EAST AYRSHIRE
Health & Social Care
Partnership

East Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir an Ear

NHS
Ayrshire & Arran

East Ayrshire Health & Social Care Partnership
Integration Joint Board
18 March 2026 at 2pm
Council Chambers/ MS Teams

Present:	*Councillor Douglas Reid, East Ayrshire Council (Chair) Mr Craig McArthur, Director of Health and Social Care *Dr Sukhomoy Das, NHS Non-Executive Director *Ms Sheila Cowan, NHS Non-Executive Board Member *Mr Neil McAleese, NHS Non-Executive Board Member Dr Erik Sutherland, Head of Locality Health & Care Services Ms Alexia Pellowe, Clinical Director Ms Fiona Pirrie, Co CEO, East Ayrshire Carers Centre (IJB Stakeholder Representative) Ms Marion MacAulay, Head of Children's Health, Care & Justice Mr Alex McPhee, Interim Chief Financial Officer Ms Dalene Steele, Associate Nurse Director *Ms Jennifer Wilson, NHS Executive Nurse Director Ms Lianne McInally, AHP Senior Manager *Councillor Clare Maitland, East Ayrshire Council *Councillor Linda Mabon, East Ayrshire Council *Councillor Neill Watts, East Ayrshire Council Ms Allina Das, RCN Representative Mr David Mitchell, Monitoring Officer Ms Laura McGarrity, Clinical Director, Theatres and Preoperative Services ***signifies a voting member***
In Attendance:	Mr Jim Murdoch, Senior Manager Wellbeing, Planning & Performance Ms Amanda McInnes, Senior Manager Business Support Ms Fiona Hart, Service Manager, IJB Finance Ms Lisa Davidson, Assistant Director of Public Health Mr Alistair Reid, Director of Allied Health Professionals Ms Julie Ross-Binning, Senior Business Support Officer Alison Anderson, Committee Secretary (Minutes)

Agenda	Discussion	Action
1.	<u>**Welcome & Apologies**</u> Councillor Douglas Reid welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were noted from Lynne McNiven, Moira Fenton, Shirley Ferguson and Marie Devine.	

	A welcome was given to both Alistair Reid and Fiona Hart who were presenting papers today and to Lisa Davidson who was attending on behalf of Lynne McNiven. It was also highlighted of this being Alex McPhee's last meeting as Interim Chief Finance Officer.	
2.	**<u>Good News Story</u>** No Good News Story was presented due to the size of the agenda.	
3.	**<u>Declaration Of Interest</u>** There were no declarations of interest.	
4.	**<u>Minutes of the Previous Meetings held on 04 February 2026</u>** The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as an accurate record of discussion. Councillor Linda Mabon provided the following statement and agreed for it be included in the minute : "In relation to Councillor Douglas Reid's remarks at Council on 29 January, I would encourage members to consider his full comments, along with the subsequent contributions from Councillor Maitland and myself. I have reviewed the meeting to ensure complete accuracy. While the phrase *"we need to get our own house in order"* was used, it was presented as a general observation relevant to any department responsible for balancing a budget. It was **not** directed specifically at the IJB. It is also important to note that, within the same statement, Councillor Reid explicitly recognised and commended the IJB's performance. No untruths were stated by any of us, and the narrative that has since developed around those remarks is inaccurate. I therefore reject it. I would also like to respond to the suggestion that Councillors must set aside their wider responsibilities when serving as IJB members. While the role is distinct, it does not operate in isolation. Real decisions have real consequences for real people, and our moral responsibility remains, regardless of the capacity in which we sit at this table. On the matter of transparency, although assurances were repeatedly given, I do not fully agree that transparency was maintained throughout. Clear direction and detailed financial information were requested multiple times but were not provided until December. Headline figures were shared, but the level of detail required to understand what was being asked — and to make informed decisions — was missing. That level of clarity came too late.	

	I did ask what savings had been achieved and was advised they were "substantial". In hindsight, I accept that I should have challenged that more robustly, and I will ensure I do so in future. Chair, my intention in making this statement is not to create division or prolong debate. It is important that we now draw this matter to a close. Our collective responsibility is to focus on the coming financial year and ensure that past failures in communication, detail, clarity, and timing are not repeated. That is our duty, and it is what matters most for the people of East Ayrshire." Councillor Reid advised the Board that the comments he had made were of a general nature and had not been intended to offend anyone.	
5.	**<u>Matters Arising</u>** Nothing for discussion.	
6.	**<u>Allied Health Professionals Within the Acute Setting in NHS Ayrshire & Arran</u>** Mr Alistair Reid presented the report to provide an update to members in relation to work that has been progressing to optimise arrangements for Allied Health Professionals (AHPs) working within both the community and acute setting. Following significant consideration and stakeholder engagement, it had been agreed that responsibility and accountability for AHP services currently managed by East Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) and delivered within the acute setting would transfer to Acute Services. These changes would seek to maximise the contribution of AHPs in both the HSCP and acute settings as part of a whole system and had been developed in consideration of experience and outcomes for both staff and service users. Mr Reid advised that there had been significant engagement with colleagues working within both Acute and the HSCP, Trade Union representatives and professional bodies. The Board: i. Approved the transfer of responsibility and accountability for AHP services, currently managed by East Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) and delivered within the acute setting, to Acute Services. ii. Directed NHS Ayrshire and Arran to undertake the appropriate staffing and budget transfers; iii. Noted the budget will transfer on completion of the organisational change process – expected early in the 2026/27 financial year; and, iv. Noted the contents of the report.	

	Alistair Reid left the meeting.	
7.	**<u>EAHSCP Social Care Contribution and Charging Framework and Approved Rates, Contributions and Charges 2026/27</u>** Ms Fiona Hart presented the report to the IJB with the annual alterations in respect of charges and contributions for Social Care Services and the updated East Ayrshire Health & Social Care Partnership Social Care Services Contributions and Charging Framework for Financial Year 2026/27. Approval was also being sought for the proposed rates paid for Social Care Charges. Fiona agreed that she would speak with Children & Family colleagues to ascertain that checks were being undertaken to make sure that the SRA child allowance and Household allowance crossovers are being applied for. The Board: (i) Noted the updated East Ayrshire Social Care Services Contribution and Charging Framework; (ii) Noted the updated charges and thresholds detailed in paragraphs 24-32 of this report; (iii) Noted that in relation to care home charges COSLA, Scottish Government and Scottish Care have not yet finalised the rate at this time; (iv) Noted the uplifts in relation to Specialist Adult Care Homes The Laurels and Beeches detailed in Table 4 will be agreed following confirmation of the NCHC uplift; (v) Noted the uplift in respect of Kirklea and Newhouse detailed in paragraphs 38-40 will be uplifted following confirmation from Scotland Excel; (vi) Agreed the proposed provider rates in relation to care at home, community based support, sleepovers and Ucan in paragraphs 41 - 46; (vii) Agreed the proposed transport rates in respect of Ucan in Table 6; (viii) Agreed the proposed uplift in respect of the Resource Allocation System in paragraph 51; (ix) Agreed the proposed personal assistant rate in paragraph 52; (x) Noted that foster care payments are aligned to the Scottish Recommended Allowance and will be uplifted in line with the national increase; (xi) Approved the uplift to the Household Allowances in Table 7; (xii) Noted fee negotiations are progressing in respect of external fostering, secure accommodation and children's residential in paragraphs 60 - 65; (xiii) Noted Kinship Allowance is aligned to the Scottish Recommended Allowance and will be uplifted in line with the national increase; (xiv) Agreed to hold the Wellbeing payment rate in paragraph 68;	 **Fiona Hart**

	(xv) Agreed the updated Kinship Financial Assessment deduction detailed in Table 9; (xvi) Agreed to the mileage rates in respect of parents to visit children who are accommodated in Table 10; (xvii) Agreed to the proposed Adoption Allowances noted in Table 11; (xviii) Agreed to increase Supported Accommodation rates in line with the Scottish Recommended Allowance in paragraph 74; (xix) Approved the payments made to children and young people as detailed in paragraphs 75-80; (xx) Approved the uplift in relation to Short Breaks detailed in Table 13; (xxi) Noted the significant financial risk detailed in paragraph 97 in respect of the uncertainty around the care home rates uplift; (xxii) Issued a Direction to East Ayrshire Council to implement the alterations to charges and contributions for social care services for the Financial Year 2026/27 and the rates paid for social care services; and; (xxiii) Noted the contents of this report.	
8.	<u>**IJB Reserve Strategy**</u> Mr Alex McPhee presented the reviewed IJB Reserve Strategy as set out in the Appendix of the report. It was noted that the Reserve Strategy is a key component of sound governance arrangements for the IJB. It was noted that there are no changes to the Reserve Strategy previously approved by the IJB on 20 March 2024. It was advised that the reviewed Reserve Strategy has been subject of consultation with the East Ayrshire Council Chief Financial Officer (Section 95 Officer), NHS Ayrshire & Arran Director of Finance and the IJB Chief Internal Auditor. The Reserve Strategy will continue to be reviewed on an annual basis by the Chief Finance Officer in line with approval of the IJB budget. Where necessary, adjustments will be submitted to the IJB for approval. A further formal review will be undertaken in March 2028 and presented to the IJB for approval. The Board: (i) Approved the Reserve Strategy detailed in Appendix 1, noting that there are no proposed changes to the Reserve Strategy previously approved by the IJB on 20 March 2024; and, (ii) Noted the content of the report.	
9.	<u>**Governance Report**</u> Mr Craig McArthur presented the report to seek approval from the Integration Joint Board (IJB) to record IJB meetings. Agreement was also being sought for IJB Development Sessions and Strategic Planning Group meetings **not** be recorded, and for further discussion to be held between the Chief Officer and the APC Chair on the implications of Audit and Performance meetings being recorded.	

	Confidential matters considered by the IJB are subject to the exclusion of press and public under certain provisions of *Section 50A(4)of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended.* This requires approval of the IJB during its meeting, and it should be noted that the suspension of any recording would also be required during consideration of any such item. Following discussion, the Board agreed that IJB Development Sessions and Strategic Planning Group meetings should not be recorded. However, requested a further report be brought back to the IJB on the recordings of Audit and Performance meetings. The Board: i. Approved that IJB meetings should be recorded and made available for delayed viewing, effective from the next scheduled IJB meeting on 24 June 2026; ii. Agreed that development sessions and Strategic Planning Group meetings should not be recorded; iii. Instructed the Chief Officer, in consultation with the APC Committee to consider the implications of recording Audit and Performance Committee meetings, and to make appropriate recommendations to the next IJB meeting on 24 June 2026; and, iv. Noted the contents of the report.	
10.	**<u>Clinchyard Place Step Down Supported Accommodation Model – Change to Model of Provision</u>** Mr Erik Sutherland presented the report to: a) provide IJB Members with an update on planning and progress being made on the development of the Clinchyard Place 'Step Down' Model which was approved at Cabinet in January 2025, and; b) to seek approval for a change to the model of provision. It was noted that the report had been provided to seek approval to redesign the Clinchyard step-down model to meet new criteria, new emerging demand and to avoid financial risk, and to change the scope of the staffing model from an internal service to an external service via the Supported Accommodation Tender. It was noted that the report would also be presented to East Ayrshire Cabinet, the Strategic Commissioning Board and relevant Management Teams. It was agreed that it would be beneficial for IJB members to visit Clinchyard Place and Erik Sutherland will try to facilitate this. The Board: i. Received the report; ii. Noted the change in circumstances with the Clinchyard proposal; iii. Approved the changes to the dwelling usage; iv. Approved the changes to the care provision;	

	v. Approved the savings to be utilised to fund the initial void rent; vi. Issued a Direction to East Ayrshire Council with respect to recommendations iii to v above, and, vii. Noted the contents of the report.	
11.	**<u>Affiliations to Outside Organisations</u>** Mr Craig McArthur presented the report to provide information on and to consider the background, aims and objectives, and activities of those organisations which have sought association with, and affiliation of, Social Work Services as part of the Health and Social Care Partnership. It was noted that Affiliations to outside organisations provide additional information, learning, guidance and expertise to Social Work services in areas of specialism, for example adoption and fostering. The Board: i. Considered and approved the affiliations, as detailed in Appendix 1; ii. Agreed that the appropriate Partnership section make payment of the affiliation fees to those approved organisations; and, iii. Noted the content of the report.	
12.	**<u>Joint Inspection of Integrated Adult Learning Disability Services in East Ayrshire</u>** Mr Erik Sutherland presented the report to inform East Ayrshire Integration Joint Board of the current Joint Inspection of Adult Learning Disability Services in East Ayrshire. The Board noted the report.	
13.	**<u>Appointment of Chief Finance Officer</u>** Mr Craig McArthur presented the report to seek the endorsement of the Integration Joint Board (IJB) to appoint a new Chief Finance Officer / Section 95 Officer It was noted that Mr Alex McPhee, current Interim Chief Finance Officer of the IJB, had announced his intention to retire from this role. The IJB wished to record their thanks to Mr McPhee for his commitment to the role and the work that he had undertaken on behalf of the IJB over a number of years. Following due HR process, Ms Eilidh Mackay has been identified as the preferred candidate. The IJB endorsed the appointment of Eilidh Mackay with immediate effect and welcomed Eilidh to the Board.	

	The Board: i. Noted the retirement of Mr Alex McPhee as the IJB Interim Chief Finance Officer / Section 95 Officer, and acknowledge his contribution to health and social care services in East Ayrshire; ii. Endorsed the appointment of Ms Eilidh Mackay as the Chief Finance Officer / Section 95 Officer of the IJB, with immediate effect; and, iii. Noted the contents of the report.	
14.	**<u>Governance Papers</u>** • Audit & Performance Committee - 25.11.25 • Health & Care Governance Group - 19.08.25 • Health & Care Governance Group - 04.11.25 • Health, Safety & Wellbeing sub-group - 14.08.25 • Risk Management meeting - 07.08.25 • Resilience Group - 09.09.25	
15.	**<u>AOCB</u>** <u>Health and Social Care Partnership</u> Councillor Mabon advised that she had been asked to highlight a few concerns raised amongst Health and Social Care Partnership staff with regards to the formatting of ASP minutes and Case Records and associated administrative processes. It was agreed that further discussion will be had between Councillor Mabon and Erik Sutherland outwith the IJB meeting. <u>IJB Development Session</u> A reminder was given to members to provide any items they would like tabled for discussion at the forthcoming Development Session.	
16.	**<u>Date Of Next Meeting</u>** 31 March 2026, at 11am, MS Teams (Special Budget Meeting) 6 May 2026, at 2.00pm, Council Chambers / MS Teams (Development Session) 24 June 2026, at 2.00pm, Council Chambers/ MS Teams	