

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

**Present:**

\*Councillor Clare Maitland, East Ayrshire Council (Chair)  
 \*Councillor Douglas Reid, East Ayrshire Council  
 Mr Craig McArthur, Director of Health and Social Care  
 Dr Alexia Pellowe, Clinical Director  
 Ms Marion MacAulay, Head of Children's Health, Care & Justice  
 Mr Alex McPhee, Interim Chief Financial Officer  
 Ms Dalene Steele, Associate Nurse Director  
 Ms Lianne McNally, AHP Senior Manager  
 \*Councillor Linda Mabon, East Ayrshire Council  
 \*Neil McAleese, NHS Non-Executive Board Member  
 \*Councillor Neill Watts, East Ayrshire Council  
 Ms Fiona Pirrie, CEO East Ayrshire Carers Centre (IJB  
 Stakeholder Representative)  
 Ms Moira Fenton, HSCP Team Manager CVO (3<sup>rd</sup> sector  
 representative)  
 Ms Allina Das, RCN Representative  
 Ms Shirley Ferguson, Unison Representative (EAC)

***\*signifies a voting member*****In Attendance:**

Dr Erik Sutherland, Head of Locality Health & Care Services  
 Mr Jim Murdoch, Senior Manager Wellbeing and Recover  
 Ms Dale Meller, Senior Manager Public Protection & Learning  
 Ms Amanda McInnes, Senior Manager Business Support  
 Mr Nicky Jenkins, Service Manager  
 Ms Stephanie Preston, Programme Officer, Planning &  
 Performance  
 Mr Kieran Wardrop, Planning & Performance Officer  
 Mr Ewan McGill, Communications Officer  
 Ms Julie Ross-Binning, Senior Business Support Officer  
 Mr Kevin Skilling, Carers Rep  
 Mr Ryan Duffy, East Ayrshire Carers Centre (for item 2)  
 Ms Marie Devine (observing)  
 Ms Lorna McIlreavy, Partnership Engagement Officer

Alison Anderson, Committee Secretary (Minutes)

Agenda	Discussion	Action
1.	<p><b><u>Welcome &amp; Apologies</u></b></p> <p>In the initial absence of both the Chair and Vice Chair, the members present agreed Councillor Clare Maitland would take the Chair. It was confirmed the meeting was quorate in terms of the Standing Orders.</p> <p>Apologies were noted from Dr Sukhomoy Das, Sheila Cowan, Lynne McNiven, Jenny Wilson, and Dr Laura McGarrity.</p> <p>A welcome was given to Marie Devine who was observing the meeting, and to Ryan Duffy who would present the good news story.</p>	
2.	<p><b><u>Good News Story – Young Carers</u></b></p> <p>Mr Ryan Duffy from the Carers Centre provided a presentation on Young Carers with a specific focus on the inspirational story of one of the young carers Eloise, who was one of the stars of this year’s national Children in Need campaign.</p> <p>The IJB thanked Mr Duffy for the fabulous presentation and sharing the excellent story and work that has been, and continues to be, undertaken and recognised.</p> <p><b>Councillor Reid joined the meeting</b></p>	
3.	<p><b><u>Declarations Of Interest</u></b></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>	
4.	<p><b><u>Minutes of the Previous Meetings held on 29 October 2025</u></b></p> <p>The minutes of the previous meetings were approved as an accurate record of discussions.</p>	
5.	<p><b><u>Matters Arising</u></b></p> <p>All completed and no outstanding actions or new matters arising.</p>	
6.	<p><b><u>East Ayrshire Alcohol and Drugs Partnership Finance and Commissioning Update</u></b></p> <p>The report provided an update to the IJB on the East Ayrshire Alcohol &amp; Drugs Partnership (ADP) financial and commissioning arrangements. Confirmation had been received from the Scottish Government in respect of funding arrangements for 2026 – 2027, subject to final confirmation as part of the 2026/27 Scottish Government budget.</p>	

	<p>It was noted that during 2026-27, the ADP will develop a new Commissioning Framework that will allow the ADP to respond to local need as well as align with the emerging national strategic direction for drug and alcohol services from 2027 onwards. The Board were advised that the ADP is projecting a balanced budget for 2025-26.</p> <p>The Board noted with concern the increase in drug related deaths and harm in East Ayrshire in 2025, with a suspected 48 deaths to date.</p> <p>Funding has recently been approved by the Council to extend the Peer Outreach Framework with three additional staff, taking the total to seven Outreach Staff across East Ayrshire.</p> <p>Members raised concerns around the early release of prisoners and the potential impact this could have on service capacity. It was noted however that good pathways and processes are in place to support this.</p> <p>The Board:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Noted the ADP's financial update;</li> <li>ii. Recognised the uncertainty surrounding the national strategic direction and funding for alcohol &amp; drugs during 2026-27;</li> <li>iii. Approved the proposed development of a Commissioning Framework for 2027-30;</li> <li>iv. Requested updates on the development of this framework, and;</li> <li>v. Noted the content of this report.</li> </ol>	
7.	<p><b><u>NHS Ayrshire &amp; Arran Whistleblowing Report Q2 (1 July – September 2025)</u></b></p> <p>The report provided the Board with the NHS Ayrshire &amp; Arran Whistleblowing Report for the period 1 July 2025 to 30 September 2025 (Q2).</p> <p>The report noted that there had been two concerns received by the NHS Board during the period, with no immediate risks being identified to patient safety. Neither of these were in relation to East Ayrshire services.</p> <p>Due to the complexity of the concerns received this quarter, it is anticipated that the investigations will exceed the Stage 2 timescale of 20 working days. The individuals who raised the concerns have been informed of the need to extend the investigation period accordingly</p> <p>Members noted the contents of the report.</p>	
8.	<p><b><u>Integrated Locality Planning – Revised Model</u></b></p> <p>This report outlined the new shared delivery model for Locality Planning in East Ayrshire that will facilitate a more integrated approach between the Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) and the Community Planning Partnership (CPP).</p>	

	<p>The report outlined the legislative duties and responsibilities regarding delivery of Locality Planning arrangements within East Ayrshire and the key factors that have influenced the direction of travel in determining the new approach to Locality Planning. The report also provided a detailed overview of the structure and content of the new model, detailing membership and responsibilities of each grouping, including the Strategic Planning / Wellbeing Delivery Plan Group (SPG / WDG), Locality Planning Groups (LPGs) and Locality Engagement Groups (LEGs). An overview of the anticipated benefits that the new model will bring to communities and services is also provided within the report.</p> <p>It was confirmed that no additional resources were being requested with work being developed utilising existing staff groups.</p> <p>Engagement sessions in February 2026 will be held to reestablish Locality Planning Groups and gather interest for Locality Engagement Groups. It is anticipated the new arrangements will begin in April 2026.</p> <p>It was noted that the remodelling of East Ayrshire Leisure Trust should be seen as a further opportunity to embed this work going forward.</p> <p>Both Councillor Maitland and Councillor Mabon indicated that they were both members of the Leisure Trust, but confirmed there was no conflict of interest.</p> <p>The Board:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Received the report;</li> <li>ii. Noted the legislative context for Locality Planning in East Ayrshire;</li> <li>iii. Recognised identified gaps and indicative benefits for moving to the new model for Integrated Locality Planning;</li> <li>iv. Agreed the new model for Integrated Locality Planning.</li> <li>v. Agreed there would be no additional resource allocation for Integrated Locality Planning; and</li> <li>vi. Noted and commented on the report.</li> </ol>	
9.	<p><b><u>Progress of Participation and Engagement Strategy 2023-26 and Communications Strategy 2024-27</u></b></p> <p>The report provided an overview of engagement and communication activities undertaken in line with the Participation and Engagement Strategy 2023-26 and Communications Strategy 2024-2027.</p> <p>It was noted that the Partnership's Participation and Engagement Strategy 2023-2026 has four strategic outcomes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The quality and consistency of the participation and engagement activities are improved through the Partnership workforce having access to training, resources and tailored support.</li> </ol>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>b. The public, users of services and carers have a clear picture of the different ways in which they can engage with the Partnership via a method that best suits them.</li> <li>c. The public, users of services and carers are supported to participate through structured or tailored support and are clear on what this involves and what difference it has made.</li> <li>d. Additional measures will be taken to involve groups with protected characteristics and people who are excluded from participating due to disadvantage relating to social or economic factors.</li> </ul> <p>The report detailed activities carried out in 2025 and priorities for 2026. It was highlighted that the Participation and Engagement Strategy is due for renewal in 2026 and it was proposed that the Strategy should continue for a further year to bring it into alignment with the IJB Strategic Plan and Communications Strategy timeline for 2027- 2030.</p> <p><b>Councillor Reid left the meeting.</b></p> <p>The Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Received the report;</li> <li>ii. Noted the range of activities undertaken to implement both strategies;</li> <li>iii. Approved the continuation of the Participation and Engagement Strategy to 2027 to align with the IJB Strategic Plan and Communications Strategy;</li> <li>iv. Approved ongoing reporting of implementation to the Strategic Planning/Wellbeing Delivery Plan Group in line with other HSCP strategies; and</li> <li>v. Provided any further comments on the report.</li> </ul>	
10.	<p><b><u>Mental Health Officer Service Review 2024-25</u></b></p> <p>This report provided the conclusions and outcomes of the Mental Health Officer (MHO) Service Review and progress in implementing the new MHO Service model.</p> <p>The review was initiated to address growing demand, capacity issues and workforce challenges.</p> <p>As part of the service review, an options appraisal exercise was undertaken to identify a preferred delivery model. This sought to integrate a central team of dedicated MHOs, whilst maintaining MHOs embedded within existing operational teams for greater flexibility.</p> <p>To support the new delivery model, the Review Group recommended the establishment of a dedicated MHO team, and following approval from Heads of Service, the dedicated MHO team was established in September 2024 to focus on urgent statutory referrals and on reducing the Adults With Incapacity (AWI) waiting list.</p>	

	<p>Increased MHO capacity within the HSCP has several important implications for people who use services and their carers, particularly in relation to AWI and Guardianship processes. Increased MHO capacity allows for faster completion of AWI reports, enabling timely hospital discharge and reducing stress for both service users and carers.</p> <p>The Board requested further information in terms of the impact this new model has had on delayed discharges since December 2024.</p> <p>The Board:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Received and noted the content of the report;</li> <li>ii. Considered and endorsed the conclusions and outcomes of the HMO Service Review;</li> <li>iii. Noted the progress in implementing the new MHO Service model;</li> <li>iv. Commented on the report.</li> </ol>	<b>NJ</b>
15.	<p><b><u>Governance Papers</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health, Safety &amp; Wellbeing – 18.08.25</li> <li>• Resilience Management – 09.09.25</li> <li>• Health &amp; Care Governance – 19.08.25</li> <li>• Risk Management Group – 07.08.25</li> <li>• Partnership Forum – 14.08.25</li> </ul>	
16.	<p><b><u>AOCB</u></b></p> <p><u>Whole Family Welfare Fund</u> Moira Fenton advised IJB members of the Whole Family Welfare Fund and the recruitment of a Pre-Engagement Officer for two years. The work the Pre-Engagement Officer will undertake will be similar to a Community Connector, although more complex.</p> <p><u>Climate Change Duties Reports</u> The following reports were attached for Information:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) EAC Climate Change Duties Submissions 2025</li> <li>b) NHS Climate Change Duties Submissions 2025</li> </ol>	
17.	<p><b><u>Date Of Next Meeting</u></b></p> <p>04 February 2026 at 2.00pm, Council Chambers/ MS Teams</p>	