

SUMMARY REPORT OF GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

Name of Committee	Highland Health and Social Care
Date of Meeting	7 May 2025
Committee Chair	Gerry O'Brien

KEY POINTS FROM DISCUSSION AND ESCALATION

ALERT

Care at Home Services in Sutherland - Following issues raised a Service Recovery Plan was put in place in February 2025. The Care Inspectorate visit week of the 7th of April led to Immediate actions being taken in response to feedback and subsequent Improvement Notice and include a Large Scale Investigation (LSI) process being put in place.

ASSURE

Assurances taken on:

- Financial position for HHSCP at month 11 (2024-25). (Limited)
- Care Home Oversight Board Annual Report 24/25 (Moderate)
- Vaccinations Update. (Limited)
- Fees and Charges 25/26 and implementation of £12.60 per hour minimum wage. (Substantial)
- Dental Services national and local position update. (Limited)
- Joint Strategic Plan Implementation. (Moderate)
- Sir Lewis Ritchie Report Update. (Moderate)
- Blueprint for Good Governance Improvement Plan Progress Update. (Moderate)

ADVISE

- **Membership:** Neil Wright had been appointed to the Committee as a Non-executive. Tom Brown was appointed Lead Doctor (GP). Dr Brown is currently the Vice Chair of the GP Subcommittee.
- **Dental Services Update** – The Committee agreed limited assurance on the national and local provision of General Dentistry Services. Local application of SDAI funding is assisting but position remains challenging..
- **Sir Lewis Ritchie Report** – Noted that the core work in relation to Skye, Lochaber and Wester Ross would become part of the District Planning Group work programme.
- **Blueprint for Good Governance Improvement Plan Progress Update** – noted the integrated approach to quality.
- **Committee Self-evaluation results** – The Committee noted the self-evaluation results which reflected on committee vacancies, the role of the committee and the ability to influence services length and volume of papers, agenda timings.

- **Quoracy** - The Committee approved a temporary change to the quorum rules to enable quoracy to one third of occupied posts.

RISKS

Further financial insecurity arising from delays in National Care home contract and impact of rising costs.

ACTIONS

- **Care Home Oversight Board Annual Report 24/25** – The Committee agreed to hold a development session on the Collaborative Care Home Support to enable further discussion and learning.
- **Vaccinations Update** – The Committee agreed for a further update to be provided to the committee in September 2025 due to limited assurance being offered.
- **Care at Home Services in Sutherland** – The committee agreed that a further update would be provided advising assurance mechanisms that had been put in place.
- **Sir Lewis Ritchie Report** – The Committee agreed for the final report to be circulated once available.

LEARNING

- **Year to date Financial Position report** – Considered a review of the financial reporting in relation to focus and understanding of certain areas within the HSCP.
- Care at Home Services and the need for a more transparent and obvious mechanism for assurance to be provided on service provision. Consideration to be given to an annual oversight report similar to the Care Home collaborative.