

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

Swanage Town Council, and other Purbeck Parish and Town Councils, are 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.

The Clinical Services Review was based upon the premise that enhanced local health services would be provided, that would reduce the demand for acute care. In fact access to local health services 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 is unclear, South West Ambulance Services are overstretched and struggling to meet any 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.

It is therefore vital 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 reduce Ambulance handover delays
- Access to local health care services: GP's, Walk-in Minor Injury Units, Community Hospital clinics, tests and minor surgery, and NHS Dentistry services is urgently improved
- That the promised Wareham hub becomes a reality
- 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 County
- That there is a realistic plan to address planned operation waiting lists

DAPTC asks Dorset Council to use it's statutory authority to represent residents by challenging changes that reduce residents access to health services, including in emergency, and to require the new Integrated Care Board to account to Dorset Council regarding their plan to address the above areas and to provide the promised improved access to health care, including for residents in remote rural areas.

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

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 predict increased deaths and lives lived in disability.

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 lobby to try to improve services for our residents and visitors, 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 also regular news reports in the media. In terms of emergency response times, We have data about the waiting times, by emergency category, in Swanage and Purbeck for Jan-June 22 that we can provide if required. 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 under the CSR review. 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 for a bust 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.

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.

That the NHS is in crisis nationally, as well as locally, is not in question.

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).

Would it be possible to provide a list of national parish policy areas so that this question can be addressed please?

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.

We would like Dorset Council to exercise their statutory responsibility to represent residents where changes to health services do not benefit residents.

7. If relevant, please state what other action your Council would like NALC and its Policy Committee to take if this motion is adopted.

Please advise what action might be taken by NALC to support addressing this question.

8. If you have the information, please confirm the names of any other organisation or local council that formally support your Council's motion.

I am drafting this rather at the last minute but I would anticipate several of Corfe, Langton, Worth and Studland Parish Councils and Wareham Town Council to support this motion.

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