

East Ayrshire Health & Social Care Partnership
Integration Joint Board
03 December 2025 at 2.30pm
MS Teams

Present:

- *Councillor Douglas Reid, East Ayrshire Council (Chair)
- Mr Craig McArthur, Director of Health and Social Care
- Ms Marion MacAulay, Head of Children’s Health, Care & Justice
- Mr Alex McPhee, Interim Chief Financial Officer
- Dr Laura McGarrity, Associate Medical Director
- Ms Sheila Cowan, NHS Non-Executive Board Member (until 2.50pm)
- Ms Lianne McInally, AHP Senior Manager
- Ms Dalene Steele, Associate Nurse Director
- *Councillor Clare Maitland, East Ayrshire Council
- *Councillor Linda Mabon, East Ayrshire Council
- *Ms Jennifer Wilson, NHS Executive Nurse Director
- *Neil McAleese, NHS Non-Executive Board Member
- *Councillor Neill Watts, East Ayrshire Council
- Ms Moira Fenton, HSCP Team Manager CVO (3rd sector representative)
- Ms Shirley Ferguson, Unison Representative (EAC)
- Mr David Mitchell, Monitoring Officer

****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 Amanda McInnes, Senior Manager Business Support
- Ms Julie Ross-Binning, Senior Business Support Officer (Minutes)
- Mr Colin Hastings, Assistant Director of Finance, EAC
- Mr Paul Davies, Audit Manager, Internal Audit, EAC

Agenda	Discussion	Action
1.	<p><u>Welcome & Apologies</u></p> <p>Councillor Douglas Reid welcomed everyone to the Special IJB meeting.</p> <p>Apologies were received from Dr Sukhomoy Das and Fiona Pirrie.</p>	
2.	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>No declarations of interest were noted.</p>	

3.	<p><u>Exclusion of Public and Press</u></p> <p>IJB agreed the exclusion of press and public for the next item.</p> <p><i>“That under Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended, the Press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 11 of Schedule 7A of the Act”.</i></p>	
4.	<p>Financial Recovery – Direction to East Ayrshire Council</p> <p>The purpose of the report was to seek approval for additional financial recovery measures and to issue a Direction from the Integration Joint Board (IJB) to East Ayrshire Council to implement these in respect of the delegated budget for Council-commissioned services for 2025/26. The report gives effect to the IJB’s decision approving the initial 2025/26 delegated budget and instructs the Council to deliver delegated social work and social care functions in line with the IJB Strategic Plan 2021-30, alongside associated financial plans. It is presented for information, awareness and political decision at IJB and Council on the options for achieving financial sustainability.</p> <p>The report was introduced to IJB members, noting the challenging financial position of the IJB and the difficult decisions that require to be made. It was noted that the professional advisors to the IJB had been engaged in the production of the report.</p> <p>The report detailed the Council-commissioned services that are projecting or recording overspends against the delegated Council budget for 2025/26. There is a need to balance service continuity and financial accountability, recognising the significant budgetary pressures facing the IJB, including a projected overspend at month 6 of £10.280m.</p> <p>Financial pressures within services remain significant and difficult decisions require to be taken. The report detailed the progress against the savings made to date and the anticipated savings at Month 6 2025/26, recognising the impact of additional eligible demand.</p> <p>The report detailed the changes that would be required to help bring services back into line. Transformation work is underway and this will continue to move at pace. The report provides details on services where further focused work is required, again acknowledging the risks that this will bring.</p> <p>Conversations require to be held with communities to ensure clarity around the implications, impacts and risks that future decisions will have on those who use services.</p>	

	<p>IJB members are being asked to approve the recommendations noted within the report, prior to the Direction / report going to Council on 11 December 2025. Craig McArthur noted the difficult position IJB members are in and the impact the recommendations within the report will have.</p> <p>Ms Wilson and Dr McGarrity noted concerns on the impact of reductions in Care at Home and Care Home services. The financial position was reiterated as unsustainable and necessitated these types of decisions being considered.</p> <p>It was noted that without additional funding, further significant cuts will be required.</p> <p>Members noted their concerns around approving the Direction to Council prior to seeing more details around the savings that can be achieved. It was agreed additional information would be incorporated into the report.</p> <p>The Monitoring Officer provided advice to members around the legal status of the IJB and their role as members of the IJB.</p> <p>Approval was given for the recommendations within the report and for a Direction to be made to council. It was noted that if a further IJB meeting was required after Council this could be convened extraordinarily.</p> <p>The Chair thanked the group for their review of the paper and discussion at today's meeting, noting the difficult decisions that require to be made.</p>	
5.	<p><u>Date of Next Meeting</u></p> <p>10 December 2025 at 2.00pm, Council Chambers / MS Team</p>	