

NHS Ayrshire & Arran



Meeting:	Ayrshire and Arran NHS Board
Meeting date:	Monday 12 October 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

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

Or follow NHS Ayrshire & Arran on social media: Facebook @nhsaaa

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X @nhsaaa

LinkedIn Page

Ayrshire flu vaccination programme gets underway

Eligible patients across Ayrshire are being invited to attend community clinics for their seasonal flu vaccination. Flu vaccines help protect those most at risk from serious illness and hospitalisation. As flu viruses change every year, getting vaccinated annually remains the best way to stay protected during the winter months. Winter viruses can cause severe illness, especially for those most at risk, including older people, those with weakened immune systems and pregnant women.

To find out more, visit [Winter vaccination programme – NHS Ayrshire & Arran](#)

Macmillan bake sale is a fantastic success

A huge congratulations and thank you to **Staff Nurse Morag Smith (pictured)** for organising a highly successful Macmillan Bake Sale held in Outpatients at University Hospital Crosshouse.



The event has already raised more than £600 for Macmillan Cancer Support, with additional donations still being received. This fantastic achievement was made possible through the generosity and enthusiasm of colleagues who supported the event by baking, donating and purchasing a wonderful selection of cakes. Special congratulations also go to Lorraine Laird, winner of the raffle prize, who kindly shared her fresh cream Victoria Sponge with colleagues. Well done to everyone involved in organising and those who contributed to this outstanding fundraising effort.

Celebrating Stroke Occupational Therapy training success

Occupational Therapy colleagues from across Ayrshire and Arran recently took part in a Stroke Occupational Therapy training event, bringing staff together to enhance knowledge, share best practice and develop skills in stroke care. The event featured six interactive learning stalls covering neurological assessment, driving after stroke, upper limb rehabilitation, self-management, cognition and dressing techniques. Feedback was extremely positive, with attendees describing the sessions as informative, engaging and highly relevant to practice. Congratulations to everyone involved in delivering and attending this successful event, helping to strengthen stroke care across our services.

Celebrating more than 40 years of service

NHS Ayrshire & Arran recently celebrated 162 colleagues who have dedicated more than 40 years of service to the NHS. At a special event in University Hospital Crosshouse, staff reflected on their careers, shared memories and were recognised for their outstanding contribution to patients, communities and services across Ayrshire and Arran.

Aileen Brown and Robert Johnstone, the organisation's longest-serving colleagues, cut the celebration cake, marking an extraordinary milestone and thanking all recipients for their dedication, compassion and lasting impact

To find out more, visit

<https://www.nhsaaa.net/celebrating-40-years-of-caring-commitment-and-service/>



News from our partners:

East Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership (EAHSCP)

Summer trips provide respite for young carers

Young carers in East Ayrshire recently enjoyed some well-deserved respite from their caring responsibilities thanks to summer trips provided by East Ayrshire Carers Centre.

During this year's school holidays, the centre facilitated days out for every young carer they support. These included trips to Heads of Ayr Farm Park, Culzean Country Park, the Rural Museum of Life and more. They also enjoyed activities such as bowling, tubing, laser tag and trips to the cinema.



Ryan Duffy, Young Carers Development Manager at the Centre, said: “This summer, every young carer we support across East Ayrshire got the chance to take a break from their caring role and enjoy some time just being children. We even had a group of young carers go sailing for a week with the Ocean Youth Trust. For many of the young people we support, these are opportunities they might not otherwise get.

“The summer holiday is always a busy time for young carers, and with no school routine many spend even more time helping to look after parents, siblings or other family members. This is why these trips are so important. They give young people the chance to switch off, have fun with friends and enjoy a break from the responsibilities they carry at home.

“Seeing them trying something new, laughing with their friends, and even just getting the chance to relax reminds us why these respite trips are so crucial. They’re much more than activities – they help build confidence and friendships while reducing isolation and allow young carers to make memories that’ll last a lifetime.”

Care experienced cabinet charter for success

Representatives of East Ayrshire’s care experienced community and corporate parent organisations have signed up to a charter, committing to ensure that young people’s voices are heard and acted on.

East Ayrshire’s Care Experienced Cabinet brings together care experienced young people with professionals from services such as health, housing, financial advice and social work. Here, young people can raise issues or barriers they are facing, share their stories and experiences, and work together to suggest ways to make improvements.

Since helping to launch East Ayrshire’s corporate parenting action plan nearly a year ago when the charter was also conceived, the group has been reflecting on recent successes while reaffirming to continue their efforts to make lives better for the care experienced community, and ‘Keep the Promise’ – a national commitment by the Scottish Government to ensure all children and young people grow up loved, safe and respected.

Following the positive response to their Winter Warmer events, the Cabinet highlighted the need for more events like these and launched a new Summer Bonanza event at SL33. A range of services attended with information stalls on topics such as tenancies, health and wellbeing, and rights, alongside seasonal activities and games, to create a fun and informative summertime event.

Ling Liao is a graduate intern at East Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership and helped the Cabinet devise and deliver the event. She said: “By collaborating with the young people, they were able to tell us about the support they needed. With this, we were able to invite the right services so that the information was available and accessible to them. Their feedback from previous events also meant we could tailor what else was on offer, such as the popular Therapet dog, and a clothes bank that included more menswear.”

The Cabinet also lobbied for a child-friendly survey to be included as part of the Council’s antisocial behaviour consultation. Housing Services adopted this request, offering a more inclusive engagement programme to capture a wide range of views on their proposed strategy.

Councillor Elaine Cowan is the Cabinet’s Chair, she said: “Today felt like the right time to revisit the Care Experienced Cabinet’s Charter. We’re almost one year on since it was written

and some newer members will be joining us, so we want to make sure it represents the Cabinet's shared purpose, values and arrangements that we all commit to.

"It is also important that we celebrate what has been achieved by the Cabinet so far. It showcases the positive impact of bringing people together, and how that can help tackle the pressing matters our care experienced young people face. Our services really benefit from these conversations that are leading to opportunities for collaboration and improvement."

Baton of Hope Tour to visit East Ayrshire next year

On World Suicide Prevention Day (10 September), The Baton of Hope suicide prevention charity has announced the dates for its 2027 UK Tour, with East Ayrshire being confirmed as one of the hosts. From 1 September 2027, the world's first physical symbol of mental wellbeing will start on its most ambitious journey to date.

Preparations are already underway to host the Baton's arrival in Kilmarnock and other areas of East Ayrshire (still to be confirmed), on Friday 1 October 2027. The online application process to become a 2027 Baton Bearer is also now open, with details on how to apply available on the charity's website and social media.

Councillor Clare Maitland, East Ayrshire Council's Cabinet Spokesperson for Health and Social Care, said: "It is such an honour that the Baton of Hope will be coming to East Ayrshire as part of its tour of the UK. As well as an important symbol of hope that's passed hand-to-hand between those who have been affected by suicide, the baton is an opportunity to encourage open conversations about suicide while increasing awareness of what support is available.

"Our local support is the result of hard work and collaboration between local services, communities and people with lived and living experience of suicide. We'll be drawing on their views and ideas for the baton's time in East Ayrshire, and we can't wait to share with you what is gearing up to be an extraordinary day full of hope and inspiration."

East Ayrshire is one of 21 locations selected to take part in the relay around England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the Isle of Man throughout September and October next year.

The Baton of Hope is a member of the National Suicide Prevention Network, an initiative launched by The Prince and Princess of Wales' Royal Foundation, bringing together charities and organisations to help transform suicide prevention in the UK.

Killie Community ASN-friendly festival

A community festival promoting inclusion, belonging and experiences recently took place in Kilmarnock, and the organisers, the Killie Community, really knocked it out the park! The festival offered a fun-filled and welcoming opportunity for people to come together, build confidence and make new connections while enjoying football.



The ASN-Friendly Festival, held at the Killie Community Pitch, is an inclusive football festival for children, young people and adults with additional support needs.

The event's aim was to encourage participants to have fun and take part while in an inclusive and safe environment. Coaches and volunteers made sure all activities were adaptable to fit the participants various physical and learning needs.

The event was an all-round winner, scoring positive feedback from participants carers and parents.

Minister joins FIRST meeting to see GIRFE in action

We were delighted that the Minister for Community Care, Alison Thewliss, could join us to see how our Front-door Integrated Response Service Team (FIRST) is delivering the principles of Getting It Right For Everyone (GIRFE) through a fully joined-up approach to health and social care, creating a team around the person.

FIRST brings different health and social care experts around individuals. They explore how we can all work together to boost independence and provide the best care and experiences in the way each person needs it.

The visit allowed us to showcase the commitment, professionalism and collaborative spirit that has underpinned the development of FIRST. Visitors particularly valued seeing a live service in action and hearing how GIRFE principles are being translated into practical, person-centred decision-making through FIRST.

North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership (NAHSCP)

Mental Welfare Commission feedback for Ward 11, Woodland View Hospital

Ward 11 at Woodland View Hospital has received excellent feedback following its recent visit from the Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland.

At the conclusion of the visit, the Commission advised that it had identified no areas of concern and would make no recommendations.

The visiting team particularly highlighted the quality of documentation; patient notes, care plans and multidisciplinary team documentation were considered to be of a very good standard, with clear evidence of person-centred record keeping and patients being actively engaged in their care.

Several other areas of good practice were specifically recognised:

- **Person-centred care and patient involvement**, with good evidence of engagement across the patient group and no variance associated with the length of time patients had been on the ward.
- **Physical healthcare**, with evidence that patients' physical health needs were recognised and being appropriately met alongside their mental health needs.
- **Meaningful activity**, with ward activities responsive to individual patient needs and requests.
- The **Floor Nurse role**, which was positively recognised as providing an accessible and responsive staff presence for patients and visitors. Staff undertaking the role were described as positive and friendly.
- **Psychology input**, particularly the support provided to staff through psychological formulation and reflective practice when caring for people with complex presentations.
- **High-quality care planning and multidisciplinary working**, demonstrating clear involvement of patients in their treatment and care.

This positive feedback is particularly encouraging when considered alongside the recent MWC visits to Wards 9 and 10.

Taken together, the feedback demonstrates an encouraging picture of learning, improvement and the sharing of good practice across the three adult acute inpatient wards at Woodland View.

The Ward 11 team should be congratulated on this excellent feedback. It provides important recognition of the contribution of nursing, medical, psychology, allied health professional and wider multidisciplinary colleagues, and of their collective commitment to delivering safe, effective and person-centred mental health care.

Learning Disability Service

Trindlemoss House in Irvine received a highly positive Care Inspectorate report following an unannounced inspection, achieving 'Very Good' ratings in five of the six areas assessed. The inspection highlighted the service's high-quality, person-centred care, effective leadership, skilled staff team, and strong support for residents' wellbeing, independence, and community inclusion.

Individuals who attend Trindlemoss Day Opportunities and their families enjoyed a special graduation ceremony recently, after 32 service users achieved recognised SVQ qualifications through a partnership with Ayrshire College.

The event, which was held at Riverside Lodge Hotel in Irvine on Thursday 20 August, celebrated the achievements, personal growth, and dedication of the individuals completing their courses, with graduates donning their robes and walking the red carpet to receive certificates, before enjoying a meal and disco with their guests.



The Learning Disability Service had 2 e-posters at the NHS Scotland Conference (21st September). 1 described [collaborative work with the Third Sector, local artists, and Glasgow School of Art](#); and the other related to the implementation of an [Anti-psychotic medication monitoring clinic, by Nurses in the Integrated Learning Disability Team](#). The service is also connected to a 3rd poster, relating to the delivery of a Glasgow School of Art Masters project which was hosted by the service.

The North Community Learning Disabilities Team received the Team Award at the Scottish Learning Disabilities Nurses Network Awards in recognition of their work to reduce health inequalities for people with learning disabilities in North Ayrshire.



Circulars from the Scottish Government Health & Social Care Directorates

Published since last Board briefing

Circulars	Lead Director(s)
CMO(2026)14 Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Monoclonal Antibody (mAb) Programme	Director of Public Health
CMO(2026)15 Abortion – Access to Abortion at all gestations in Scotland	Director of Public Health
CMO(2026)16 Pneumococcal Vaccination – an addition to the Programme: A new clinical risk group: People Experiencing Homelessness	Director of Public Health
CMO(2026)17 Shingles vaccination programme 2026-27	Director of Public Health
DL(2026)08 Updated transmission based precautions guidance in the national infection prevention and control manual and care home infection prevention and control manual taking effect from 3 august 2026	Nurse Director
DL(2026)09 Revised payment verification protocols – general dental services, primary medical services, general ophthalmic services, pharmaceutical services	Director of Finance
PCA(D)(2026)04 Quality Improvement Cycle 2025-28	Director of East Health & Social Care Partnership
PCA(D)(2026)5 Amendment No. 169 to the Statement of Dental Remuneration	Director of East Health & Social Care Partnership
PCA(M)(2026)05 Frailty – directed enhanced service – 2026 - 27	Director of East Health & Social Care Partnership
PCA(MD)(2026)01 Pay and conditions of service 2026-27 health board medical directors / former medical directors on protection	Director of Finance, Director of People, Safety & Culture.
PCA(O)2026(06) Primary Care Optometry • General ophthalmic services (gos) primary eye examination dilation rates for patients aged 60 and over • Practitioner and practice profile reports	Director of East Health & Social Care Partnership

Circulars	Lead Director(s)
PCA(O)(2026)07 Primary Care Optometry: Foundation Training Year; Updated Scottish Care Information (SCI) Gateway optometry to Hospital Eye Service referral forms; Part 2 listed optometrist access to SCI Gateway; Special facial characteristics supplement - NHS optical vouchers; Sports glasses/goggles – NHS optical vouchers; Use of NHS Scotland branding by primary care contractors; General Ophthalmic Services (GOS) and Community Glaucoma Service (CGS) remuneration increases; Pre-registration trainee optometrist supervisor grant increase and claims process; Continuing Professional Development (CPD) allowance claim process	Director of East Health & Social Care Partnership
PCA(P)(2026)12 Extension to serious shortage protocol for creon® 10000 gastro-resistant capsules	Director of Pharmacy
PCA(M)(2026)06/PCA(P)(2026)13 Prescription stationary for non-medical prescribers working in GP practices and other community settings – transition to GP10(SS) forms and associated system and governance arrangements	Director of Pharmacy & Director of East Health & Social Care Partnership
PCA(P)(2026)14 Serious shortage protocol: lansoprazole 15mg orodispersible tablets	Director of Pharmacy
PCA(P)(2026)15 Serious shortage protocol: lansoprazole 30mg orodispersible tablets	Director of Pharmacy
PCA(P)(2026)16 Launch of video remote interpreting (vri) pilot: community pharmacy	Director of Pharmacy
PCA(P)(2026)17 Pharmaceutical services: amendments in respect of community pharmacy remuneration arrangements from 1 April 2026	Director of Pharmacy
PCS(AFS)2026-4 Christmas and new year at the weekend 2026-27&2027-28	Director of People, Safety & Culture
PCS(AFS)2026-5 Changes to the Scottish agenda for change handbook: section 7	Director of People, Safety & Culture
PCS(DD)(2026)02 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 People, Safety & Culture

Circulars	Lead Director(s)
PCS(MD)(2026)01 Pay and conditions of service 2026-27: Health board medical directors/former medical directors on protection	Director of People, Safety & Culture

Consultations/Call for evidence or written submission

(In progress or published since last Board briefing)

From	Topic	Response Due
Scottish Government	Review of National Strategy for Community Justice	Responded
East Ayrshire Council	Planning Consultation Request 26/0291/PN relating to the Knockkippen Wind Farm	15/07/2026
East Ayrshire Council	Planning Consultation Request 25/0465/PP - Residential development relating to land at Kilwinning Road, Stewarton	Responded
East Ayrshire Council	Planning Consultation Request 26/0279/PP - Proposed residential development relating to land to the west of Standalane and north of Four Acres Drive, Kilmaurs.	23/09/2026

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.