

NHS Ayrshire & Arran



Meeting:	Ayrshire and Arran NHS Board
Meeting date:	Monday 08 June 2026
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

Read the latest news from NHS Ayrshire & Arran on our website:

[Latest News – NHS Ayrshire & Arran](#)

Women’s and Children’s Services: New testing helps prevent hearing loss in newborns

A new point of care test (POCT) for gentamicin is being rolled out across neonatal units to help protect babies from potential hearing loss linked to antibiotic treatment (aminoglycoside induced ototoxicity).

Gentamicin is widely used to treat suspected infections in newborns, but in rare cases it can lead to permanent hearing damage. This new genetic test helps identify babies at risk early, allowing safer alternative treatment options.

National guidance from NICE and SHTG supports using this testing across neonatal units, and it’s expected to make a real difference – potentially preventing around 31 babies in Scotland from developing permanent deafness over the next five years. National planning has estimated it will save the NHS Scotland around £200,000, alongside wider benefits for children and families.

The rollout started with NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde in October 2025, with NHS Ayrshire & Arran (A&A) becoming the first local neonatal unit to go live in April 2026. The implementation marks a major step forward in patient safety, delivering clear benefits for newborns and families across NHS Ayrshire & Arran.

The project has been a great example of teamwork, with strong support from the Centre for Sustainable Delivery (CfSD) and close collaboration between NHS A&A neonatal team, Medical Physics, laboratories and digital colleagues.

NHS A&A has also secured funding for the first year of the programme, including investment in the POCT testing equipment.

Overall, this is a positive step forward in improving safety and outcomes for newborn babies across Ayrshire & Arran (and beyond).

The Health Safety Check for Children Accommodated in an Emergency

Care-experienced infants, children and young people often experience adversity, which contributes to poorer health outcomes at a population level. Poor health is not an inevitable consequence of being care experienced and with the right collaborative systems, communication and advocacy, infants, children and young people can achieve excellent health into adulthood. The Health Safety Check is one such system — a small but critical ‘cog’ in the complex wider care structure of the health and social work system in Scotland, UK. It is designed to protect infants, children and young people during one of the highest-risk moments in their care journey: placement change, and particularly unplanned or emergency moves. Nearly one third of all emergency placement moves involved infants, children, and young people who were prescribed medication. Medication included: Salbutamol/inhalers, antibiotics, emollients/eczema treatments, allergy medications (including epi pens), ADHD medication, Insulin and antidepressants. This has highlighted

the vital need for up-to-date information to be transferred in order to provide training for carers in appropriate caregiving.

Not only did this aid the team around the infant, child, or young person in understanding their physical needs, but it gave them the opportunity to think about their needs in terms of their mental health and potential neurodivergence.

In these ways, Health Safety Checks directly address known contributors to health inequalities, thereby improving continuity and safeguarding.

Led by South Ayrshire HSCP in conjunction with NHS Ayrshire & Arran Corporate Parenting taskforce and programme board, the Health Safety Check is now a proven, high impact intervention in Ayrshire and Arran NHS, which does not place unmanageable additional demands on corporate parents. By rapidly sharing essential health information, it strengthens corporate parents' responses to their responsibilities, ensuring that infants, children, and young people are not placed at unnecessary risk during transitions.

For further analysis, data and impact, please access the full article at:

McKeown, Andrea and Docherty, Laura and McMorland, Claire and Gibson, Jane (2026) *Upholding rights to health, reducing risk to health, and improving health outcomes in collaboration: a 'Health Safety Check' service for infants, children, and young people in a health board area in Scotland.* *Scottish Journal of Residential Child Care*, 25 (1). pp. 130-138. ISSN 1478-1840 (<https://doi.org/10.17868/strath.00096119>)

Scottish Governments Breastfeeding in Early Years scheme

This scheme is currently being rolled out in South Ayrshire to all Early year's education centres with Heads of Ayr Nursery the first to complete, and who received their certificate on the International Day of the Nurse on 12 May from Karen Colgan our Community Infant Feeding Nurse in South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership.

Karen commented:

“It was my absolute pleasure on The International Day of The Nurse to attend Heads of Ayr Nursery to give them their Presentation for achieving all the criteria for The Early Years Scheme. They are the first Nursery in South Ayrshire to achieve this. It was wonderful to continue to flourish on our already good relationships with Nursery and Education Staff in South Ayrshire.”



News from our partners:

East Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership (EAHSCP)

International Women's Day events held in Cumnock and Stewarton

Women and girls across East Ayrshire attended our International Women's Day events in March, held in Cumnock and Stewarton by EAHSCP staff and third sector partners.

The events, which took place at the Nest Wellbeing Group and the Rose Reilly Sports Centre respectively, offered family-friendly activities, goodie bags, free health checks and wellbeing advice, as well as refreshments including cake and mocktails.

Caroleann Maclellan, ADP Development Officer, was in attendance at the Cumnock event: "Thanks to all our stallholders, who provided demonstrations, freebies and support, and to Nest volunteers Kelly and Marie for the pamper sessions and Tropics treatments. Many thanks also to our NHS Ayrshire and Arran Oral Health Improvement Team and Quit Your Way, East Ayrshire HSCP Protecting People, Home Energy Scotland and everyone who came along and made the day so vibrant!

"This event brought together around 100 women from Cumnock and the surrounding area and was a huge success and a wonderful celebration of women, wellbeing, and community."

Sir Alexander Fleming Centre receives visit from fluffy friends

Staff and service users at the Sir Alexander Fleming Centre recently enjoyed a visit from a local petting zoo.

The Ayrshire-based 'Bunny Luv' petting zoo features adorable guineapigs, rabbits, tortoises and even ducks and chickens, all of which delighted service users and made for a wonderful afternoon.



East Ayrshire Churches Homelessness Action launches social enterprise café

An East Ayrshire homelessness and addiction support charity has recently opened its very own social enterprise café in John Dickie Street.

East Ayrshire Churches Homelessness Action (EACHA) celebrated the official opening of the new venture in April, which offers delicious breakfast, lunch and dinner options in a welcoming and inclusive environment.



Led by café manager Michael and made possible by a team of dedicated staff, the café offers fresh toasties, paninis, soups, cakes, coffee and much more, with all profits going towards people in East Ayrshire affected by homelessness, mental health challenges and addiction.

Lauren Duttthorn at EACHA told us more: “Our social enterprise café runs Monday to Friday, 12–2pm, at The Hub on John Dickie Street, and every purchase made here directly supports our work across East Ayrshire.

“By choosing to eat and drink with us, you’re helping provide vital support for individuals affected by homelessness and addiction, while also creating opportunities for connection, recovery, and community wellbeing.”

Circulars from the Scottish Government Health & Social Care Directorates

Published since last Board briefing

Circulars	Lead Director(s)
PCA(O)(2026)02 NHS Community Glaucoma Service (CGS)	Director of East Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership
PCA(O)2026(03) Primary Care Optometry: NHS Optical Voucher Eligibility, Portable Slit Lamp Grant Funding	Director of East Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership
PCA(P)(2026)03 Extension to Serious Shortage Protocols for Estradot® patches and Creon® 10000 gastro-resistant capsules	Director of Pharmacy
PCA(P)(2026) 04 Additional Pharmaceutical Services NHS Pharmacy First Scotland – New Common Clinical Condition (Skin Inflammation)	Director of Pharmacy
PCA(P)(2026)05 Additional pharmaceutical services NHS pharmacy first Scotland - addition of a common clinical condition (oral candidiasis)	Director of Pharmacy
PCA(M)(2026)01 SFE Locum Reimbursement Rates	Director of East Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership
PCA(M)(2026)01a New Core Investment In General Practice 2026-29	Director of East Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership
PCA(M)(2026)02 Cardiovascular disease prevention scheme - directed enhanced service	Director of East Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership
PCA(M)(2026)03 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
PCS(DD)(2025)01Addendum2 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
PCS(ESM)(2026)01 Pay and conditions of service: Executive and senior management pay 2025-26: consolidated performance related pay	Human Resources Director Director of Finance
PCS(PH)(2026)01 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.