

Dear Councillors, please find my report from Dorset County Council:

Tricuro the trading Company for Adult Social Care which we have entered into with Bournemouth and Poole was successfully launched on the 1st July. The services commissioned into this company are in the region of £40M. The company will be able to trade up to 20% of this turnover. Areas where trading could happen include providing services at day centres and residential homes for self funders, expanding the reablement service to provide cover for the NHS and training outside staff. This is now a stand alone company and the three councils have input and scrutiny through representatives on the Executive Shareholder Board.

Children's Services are now out to consultation on changes in the youth service. Currently less than 10% of 9 to 13 year old attend youth clubs in the county and of these 10% only 1% are young people who we need to reach. We need to find different ways to reach these youngsters and so are asking our town and parish councils to tell us what activities for young people happen in their parishes. As an example I have discovered that one of my parishes has a young farmers group that attracts over 40 youngsters on club night.

The biggest event of the last few weeks has been the announcement that Poole, Bournemouth, Christchurch and East Dorset Councils have applied to become a unitary authority. This has promoted considerable discussion about what happens to the rest of rural Dorset. It is quite clear that it would not be viable if this area was to become a unitary in its own right. My personal view is that a much more radical solution needs to be found. It is clear to all by now that government funding is going to continue to reduce to our councils. It is also the case that we need to start to look at being much more closely joined with health colleagues and running pooled budgets. Across Bournemouth, Poole and Dorset we have one Police force, one Clinical Commissioning Group, a single Public Health and Tricuro, the joint Adult Social Care Company. It would be wrong, in my opinion, to look at working with two councils across these organisations. This does not mean a County Council take over and it may be that I am talking myself out of a job but this is a time where all those involved need to ensure that whatever emerges will be providing a joined up service for the people of Dorset.

This is an area that will continue to evolve but whatever comes out, we as a County will not be able to access Government funding for changes unless we are seen to be changing the way we do things. There is also a time element to these discussions as well as they need to be in place for 2020.

Cllr Mrs Jill Haynes

Dorset County Councillor for Three Valleys Electoral Division