

**HIGHLAND NHS BOARD
MEETING OF HIGHLAND HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE COMMITTEE**

Wednesday 05 November 2025, at 1pm
Virtual Meeting Format (Microsoft Teams)

- **All cameras should be turned on**
- **Use raise hand facility to discuss items – please do not use MS Teams chat**

Distribution: Tuesday 28 October 2025

AGENDA

Time	1.	Standing Items	Paper
13.00 pm	1.1	Welcome and Apologies	
	1.2	Declarations of Interest Members are asked to consider whether they have an interest to declare in relation to any item on the agenda for this meeting. Any Member making a declaration of interest should indicate whether it is financial or non-financial and include some information on its nature. Advice may be sought from the Board Secretary's Office prior to the meeting taking place.	
	1.3	Assurance Report from 03 September 2025, Action Plan and Workplan The Committee is asked to approve the minutes of meeting of 03 September 2025 and note the action plan and workplan.	PP. 1-7 & Excel
	1.4	Matters Arising	
	2.	Finance	
13.05 pm	2.1	Finance Report – Month 5 2025/2026 Report by Elaine Ward, Deputy Director of Finance The Committee is asked to discuss and note the Highland HSCP financial position at month 5 and associated mitigating actions and accept limited assurance.	PP. 8 - 29
	3.	Performance and Service Delivery	
13.30 pm	3.1	Integrated Performance and Quality Report Report by Rhiannon Boydell, Head of Integration, Strategy and Transformation, HHSCP The Committee are asked to: • Consider and review the performance identifying any areas requiring further improvement and in turn assurance of progress for future reports. • To accept Limited assurance and to note the continued and sustained stressors facing both NHS and commissioned care services. • Consider any further indicators that are required to support the assurance for the Highland Health and Social Care Partnership	PP. 30 – 33 Appendix to follow
13.50 pm	3.2	HHSCP Urgent & Unscheduled Care – Winter Pressures Report by Arlene Johnstone, Chief Officer for Highland HSCP The Committee is asked to accept a moderate level of assurance regarding HHSCP's 25/26 winter preparedness.	PP. 34 - 40

14.10 pm	3.3	Mental Health Service Assurance Report Report by Arlene Johnstone, Chief Officer for Highland HSCP	PP. 41 - 79
		The Committee is asked to take moderate assurance and endorse: • The continued strategic development and transformation of Mental Health Services within NHS Highland, including the implementation of the Mental Health and Learning Disability Strategy (2025–2028). • The expansion of the Distress Brief Intervention (DBI) programme into additional Highland areas. • The progression of service redesign initiatives such as the New Craigs Hospital reconfiguration and the development of the ADHD pathway.	
14.25 pm	3.4	Chief Social Work Officer Annual Report 24/25 Report by Chief Social Work Officer	PP. 80 - 119
		The Committee is asked to note and discuss on the issues raised in the annual report and the implications for Social Work and Social Sare services within Highland Council and NHS Highland.	
14.45 pm	Comfort Break		
14.55 pm	3.5	Inspection Results Report by Arlene Johnstone, Chief Officer for Highland HSCP	PP. 120 - 128
		The Committee is asked to take moderate assurance and note: • The overview provided in respect of Care Inspectorate gradings from 1 October 2024 to 30 September 2025, with regard to commissioned and delivered (in house) care home, care at home and support services. • The regular oversight and reporting arrangements in place. • The majority of provision in Highland is graded Very Good (grade 5) or better for one or more Care Inspectorate Key Question area.	
15.25 pm	3.6	Chief Officer's Report Report by Arlene Johnstone, Chief Officer for Highland HSCP	PP. 129 - 132
		The Committee is asked to consider the report and identify any matters that require further assurance or escalation to NHS Highland Board.	
	4.	Committee Function and Administration	
		Update on Lay Members Update by Gerry O'Brien, Vice-Board Chair and Committee Chair	
15.50 pm	5.	Any Other Competent Business	
		Date & Time of Next Meeting Wednesday 14 January 2026 at 1 pm via Microsoft Teams.	
16.00 pm		Close of meeting	

Members of the Highland Health and Social Care Committee

Gerry O'Brien (Chair & Board Vice Chair)	Kaye Oliver (Staffside representative)
Philip Macrae (Vice Chair)	Mhairi Wylie (Third Sector Representative)
Neil Wright (Non-Exec)	Allyson Turnbull-Jukes (Area Clinical Forum)
Muriel Cockburn (Non-Exec & Highland Councillor)	Position vacant (Area Clinical Forum)
Joanne McCoy (Non-Exec)	Fiona Malcolm (Highland Council Executive Chief Officer for Health and Social Care)
Arlene Johnstone (Chief Officer)	Fiona Duncan (Highland Council Chief Social Work Officer)
Simon Steer (Director of Adult Social Care)	Dr Thomas Brown (Lead Doctor)
Elaine Ward (Finance Lead)	Position vacant (2 nd Staffside representative)
Claire Copeland (Medical Lead)	Position vacant (Public/Patient representative)
Julie Gilmore (Nurse Lead)	Position vacant (2 nd Public/Patient representative)
Cllr, Christopher Birt (Highland Council)	Position vacant (Carer Representative)
Cllr, David Fraser (Highland Council)	Jennifer Davies (Director of Public Health)
Cllr, Ron Gunn (Highland Council)	