

# NHS Ayrshire & Arran



<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Ayrshire and Arran NHS Board</b>
<b>Meeting date:</b>	<b>Tuesday 7 April 2026</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Board briefing</b>
<b>Responsible Director:</b>	<b>Gordon James, Chief Executive</b>
<b>Report Author:</b>	<b>Shona McCulloch, Head of Corporate Governance</b>

## 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](http://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](mailto:aa-uhb.ceo@aapct.scot.nhs.uk).

## 2.3 Briefing - Good News Stories

### Ayrshire Achieves 2026

Ayrshire Achieves 2026 will celebrate exceptional staff from across NHS Ayrshire & Arran and our three health and social care partnerships. This year the event will have a new format and for the first time staff and members of the public are being invited to vote for their winners!



You can get involved by reading about the colleagues who have been shortlisted for the seven award categories and voting for your winner. [Click here to visit our website](#) where all the details are available and make sure you vote by Monday 30 March.

Congratulations and good luck to everyone shortlisted!

### Acorn Furniture Workshops: Delivering Value Through Repurposing and Creativity

Based within the Ailsa Hospital, Acorn Furniture Workshops offer diverse therapeutic opportunities across several departments, helping people develop meaningful work skills, increase motivation and confidence, and manage stress and anxiety. The workshop produces high-quality items and undertakes practical projects that support NHS Ayrshire & Arran as well as individual consumers.

During ongoing financial pressures, the Acorn team found an opportunity to deliver real organisational value when granted access to Afton House, a building scheduled for demolition. Inside was a treasure trove of furniture, fixtures, and materials that would otherwise have been lost. Instead, staff transformed this into a sustainable and cost-effective initiative.

Reclaimed oak has been crafted into coasters, plaques, and personalised gifts for events such as Mother's Day, weddings, and birthdays. Using the workshop's laser engraver, the team produce bespoke designs that generate income while ensuring valuable materials are reused. Damaged chairs from Afton House were dismantled for parts that have since been used to repair serviceable chairs in clinics across NHS Ayrshire and Arran avoiding replacement costs and reducing waste. When flooding damaged storage units within Acorn Workshops, salvaged cupboards and shelving from Afton House allowed the team to restore essential workspace functionality without new purchases.

We also reclaimed nine toughened glass windows, which have been removed, cleaned, and repurposed for use in garages and sheds. The toughened glass provides a safer, stronger, and more durable option than standard window materials.

This creative, resource-focused approach has supported cost avoidance, income generation, environmental sustainability, and continuity of therapeutic activity. The work of Acorn Furniture Workshops highlights the innovation and stewardship at the heart of NHS Ayrshire & Arran, turning a building earmarked for demolition into a meaningful benefit for trainees, staff, and the wider organisation.



## Compassion to Action Volunteer Awards

Volunteers who make an extraordinary difference to patients, families and staff have been recognised at the recent **Compassion to Action Volunteer Awards** held on 27 February 2026.

The awards ceremony celebrated the dedication, kindness and commitment shown by volunteers across hospitals and community services throughout Ayrshire and Arran. Volunteers play a vital role within the health board, supporting patients, enhancing care environments and helping staff deliver a positive experience for everyone who uses local health services.

The **Compassion to Action Volunteer Awards** recognise individuals and teams who go above and beyond in their voluntary roles. By highlighting their contributions, the event aims to shine a light on the meaningful difference volunteers make every day through simple acts of kindness, practical support and companionship.

### Recognising Outstanding Contributions

The awards bring together volunteers, staff and leaders from across the organisation to celebrate those who embody the values of compassion, respect and community spirit.

Several categories are included in the awards, ensuring that both volunteers and those who support them are acknowledged for their efforts. These categories, along with the 2026 winners are:

- **Volunteer of the year**, recognising an individual who has made an exceptional contribution through their dedication and care. *Jean Thomson, Ward Volunteer*
- **Youth volunteer of the year**, celebrating young people aged between 14 – 18 and the outstanding contributions they make to the organisation. *Eilidh Laurenson and Keian Dempsey, Ward Volunteers*
- **Volunteer team of the year**, celebrating groups of volunteers who work collaboratively to improve services or support patients. *Green Gym Volunteers*
- **Volunteer manager of the year**, highlighting staff members who provide outstanding leadership, encouragement and support to volunteer teams. *David McCrone, Site Co-ordinator, University Hospital Crosshouse*
- **Raising the profile of volunteering – breaking down barriers**, acknowledging individuals who bring innovation and creativity to their role. *Heather Thomson, Ward Volunteer*
- **Outstanding staff champion for volunteers**, recognising an individual who has championed and embraced volunteers, and gone the extra mile to recognise the positive impact volunteers can make. *Jennifer Hazley, Advanced Respiratory Physiotherapist*
- **Quality Improvement Lead Award – improving the patient experience**, celebrating individuals who champion the patient experience agenda by taking a proactive approach in identifying new ways to improve service delivery. *Wilma Paton, Volunteer Welcomer*
- **Behind the scenes – improving the volunteer experience**, recognising an individual who is dedicated to enhancing the overall volunteering experience for others. *The Clinical Nurse Managers, University Hospital Crosshouse*
- **Chair Award**, recognising individuals, groups or services who demonstrate exceptional collaboration and teamwork to support the growth of our volunteering service. *Ayrshire College Health & Social Care Team*
- **Nurse Director Award**, celebrating two individuals who have contributed to the wider Quality Improvement agenda. *Sheena and John Thomson, Activity Friends*

- **Volunteering Legacy Award**, recognising individuals who have given a significant amount of their time to the organisation. *In memory of Ian Mair, Ward Volunteer*

Each nomination reflects the powerful role volunteers play in supporting healthcare services and creating a welcoming and compassionate environment for patients and visitors.

### **The Power of Volunteering**

Volunteers support a wide range of services across NHS Ayrshire & Arran. Their roles vary but often include welcoming patients and visitors, assisting on wards, helping with community health initiatives and offering companionship to people who may be feeling anxious or isolated.

These acts of support can have a significant impact. A friendly conversation, a helping hand or simply being present can make a difficult hospital visit easier and more reassuring for patients and their families.

Volunteers also help strengthen the connection between local communities and the NHS, reflecting the spirit of care and collaboration that underpins public healthcare.

### **A Culture of Compassion**

The Compassion to Action Volunteer Awards are more than a celebration of individual achievements. They also highlight the strong culture of compassion that exists throughout NHS Ayrshire & Arran.

### **Chief Nursing Officer of Scotland Visit**

On 15 March 2026, Ayrshire Maternity Unit (AMU) welcomed Professor Aisha Holloway for a visit focused on Women and Children's Services. During her time on site, Professor Holloway met with teams across several key areas, including the Maternity Assessment Unit / Triage, Labour Suite, Neonatal Unit, Inpatient Ward, and the Paediatric Unit.

Her visit provided an opportunity to hear directly from staff, learn more about current service developments, and observe the high standards of care being delivered across the AMU. Team members shared insights into their work, highlighting ongoing achievements and challenges within maternity and paediatric services.

Professor Holloway expressed her appreciation for the dedication of the teams and the quality of care provided to women, children, and families across Ayrshire.

### [Smoke-free spaces in Scotland celebrated as landmark law marks 20 years](#)

Twenty years ago, on Sunday 26 March 2006, Scotland became one of the first countries in the world to introduce a new UK-leading law to protect people from the harmful effects of second-hand smoke in indoor public spaces. Since its introduction, smoking rates in Scotland have nearly halved, with around half a million fewer Scots smoking today compared to 2006. To celebrate this landmark anniversary, which takes place on Thursday 26 March 2026, NHS Ayrshire & Arran is supporting ASH Scotland and the University of Stirling's campaign to highlight the positive impacts demonstrated by this innovative law.

## [Celebrating 10 years of Woodland View](#)

A celebration of the ten-year anniversary of Woodland View Hospital in Irvine was launched this week, with current and former patients and their families and carers being invited to get involved. The hospital, which opened in the Spring of 2016, is a purpose built, integrated mental health facility serving the whole of Ayrshire, bringing together a full range of outpatient and inpatient facilities including the previous adult inpatient wards at Ailsa Hospital in Ayr and University Hospital Crosshouse.



## **Impact of COVID-19 on health and social care reflected in latest Inquiry publication**

Health and social care workers across Scotland have had their pandemic experiences formally recorded by the Scottish COVID-19 Inquiry, with the publication of its first [Narrative Record covering the health and social care sector](#).

The record summarises evidence heard from 156 witnesses over more than 16 weeks of public hearings between October 2023 and May 2024. It documents the challenges reported both by witnesses working in the care sector and by those receiving care in Scotland between January 2020 and December 2022.

More information about the Narrative Record and an Executive Summary are available on the Scottish COVID-19 Inquiry website: [covid19inquiry.scot](https://covid19inquiry.scot) If you would like to receive news updates directly from the Inquiry, please [sign up to our mailing list](#).

## **Earth Hour Scotland**

Switch off and connect with nature - Saturday 28 March  
2026 from 8.30pm to 9.30pm

Known as the "lights off" moment - a symbolic support for the planet and to help raise awareness of climate and planetary environmental issues. This year we are all encouraged to switch off for 60 minutes, get outside, and do anything positive to take action on climate change. You can find out more about [Earth Hour here](#).

Did you know?

Significant progress has been achieved this year in advancing climate change and sustainability goals across the Board. Our operational carbon footprint is largely made up of our emissions from our buildings in our owned estate. However, we also emit carbon emissions from theatres and high intensity areas such as ED, ICU, maternity, labs, renal departments, f-gases, travel and transport and waste production.

Progress made in 2024/25 in reducing our emissions, these include:



- achieving a seven per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions against an emissions reduction target of three per cent
- reducing our burning of fossil fuels by 18 per cent, increasing our total renewable energy production to a huge 35 per cent, far exceeding any board in Scotland;
- our fleet emissions dropping by 14 per cent as we move to electric vehicles;
- medical gas emissions dropping by eight per cent;
- waste-related emissions reducing by five per cent;
- water consumption falling by 16 per cent; and
- business travel emissions going down eight per cent as we move to more sustainable modes of transport.

These results reflect a strong commitment to sustainability and operational efficiency. To read more visit - [www.nhsaaa.net/services/services-a-z/climate](http://www.nhsaaa.net/services/services-a-z/climate)

Seven of our sites now awarded the Cycle Friendly Employer Award, demonstrating the Boards commitment to supporting staff to consider their active travel options. By clicking on the following AthenA links, you can find out more general information about [travel and transport](#), what [cycling provision](#) there is within the Board and access the [Staff Active and Sustainable Travel Guidance](#) booklet.

## **News from our partners:**

### **East Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership (EAHSCP)**

#### **Adult Support and Protection Week**

In February we marked Adult Support and Protection (ASP) Week by raising awareness of the different types of harm a vulnerable person may face.

As part of our awareness raising campaign this year we spoke to two members of HSCP staff and two public protection representatives to hear what adult protection means to them and why it's so important that we all play a part in reporting and preventing harm in our communities.

Here are some of their responses:

“Protecting adults from harm is everyone’s business and we all have a part to play in keeping the most vulnerable members of the community safe.”

Emma Guthrie, Adult Support and Protection Lead Officer.

“It’s important that we all play a part in protecting vulnerable adults. Even if a concern seems small, each one raised may help an individual who cannot help themselves.”

Brian Pack, Adult Advocacy Lead Officer at East Ayrshire Advocacy Services.

“Adult harm isn’t always obvious. Protection starts with awareness, compassion and the confidence to act.”

Iain Campbell, Local Area Liaison Officer for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

“Adult Protection Week isn't just about services or organisations. It's about all of us looking after one another every single day.”  
Dale Meller, Protection and Learning Senior Manager.

### **‘Winter Warmer’ event returns**

In December 2024 we held our first ‘Big Winter Warmer’ event for care-experienced young people, inviting them to Kilmarnock’s SL33 hub for free information and advice on a range of supports available over the winter months.

The event returned for December 2025, this time to Kilmarnock’s Dick Institute, with even more stallholders and local organisations providing guidance on home energy, housing, finances and more.

The event was organised by Ling Liao, Participation and Engagement Graduate Intern, who was also in attendance: “The afternoon was a great success, with all young people going home with bags full of freebies and gifts.”

A wide variety of market stalls were set up in the Dick Institute event space to provide on-the-spot advice, including our Oral Health Improvement Team, Housing, Community Waste, Home Energy Scotland, Welfare Rights Supports and many more. There was also information available on Illegal money lending, the Health and Social Care partnership and East Ayrshire Tenants Federation.

Among various activities on offer, the event held a raffle with a range of prizes, from cuddly plushies and fidget toys to soap gift sets and home cleaning items. There was also a clothing bank with two rails and a table of clothes, offering pyjamas, jumpers and hoodies, t-shirts and shoes.

Representatives of CVO Foodbank brought over 25 parcels of food to hand out, taking details from young people who required a hot meal on Christmas Day.

A ‘Book Nook’ section offered a range of free books, available to take home and keep, including healthy recipe cookbooks, comfort romance novels and thrillers. There was also a ‘Free Zone’ table with arts and craft supplies, where young people could take time out or make Christmas cards for loved ones.

Lastly, but by no means least, Pets as Therapy Scotland attended with two beautifully calm and gentle Great Danes, answering questions and providing young people with information on the mental health benefits of pets. Ling reported that “all the young people gravitated towards them”, with one young person sitting with the dogs as “they felt it helped calm their anxiety”.

## Burns Day at Sir Alexander Fleming Centre



Staff and service users at the Sir Alexander Fleming Centre recently celebrated Burns Day, with poetry recitals, a Scottish quiz, ceilidh dancing, haggis and Irn Bru.

A spokesperson for the centre said: "Enjoyed their traditional haggis, neeps and tatties for lunch, and we can't forget the pudding and homemade ginger wine! We all danced our socks off at the Ceilidh disco to end a great day of celebrations."

## Stewarton fitness centre awarded for "impressive approach" to wellbeing

Congratulations are in order for staff at the Rose Reilly Sports Centre in Stewarton, which received an award for its Active Wellbeing Suite.

Awarded by the Scottish Leisure Network Group, the facility scooped the prize for 'Impact and Innovation' and was praised by judges for its "impressive, forward-thinking approach to community wellbeing", "clear partnership working" with health and social care services and "genuine commitment to accessibility and inclusion."

These sentiments were shared by the NHS Ayrshire and Arran Musculoskeletal (MSK) Team, who have seen "incredible results" in patients' mobility through using the Active Wellbeing Suite.

## Hospital garden is a "peaceful space of remembrance"



A Cumnock hospital garden has been transformed into a “peaceful space of remembrance”.

Marchburn Ward within East Ayrshire Community Hospital, benefits from a bright, open-plan layout and wrap-around garden. When Staff Nurse Keith Allan noticed that one area of the garden was beginning to look tired, he was inspired to transform it into something truly special.

His vision was to create a tranquil area where patients, families and staff could relax, reflect, and remember loved ones who were no longer present, either because they had passed away or moved to another place of care.

Families were invited to plant flowers in memory of their loved ones, each accompanied by a personalised plaque. The

space was named the Forget-Me-Not Garden, inspired by the forget-me-not flower, a recognised symbol of dementia awareness.

Nursing Assistant Robert McPherson suggested adding a statue to the garden, and thanks to the generous support of local businesses, this idea became a reality. The statue depicts two people standing together, united by a heart of flowers; symbolising love, connection, and togetherness. Keith dedicated countless hours to the project, often working in his own time to bring the garden to life.

## Circulars from the Scottish Government Health & Social Care Directorates

Published since last Board briefing

Circulars	Lead Director(s)
<b>CDO(2026)03</b> Clarification on practice hours and emergency/urgent care	Director of East Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership
<b>CDO (2026) 05</b> Deputy Chief Dental Officer Scottish Government	Director of East Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership
<b>CMO(2026)02</b> Pneumococcal Vaccination Programme - a change of vaccine	Director of Public Health
<b>CMO(2026) 03</b> Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Vaccination Programme 2026-27	Director of Public Health
<b>CMO(2026)04</b> Spring Covid-19 Vaccination Programme 2026	Director of Public Health
<b>CMO(2026)05</b> Seasonal Influenza (Flu) Immunisation Programme 2026/27: Confirmation of Adult and Child Cohorts	Director of Public Health
<b>DL(2026)01</b> Provision of Fertility Preservation in the NHS in Scotland Guidance	Medical Director
<b>DL(2026) 02</b> Publication of Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS) Maternity Care Standards	Nurse Director
<b>DL(2026)03</b> Publication of the National Service Specification for Spiritual Care	Nurse Director
<b>DL(2026)04</b> Short Term Cover Principles and Definitions	Director of Human Resources
<b>DL (2024) INHS-ISAW</b> Intra NHS Scotland Information Sharing Accord – Workforce	Medical Director
<b>PCA(D)(2026)01</b> Declaration of compliance of terms of service – early notification to dentists and dental bodies corporate	Director of East Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership
<b>PCA(D)(2026)02</b> Notification of Changes to: Prior Approval (General Dentistry) Mandatory Training (Provisional Listing)	Director of East Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership

<b>Circulars</b>	<b>Lead Director(s)</b>
<b>PCA(O)(2026)02</b> NHS Community Glaucoma Service (CGS)	Director of East Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership
<b>PCA(O)2026(03)</b> Primary Care Optometry: NHS Optical Voucher Eligibility, Portable Slit Lamp Grant Funding	Director of East Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership
<b>PCA(P)(2026)03</b> Extension to Serious Shortage Protocols for Estradot® patches and Creon® 10000 gastro-resistant capsules	Director of Pharmacy
<b>PCA(P)(2026) 04</b> Additional Pharmaceutical Services NHS Pharmacy First Scotland – New Common Clinical Condition (Skin Inflammation)	Director of Pharmacy
<b>PCA(P)(2026)05</b> Additional pharmaceutical services NHS pharmacy first Scotland - addition of a common clinical condition (oral candidiasis)	Director of Pharmacy
<b>PCA(M)(2026)01</b> SFE Locum Reimbursement Rates	Director of East Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership
<b>PCA(M)(2026)01a</b> New Core Investment In General Practice 2026-29	Director of East Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership
<b>PCA(M)(2026)02</b> Cardiovascular disease prevention scheme - directed enhanced service	Director of East Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership
<b>PCA(M)(2026)03</b> Public holiday to mark Scotland's opening game at the men's FIFA World Cup - 15 June 2026 - General Practice	Director of East Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership
<b>PCS(DD)(2025)01Addendum2</b> Pay and conditions of service: Hospital medical and dental staff, doctors and dentists in public health medicine and the community health service	Human Resources Director Director of Finance
<b>PCS(ESM)(2026)01</b> Pay and conditions of service: Executive and senior management pay 2025-26: consolidated performance related pay	Human Resources Director Director of Finance
<b>PCS(PH)(2026)01</b> Public Holiday to Mark Scotland's Opening Game	HR Director Director of Finance

## **Consultations/Call for evidence or written submission**

(In progress or published since last Board briefing)

No consultations to update since last Board briefing

### **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.