

**East Ayrshire Health & Social Care Partnership  
Integration Joint Board  
27 August 2025 at 2pm  
Council Chambers/ MS Teams**

**Present:**

\*Dr Sukhomoy Das, NHS Non-Executive Director(Chair)  
Mr Craig McArthur, Director of Health and Social Care  
Dr Alexia Pellowe, Clinical Director  
\*Councillor Clare Maitland, East Ayrshire Council  
\*Ms Jennifer Wilson, NHS Executive Nurse Director  
\*Ms Sheila Cowan, NHS Non-Executive Board Member  
\*Neil McAleese, NHS Non-Executive Board Member  
\*Councillor Neill Watts, East Ayrshire Council  
\*Councillor Jayne Sangster, East Ayrshire Council  
Ms Allina Das, RCN Representative (NHS)  
Ms Marion MacAulay, Head of Children's Health, Care & Justice  
Mr Alex McPhee, Interim Chief Financial Officer  
Ms Lianne McNally, AHP Senior Manager  
Ms Fiona Pirrie, CEO East Ayrshire Carers Centre (IJB Stakeholder Representative)  
Dr Laura McGarrity, Clinical Director, Theatres and Preoperative Services  
Ms Shirley Ferguson, Unison Representative (EAC)  
Mr Kevin Skilling, Carers Rep

***\*signifies a voting member***

**In Attendance:**

Dr Erik Sutherland, Head of Locality Health & Care Services  
Ms Debbie McGill, Head of Primary and Urgent Care  
Mr Jim Murdoch, Senior Manager Wellbeing and Recovery  
Ms Dale Meller, Senior Manager Public Protection & Learning  
Ms Amanda McInnes, Senior Manager Business Support  
Ms Lynne McNiven, Director of Public Health  
Ms Lauren Speirs, Senior Nurse, Community Nursing  
Ms Julie Ross-Binning, Senior Business Support Officer

Alison Anderson, Committee Secretary (Minutes)

Agenda	Discussion	Action
1.	<p><b><u>Welcome &amp; Apologies</u></b></p> <p>Dr Sukhomoy Das welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted the attendance of Lauren Speirs who was joining on behalf of Dalene Steele.</p> <p>Apologies were noted from Councillor Douglas Reid, Dalene Steele and Moira Fenton.</p>	
2.	<p><b><u>GOOD NEWS STORY – Cardiovascular Risk and Community Appointment Days</u></b></p> <p>Dr Alexia Pellowe provided a presentation on Cardiovascular Risk and Community Appointment Days. Information was provided on what was on offer at each of these events and the feedback that had been received.</p> <p>Dr Das thanked Alexia for the presentation and noted the excellent work that had taken place.</p>	
3.	<p><b><u>Declaration Of Interest</u></b></p> <p>Dr Das noted his role as NHSAA Whistleblowing Champion for Ayrshire &amp; Arran in relation to the report at agenda item 10. This did not impact on today's business.</p>	
4.	<p><b><u>Minutes of the Previous Meetings held on 25 June</u></b></p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as an accurate record of discussions following a slight amendment to agenda item 13:</p> <p>The paragraph will be amended to read 'Craig McArthur confirmed that the necessary governance arrangements were being followed with regards to implementing the new process'.</p>	
5.	<p><b><u>Matters Arising</u></b></p> <p>No pending matters arising or outstanding actions.</p> <p>Craig McArthur advised the Board of staff changes within NHS Ayrshire and Arran, with Gordon James being appointed as the Interim Chief Executive.</p>	
6.	<p><b><u>Draft East Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership Annual Performance Report 2024/25</u></b></p> <p>Mr Jim Murdoch presented to the Integration Joint Board the draft Annual Performance Report for the Health and Social Care Partnership ('the Partnership') for 2024/25.</p>	

	<p>The Annual Performance Report ('the Report') is an opportunity to reflect on the past year and to celebrate the contributions and achievements of our services, workforce and partners. It also allows us to highlight key challenges that we currently face and will likely encounter in the future.</p> <p>The Report evidenced how the HSCP had performed in relation to strategic priorities and the national outcomes for health, wellbeing, children and young people and justice over the last year. It also conveyed service achievements and developments made in the year, evaluated the Partnership's financial performance and set out ambitions going forward into 2025/26.</p> <p>The draft Annual Performance Report was approved by Audit and Performance Committee on 5 August 2025 and will be presented to East Ayrshire Council on 11 September 2025 and Ayrshire and Arran NHS Board on 6 October 2025.</p> <p>It was noted of being a comprehensive report with a draft copy already in the public domain as per statutory requirement.</p> <p>The Board noted the report and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Approved the content of the draft Annual Performance Report 2024/25;</li> <li>(ii) Noted that the draft Annual Performance Report was approved by Audit and Performance Committee on 5 August 2025; and,</li> <li>(iii) Noted that the draft Annual Performance Report was published on the Partnership's 'Our Performance' website on 31 July 2025 in line with national Guidance.</li> </ul>	
7.	<p><b><u>Financial Management Report as at 31 July 2025</u></b></p> <p>Mr Alex McPhee presented the report to provide details of the projected outturn position for the East Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership for 2025/26, based upon the current financial position as at 31 July 2025 (month 4) and including movements on the Annual Budget 2025/26 approved by the IJB on 1 April 2025. The report highlighted risks around anticipated delivery of approved Financial Recovery Plan savings in the current year, as well as additional cash releasing efficiency savings approved as part of the budget for 2025/26, and confirmation of funds within the IJB Reserve (subject to the completion of the external audit of the 2024/25 Annual Accounts).</p> <p>The report also provided a summary of the projected outturn position on services managed under pan-Ayrshire Lead Partnership / Hosted Services arrangements, as well as information on Acute Services budgets in relation to the large hospitals Set Aside resource within the scope of the Strategic Plan.</p> <p>The report highlighted the key risks and potential consequences which may impact upon both Council and NHS commissioned services, and which are</p>	

	<p>likely to require management action over the course of the 2025/26 financial year and going forward.</p> <p>It was noted of the report being concise and providing a focus on the challenges that are being faced around the budget.</p> <p>Alex advised the Board that Audit Scotland are currently making the final adjustments to the Audit Report for 2024/25 which will be brought to the Special IJB meeting on 24 September 2025 for approval.</p> <p>The Audit and Performance Committee continue to keep an overview of the Financial Recovery Plan, with the Month 6 Financial Management Report scheduled for the October IJB.</p> <p>The Board noted the report and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Noted the 2025/26 projected outturn position for East Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership at 31 July 2025, including specific key actions on significant variances;</li> <li>(ii) Noted that this projected outturn position includes anticipated achievement of Financial Recovery Plan savings for 2025/26 totalling £3.990m which, alongside additional demand are key risks, and will require to be monitored closely over the remainder of the financial year;</li> <li>(iii) Approved the uplifted Scottish Recommended Allowance for foster care and kinship care from 1 April 2025;</li> <li>(iv) Accepted the financial recovery plan savings proposals put forward by North Ayrshire IJB in respect of services managed under Lead Partnership arrangements and request that further savings are identified to bring the budget back online for 2025/26;</li> <li>(v) Noted the projected overspend position for services managed under Lead Partnership arrangements by South Ayrshire IJB and request that a financial recovery plan is proposed to bring the budget back online for 2025/26;</li> <li>(vi) Noted that services managed in East Ayrshire under Lead Partnership arrangements are projected to overspend by £0.430m and that a financial recovery plan will be presented to the IJB on 29 October 2025 for formal approval;</li> <li>(vii) Noted the current position in respect of IJB Reserve balances in advance of completion of the external audit of the Annual Accounts 2024/25;</li> <li>(viii) Noted progress towards achievement of additional cash releasing efficiency savings which been approved for 2025/26, including approved Financial Recovery Plan savings in the current financial year;</li> <li>(ix) Noted the projected outturn position in respect of services managed under pan-Ayrshire Lead Partnership / Hosted Services arrangements;</li> <li>(x) Noted the current position in respect of large hospital Set Aside budgets; and,</li> </ul>	
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	(xi) Noted underlying risk factors and consequences which will potentially impact in 2025/26 and going forward.	
8.	<p><b><u>Health and care Governance Group Annual Report-2024/25</u></b></p> <p>Dr Alexia Pellowe presented the report to provide assurance to the Integration Joint Board that systems and procedures are in place to monitor health and care governance in line with the Board's statutory duty for quality of care.</p> <p>The report provided an update on the Health and Care Governance Group activity from the period June 2024 to June 2025.</p> <p>It was confirmed that the report will also be presented to the NHS Board for awareness.</p> <p>Key messages, challenges and successes were discussed.</p> <p>The Board noted the report.</p>	
9.	<p><b><u>Audit and Performance Committee Annual Report 2024/25</u></b></p> <p>Ms Sheila Cowan presented the Integration Joint Board (IJB) with the 2024/25 Audit and Performance Committee Annual Report for consideration and to provide assurance to the IJB that governance arrangements and internal controls are adequate.</p> <p>The report provided information in relation to the programme of work undertaken by the Audit and Performance Committee during 2024/25.</p> <p>It was noted within the report that both the Transformational Change Fund and the Workforce Development Fund balances, which the Strategic Commissioning Board oversees, are now fully committed against approved projects. As a consequence there are no uncommitted balances available in either fund to offset future transformational change / workforce development expenditure.</p> <p>Members noted the report and:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Noted the comments on the Internal Audit Annual Report 2024/25 and the IJB Chief Internal Auditor's continuing annual opinion of reasonable assurance as laid out at paragraph 14; and,</li> <li>ii. Accepted the assurance provided by the Audit and Performance Committee as outlined in paragraph 22 in respect of the adequacy of the Governance and Internal Controls of the IJB for 2024/25.</li> </ol>	

10.	<p><b><u>NHS Ayrshire and Arran Whistleblowing Annual Report 2024-25 and Q1 Whistleblowing Report (April-June 2025)</u></b></p> <p>Ms Amanda McInnes presented the report to provide the Integration Joint Board (IJB) with an update following the implementation of the National Whistleblowing Standards and Once for Scotland whistleblowing policy (the Standards).</p> <p>The Whistleblowing Standards were introduced on 1 April 2021 and have been implemented successfully across NHS Ayrshire &amp; Arran and Health &amp; Social Care Partnerships.</p> <p>The reports provided details of Whistleblowing concerns raised across NHS Ayrshire &amp; Arran by staff, and those who provided services on behalf of NHS Ayrshire &amp; Arran for the year 2024/25, and for the period of 1 April 2025 to 30 June 2025.</p> <p>Members noted the contents of the Report.</p>	
11.	<p><b><u>2024/25 Complaints Annual Report for Social Work Complaints and IJB Complaints</u></b></p> <p>Ms Amanda McInnes presented the Integration Joint Board (IJB) with the annual report for Social Work and IJB complaints for the year 2024/25.</p> <p>The report provides a summary of the complaints year ending 31 March 2025 and includes statistical information relating to NHS delegated services.</p> <p>It was noted that there have been no IJB complaints received within this timeframe.</p> <p>The Board noted and commented on the report.</p>	
12.	<p><b><u>Primary Care Update</u></b></p> <p>Ms Debbie McGill presented the annual update report to the Integration Joint Board (IJB) on the provision of Primary Care Services across Ayrshire and Arran.</p> <p>It was noted that this report will also be presented to North Ayrshire IJB on 25 September 2025, NHS Ayrshire &amp; Arran Board on 6 October 2025 and South Ayrshire IJB on 8 October 2025.</p> <p>Discussion took place around GP Sustainability payments. It is noted within the report that NHS Ayrshire &amp; Arran currently supports 11 GP Practices operating under 17C (GP-run / locally negotiated contracted) arrangements. The nature and purpose of each type of payment is dependent on the specific arrangement with the GP Practice but typically, relate to delivery of services in remote locations or areas with specific</p>	

	<p>demographic needs meaning that GP practices require financial assistance to operate.</p> <p>Members noted the contents of the Report.</p>	
13.	<p><b><u>Primary Urgent Care Update</u></b></p> <p>Ms Debbie McGill presented the report to provide an update to the Integration Joint Board (IJB) on the provision of primary urgent care services delivered through the Ayrshire Urgent Care Service (AUCS). The report also updates on innovative pathways developed and tested throughout 2024.</p> <p>It was noted that this report will also be presented to North Ayrshire IJB on 25 September 2025, NHS Ayrshire &amp; Arran Board on 6 October 2025 and South Ayrshire IJB on 8 October 2025.</p> <p>The paper provides an overview of the activity of the service, including new innovative pathways in operation to support an improved patient journey, with continued focus on community based services.</p> <p>It was noted that the success of the new pathways is a result of good working relationships across Ayrshire and Arran and wider system partners including NHS 24, Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS), Police Scotland, as well as strengthened connections with GP practices and Community Pharmacy. All new service developments are created in partnership across clinical and managerial leadership teams from relevant stakeholders.</p> <p>It was highlighted that GP practices required additional support for patients who contacted them after 3pm and had been clinically assessed as requiring a home visit and were safe to wait a maximum of four hours to speak to a clinician. AUCS facilitated a Test of Change (ToC) for eligible patients initially with only four GP practices. The scope gradually expanded and now includes all mainland practices. During the first six months of 2024, a total of 243 patients were seen by an AUCS clinician as part of the ToC with only 17% of these referrals requiring onward admission to hospital. In the same timeframe in 2025 there have been a total of 745 referrals with 19% of patients requiring an admission to hospital.</p> <p>Members noted the contents of the Report.</p>	
14.	<p><b><u>NHS Ayrshire and Arran Annual Delivery Plan 2025-26</u></b></p> <p>Mr Craig McArthur presented the NHS Ayrshire &amp; Arran Annual Delivery Plan 2025-26 report for consideration and approval.</p> <p>The plan was approved by Ayrshire and Arran NHS Board on 11 August 2025. It was noted that the Scottish Government focus was increasingly on delivery of the Operational Improvement Plan (OIP). The Plan will also be</p>	

	<p>considered by the North Integration Joint Board on 21 August 2025, and South Integration Joint Board on 17 September 2025.</p> <p>The Board noted the report and:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Considered and commented on the Annual Delivery Plan; and,</li> <li>ii. Approved the Annual Delivery Plan.</li> </ol>	
<b>15.</b>	<p><b><u>Governance Papers</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Audit &amp; Performance Committee – 27.05.25</li> <li>• Resilience Group – 11.03.25</li> <li>• Health &amp; Care Governance Group – 22.04.25</li> <li>• Risk Management Group – 22.05.25</li> <li>• Strategic Planning Group – 23.04.25</li> <li>• Partnership Forum – 15.05.25</li> </ul>	
<b>16.</b>	<p><b><u>AOCB</u></b></p> <p>None</p>	
<b>17.</b>	<p><b><u>Date Of Next Meeting</u></b></p> <p>10 September development day...</p> <p>24 September 2025 at 2.00pm, Council Chambers/ MS Team</p>	