the Ambulance Trust missed emergency response target in every category, and by wide margins, in Swanage and Purbeck Jan-June 22.

We also have data from previous years showing the number of emergency admissions to Poole Hospital from BH19 (Swanage and villages) which patients will all have longer journeys following implementation of the CSR.

Walk-in access to our local minor injury unit was closed, after an outcry it was re-opened, however staff are sometimes relocated and there are sudden closures – recently over a busy summer weekend, and residents continue to report being turned away when presenting with minor injuries that need treatment.

The variety of treatment and tests offered at our local community hospital is reducing with patients expected to travel to Wimborne, a 45-minute car journey and with no public transport links.

The NHS dentist in Swanage is not taking new patients and existing patients find themselves without a dentist following one of the dentists leaving.

16 Purbeck community hospital beds have been closed at Wareham, yet the new promised Wareham hub has apparently been cancelled.

<p>4. If you have information on how this issue is affecting parish and town councils nationally and why this is a national issue please give this and try not to duplicate answers from earlier questions please.</p> <p>Evidence that similar issues are being faced across the country can be found online via a number of sources: NHS Confederation; NHS Providers; BBC News websites.</p>
<p>5. If relevant, please tell us exactly what aspect of national parish policy your Council would like NALC to lobby Government on (with case study evidence please).</p> <p>N/A</p>
<p>6. If you have the information, please tell us exactly which part of primary or secondary legislation (or secondary regulation/statutory instrument) your Council would like to be changed as a result of NALC/local lobbying.</p> <p>We are not requesting legislative change, rather that Dorset Council use powers under existing legislation to protect rural residents' access to health care.</p>
<p>7. If relevant, please state what other action your Council would like NALC and its Policy Committee to take is this motion is adopted.</p> <p>N/A</p>
<p>8. If you have the information, please confirm the names of any other organisation or local council that formally support your Council's motion.</p> <p>Following meetings over recent years with the clerks and chairs of our neighbouring parish councils, at which access to emergency health services has been discussed, it is anticipated that many of them will support this motion. The Town Council will approach them formally prior to the meeting of the AGM in November.</p>

If you have any supporting documents to be jointly considered with your Council's motion – please e-mail them with this form to DAPTC.