

NHS Ayrshire & Arran



Meeting: Ayrshire and Arran NHS Board

Meeting date: Monday 11 August 2025

Title: Board briefing

Responsible Director: Gordon James, Chief Executive

Report Author: Shona McCulloch, Head of Corporate Governance

1. Purpose

This is presented to the Board for:

- Awareness

This paper relates to:

- Local policy

This aligns to the NHS Scotland quality ambitions of

- Safe, Effective and Person Centred.

2. Report summary

2.1 Situation

Key areas of interest are advised to Board Members for awareness at each Board meeting. The Good News stories provide Members with information from across the organisation which shows the good work being delivered by our teams to improve patient and community care and recognises awards received locally and nationally.

2.2 Background

At each Board meeting the briefing provides:

- Good News stories from across NHS Ayrshire & Arran (NHSAA)
- Key events from the Chief Executive and Board Chair diaries
- Circulars from the Scottish Government Health & Social Care Directorates
- Current consultations

Further briefing updates will be issued following the Board meeting from the Communications Department via e-News, Stop Press, Daily digest and Team talk. Up-to-date information is also published on NHS Ayrshire & Arran's website

www.nhsaaa.net

Should you require further information in relation to the briefing, please contact Shona McCulloch, Head of Corporate Governance via email at

aa-uhb.ceo@aapct.scot.nhs.uk.

2.3 Briefing - Good News Stories

Tranquil new garden at NHS Ayrshire & Arran's Kyle Chemotherapy Unit

A garden redesign project led by NHS Ayrshire & Arran's Public Health department, in partnership with a range of key stakeholder including Infrastructure and Support Services, Transformation and Sustainability, Nursing and external partners including RePollinate, Hewlett Packard, Community Justice Services and Impact Arts has recently been launched. Patients attending the Kyle Chemotherapy Unit at Ailsa Hospital are now enjoying the benefits of a new garden after the ward applied to the NHS Ayrshire & Arran Community Wealth Building programme for assistance in making their green plans a reality.

NHS Ayrshire & Arran has included a community benefit requirement into its procurement contracts and tenders since 1 April 2023 to help deliver a wide range of economic, social and environmental benefit projects in Ayrshire and Arran.

Officially opened on 4 July 2025, the garden space at Kyle Chemotherapy Unit has been redeveloped through community benefit funding provided by Hewlett Packard Inc and designed by RePollinate, a conservation charity which aims to create networks of high-quality pollinator habitats through delivery of new community gardens spaces.

Kyle Chemotherapy Unit new garden now benefits from the addition of new raised beds, planters and paths a range of new plants and trees to increase biodiversity and attract pollinators to the garden. It also includes four colourful steel artwork panels, 'Light Through Leaves', funded by Hewlett Packard Inc. and created by BeSpoke Atelier design studio who were commissioned by Impact Arts, after engaging with patients from Kyle Chemotherapy Unit on their design ideas for the creation of the panels.

South Ayrshire Council Criminal Justice unpaid workers shaped the garden at weekends under guidance from RePollinate to help bring about the transformation of the current outdoor garden into a new fully accessible area for the patients of Kyle Chemotherapy Unit.

For more information visit www.nhsaaa.net/tranquil-new-garden-at-nhs-ayrshire-arrans-kyle-chemotherapy-unit/

Impact Arts have created a film which includes interviews with staff and patients, who explain the powerful impact that the garden redesign project has had www.impactarts.co.uk/impact-arts-commission-artwork/

[Celebrating more than 24 years of volunteer support - NHS Ayrshire & Arran](#): The Hospital Volunteers of University Hospital Crosshouse recently held their Annual General Meeting (AGM), where they proudly presented NHS Ayrshire & Arran with a cheque for £225,000. This latest contribution brings the total raised by the volunteers since 2001 to more than £5,275,000.

[Skills Sector celebrate their first graduates - NHS Ayrshire & Arran](#): NHS Ayrshire & Arran has congratulated the first graduates from the newly formed programme, Skills Sector. Working in partnership, East Ayrshire Council, Ayrshire College and NHS Ayrshire & Arran formed a new programme Skills Sector which is designed to support young people with learning disabilities and autism spectrum conditions to gain valuable employment skills.

[Communication boards promote accessibility and inclusion in South Ayrshire venues - NHS](#)

[Ayrshire & Arran](#): More than 20 boards to support communication have been installed across South Ayrshire venues as part of a project led by South Ayrshire Communication Friendly Environments (SACFE), part of the South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership. The boards make the parks, beaches and woodland areas where they've been installed more communication friendly. They include pictures, symbols and words to represent ideas, actions, or needs, making it easier for people to communicate their wants, needs, and feelings. As well as providing help for children and young people to communicate, they can also be used as prompts for adults with dementia.

[Fun for all at the Patch party! - NHS Ayrshire & Arran](#): The Orthoptics team at University Hospital Crosshouse held the first ever Patch Party to highlight World Orthoptic Day on 2 June. The team invited some of their young patients (and their grown-ups) so they could meet other children with eye patches, play games, and do some arts and crafts, such as designing their own patches and glasses case. To coincide with the opening of the new animated film Elio, the orthoptic team also organised an information stand about the condition Amblyopia (commonly known as 'lazy eye') at the Odeon Cinema in Kilmarnock. This took place from Friday 20 June until Sunday 22 June and aimed to help raise awareness for the see4school visual screening programme. Big thanks to Odeon staff, Sophie and Clara for the team set up.

[Celebrities join forces to inspire at Scottish Cochlear Implant Programme Education Transitions Day - NHS Ayrshire & Arran](#)

The Scottish Cochlear Implant Programme hosted an Education transitions Day event at the Glasgow University Student Union, drawing support from high-profile figures, including Love Island and Strictly Come Dancing star, Tasha Ghouri. The event welcomed more than 60 young people with cochlear implants from across Scotland, as well as their families, teachers and support teams. The event provided information and support as the young people transition from school to further education or employment.

Ayrshire Hospice returns to Racecourse Road site

Ayrshire Hospice has returned to their re-developed home at 35-37 Racecourse Road, Ayr this week, following the successful completion of their capital build project. Since 9 July, all inpatient and on-site clinical services are operating from the newly transformed hospice premises, including the state-of-the-art Inpatient Unit (IPU) and the modern Hub building at the heart of the site. This marks the end of their temporary relocation to East Ayrshire Community Hospital, where they have continued to deliver exceptional palliative and end of life care over the past three years.

Congratulations to Our National Smile Month competition winners

We had an incredible 1,098 entries from 57 venues—and only 15 correct guesses! The answer was 86 toothbrushes in the jar. Thank you to everyone who joined in the fun and helped us celebrate the power of a smile. Well done to our winners, who received restaurant vouchers as their prize:

- Social media winner – Vanessa Anderson (Jiggy Wrigglers NA)
- East Ayrshire winner – Doreen Ferguson (Cumnock Town Hall VC)
- North Ayrshire winner – James Houston (Café Solace, Kilbirnie)
- South Ayrshire winner – Linda Malcolm (University Hospital Ayr)

Health Protection Conference 2025

Forty stakeholders gathered at the first NHS Ayrshire & Arran Health Protection Conference on 25 June, hosted at the Macdonald Education Centre at University Hospital Ayr. Attendees were given an overview of health protection priorities and responsibilities, as well as information on various communicable diseases, vaccinations and the different teams within the health protection specialty. It was also an opportunity to discuss how stakeholders can work together to meet shared health protection aims. The health protection team are planning on running more events in the near future. For more information or a copy of the presentations, please email the team at Hpteam@aapct.scot.nhs.uk

Pathology staff celebrate Biomedical Science day

The pathology team set up a stall at University Hospital Crosshouse to engage with staff and members of the public and promote awareness of Biomedical Science day on 5 June.

[NHS Ayrshire & Arran porter breaks world record and becomes a double Hyrox World Champion](#)

- NHS Ayrshire & Arran: Competing in the Hyrox World Championships in Chicago, David Ridout a porter at University Hospital Crosshouse recently won his solo and doubles race to become a double World Champion – breaking the world record for his solo race in his age group. David, 75 years old from Crosshouse, qualified earlier this year by winning a regional race. Hyrox is a physically demanding sports competition involving running and functional fitness movements.

News from our partners:

East Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership (EAHSCP)

Summer activities celebrate adults with learning disabilities

In partnership with a number of third sector organisations, our colleagues in East Ayrshire Leisure recently delivered a programme of events and activities for adults with learning disabilities.

The events, which included a tea dance at Dumfries House, inclusive sports days and a music and drama showcase, formed a summer celebration ahead of Learning Disability Awareness Week, which will take place in September.

Lorraine Dick, East Ayrshire Leisure Team Coordinator, said:

"We had a fabulous time at the Dumfries House Tea Dance! This fantastic event brought together adults with learning disabilities from across East Ayrshire for an afternoon of fun, friendship, music and dance. It was a beautiful day and brilliant to see so many people up dancing and giving it their all.

"Our second event was an All Ability Sports Day, which took place on Wednesday 18 June at Ayrshire Athletics Arena in Kilmarnock. Organised by East Ayrshire's Learning Disability Partnership, this event provided the opportunity for senior school pupils and adults with disabilities to try out various sporting activities, including football, badminton, athletics, rugby, archery, boxing, boccia and table tennis. The All Ability Bikes were also available for individuals to try and there were a variety of information stalls.

"Finally, our annual Learning Disability Showcase took place on Thursday 19 June at Stewarton Area Centre. Organised by East Ayrshire's Learning Disability Partnership, this event celebrates the skills and talents of children, young people and adults with learning disabilities through music, dance and drama. This year there were performances from The Happy Tappers, UCAN, I-Dance, Sir Alexander Fleming Centre Community Choir and Park School. This was a fun-filled evening for both the participants and everyone who came along to support the event."



Dementia Resource Centre celebrates reopening

Celebrations were in order for staff and service users at Kilmarnock Dementia Resource Centre, which recently reopened following a period of flooding last month.

The centre organised a 'Coffee Catch-up' event to mark the reopening, attended by Provost Claire Leitch and former Provost Jim Todd, as well as a programme of events to coincide with Dementia Awareness Week.

Centre Manager, Sheena Boyd, told us more:

"Our centre had been closed for activities due to flooding which damaged the centre floor in our cafe area. As we have a footfall of over 580 per month we needed to relocate these activities.

"We are so grateful for the support of East Ayrshire Carers Centre, The Killie Community, Secret Garden and the New Laigh Kirk, all of whom allowed us to use their venues and continue providing much needed support to carers and people living with dementia.

"We were delighted that Provost Claire Leitch was able to reopen the centre due to the history of our first opening and tenth anniversary being celebrated with former Provost Jim Todd. Claire came along to our Coffee Catch-up event, which featured live music and the cutting of the cake to declare the centre reopened.

"Over 45 people came along to the Coffee Catch-up. One of our regular centre attendees, who lives with dementia, told us he was so happy to be back and that he loves how "homely" the centre is."

Kilmarnock FC charity hosts sports event for all abilities

Kilmarnock Football Club's community outreach charity, The Killie Community, recently welcomed adults and young people with additional support needs to Rugby Park for a day of free, inclusive football and sporting activities.

Around 80 young people and 60 adults from across Ayrshire attended the event, which took place in the football club's stadium and promised to be a fully accessible and inclusive experience.

Jordan Allison, Charity Manager, provided a rundown of the day:

“From 10am to 4pm, the stadium hosted participants from East, North and South Ayrshire, aged five years and over, in a festival of accessible football, where fun came first and everyone had a chance to shine on the pitch.



“Dozens of activities were on offer, each designed to be accessible for players with a range of mild to severe physical and/or learning disabilities. This allowed parents and carers the opportunity to connect with other families navigating similar challenges.

“Adding to the occasion was a surprise visit from Captain Conker, Kilmarnock Football Club’s mascot, bringing smiles and laughs.

“The event was delivered in partnership with a range of local organisations, most notably Ayrshire Sportsability, which played a key role in helping to promote the day and provided volunteers to support everyone across the pitch.”

Event celebrates one year of the UNCRC in Scotland

On 16 July 2024, Scotland became the first devolved country in the world to incorporate the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) into law.

To celebrate the first anniversary of the UNCRC in Scotland, we held a special 'birthday' event at Take A Bow Opportunity Centre in Kilmarnock.

The event was attended by Provost Claire Leitch, along with practitioners from across East Ayrshire and our Community Planning Partners, and also focused on planning the next stages of the East Ayrshire UNCRC journey.

The UNCRC: is the base standard for children’s rights and sets out the fundamental rights of all children.

It is the most widely ratified human rights treaty in the world and sets out the specific rights that all children have to help fulfil their potential. This includes their rights relating to health and education, leisure and play, fair and equal treatment, protection from exploitation and the right to be heard.

The UNCRC is used as a framework to ensure that children's rights are fully considered whenever we take decisions, and to help provide every child with a good start in life and a safe, healthy and happy childhood.

Implementation in East Ayrshire: Within East Ayrshire we are utilising a UNCRC Champions model to allow us to develop a collaborative approach across services to support the implementation of the UNCRC. This work is being supported by the National Quality Improvement team.

While our Champion's model is currently in its early stages, significant work has already been carried out across our children's services that we can build upon.

Our next steps will focus on how children and young people can join the UNCRC journey alongside us and be at the forefront of future service transformation across children's services.

North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership (NAHSCP)

North Ayrshire Learning Disability Service

2025 RCN Scotland Nurse of the Year Awards. Further to the story in the Board briefing on 02 June, the Team at Ward 7A Learning Disability Assessment and Treatment at Woodland View, were announced as finalists. At the Awards ceremony on the evening of Thursday 12 June, they were Highly Commended in this category. In addition to this they have also received a hand written letter from Neil Gray, Health Minister acknowledging their work despite challenges faced.

Community outreach

The Community Brokerage Network has recently been awarded £25,000 to deliver community outreach activity for people with learning disabilities within North Ayrshire. The Learning Disability Service will be a key delivery partner in this work, as will a range of other Third Sector organisations within North Ayrshire. This exciting project promises to further advance a shared ambition regarding the greater community inclusion of people with learning disabilities, in their interests and in the interests of communities as a whole.

Chief Executive and Board Chair diary key events

Chief Executive's Diary Key Events 12 August – 6 October 2025	
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August	
19 & 20	NHS Chief Executives' meetings
27	WoS Chief Executives Meeting
28	Integrated Governance Committee
29	WoS Health and Social Care Delivery Programme Board

September	
2	Endowment Committee
4	South Ayrshire Community Planning and Partnership Board Meeting
10	BCE Business Meeting
11	Joint Engagement Event with CPP Board and East Ayrshire Council
18	Audit and Risk Committee
18	East Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership Board
23	East Ayrshire Chief Officers Group (child, adult and public protection)
24	WoS Chairs and Chief Executives Joint Meeting
25	West of Scotland Chief Executives Meeting
26	Performance Governance Committee
October	
3	South Ayrshire Chief Officers Group (child, adult and public protection)
6	NHS Board Meeting

Chair's Diary Key Events 12 August – 6 October 2025	
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August	
25	NHS Board Chairs' group
28	Integrated Governance Committee

September	
1	Information Governance Committee
2	Endowment Committee
8	Healthcare Governance Committee
10	NHS Board Chairs' group
11	Joint Engagement Event with CPP Board and East Ayrshire Council
11	North Ayrshire CPP Board
18	Audit and Risk Committee
18	East Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership Board
25 & 26	BCG Away Days
October	
6	NHS Board Meeting

Circulars from the Scottish Government Health & Social Care Directorates

Published since last Board briefing

Circulars	Lead Director(s)
CMO(2025)10 Gonorrhoea Vaccination Programme 2025	Director of Public Health
CMO(2025)11 Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Monoclonal Antibody Programme	Director of Public Health
DL(2025)10 Update to the Code of Practice for the international recruitment of health and social care personnel in Scotland	HR Director
DL(2025)11 Human resource aspects of foundation and speciality training programmes: changeover dates for 2025-2026	HR Director
DL(2025)12 F1 induction and shadowing arrangements	HR Director
DL(2025)13 Framework document for NHS Boards	Chief Executive
DL(2025)14 [Revised] Guidance for the safe delivery of systemic anti-cancer therapy	Medical Director
DL(2025)15 NHS Scotland: Whole System Infrastructure Planning – Strategic Planning Phase (including updated governance arrangements for Capital Spending) (supersedes DL(2019)05)	Director of Transformation and Sustainability
DL(2025)16 Mental health built environment assessment policy for NHS Scotland	Director of Infrastructure and Support Services
DL(2025)17 Revised payment verification protocols – General Dental Services, Primary Medical Services, General Ophthalmic Services, Pharmaceutical Services	Director of Finance
DL(2025)18 Implementation of Chief Pharmacists standards – compliance and governance requirements	Director of Pharmacy
PCA(D)(2025)02 Quality improvement activity – cycle 2025-28	Director of East Ayrshire Health & Social Care Partnership
PCA(M)(2025)03 GMS uplift 2025-26	Director of East Ayrshire Health & Social Care Partnership
PCA(O)(2025)03 Primary Care Optometry: Continuing Professional Development (CPD) allowance claim process	Director of East Ayrshire Health & Social Care Partnership

Circulars	Lead Director(s)
PCA(O)(2025)04 Primary Care Optometry: Changes to the General Ophthalmic Services (GOS) primary and supplementary eye examination fee structures; Changes to GOS to support the management of more complex anterior eye conditions (GOS-SS); GOS-SS Interim Measure/Full Implementation; Health Board anterior eye schemes; Access to NHS pharmaceutical services for GOS-SS; Collaborative working within the profession; Changes to digital data submission; Transposition of HES(S)3 NHS optical vouchers; Amendments to the mandatory equipment required to carry out domiciliary GOS eye examinations; Scottish optometry sector events	Director of East Ayrshire Health & Social Care Partnership
PCA(P)(2025)10 Additional pharmaceutical services public health service – Updated service specification for community pharmacy provision of prophylactic Antipyretic (Paracetamol) following the Meningococcal Group B Vaccine; and other childhood vaccinations	Director of Pharmacy
PCA(P)(2025)11 Extension to serious shortage protocols for Estradot® (Estradiol) patches and Creon® gastro-resistant capsules	Director of Pharmacy
PCA(P)(2025)12 Additional pharmaceutical services – Naloxone emergency supply service update	Director of Pharmacy
PCA(P)(2025)13 Pharmaceutical services amendments to the drug tariff part 11 discount clawback scale	Director of Pharmacy
PCA(P)(2025)14 Extension to serious shortage protocols for Estradot® (Estradiol) patches	Director of Pharmacy
PCA(P)(2025)15 Serious Shortage Protocol: Venlafaxine 37.5mg modified release tablet	Director of Pharmacy
PCA(P)(2025)16 Additional pharmaceutical services – pharmacy first service requirements	Director of Pharmacy
PCA(P)(2025)17 Extension to Serious Shortage Protocols (SSPs) for Estradot (estradiol) patches	Director of Pharmacy
PCA(P)(2025)18 Pharmaceutical services: amendments in respect of community pharmacy remuneration arrangements from 1 April 2025	Director of Pharmacy
PCS(AFC)(2025)06 NHS Scotland annual leave policy for Agenda for Change staff	HR Director
PCS(DD)(2025)01 Remuneration of hospital medical and dental staff, doctors and dentists in public health medicine and the community health service	HR Director and Director of Finance
PCS(ESM)(2025)02 Additional responsibility allowance for executive nurse directors	HR Director and Director of Finance

Circulars	Lead Director(s)
PCS(SDIA)(2025)01 Scottish Distant Islands Allowance	HR Director

Consultations/Call for evidence or written submission

(In progress or published since last Board briefing)

From	Topic	Response due
East Ayrshire Council	Re-consultation Noise Impact Assessment	04 June 2025 Responded
Equality and Human Rights Commission	Public Consultation on the statutory Code of Practice following the Supreme Court ruling	30 June 2025 Responded
East Ayrshire Council	Planning Consultation Request 25/0033/AMCPPP	21 July 2025 Responded
East Ayrshire Council	Re-consultation Revised plans and Reports submitted by applicant	24 July 2025
East Ayrshire Council	Further planning re-consultation request 24/0249/PP	29 July 2025
Health, Social Care and Sport Committee	Call for evidence: ADHD and ASD Pathways and Support	18 August 2025
Health Workforce	Health and Care Staffing Act - Reporting Templates - Formal Consultation	25 August 2025

2.3.1 Quality/patient care

Good News Stories provide an opportunity for Members to be aware of a range of positive impacts on the quality of care and the services we provide for our patients and communities.

2.3.2 Workforce

There is no impact on workforce from this briefing.

2.3.3 Financial

There is no financial impact from this briefing.

2.3.4 Risk assessment/management

This briefing document does not relate to any areas of risk.

2.3.5 Equality and diversity, including health inequalities

This briefing document has no impact on equality and diversity. Where specific good news stories relate to service improvements Equality Impact Assessment would be carried out as necessary.

2.4 Recommendation

Members are asked to receive the briefing for awareness.