

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ARGYLL AND BUTE HSCP INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD (IJB) HELD ON A HYBRID BASIS IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, KILMORY, LOCHGILPHEAD AND BY MICROSOFT TEAMS ON WEDNESDAY, 25 MARCH 2026

Present:

Graham Bell, NHS Highland Non-Executive Board Member (Chair)
Councillor Dougie McFadzean, Argyll and Bute Council (Vice Chair)
Councillor Kieron Green, Argyll and Bute Council
Councillor Ross Moreland, Argyll and Bute Council
Councillor Gary Mulvaney, Argyll and Bute Council
Emily Austin, NHS Highland Non-Executive Board Member
Karen Leach, NHS Highland Non-Executive Board Member
Janice Preston, NHS Highland Non-Executive Board Member

Evan Beswick, Chief Officer, Argyll and Bute HSCP
Linda Currie, Associate Director AHP, NHS Highland
James Gow, Head of Finance, Argyll and Bute HSCP
Louise Bussell, Director of Nursing, NHS Highland
Kenny Mathieson, Public Representative
Fiona Thomson, Lead Pharmacist, NHS Highland
Fiona Broderick, Staffside Lead, Argyll and Bute HSCP (Health)
Shona Williams, Senior Justice Manager, Argyll and Bute Council
Angus MacTaggart, GP Representative, Argyll and Bute HSCP
Alison McGrory, Associate Director of Public Health, Argyll and Bute HSCP
Rebecca Helliwell, Depute Medical Director, Argyll and Bute HSCP
Takki Sulaiman, Chief Executive, Argyll and Bute Third Sector Interface
Kirstie Reid, Carers Representative, NHS Highland

Attending:

Douglas Hendry, Executive Director, Argyll and Bute Council
Charlotte Craig, Business Improvement Manager, Argyll and Bute HSCP
Nikki Gillespie, Head of Complex Care and Registered Services, Argyll and Bute HSCP
Kristin Gillies, Head of Strategic Planning, Performance and Technology, Argyll and Bute HSCP
Caroline Robertson, Head of Adults – Hospitals and Community Care, Argyll and Bute HSCP
Angela Tillery, Principal Accountant, Argyll and Bute Council
Stuart McLean, Committee Manager, Argyll and Bute Council
Kirsty MacKenzie, Carers Act Officer, Argyll and Bute Council
Morag Gillies, Learning Disability Resources Manager, Argyll and Bute Council
Sandra Gettings, Child Health Manager for School Health and Child Protection
Tina Watt, Service Manager, Health and Community Care, Mid Argyll, NHS Highland
Megan Cunningham, Occupational Therapy Team Lead, NHS Highland

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Julie Hodges, Kevin McIntosh, and Duncan Scott.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest intimated.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Argyll and Bute HSCP Integration Joint Board held on 28 January 2026 were approved as a correct record.

4. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

(a) Argyll and Bute HSCP Clinical and Care Governance Committee held on 5 February 2026

The Minutes of the meeting of the Argyll and Bute HSCP Clinic and Care Governance Committee held on 5 February 2026 were noted.

(b) Argyll and Bute HSCP Audit and Risk Committee held on 17 February 2026

The Minutes of the meeting of the Argyll and Bute HSCP Audit and Risk Committee held on 17 February 2026 were noted.

(c) Argyll and Bute HSCP Finance and Policy Committee held on 24 February 2026

The Minutes of the meeting of the Argyll and Bute HSCP Finance and Policy Committee held on 24 February 2026 were noted.

(d) Argyll and Bute HSCP Strategic Planning Group held on 12 March 2026

The Minutes of the meeting of the Argyll and Bute HSCP Strategic Planning Group held on 12 March 2026 were noted.

5. CHIEF OFFICER'S REPORT

The Board gave consideration to a report from the Chief Officer providing an update on activity across the Health and Social Care Partnership since the last report to the Board in January 2026.

Decision

The Integration Joint Board noted the content of the report from the Chief Officer.

(Reference: Report by Chief Officer dated 25 March 2026, submitted)

6. GOVERNANCE UPDATE AND PROPOSED REVIEW

The Chair advised that after discussion with the Business Improvement Manager, Argyll and Bute HSCP, this item would be withdrawn and would be considered at the next Integration Joint Board on Wednesday 27 May 2026.

7. SPOTLIGHT ON MID ARGYLL AREA

The Board received a presentation on the following topics with a focus on the Mid Argyll Area –

Population profile
Learning disability services
Supporting mental health – safe effective trauma informed care
Children Services
Lochgilphead Medical Centre
Adult health and community care innovation

Decision

The Integration Joint Board noted the content of the presentation.

(Reference: Presentation – Spotlight on the Mid Argyll Locality)

8. FINANCE

(a) Budget Monitoring - 11 months to 28 February 2026

The Board gave consideration to a report providing a summary of financial performance for 11 months of the year. The report also provided the financial position and year end forecast.

Decision

The Integration Joint Board noted that:

1. the HSCP is now reporting a small year to date underspend and is forecasting a £0.8m underspend against budget;
2. recovery restrictions remain in place as spend is part financed by reserves and the HSCP is not operating on a sustainable basis;
3. savings of £8m had been delivered, 89% of target;
4. that any actual underspend would reduce reliance on reserves which would be carried forward to support the budget in 2026/27; and
5. the risk in respect of the service level agreement with Greater Glasgow and Clyde.

(Reference: Report by Head of Finance dated 25 March 2026, submitted)

(b) HSCP Budget 2026/27

The Board gave consideration to a report which sought approval for the operational budget and savings plan for 2026/27.

Decision

The Integration Joint Board:

1. approved the HSCP expenditure budget for 2026/27 totalling £430.2m, incorporating a savings plan totalling £8.0m, and allocation of £6.2m in non-recurring resourcing;

2. noted that the budget gap before savings and use of non-recurring resources is £13.2m;
3. noted that two savings proposals require further process and governance prior to final approval;
4. noted that the service level agreement with NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde presents a potential additional risk totalling £16m and is still to be resolved;
5. noted that the HSCP had worked with both partners to develop its budget; and
6. requested that further service re-design work is progressed to move the HSCP to a more sustainable operating model.

(Reference: Report by Head of Finance dated 25 March 2026, submitted)

(c) **Strategic Risk Register Review**

The Board gave consideration to the updated Strategic Risk Register.

Decision

The Integration Joint Board:

1. noted that the Strategic Risk Register had been reviewed by the Strategic Leadership Team and the Audit and Risk Committee during February 2026 and changes are recommended;
2. reviewed and approved the Strategic Risk Register; and
3. noted that the Audit and Risk Committee had requested that the Risk Appetite survey be re-circulated to Board Members to improve the response rate.

(Reference: Report by Head of Finance dated 25 March 2026, submitted)

**9. HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE PARTNERSHIP PERFORMANCE REPORT
FQ3 2025/26 (OCTOBER - DECEMBER)**

The Board gave consideration to a report detailing performance for the Financial Quarter 3 2025/26 (October – December 2025).

Decision

The Integration Joint Board:

1. acknowledged the performance for FQ3 2025/26 (October –December) against latest Key Performance Indicators within the Integrated Performance Management Framework for 2025/26;
2. noted the latest Delayed Discharge Sitrep as of 16 February 2026 as at Appendix 1 of the report;

3. acknowledged the latest performance against the National Health & Wellbeing Outcomes and Ministerial Steering Group Integration Indicators as at Appendix 2 of the report; and
4. acknowledged the inclusion of additional Argyll and Bute HSCP performance metrics aligned to national reporting across Centre for Sustainable Delivery Unscheduled Care, and the Planned Care performance focus within the Operational Improvement Plan as at Appendix 3 of the report.

(Reference: Report by Head of Strategic Planning, Performance & Technology dated 25 March 2026, submitted)

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Integration Joint Board noted the date of the next meeting as Wednesday 27 May 2026.

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