

HIGHLAND NHS BOARD	Assynt House Beechwood Park Inverness IV2 3BW Tel: 01463 717123 Fax: 01463 235189 www.nhshighland.scot.nhs.uk NHS Highland na Gàidhealtachd
MINUTE of the FINANCE, RESOURCES AND PEFORMANCE COMMITTEE TEAMS	14 March 2025 at 9.30 am

Present

Alexander Anderson, Chair
Tim Allison, Director of Public Health (from 9.50am)
Graham Bell, Non-Executive Director (Vice Chair)
Heledd Cooper, Director of Finance
Garret Corner, Non-Executive Director
Fiona Davies, Chief Executive
Gerard O'Brien, Non-Executive Director
David Park, Deputy Chief Executive
Steve Walsh, Non-Executive Director

In Attendance

Kristin Gillies, Interim Head of Strategy and Transformation
Katherine Sutton, Chief Officer Acute
Rhiannon Boydell, District Manager (Mid Ross)
Nathan Ware, Governance and Corporate Records Manager
Ruth Daly, Board Secretary
Elaine Ward, Deputy Finance Director
Brian Mitchell, Committee Administrator
Kira Brown, Committee Administrator

1 STANDING ITEMS

1.1 Welcome and Apologies

An apology for absence was received from Committee member Richard MacDonald and also from Pamela Stott, regular attender.

At the commencement of the meeting, the Chair highlighted several reports had been submitted only the day before the meeting and requested that this practice be avoided in future. There would be no formal decisions taken in relation to these Items, as and where indicated.

1.2 Declarations of Interest

There were no formal Declarations of Interest.

1.3 Minutes of Previous meetings held on 7 February 2025 (with Rolling Action Plan and Committee Work Plan 2024/2025)

The draft Minute of the Meetings held on 7 February 2025 were **Approved**. The Committee further **Noted** the Rolling Action Plan.

2 NHS Highland Financial Position 2024/25 Report (Month 10) and Value and Efficiency Assurance Update

The Director of Finance and Deputy Director of Finance both spoke to the circulated report detailing the NHS Highland financial position as at end Month 10, advising the Year-to-Date (YTD) Revenue over spend amounted to £58.302m, with the overspend forecasted to be £45.1m as of 31 March 2025. There was a revised brokerage cap of £49.7m. The forecast assumed further action would be taken to deliver a breakeven Adult Social Care (ASC) position. The forecast was £4.6m better than the revised brokerage limit set by Scottish Government and £5.5m better than the target previously agreed by the NHS Board. The report further outlined planned versus actual financial performance to date as well as the underlying data relating to Summary Funding and Expenditure. Key Risks and Mitigations had not moved since Month 9. Updates were also provided on Maternity Funding; Highland Health and Social Care Partnership; Adult Social Care; Acute Services; Support Services; Argyll and Bute; Cost Reduction and Improvement Activity; Supplementary Staffing; Subjective Analysis and Capital spend position.

The Director of Finance went on to advise, in relation to the overall financial position, current focus was on the forecast element, associated trajectory and delivery against the brokerage cap. The Adult Social Care position was under active discussion in association with Highland Council, and with Scottish Government aware of the ongoing discussions. Aspects relating to Transformation Fund allocations were under review.

There was discussion of the following:

- Supplementary Staffing. Noted challenging position in Argyll and Bute. Advised national level considerations underway in relation to number of associated aspects including both care and working models, shared services and potential for collaborative working across NHS Boards. The importance of taking local decisions, in association with national considerations was highlighted, as was the breakdown between agency and locum activity.

After discussion, the Committee Noted the circulated report and updates provided.

3 Draft Budget Financial Plan 2025/26 – March 2025 Submission

The Deputy Finance Director gave a presentation advising as to the process for the forthcoming submission of the NHS Highland Draft Financial Plan 2025/26 the following week. The presentation detail covered aspects relating to the original December 2024 Budget Letter detail; an update on the overall funding position; initial 2025/26 Plan headlines; summary position; additional funding elements; additional cost and brought forward pressures; inflation and uplift assumptions; movement during January to March 2025; the cost reduction/improvement challenge; value and efficiency scheme proposals; update on 15 Box Grid activity; STAG programmes; Adult Social Care forecast aspects; and an outline of overall associated risk areas. It was confirmed there would be further discussion of this subject at the NHS Board Development Session on 18 March 2025.

The Chief Executive advised a national offer had been made in relation to the National Care Home Contract, with acceptance of the same yet to be confirmed. Scottish Care were due to hold an EGM on 21 March.

The following was discussed:

- National Insurance Impact. Advised 60% of direct costs are covered. There had been no additional funding elements relating to the impact on Primary Care or external service providers.

- Noted additional recurrent and non-recurrent allocations had been received for sustainability and were to be used to offset current pressures.
- Highland Council Discussions. Advised discussions were ongoing, with verbal confirmation of the relevant quantum figure having been received. A number of particular areas outlined in discussion had yet to be clarified at that time. Emphasised the need to focus on the longer-term position, including the model of integration and the Strategic Plan.

After discussion, the Committee Noted the reported position.

4 15 Box Grid Quarterly Update

The Director of Finance referenced the recent submission to Scottish Government of the Quarter 3 assessment update, the detail of which was to be shared with members after the meeting along with the associated benchmarking pack recently received.

The Committee so Noted.

5 Integrated Performance Report

The Head of Strategic Planning, Performance and Technology spoke to the circulated report and gave a brief presentation to members on Quarter 3 performance. The Executive Summary provided an outline of relevant performance indicators and highlighted particular positives in relation to Alcohol Brief Interventions (ABIs), Treatment Time Guarantee activity and Diagnostics (Endoscopy). Continuing challenges were noted in relation to Delayed Discharges, and Cancer Services. Particular individual aspects relating to CAMHS, NDAS, Vaccinations, Emergency Department Access, TTG and Outpatients were also highlighted. The number Outpatients going through the system had been recognised nationally, with current scrutiny on waiting times. A Planned Care Submission had been passed to Scottish Government. The report went on to indicate relevant Indicators and future reporting content/frequency. The report proposed the Committee take **Limited** assurance.

There was discussion of the following:

- Vaccination Data. Director Public Health and Policy shared latest vaccination information in relation to Six-in-One uptake at 12 months, and relevant MMR activity. There were no particular concerns in relation to school vaccine activity. The wider drop in vaccine uptake nationally was noted, particularly within more deprived areas.

Annual Delivery Plan

Members were advised the 2024/25 Quarter3 submission had been passed to Scottish Government, an update on which would be brought to the next meeting. The Annual Delivery Plan for 2025/26 had been through EDG and was to be submitted to Scottish Government the following week. Regular updates would be brought to this Committee, the reporting detail of which was being considered further at that time, including an update and refresh of relevant IPQR content and detail as well as future report frequency requirements. It was emphasised the work of Strategy and Transformation Assurance Group and associated framework underpinned the Annual Delivery Plan.

After discussion, the Committee Noted the circulated report and updates provided.

6 Digital Health and Care Strategy

This was deferred to the next meeting on 4 April 2025.

7 Risk Register – Level 1 Risks

This was deferred to the next meeting on 4 April 2025.

8 Draft Committee Annual Report 2024/25

The Committee **Agreed** for the Draft Committee Annual Report 2024/25 to go to the Audit Committee Meeting in May.

9 Draft Committee Work Plan 2025/26

The Committee **Agreed** the Draft Committee Workplan 2025/26.

10 Committee Self-Assessment Survey Results

This was deferred to the next meeting on 4 April 2025.

11 2025/26 and 2026/27 Meeting Schedules

The committee **Noted** the dates provided as follows:

	10 July 2026
9 May 2025	7 August 2026
6 June 2025	11 September 2026
11 July 2025	2 October 2026
1 August 2025	13 November 2026
12 September 2025	4 December 2026
3 October 2025	8 January 2027
14 November 2025	5 February 2027
5 December 2025	12 March 2027
9 January 2026	
6 February 2026	
13 March 2026	
10 April 2026	
8 May 2026	
5 June 2026	

The Committee Noted the meeting schedules for 2025/26 and 2026/27.

8 ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

None

9 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of this committee was to be held on Friday 4th April 2025 from 9.30 am.

The meeting closed at 10.45 am