

NHS Ayrshire & Arran



Meeting:	Ayrshire and Arran NHS Board
Meeting date:	Monday 2 June 2025
Title:	Healthcare Governance Committee meeting on 28 April 2025 – Chair's report to NHS Board
Responsible Director:	Ms Jennifer Wilson, Nurse Director
Report Author:	Ms Sharon Morrow, Non-Executive Board Member

1. Purpose

This is presented to the Board for: Discussion.

This paper relates to: Local policy to ensure good governance practice in reporting from board committees

This aligns to the NHS Scotland quality ambitions of Safe, Effective and Person Centred. Good governance practice supports the effective delivery of services across the organisation.

2. Report summary

2.1 Situation

This report provides information to Board Members on key items discussed within the Governance Committee's remit, in order to provide assurance to the Board that those matters have been identified and are being addressed, where required.

2.2 Background

The Board Model Standing Orders advises that Board meeting papers will include the minutes of committee meetings which the relevant committee has approved. To ensure that there is no delay in reporting from committees this paper provides a timely update on key items from committees.

2.3 Assessment

Key items agreed by Committee are noted below. Identification of organisational risks, stakeholder considerations and other impacts were included in papers to the Committee.

- Committee members noted the positive progress made to date in response to the Front Door Commission and supported the proposal to formally conclude the original commission. It was acknowledged that all ongoing and outstanding actions,

including those arising from the Healthcare Improvement Scotland report into NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde's Emergency Department Review (published on 27 March 2025), have been mapped to existing programmes of work. These will now be incorporated and, where appropriate, superseded by the revised Urgent and Unscheduled Care Improvement Plan for 2025–2026. Members expressed support for more frequent updates to be provided at future meetings to enable continued oversight of progress.

- Committee members noted the current position against the national Healthcare Associated Infection (HCAI) Standards for reductions in *Clostridioides difficile* infection (CDI), *Staphylococcus aureus* bacteraemia (SAB), and *Escherichia coli* bacteraemia (ECB). Members acknowledged that the current standards continue to apply to NHS Ayrshire & Arran until further confirmation is received from ARHAI Scotland regarding 2025–26 targets.

Members further noted that NHSAA has received exception reports from ARHAI Scotland for community-acquired ECB in Quarters 1 and 2, with a further report anticipated for Quarter 3. These infections are not hospital-acquired or associated and will require national support from ARHAI to address. A multi-agency subgroup has been established locally to support targeted improvements within the community, although no other board has yet demonstrated success in reducing community-acquired ECB. NHSAA awaits supplementary epidemiological data and guidance from ARHAI Scotland to inform the next steps.

- Committee members received assurance on the Food, Fluid and Nutrition – Health and Safety Executive Action Plan Update which builds on previous papers brought to Healthcare Governance Committee with regards to the care of people requiring support with eating, drinking and swallowing. This paper provided an update on actions agreed following Health and Safety Executive (HSE) intervention as a result of the fatality of a patient under the care of NHS Ayrshire & Arran, and subsequent discussions. Members supported the proposal for six monthly updates due to the risks associated with this situation.
- Committee members discussed the progress made in implementing SIGN guidelines within NHS Ayrshire & Arran and supported the formal closure of SIGN 168: Assessment, diagnosis, care and support for people with dementia and their carers and SIGN 164: Eating Disorders. Members requested that future papers clearly articulate the cost implications associated with the implementation of SIGN guidelines and clarify where responsibility for decision-making on such costs lies.

2.4 Recommendation

The Board is asked to be aware of and discuss the key items highlighted and receive assurance that items are being addressed, where required.