

**Meeting:** NHS Highland Board

**Meeting date:** 25 March 2025

**Title:** Review of Argyll and Bute HSCP  
Integration Scheme 2025

**Responsible Executive/Non-Executive:** Gareth Adkins, Director of People & Culture

**Report Author:** Ruth Daly, Board Secretary

## Report Recommendation:

### The Board is invited to note:

- a) the requirement for a review of the current Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership Integration Scheme to be carried out by 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2026.
- b) the steps being proposed by the Argyll and Bute Integration Joint Board in respect of carrying out the review, including the formation of a working group, and
- c) that further updates in respect of the review will be prepared for future meetings of Argyll and Bute Council, IJB and NHS Highland Board.

## 1 Purpose

This is presented to the Board for:

- Assurance

This report relates to a:

- NHS Board/Integration Joint Board Strategy or Direction

This aligns to the following NHSScotland quality ambition(s):

- Safe, Effective and Person Centred

This report relates to the following Strategic Outcome(s)

Start Well	Thrive Well	Stay Well	Anchor Well
Grow Well	Listen Well	Nurture Well	Plan Well
Care Well	Live Well	Respond Well	Treat Well
Journey Well	Age Well	End Well	Value Well
Perform well	Progress well	All Well Themes	x

## 2 Report summary

### 2.1 Situation

The purpose of this report is to advise the Board of the requirement to review the Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Integration Scheme (the Scheme) and the proposed steps to achieve this.

2.2 Background

In line with the provisions of section 44 of the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014 a review of the Integration Scheme between Argyll and Bute Council and NHS Highland requires to be completed and ready for submission to Scottish Ministers no later than 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2026, or a decision taken by the partner bodies that no changes are necessary to the current scheme by that date.

2.3 Assessment

The legal requirement to complete a review of an Integration Scheme is set out in Section 44 of the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014 (the Act). The Scheme must be reviewed each subsequent period of 5 years beginning with the day on which the Scheme was approved, in this case 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2021.

On this basis a review of the Scheme is required by law to be completed by 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2026. The statutory responsibility to review the Scheme sits with the Board of NHS Highland and Argyll and Bute Council.

Drawing on the approach adopted for the previous review of the Scheme, which was undertaken in 2019/20, a Working Group has been established to determine and agree any revisions required to the Scheme. The Working Group includes Senior Officer representation from across the Council, Argyll and Bute HSCP, and NHS Highland. An initial meeting was held on 11 March 2025 and the Group have begun the process of identifying potential areas for change.

Once the Working Group have completed their review of the Scheme over the coming months, a further report will be prepared for the Council, IJB and NHS Highland Board to seek agreement on any proposed changes put forward. If both parent bodies are agreeable to any proposed amendments, there is then a requirement to undertake a formal consultation exercise in accordance with Section 46(4) of the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014. The Council and the Health Board must jointly consult with groups and individuals, to include prescribed stakeholders, and any others deemed appropriate.

In the event that a formal consultation exercise is required, the Working Group will develop, as part of their remit, a draft consultation and engagement strategy, for consideration and approval by the parent bodies at future meetings of the Council and NHS Highland Board. This will include details of the proposed consultation period/timetable, key consultees and methods of consultation/engagement.

2.4 Proposed level of Assurance

This report proposes the following level of assurance:

Substantial	<div><div>x</div></div>	Moderate	<div><div></div></div>
Limited	<div><div></div></div>	None	<div><div></div></div>

**3     Impact Analysis**

**3.1     Quality/ Patient Care** none arising from this report

**3.2     Workforce** none arising from this report

**3.3     Financial** none arising from this report

**3.4     Risk Assessment/Management**

If the review of the Integration is not completed within the designated timescales, there is the risk of non-compliance with statutory measures under the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014.

**3.5     Data Protection**

Activity is undertaken in line with GDPR regulations

**3.6     Equality and Diversity, including health inequalities** none arising from this report

.

**3.7     Other impacts**

No other impacts

**3.8     Communication, involvement, engagement and consultation**

If both partner bodies are agreeable to any proposed amendments, there is then a requirement to undertake a formal consultation exercise in accordance with Section 46(4) of the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014. The Council and the Health Board must jointly consult with groups and individuals, to include prescribed stakeholders, and any others deemed appropriate.

**3.9     Route to the Meeting**

The subject of this report is being considered by the Argyll and Bute Integration Joint Board and Argyll and Bute Council.

**4.     List of appendices**

There are no appendices included with this report.