



Easy Read

ARGYLL & BUTE HSCP

Joint Strategic Plan

2026 to 2031

About this plan

This is a plan about health and care.

A strategic plan is a document about future plans and priorities.

It covers the years 2026 to 2031.

It was written by the Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership.

The Partnership plans and delivers health and care services.



This plan is for

- People who use health and care services.
- Families, carers and local groups.
- Staff and partner organisations.



Who we are

We are the Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership.

We plan and deliver health and care services for people in Argyll and Bute.

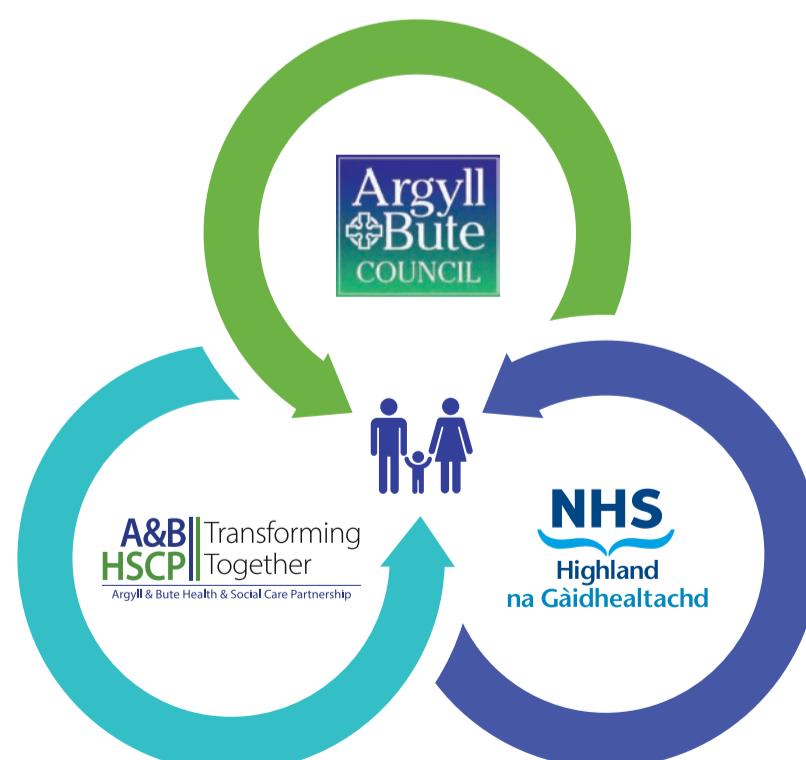


Who we work with

- NHS Highland.
- Argyll and Bute Council.
- Charities and local groups.
- Other health boards.

A board is in charge of this work:

- It is called the Integration Joint Board.
- This is a group that makes decisions together about health and care.
- It decides what the Partnership should focus on.



Our area

About 87,000 people live in Argyll and Bute.
 Some people live in towns and villages.
 Some people live on islands.
 Some people live in places far from services.



How we work

We have two main planning areas.

- **The East area**
- **The West area**

Each area has smaller local places within it.



Why this plan matters

We want health and care to work better for everyone.

We need to make sure people can still get good care in the future.

Some services will need to change.

We will focus more on:

- Stopping problems before they happen.
- Helping people stay well at home.
- Care close to home when it is safe and possible.



How we listened

Before writing this plan, we asked people what mattered to them.

We held events in communities across Argyll and Bute.

- Helensburgh
- Dunoon
- Rothesay
- Campbeltown
- Lochgilphead
- Oban
- Islay

We also held an online event.

We also held a meeting online.

We spoke to children and young people.

We spoke to charities and local groups.

People filled in an online survey.

Their ideas helped shape this plan.



What people told us

People told us what they wanted from health and care services.

People said they wanted:

- Help earlier, before things become a crisis.
- Services that work better together.
- More support for unpaid carers.
- Better access to services, with less travel.
- Clear information about what help is available.



Young people told us:

- They need safe spaces and trusted adults.
- Transport is a problem.
- There are not enough clubs and activities locally.
- They want support for their health and wellbeing.

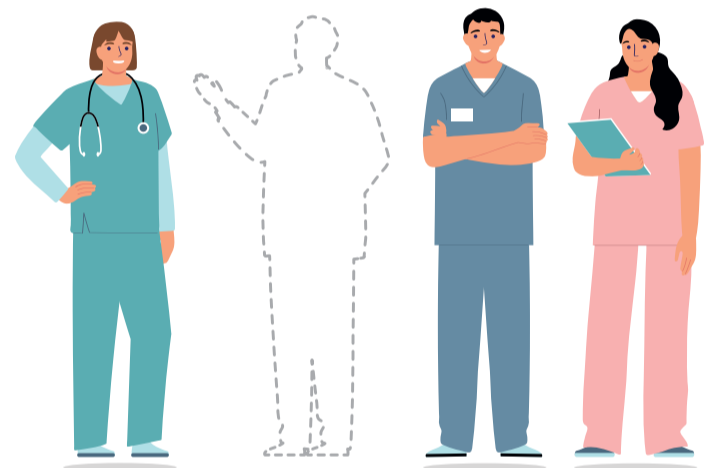


Main Challenges

We face some big pressures over the next few years.

The main challenges are:

- As people live longer, more people need support.
- It is hard to find and keep enough staff.
- More people need services and costs are going up.
- The money available is limited.



Our Vision for 2031

We want people in Argyll and Bute to live healthy and well.

We want people to live their lives as they choose.

We want people to feel supported in the places where they live.

We will deliver care that is:

- Care that fits each person's needs.
- Services working well together.
- Focused on stopping problems early.
- Delivered close to home when possible.



Our Six Main Priorities

These are the six things we will focus on from 2026 to 2031.

Each priority has actions we will take.

Each priority explains how we will do it.



Priority 1: Money and keeping services going

Services cost more than the money we have.

We must make sure services can keep going in the future.

Spend money where it helps people most.

The budget for health and care services in 2026/27 is around £430 million.

We are spending more than we have coming in.

We must close this gap.



What we will do:

- Make a plan so we do not spend more money than we have.
- Look at what we pay for and why.
- Check how we manage our budget more carefully.
- Look at where services are based and whether they can change.



How we will do this:

- Use information and feedback to help us decide what works best.
- Focus on what makes the biggest difference to people.
- Work closely with NHS Highland and Argyll and Bute Council.
- Regularly check that care plans are right for each person.



Priority 2: Stopping problems early

We want to help people before problems get serious.

This is called prevention.

Prevention means helping earlier and reducing the need for hospital care.



What we will do:

- Improve support in local communities.
- Help people look after their own health.
- Make it easier to see a GP or local health worker.
- Reduce the number of people going to hospital when they do not need to.



How we will do this:

- Work with charities and local groups.
- Deliver our Living Well programme.
- Expand our Hospital at Home service so more people can get care at home.
- Teams that can respond quickly to help people.



Priority 3: Joined up care

We want services to work better together.

We want care to be built around each person.

We need to share information safely between services.



What we will do:

- Help services communicate and work together better.
- Help services share important information safely.
- Involve people and carers in designing services.
- Improve planning for when people leave hospital.



How we will do this:

- Use staff from different services working together as one team.
- Support people to go home first after hospital when it is safe.
- Help people get stronger and more able at home after hospital.
- Make services easier to use together.



Priority 4: Fair Access for everyone

Some people find it harder to get the care they need.

This includes people who live on islands or in remote places.

This also includes people who are experiencing poverty.

We want to make sure everyone can get the right support.



What we will do:

- Make it easier for people on islands and in remote areas to get care.
- Help people travel more easily to health and care services.
- Make services welcoming, safe and respectful for everyone.
- Use information to find out where support is needed most.



How we will do this:

- Work with people who are often left out of decisions.
- Check that our plans are fair for everyone, including island communities.
- Help people get money advice and support when they need it.
- Regularly check whether services are fair for everyone.



Priority 5: Supporting our staff

Our staff are the most important part of what we do.

When staff feel supported, services work better and stay safe.

It is hard to find and keep enough staff, especially in rural areas.



What we will do:

- Support staff health and wellbeing.
- Plan ahead so we have enough staff with the right skills.
- Develop new ways of working for staff on islands and in rural areas.
- Help staff learn and train together.



How we will do this:

- Find out where we need more staff or training.
- Involve staff in designing how services change.
- Help teams from different services work together.
- Support volunteering as a way into paid work in care.



Priority 6: Using digital technology

Digital tools are computer and phone-based services.

They can help more people get care without travelling.

But digital technology must support relationships, not replace them.

We know some people cannot use online services, and we will not leave them behind.



What we will do:

- Create more online tools to help people look after their own health.
- Make it easier to have phone or video appointments where this suits people.
- Upgrade community alarm equipment before January 2027.
- Use digital systems to help our teams work better.



How we will do this:

- Expand wellbeing and mental health support tools online.
- Make video appointments easier to use and more widely available.
- Move community alarms to digital phone lines before the national deadline.
- Digital systems that work better together.



Working with partners

We cannot do this on our own.

We will work closely with many different partners.



What we will do:

- Work with Argyll and Bute Council on shared plans.
- Support charities and local groups to keep delivering services.
- Work with other NHS boards across Scotland.
- Improve how local organisations work together.



How we will do this:

- Help public services work and plan together.
- Focus on shared local priorities.
- Help partners find extra funding to keep services going.
- Speak up for the needs of people in Argyll and Bute.



How we buy services

Some services are planned and bought from other organisations.

We call this commissioning.

Commissioning means deciding what services people need and finding the right organisations to provide them.



What we will do:

- Be clear about what we pay for and why.
- Check that services we pay for are doing a good job.
- Work with providers as partners, not just suppliers.
- Keep focusing on stopping problems early where we can



How we will do this:

- Set up a group to check how we buy services.
- Be clear about what each service must do.
- Make paperwork and reporting easier for organisations.
- Regularly check that care plans are right for each person.



How we will check progress

We will keep track of how well the plan is working.

Use information and feedback to see what is working and what needs to improve.

Publish a plan explaining what we will do next.

We will report on progress every year.



What we will do:

- Regularly check how well services are working.
- Look at what we are learning and make changes when needed.
- Report every year on what has happened and what is next.
- Listen to feedback from people who use services.



About this Easy Read version

This is an Easy Read version of the Joint Strategic Plan.

We have used pictures, short sentences and simple words to make it easier to understand.

The full plan is very detailed.

This version explains the main points.



How to get help understanding this plan

You may want some help to understand this plan.

You can ask someone you trust to read it with you.

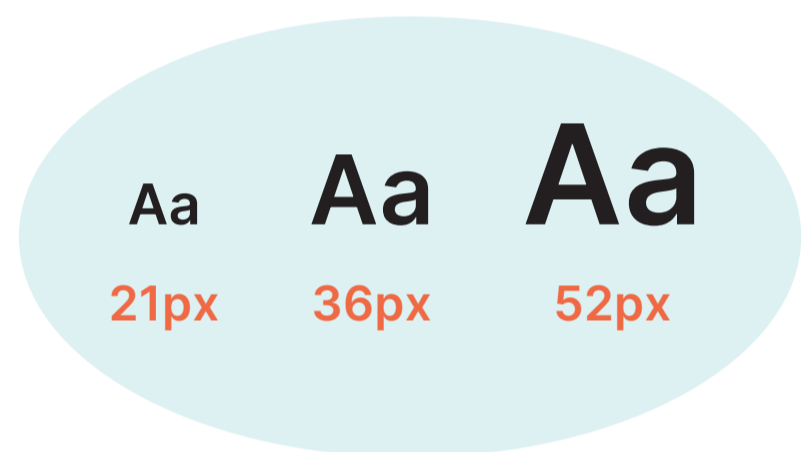
You can ask a staff member to explain any part of it.

You can ask for this information in a different way.



You can ask for:

- This plan in a different language.
- This information in large print.
- Someone to talk it through with you.



We can help explain this plan.

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