



# Changes to Day Services: What do you think?

West Dorset 2025



# Tell us what you think



We want to know what you think about our plans. Read this booklet then fill in our survey.



Please send your survey back to us before the **9th of June 2025**.

Here is a link and a QR code for the online survey:



<https://consultation.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/c-e/dayopps>



**You can also post your survey to:**

Towards a new model of day opportunities  
Adults and Housing Directorate  
County Hall  
Dorchester  
DT1 1XJ

# Why do we need to change things?



About 600 people need a day service which is paid for by Dorset Council.



More than 300 of these people go to a day centre. The buildings are owned by Dorset Council.



- Many of the buildings are too big.
- Some need to be improved.
- Some are not very accessible.



Day services do not have to happen in these buildings.



We want to give more people more **day opportunities** instead: interesting activities in their local town or village.

# Our plans



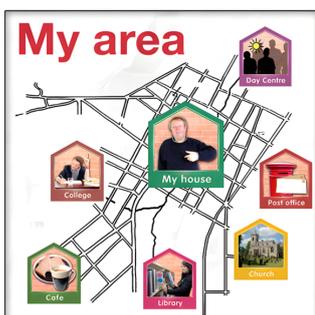
Our plans use the idea of **hubs** and **spokes**



Imagine a bicycle wheel! The **hub** is in the middle. The **spokes** are the thin sticks of metal, reaching out from the hub.



Dorset is divided into these 5 areas.



There will be 1 **hub** in each area.  
There will be lots of day opportunities all over that area. These are called the **spokes**.

# Hubs



A **hub** is a building where activities can be run and organised. There could be:



- advice and information
- equipment for people to take home
- staff who organise community activities and training
- space for community organisations to work in



- support for health and wellbeing
- support for carers



# Spokes



**Spokes** are day opportunities in towns and villages.

Here are some examples:



- gardening, cooking, arts and crafts



- lunch clubs

- swimming pools and leisure centres



- libraries

- dementia support



- support with benefits, housing, working and volunteering

# Specialist services



Specialist services are based in the hubs and other places.

A specialist service can support people who need, for example:



- physiotherapy
- speech and language therapy
- hoists
- adapted furniture and toilets
- sensory room
- hydrotherapy pool



Staff in specialist services will be trained to do activities with people who need a lot of support.

# About West Dorset



At the moment there are 2 day services.  
They are run by Care Dorset.



**Dorchester:** Dorchester Connect



**Bridport:** Bridport Connect

# West Dorset Hub



## Our plan:

Dorchester Connect will become the West Dorset Hub.

## Some ideas:

People, groups and organisations could use rooms in the hub for:



- lunch clubs

- health clinics



- classes

- activities



- events

# Bridport



The building in Bridport is old.  
It is not in the centre of Bridport.



The ground floor is accessible.



There is a new catering kitchen.



We will keep using this building for  
community activities.



We will also look for other places to run  
more activities in the local area.

# What this means for you

You will get support to decide what you would like to do. Think about:



- things you want to learn and achieve
- activities you would like to keep doing, and new things you want to try



You could choose to:

- go to the hub in Dorchester



- do activities in your village or local towns



- use a specialist service if you need more support

- a mix of all these options

# Paying for day opportunities



If you might need support from Dorset Council, you can have an assessment. This helps the council to decide how much support you can get.



Your day opportunity can be paid for in a few different ways:

- **Commissioned service:** the council pays for your support
- **Direct Payment:** the council gives you money to organise your own support
- **Individual Service Fund:** the council gives the money to a care organisation to manage.
- **Self-fund:** pay for it yourself



