MINUTES of MEETING of ARGYLL AND BUTE HSCP INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD (IJB) held ON A HYBRID BASIS IN THE GREEN TREE ROOM, MOAT COMMUNITY EDUCATION CENTRE, ROTHESAY, ISLE OF BUTE AND BY MICROSOFT TEAMS on WEDNESDAY, 27 MAY 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
Janice Preston, NHS Highland Non-Executive Board Member

Evan Beswick, Chief Officer, Argyll and Bute HSCP
Fiona Broderick, Staffside Lead, Argyll and Bute HSCP (Health)
James Gow, Head of Finance, Argyll and Bute HSCP
Rebecca Helliwell, Depute Medical Director, Argyll and Bute HSCP
Kenny Mathieson, Public Representative
Angus MacTaggart, GP Representative, Argyll and Bute HSCP
Alison McGrory, Associate Director of Public Health, Argyll and Bute HSCP
Kevin McIntosh, Staffside Lead, Argyll and Bute HSCP (Council)
James Mullins, Associate Nurse Director, NHS Highland
Kirstie Reid, Carers Representative, NHS Highland
Takki Sulaiman, Chief Executive, Argyll and Bute Third Sector Interface

Attending:

Charlotte Craig, Business Improvement Manager, Argyll and Bute
Nikki Gillespie, Head of Complex Care and Registered Services, Argyll and Bute HSCP
Jennifer Graham, Change Partner, NHS Highland
Kristin Gillies, Head of Strategic Planning, Performance and Technology, Argyll and Bute HSCP
Hazel MacInnes, Senior Committee Officer, Argyll and Bute Council
Caroline Robertson, Head of Adults – Hospitals and Community Care, Argyll and Bute HSCP
Angela Tillery, Principal Accountant, Argyll and Bute Council
Jane Williams, Service Manager, NHS Highland

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Gary Mulvaney, Karen Leach, Emily Austin, Linda Currie, David Gibson and Fiona Thomson.

The Chair welcomed James Mullins, Associate Nurse Director, to his first meeting of the Board.

The Chair ruled and the Board agreed to re-order the Business on the Agenda and to take item 8 of the Agenda (Q4 Workforce Report 2025/26) after item 5 of the Agenda (Chief Officers Report) to allow the Change Partner, People and Culture to present her report and leave the meeting to attend another commitment.

The Chair advised that a report on day services had been due to be considered at the meeting today, however due to the requirement to collate further information, this would be deferred to the next meeting of the Board.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest intimated.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Argyll and Bute HSCP Integration Joint Board held on 25 March 2026 were approved as a correct record.

4. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

(a) **Argyll and Bute HSCP Clinical and Care Governance Committee held on 12 May 2026**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Argyll and Bute HSCP Clinical and Care Governance Committee held on 12 May 2026 were noted.

(b) **Argyll and Bute HSCP Finance and Policy Committee held on 19 May 2026**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Argyll and Bute HSCP Finance and Policy Committee held on 19 May 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 March 2026.

Decision

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

(Reference: Report by Chief Officer dated 27 May 2026, submitted)

As had been previously agreed, the Board re-ordered the Business at this point and considered item 8 of the Agenda (Q4 Workforce Report 2025/26) to allow the Change Partner, People and Culture to present her report and leave the meeting to attend another commitment.

6. Q4 WORKFORCE REPORT 2025/26

The Board gave consideration to a report detailing the workforce data of the Health and Social Care Partnership as at 31 March 2026 and providing the current demographic position, highlighting trends and advising of changes and progress made, as well as actions taken to address areas of concern.

Decision

The Integration Joint Board noted the content of the report.

(Reference: Report by Change Partner, People and Culture dated 27 May 2026, submitted)

7. SPOTLIGHT ON BUTE

The Board received a presentation on the following topics with a focus on the Bute area –

Demographics – Alison McGrory, Associate Director of Public Health
Partnership Working, Supporting Positive Outcomes for People and Managing Our Challenges – Jane Williams, Service Manager

Decision

The Integration Joint Board noted the content of the presentation.

(Reference: Presentation – Spotlight on Bute)

8. FINANCE

(a) **Budget Monitoring - 12 months to 31 March 2026 and Provisional Year End**

The Board gave consideration to a report providing a summary of financial performance against budget for the 2025/26 year.

Decision

The Integration Joint Board –

1. noted that the HSCP was reporting a £2.9m or 0.7% underspend against budget for 2025/26;

2. noted that represented a significant improvement in financial performance as a consequence of delivery of savings and the financial recovery plan along with favourable year end NHS inter-board charges;

3. noted that general reserves increased from £2.6m to £4.7m as a result of the improved financial performance; and

4. noted savings of £8.0m have been delivered, 90% of target.

(Reference: Report by Head of Finance dated 27 May 2026, submitted)

(b) **Social Care Fees and Charges - Budget 2026/27**

The Board gave consideration to a report seeking formal approval for the implementation of a £5 per week charge for the Responder Service. The report also sought approval for an increase in the weekly fee cap and highlighted that the IJB did not have delegated authority to set fees although it had included the new charge within its budget.

Decision

The Integration Joint Board –

1. noted that the Responder Service was being maintained as a 24-hour, 7 day per week service;

2. noted the responder service was non-statutory and would cost £2.0m in 2026/27;

3. approved the introduction of a £5 per week charge for the responder service and noted the IIA;

4. noted that the HSCP intended to implement the charge from September 2026 to provide time to communicate the change and waiver process;

5. approved the increase in the social care weekly charging cap from £145 to £167 from 6 July 2026; and

6. noted that Argyll and Bute Council approved the above changes to fees and charges at Council on 29 April 2026.

(Reference: Report by Head of Finance dated 27 May 2026, submitted)

9. ARGYLL AND BUTE HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE PARTNERSHIP PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Board gave consideration to a report detailing performance of the Health and Social Care Partnership for financial quarter four 2025/26.

Decision

The Integration Joint Board –

1. acknowledged performance for FQ4 2025/26 (January – March) against latest Key Performance Indicators within the Integrated Performance Management Framework for 2025/26; and

2. acknowledged the streamlining of additional Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership performance metrics reported in Appendix 1, aligned to national reporting across the following areas:

   - SG National Health & Wellbeing Outcomes
   - SG Ministerial Steering Group Integration Indicators
   - Centre for Sustainable Delivery (CfSD) Unscheduled Care
   - Planned Care within the Operational Improvement Plan (OIP)
   - SG Delayed Discharges Sitrep.

(Reference: Report by Head of Strategic Planning, Performance and Technology dated 27 May 2026, submitted)

10. HSCP JOINT INTEGRATED PLAN 2026 - 2031

The Board gave consideration to a report seeking approval of the Health and Social Care Partnership's revised Joint Strategic Plan to cover the period April 2026 to March 2031.

Decision

The Integration Joint Board approved the revised Joint Strategic Plan 2026-2031.

(Reference: Report by Head of Strategic Planning, Performance and Technology dated 27 May 2026, submitted)

11. GOVERNANCE UPDATE: IJB MEMBERSHIP, VOTING RIGHTS AND GOVERNANCE REVIEW

The Board gave consideration to a report highlighting a number of governance matters, including changes in membership, the opportunity to strengthen local governance arrangements and the need to prepare for forthcoming national changes to IJB voting rights.

Decision

The Integration Joint Board –

1. noted the legislative amendment and forthcoming guidance;

2. noted the conclusion of the current terms for named members and recorded thanks;

3. noted the appointment of Brian Stevens, NHS Highland non-executive member to the IJB;

4. agreed that standing orders would be reviewed in accordance with guidance; and

5. agreed recruitment should proceed now.

(Reference: Report by Business Improvement Manager dated 27 May 2026, submitted)

12. INTEGRATION SCHEME APPROVAL 2026 - FOR NOTING

A report providing detail on minor revisions made by the Scottish Government and confirming that the revised Integration Scheme had now been signed off by Ministers, was before the Board for noting.

Decision

The Integration Joint Board –

1. noted that the Integration Scheme had been approved by the Scottish Government and that arrangements would now be put in place by the two partner bodies to publish the document; and

2. noted that a similar report would also be tabled at meetings of NHS Highland Board and Argyll and Bute Council to advise of the position.

(Reference: Report by Directorate Support Officer dated 27 May 2026, submitted)

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was noted as Wednesday 16 September 2026.