

NHS Ayrshire & Arran



Meeting:	Ayrshire and Arran NHS Board
Meeting date:	Monday 12 October 2026
Title:	Foxgrove: Approval for Operational Use
Responsible Director:	Nicola Graham, Director of Infrastructure and Support Services (I&SS)
Report Author:	Fraser Bell, Assistant Director Programmes

1. Purpose

This is presented to the Board for:

- Decision

This paper relates to:

- Annual Operational Plan

This aligns to the following NHSScotland quality ambition(s):

- Effective

This supports the following Corporate Objectives:

- Better Value – Delivering innovative and sustainable services for everyone
- Better Health – Supporting you to live a healthier life
- Better Workplace – Creating a great place for us to work
- Better Care – Improving your experience of care

2. Report summary

2.1 Situation

Foxgrove (NSAIS – National Secure Adolescent Inpatient Service) is nearing completion and operational readiness. Scottish Government policy requires that NHS Boards confirm that they are content for a new building to be opened for patients, on the basis that it has met the requisite standards and necessary approvals are in place.

This paper recommends that this Board approval is delegated to the Chair and Chief Executive, to avoid potential delay to a building opening, where the decision point may fall between Board meeting dates.

2.2 Background

NHS Scotland Assure is now known as Public Sector Delivery Scotland however NHS Scotland Assure is used in this paper because this is the name utilised in guidance / policy documents referred to in this paper.

2.2.1 Requirements

The policy requirements are defined in DL (2023) 03: NHS Scotland Assure: Key Stage Assurance Reviews (KSAR) – Commissioning and Handover dated 6th February 2023.

This restricts opening buildings until “supported status” is received:

“This DL covers the commissioning, completion, and handover part of the process and notifies you that all building projects going through a KSAR, should not open to patients or the public until you receive a ‘supported status’ from NHS Scotland Assure.”

And;

“When a supported status has been achieved, and the local NHS Board is content for the building to open, the Senior Responsible Officer should send a copy of the report to the Chair of the NHS Capital Investment Group for information.”

2.2.2 NHS Scotland Assure Process

DL (2021) 14: NHS Scotland Assure: Quality in the Healthcare Environment announced that NHS Scotland Assure and the Key Stage Assurance Review (KSAR) process was being launched.

NHS Scotland Assure undertakes an independent review of all capital projects which require the Full Business Case to be approved by the NHS Capital Investment Group. These Key Stage Assurance Reviews (KSAR) focus on making sure that infection prevention and control are a key consideration in a build project (including; water and drainage, ventilation, electrical, medical gases and fire). These Key Stages are aligned with the Scottish Capital Investment Manual.

The Assurance Service operates in an advisory, assurance and compliance capacity, and works with Health Boards on approval of reports and action plans. At the end of each review, the KSAR team draft an independent assurance report, the health board then review the draft report and feedback, then health boards draft an action plan in response to the findings of the assurance report. A report and action plan are then submitted to Scottish Government. A KSAR report, action plan and lessons learned are shared with other NHS Scotland Assure services.

The final Handover stage is being completed for Foxgrove, including any residual actions outstanding from earlier stages. Once complete, it is expected that supported status will be received from NHS Scotland Assure.

2.2.3 Project Stages to Completion

To meet the requirements defined in DL (2023) 03, the stages to opening of the building for use by patients are set out in table 1.

Table 1: Stages to Opening

	Stage	Evidence	Lead
1	Completion of the construction contract (works delivered to specified requirements).	Handover is certified by independent project manager.	AECOM Ltd
2	Completion of client fit out works (follows construction contract works).	Written confirmation from Head of Capital Planning.	Head of Capital Planning (NHSAA)
3	NHS Scotland Assure KSAR procedure completed (supported status achieved).	Written supported status received.	NHS Scotland Assure (NHSSA)
4	Board content for building to open.	Stages 1, 2 & 3 closed.	NHS Board
5	Senior Responsible Officer should send a copy of the report to the Chair of the NHS Capital Investment Group for information.	Written supported status received.	Senior Responsible Officer
6	Building available for opening for use.	Stages 1 to 5 closed.	

Note that stages 1, 2 and 3 may overlap and progress in parallel. Stage 3 will be dependent upon stage 1 having been completed and appropriate evidence having been submitted to NHS Scotland Assure for its review. This will include commissioning information which is fundamental evidence to both handover and supported status.

2.3 Assessment

Programme Action

For the NHS Board to be content for the building to open, stages 1, 2 and 3 from table 1 need to be completed with written evidence provided. The Board would not be asked to approve the building for use until the stage has been reached and evidence is in place. This is a binary commitment because until this documentation is available, no request will be made to Board.

- **Completion of the build** (building contract handover certified)
- **Expected mid September 2026**
- **Direct NHSAA Works** (follows handover)
- **Expected by end November 2026**

- **NHS Scotland Assure KSAR** (supported status confirmed)
- **Expected by end November 2026**
- **Board approval** for use (public / patient use)
- **Operational Readiness**
The service has an 8 week programme to complete operational readiness following completion of the client works, prior to admission of the first patients.

NHS Ayrshire & Arran Board Meetings

NHS Ayrshire & Arran Board meeting are fixed and scheduled around 8 weeks apart. It is anticipated that the frequency of NHS Ayrshire & Arran Board Meetings is unlikely to align with the eventual completion of the works, client fit works and NHS Scotland Assure reviews. A delay to await the next Board meeting would be undesirable because this would delay the operational date for the facility and the admission of patients.

This paper recommends that the Board delegate to the Chair and the Chief Executive, responsibility to confirm that the Board is content for the building to open and have the authority to instruct the Senior Responsible Officer to confirm this to Scottish Government, allowing the facility to be used for the public and patients. This would be subject to the receipt of the noted project documentation in Table 1.

Approval for the building to open would be dependent upon:-

- a. Handover being certified by the Project Manager AECOM in accordance with the building contract.
- b. Client fit works completed as confirmed by the Head of Capital Planning to the Senior Responsible Officer (who is the chair of the Foxgrove Project Board).
- c. NHS Scotland Assure confirming "supported status" in the issue of their final report.

The Senior Responsible Officer would then write to Scottish Government (once authorised to do so by the Chair and Chief Executive) that the Board is content for the building to open.

2.3.1 Quality/patient care

This proposal would expedite the availability of the facility for admission of patients by offering the opportunity to open at the earliest appropriate date.

2.3.2 Workforce

This proposal would expedite the deployment of the workforce in the delivery of the service.

2.3.3 Financial

This would avoid abortive operational costs of the facility being complete and available but being unused.

2.3.4 Risk assessment/management

Not applicable

2.3.5 Equality and diversity, including health inequalities

Has an impact assessment been completed?

2.3.6 Best value

This paper support Best Value across the following themes.

- Vision and Leadership
- Effective Partnerships
- Governance and accountability
- Use of resources
- Performance management

2.3.7 Other impacts

Not applicable

2.3.8 Communication, involvement, engagement and consultation

The proposed delegation has been considered through the project and organisational governance route set out in section 2.3.9.

2.3.9 Route to the meeting

Foxgrove Project Board	30 September 2025
Infrastructure Programme Board Advisory Group	Virtual Sept 2025
Infrastructure Programme Board	Virtual Sept 2025
Corporate Management Team	13 October 2025

2.4 Recommendation

Decision – Reaching a conclusion after the consideration of options.

Members are asked to approve that;

NHS Ayrshire & Arran Board delegates to the Chair and Chief Executive, to confirm, on behalf of the Board, that the Board is content for the building to open as required by DL (2023) 03.

This shall be subject to the Foxgrove Senior Responsible Officer providing confirmation that; handover of the build has been certified by the project manager and that the project has received “*Supported Status*” from NHS Scotland Assure.

3. List of appendices

The following appendices are included with this report:

- Appendix A – DL(2023)03: Operational Supported Status Requirements.

Appendix A: Operational Supported Status Requirements

DL (2023) 03

6th February 2023

Dear Colleague

NHSSCOTLAND ASSURE: KEY STAGE ASSURANCE REVIEWS (KSAR) – COMMISSIONING AND HANDOVER

On the 27th May 2021, DL (2021) 14: NHS SCOTLAND ASSURE: QUALITY IN THE HEALTHCARE ENVIRONMENT announced that NHS Scotland Assure and the Key Stage Assurance Review (KSAR) process was being launched.

That DL informed all Health Boards that any business case going through the NHS Capital Investment Group for review would require the project to complete a satisfactory KSAR before Scottish Government approval would be granted.

This DL covers the commissioning, completion, and handover part of the process and notifies you that all building projects going through a KSAR, should not open to patients or the public until you receive a 'supported status' from NHS Scotland Assure.

Project teams should liaise with their NHS Scotland Assure KSAR team to ensure that their capital projects are completed satisfactorily to ensure that supported status is achieved. Any additional actions / conditions included within the KSAR 'supported status' report for Commissioning and Handover must also be completed within agreed deadlines. Non-compliance with these requirements will deem the new facility as not appropriate for public / patient occupation.

When a supported status has been achieved, and the local NHS Board is content for the building to open, the Senior Responsible Officer should send a copy of the report to the Chair of the NHS Capital Investment Group for information (NHSCIG@gov.scot).