

NHS Ayrshire & Arran



Meeting:	Ayrshire and Arran NHS Board
Meeting date:	Monday 10 August 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 through a weekly eNews briefing with additional items advised 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)
- 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

For the latest news from NHS Ayrshire & Arran, check our website

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Strengthening Care Homes Resilience

Care home outbreaks remain a significant threat to the health and wellbeing of older adults in Scotland, often resulting in avoidable harm, hospital admissions, social isolation and increased pressure on staff and services. In response to Scottish Government guidance and funding issued in 2024, NHS Ayrshire & Arran developed an enhanced collaborative approach between the Infection Prevention and Control Team (IPCT) and Health Protection Team (HPT) to strengthen outbreak prevention, preparedness and response. This work, previously featured in the Realistic Medicine Casebook 2025-2026, demonstrates how integrated working can support safer, person-centred care while improving system resilience.

Aim

To evaluate the impact of a collaborative Infection Prevention and Control Team (IPCT) and Health Protection Team (HPT) model on outbreak prevention, preparedness and management within care homes across Ayrshire & Arran, and to explore its contribution to Scotland's Realistic Medicine ambitions.

Objectives

- To strengthen care home resilience through proactive infection prevention support, education and relationship-building.
- To provide rapid, coordinated specialist support following outbreak declaration through a joint IPCT–HPT response model.
- To improve care home staff confidence in recognising, managing and escalating outbreaks appropriately.
- To promote consistent application of evidence-based infection prevention and control measures across care home settings.
- To assess stakeholder perceptions of the model and its influence on partnership working, communication and outbreak management.
- To examine the model's potential impact on outbreak frequency, duration, severity and associated hospital admissions.

Stronger Together

From September 2024, a joint IPCT–HPT model was implemented across care homes in Ayrshire & Arran. The intervention combined:

- Proactive support through routine educational visits to care homes, tailored to local needs and focused on outbreak prevention, infection control measures and relationship-building.
- Reactive rapid-response support through IPCT visits within 48 hours of outbreak declaration, supported by a standardised assessment checklist and shared actions with the HPT.

The model was underpinned by Realistic Medicine principles, emphasising prevention, reduction of avoidable harm, shared decision-making, consistent communication and effective use of resources. Evaluation included stakeholder interviews with care home managers, senior health and social care leaders, and HPT/IPCT staff. Quantitative analysis of outbreak data is ongoing.

Turning Relationships into Results

Stakeholder feedback demonstrated strong support for the intervention and perceived improvements in outbreak management, staff confidence and inter-agency collaboration. Care home managers reported greater confidence in recognising and managing outbreaks, earlier implementation of infection prevention measures, and increased willingness to seek advice from specialist teams. NHS staff described improved communication, reduced anxiety among care home teams and stronger partnership working.

Emerging findings suggest the model may contribute to improved preparedness and more consistent application of evidence-based control measures. Ongoing analysis is investigating potential reductions in outbreak frequency, duration, severity and associated hospital admissions during the 2025/26 winter period.

Protection Scotland's Most Vulnerable / Creating Safer Care Homes

A proactive and integrated IPCT–HPT approach has strengthened care home outbreak management by combining prevention, education and rapid specialist support. Early evidence indicates improved staff confidence, stronger relationships between healthcare teams and care homes, and more consistent outbreak responses. This collaborative model aligns closely with Scotland's Realistic Medicine agenda and offers a sustainable, scalable approach to protecting vulnerable populations, reducing avoidable harm and improving health outcomes across care home settings. The work, recognised through publication in the Realistic Medicine Casebook, provides a practical example model of how partnership working can improve population health and system resilience in Scotland.

News from our partners:

East Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership (EAHSCP)

Seniors go for gold at East Ayrshire's Care Home Games

Our Senior Care Home Games made a triumphant return this year, with over 60 East Ayrshire care home residents competing in sporting events at Ayrshire Athletics Arena.

Residents took part in archery, football, volleyball, boccia bowls, curling and basketball before being entertained with music and dance from the talented East Ayrshire Young Carers.



Established by our Allied Health Professionals (AHPs) and Scottish Care, the annual event has grown in popularity and is highly anticipated each year by care home staff and residents alike. This year's event was also a collaboration with Ayrshire 360.

The event received support from many local organisations and services, including Ayrshire College, The Killie Community, Scottish Archery, Kilmarnock Barebow Archery, East Ayrshire Advocacy Services, The NEST Wellbeing Group, East Ayrshire Council's SL33 and health and social care staff – all of whom came together to deliver a fantastic day of activities, entertainment and social interaction for care home residents.

As well as celebrating the spirit and contributions of older people, this fun-filled event also highlighted the health and wellbeing benefits of staying active as we age.

Lianne McNally, AHP Senior Manager, explained these benefits in greater detail: "If we become less active, there are several risks we might encounter as we age. For example, inactivity can increase our rate of physical and cognitive decline, potentially leading to falls and stays in hospital, and having less independence or becoming socially isolated.

"We want everyone to enjoy being active, and our Care Home Games demonstrate the many ways you can continue to participate in activities, whether that's an organised sport or accessing equipment, or thinking about ways to build gentle exercise or movement into our daily routines.

"The oldest resident who took part was aged 102 – a testament to the fact that you can be active at any age!"

After friendly (but fierce!) competition, participants enjoyed afternoon tea and musical entertainment from East Ayrshire Young Carers, before Depute Provost John McGhee presented everyone with a medal and announced the winning care home.

Councillor Clare Maitland, East Ayrshire Council's spokesperson for Health and Social Care, said this year's event had been another huge success: "I am so proud of each and every one of our care home residents, who all come together with a positive approach to getting involved. We must also mention our colleagues and partner organisations, all of whom rallied round to create a truly supportive event.

"A hearty congratulations go to Glebe Care Home, whose performance topped the leaderboard this year."

New strategy promotes support and wellbeing for carers

A new strategy that will support young and adult carers was launched by East Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership and East Ayrshire Carers' Centre during Carers' Week 2026.

The carers' strategy outlines the significant role unpaid carers have in our communities and in the lives of those they care for. They often manage complicated and competing responsibilities, and it is important that they can also take care of their own wellbeing.

The strategy presents a vision for East Ayrshire where carers feel valued, supported, respected and able to have a life outside caring. It recognises that caring can be rewarding, but it can also be hard, so carers need the right support at the right time.

Through a collaborative approach with carers, the strategy has identified five key areas of work to help achieve this:

- promoting health, wellbeing, respite, short breaks and enjoyable activities
- strengthening financial security and employment opportunities
- ensuring voice, recognition and inclusion
- improving support, information and care transitions
- using digital tools and technology

Fiona Robson and Fiona Pirrie, East Ayrshire Carers' Centre's Co-Chief Executive Officers, said: "We are proud to have contributed to the development of this carers strategy. We see everyday the impact that caring has on unpaid carers who are the backbone of our communities, providing vital care and support that would otherwise fall to already stretched public services.

"This strategy is important because it recognises the invaluable contribution carers make and commits to ensuring they are identified early, listened to, and properly supported to sustain their own health, wellbeing and lives alongside caring."

Councillor Clare Maitland, East Ayrshire Council's spokesperson for Health and Social Care, said: "Young and adult carers help to look after friends, family, partners and neighbours who may not otherwise manage by themselves. This could be due to frailty, someone using alcohol or drugs, a disability, or physical or mental ill-health. They make an immense contribution to our communities and the lives of others, and it is important that we listen to what they need.

“This new strategy is our commitment to supporting carers in East Ayrshire. Its collaborative approach means that we are focusing on the things that really matter, and that we can continue to do so as carers’ priorities change.”

White Ribbon Cup helps to tackle gender-based violence

Senior pupils from 22 Ayrshire secondary schools joined together to take part in a five-a-side football tournament while learning about gender-based violence and the issues faced by women and girls in our communities.

The White Ribbon Cup, held at Cumnock Juniors Football Club, was won by Grange Academy after a very competitive but friendly tournament.



Information stalls from a range of local organisations including Police Scotland, The Killie Community Charity, and Ayrshire's Violence Against Women Partnerships were there on the day to provide advice and guidance.

Councillor Jim McMahon, East Ayrshire's White Ribbon Champion said: “The White Ribbon Cup was a brilliant day and a really good way of engaging so many young men around the issue of violence against women. Everyone who was there on the day was able to learn more about the prevention work that is going on in this area and how they can play a part in this. I hope all of the players had a great day and that they’ll now go on to spread the word about others can help in our aim of ending violence against women.”

Sergeant Kenneth Blackmore from Police Scotland added: “It was a fantastic event. Not only were the young people involved in some excellent football matches, but it was great to see so many of them, as well as members of the public, engaging with partners and learning more about White Ribbon and the work that partners do. The event has also allowed us to spread the White Ribbon message across the whole of Ayrshire. Our aim is to end violence against women and girls, and events like the White Ribbon Cup allow us to educate young people and make a huge difference.”

Local partner employee honoured at Scottish Charity Awards

A participant turned leader for the Killie Community Charity has been presented with an award in recognition of his “selflessness and impact”.

Nominated in the Employee of the Year category, Scott Montgomery from Onthank was one of 35 individuals shortlisted across the country in this year’s Scottish Charity Awards.



Run annually by the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO), these awards celebrate the best of Scotland’s voluntary sector and the individuals and groups who make a real and lasting difference to the lives of others.

After losing his son, Scott found purpose through The Killie Community and now leads programmes empowering 3,000 people each year. His lived experience allows him to connect with individuals facing bereavement, recovery, and physical and mental health challenges, helping them take their first steps toward progress.

Jordan Allison, Head of The Killie Community, spoke about Scott’s “extraordinary” journey with the charity, which first welcomed him as a participant: “This [award] follows an incredible year for Scott, including helping expand programmes tackling loneliness, recovery and disability inclusion, while also raising over £17,000 for the charity. His story is an extraordinary one.

“Scott is a truly valued member of our team whose dedication, commitment and work ethic shine through every single day. No task is ever too big or too small, and he consistently goes above and beyond to support both colleagues and participants across our programmes.

“His positive attitude, willingness to help others and unwavering commitment to our values make a real difference to everyone around him. Scott leads by example and is always the first to lend a hand, putting the needs of others before his own.

“We are incredibly grateful for everything Scott brings to The Killie Community. His hard work and passion do not go unnoticed, and this award is thoroughly deserved.”

Circulars from the Scottish Government Health & Social Care Directorates

Published since last Board briefing

Circulars	Lead Director(s)
CDO(2026)06 Deputy Chief Dental Officer	Director of East Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership
CMO(2026)08 Updated Scottish Abortion Care Providers Guidance on Abortion up to 12 weeks and 6 days gestation	Director of Public Health
CMO(2026) 09 Urgent time-limited Meningococcal Group B (MenB) Vaccination Programme in 2026	Director of Public Health
CMO(2026)10 Medical Device Regulation (MDR) Preparedness: Patient Implant Cards, Implant Patient Information Leaflets and MHRA Yellow Card Scheme	Medical Director,
CMO(2026)11 Viral Haemorrhagic Fever Preparedness	Director of Public Health
CMO(2026)12 Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Vaccination Programme 2026-27 – Older Adults & Maternal (Protecting Infants)	Director of Public Health
CMO(2026)13 Update to the use of CHI (Community Health Index) to Support Health, Care and Wider Public Service Delivery	Director of Infrastructure & Support Services
DL(2026)06 Previously baselined funding for the Childsmile programme	Director of Finance
DL(2026)07 Partnership Agreement Between NHSScotland Counter Fraud Services and NHS Boards and National Health Boards	Chief Executive
PCA(P)(2026)08 Pharmaceutical Services Amendments to the Drug Tariff part 11 Discount Clawback Scale	Director of Pharmacy
PCA(P)(2026)09 Extension to Serious Shortage Protocol for Ramipril 1.25mg Capsules	Director of Pharmacy

Circulars	Lead Director(s)
PCA(P)(2026)10 Extension to Serious Shortage Protocols for Estradot® P and Creon® Gastro Resistant Capsules	Director of Pharmacy
PCA(P)(2026)11 Extension to Serious Shortage Protocol for Ramipril 1.25mg Capsules	Director of Pharmacy
PCA(O)2026(05) Community Glaucoma Service (CGS) - New Directions for the CGS	Director of East Ayrshire Health & Social Care Partnership
PCS(AFC)2026/3 Changes to the Scottish Agenda for Change Handbook: Sections 18 and 19	Director of People, Safety and Culture
PCS(DD)2026/01 (Addendum Residents) Pay and Conditions of Service - Remuneration of Hospital Medical and Dental Staff, Doctors and Dentists in Public Health Medicine and the Community Health Service	Director of Finance Director of People, Safety and Culture
PCS(PHG)2026/1 NHS Scotland Public Holidays In 2026-27 and 2027-28	Director of People, Safety and Culture

Consultations/Call for evidence or written submission

(In progress or published since last Board briefing)

From	Topic	Response Due
Planning and Building Standards, East Ayrshire Council	Planning Consultation Request: 26/0032/AMCPPP	Responded
National Strategy for Community Justice Lead, Scottish Government	Review of National Strategy for Community Justice - Consultation - Statutory community justice partners	20/08/2026
Planning and Building Standards, East Ayrshire Council	Planning Consultation Request 26/0291/PN	15/07/2026
Residential development to include access, roads, open space, landscaping, drainage and other associated works - Land At Kilwinning Road, Stewarton	Planning Consultation Request 25/0465/PP	05/08/2026

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.