

MINUTES of MEETING of ARGYLL AND BUTE HSCP INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD (IJB)
held ON A HYBRID BASIS IN THE STUDIO THEATRE, CORRAN HALLS, OBAN AND BY
MICROSOFT TEAMS
on WEDNESDAY, 16 SEPTEMBER 2026

Present:

Councillor Dougie McFadzean, Argyll and Bute Council (Chair)
Councillor Kieron Green, Argyll and Bute Council
Councillor Ross Moreland, Argyll and Bute Council
Karen Leach, NHS Highland Non-Executive Board Member
Janice Preston, NHS Highland Non-Executive Board Member
Brian Steven, NHS Highland Non-Executive Board Member
Kenny Mathieson, Public Representative
Kirstie Reid, Carers Representative, NHS Highland

Evan Beswick, Chief Officer, Argyll and Bute HSCP
Fiona Broderick, Staffside Lead, Argyll and Bute HSCP (Health)
Linda Currie, Associate Director AHP, NHS Highland
James Gow, Head of Finance, Argyll and Bute HSCP
Rebecca Helliwell, Depute Medical Director, Argyll and Bute HSCP
Angus MacTaggart, GP Representative, Argyll and Bute HSCP
Alison McGrory, Associate Director of Public Health, Argyll and Bute HSCP
James Mullins, Associate Nurse Director, NHS Highland
Fiona Thomson, Lead Pharmacist, NHS Highland
Shona Williams, Interim Chief Social Worker/Head of Children and Families and Justice, Argyll and Bute HSCP

Attending:

Wendy Brownlie, Head of Education – Learning and Teaching, Argyll and Bute Council
Charlotte Craig, Business Improvement Manager, Argyll and Bute HSCP
Simon Deveney, Senior Manager – Resources, Argyll and Bute HSCP
Eilidh Gallacher, Head of Primary Care, NHS Highland
Kristin Gillies, Head of Strategic Planning, Performance and Technology, Argyll and Bute HSCP
Hazel MacInnes, Senior Committee Officer, Argyll and Bute Council
Blair McFarlane, Engagement Officer, NHS Highland
Rosie McKay, Education Manager, Argyll and Bute Council
Sharon Reilly, Team Lead, NHS Highland
Kelly Brady, Team Lead, NHS Highland
Caroline Robertson, Head of Adults – Hospitals and Community Care, Argyll and Bute HSCP
Angela Tillery, Principal Accountant, Argyll and Bute Council
Andrew Turvey, Deputy Director of Public Health

On behalf of the Integration Joint Board, the Chair expressed condolences on the passing of the Provost, Councillor Dougie Philand, who had dedicated his professional career to social care as a Community Psychiatric Nurse before serving for many years as a Councillor. The Chair acknowledged his passion, commitment and significant contribution to both the Council and the Health and Social Care Partnership.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Graham Bell, Councillor Gary Mulvaney, Takki Sulaiman and David Gibson.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest intimated.

3. MINUTES

(a) Argyll and Bute HSCP Integration Joint Board held on 27 May 2026

The Minutes of the meeting of the Argyll and Bute HSCP Integration Joint Board held on 27 May 2026 were approved as a correct record.

(b) Special Argyll and Bute HSCP Integration Joint Board held on 26 August 2026

The Minutes of the Special meeting of the Argyll and Bute HSCP Integration Joint Board held on 26 August 2026 were approved as a correct record.

4. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

(a) Argyll and Bute HSCP Strategic Planning Group held on 11 June 2026

The Minutes of the meeting of the Argyll and Bute HSCP Strategic Planning Group held on 11 June 2026 were noted.

(b) Argyll and Bute HSCP Audit and Risk Committee held on 16 June 2026

The Minutes of the meeting of the Argyll and Bute HSCP Audit and Risk Committee held on 16 June 2026 were noted.

(c) Argyll and Bute HSCP Clinical and Care Governance Committee held on 13 August 2026

The Minutes of the meeting of the Argyll and Bute HSCP Clinical and Care Governance Committee held on 13 August 2026 were noted.

(d) Argyll and Bute HSCP Finance and Policy Committee held on 18 August 2026

The Minutes of the meeting of the Argyll and Bute HSCP Finance and Policy Committee held on 18 August 2026 were noted.

5. COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORTS 2025/26

(a) Argyll and Bute HSCP Audit and Risk Committee Annual Report

The Board gave consideration to the Audit and Risk Committee Annual Report 2025/26.

Decision

The Integration Joint Board noted the contents of the Annual Report and the assurance provided regarding the effectiveness of the Committee during 2025/26.

(Reference: Audit and Risk Committee Annual Report 2025/26, submitted)

(b) Argyll and Bute HSCP Clinical and Care Governance Committee Annual Report

The Board gave consideration to the Clinical and Care Governance Committee Annual Report 2025/26.

Decision

The Integration Joint Board noted the contents of the Annual Report and the assurance provided regarding quality, safety and care governance arrangements during 2025/26.

(Reference: Clinical and Care Governance Committee Annual Report 2025/26, submitted)

(c) Argyll and Bute HSCP Finance and Policy Committee Annual Report

The Board gave consideration to the Finance and Policy Committee Annual Report 2025/26.

Decision

The Integration Joint Board noted the contents of the Annual Report and the assurance provided regarding the effectiveness of the Committee during 2025/26.

(Reference: Finance and Policy Committee Annual Report 2025/26, submitted)

The Chair formally thanked the Head of Finance, his team and the wider management team for preparing the report and for their innovative approach to addressing the financial challenges faced at the end of the previous financial year and into 2026/27, recognising the work undertaken to identify and develop solutions to support financial sustainability.

6. NHS HIGHLAND DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH ANNUAL REPORT 2025

The Board gave consideration to the Director of Public Health Annual Report 2025, which focused on improving health and wellbeing outcomes in the early years and highlighted opportunities for partnership working to reduce inequalities.

Decision

The Integration Joint Board -

1. noted the content of the Director of Public Health Annual Report 2025;
2. endorsed the recommendations contained within the report; and
3. thanked the Deputy Director of Public Health for the presentation and ongoing work to improve public health outcomes across Argyll and Bute.

(Reference: Director of Public Health Annual Report 2025, submitted)

7. 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 previous meeting of the Board.

Decision

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

(Reference: Report by Chief Officer dated 16 September 2026, submitted)

8. SPOTLIGHT ON OBAN AREA

The Board received a presentation on topics including care at home, public health reform and community led prevention, and the Falls and Frailty Multidisciplinary Team, which were all relevant to the Oban area.

Decision

The Integration Joint Board noted the contents of the presentation.

(Reference: Presentation – Spotlight on Oban Area)

9. INTEGRATION SCHEME - AMENDMENT TO VOTING MEMBERSHIP

The Board gave consideration to a report advising of amendments made to the Integration Scheme arising from legislative changes relating to voting rights.

Decision

The Integration Joint Board -

1. noted the adjustment to the Integration Scheme as detailed in paragraph 3.1.3 of Appendix 1 to the submitted report; and
2. noted that the Council and NHS Highland had both taken steps to publish the updated Integration Scheme following the introduction of the legislation on 1 September 2026.

(Reference: Report by Standards Officer dated 16 September 2026, submitted)

10. REVIEW OF INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Board gave consideration to a report presenting revised Terms of Reference for the Board's committees.

Decision

The Integration Joint Board approved the revised Terms of Reference noting that the revisions reflected changes through the implementation of the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Integration Joint Boards) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2025 .

(Reference: Report by Business Improvement Manager dated 16 September 2026, submitted)

11. FINANCE

(a) Budget Monitoring - 4 months to 31 July 2026

The Board gave consideration to a report providing a summary of financial performance against budget for the four months to 31 July 2026.

Decision

The Integration Joint Board noted –

1. the HSCP was reporting a small year to date overspend of £0.4m;
2. that the forecast was close to budget apart from the forecast £8m overspend on the SLA with NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde;
3. the HSCP was not currently progressing actions to mitigate the SLA overspending but was working in partnership within emerging sub-national frameworks;
4. financial restrictions remained in place as spend was being financed by use of reserves and the HSCP was not operating on a sustainable basis; and
5. savings of £3m have been delivered, 42% of target; and
6. the financial risks associated with the SLA and service provider failure within the care at home service.

(Reference: Report by Head of Finance dated 16 September 2026, submitted)

(b) Budget Outlook and Medium-Term Financial Planning: 2027/28 to 2029/30

The Board gave consideration to a report outlining the medium-term financial outlook and planning assumptions for the period 2027/28 to 2029/30.

Decision

The Integration Joint Board –

1. noted the budget outlook for 2027/28 to 2029/30 and noted the risk and uncertainty regarding cost and funding assumptions;
2. noted the forecast budget gap of £34m for 2027/28 including £18m relating to the SLA with NHS GG&C;
3. noted that work on the savings plan and approach to managing the NHS deficit was continuing in partnership with the Council and NHS Highland;
4. noted the strategic implications of the budget gap outlined in the submitted report;

5. endorsed the timeline and process outlined in the submitted report; and
6. noted expenditure control measures continued to be implemented.

(Reference: Report by Head of Finance dated 16 September 2026, submitted)

Kirstie Reid left the meeting during consideration of the following item of Business.

12. STRATEGIC RISK REGISTER REVIEW

The Board gave consideration to a report presenting the Strategic Risk Register for review.

Decision

The Integration Joint Board -

1. reviewed and approved the Strategic Risk Register;
2. noted the outcome of the Risk Appetite Workshop and approved the proposal to retain the current risk appetite (per the Audit & Risk Committee); and
3. noted that the Public Sector Reform proposals had significant risk implications which required to be further considered.

(Reference: Report by Head of Finance dated 16 September 2026, submitted)

13. Q1 WORKFORCE REPORT 2026/27

The Board gave consideration to a report detailing workforce data as at 30 June 2026 and providing information on workforce demographics, recruitment, absence levels and vacancy trends.

Decision

The Integration Joint Board noted the content of the submitted report.

(Reference: Report by Change Partner - People and Culture dated 16 September 2026, submitted)

14. ARGYLL AND BUTE HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2025/26

The Board gave consideration to the Annual Performance Report 2025/26, outlining performance against the Strategic Plan and National Health and Wellbeing Outcomes.

Decision

The Integration Joint Board approved the Annual Performance Report for the Health and Social Care Partnership for the year 2025/26 for publication.

(Reference: Report by Head of Strategic Planning, Performance and Technology dated 16 September 2026, submitted)

Karen Leach left the meeting during the consideration of the following item of Business.

15. ARGYLL AND BUTE HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE PARTNERSHIP PERFORMANCE REPORT FQ1 2026/27 (APRIL TO JUNE 2026)

The Board gave consideration to a report detailing performance during Quarter 1 of 2026/27.

Decision

The Integration Joint Board –

1. acknowledged performance for FQ1 2026/27 (April - June) against latest Key Performance Indicators within the Integrated Performance Management Framework for 2025/26; and
2. acknowledged the streamlining of additional Argyll and Bute HSCP 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 16 September 2026, submitted)

16. CHILDREN'S RIGHTS REPORT 2026-2029

The Board gave consideration to the Children's Rights Report 2026-2029, outlining progress in embedding children's rights within service planning and delivery.

Decision

The Integration Joint Board –

1. noted the progress that had been made on relation to children's rights across Argyll and Bute; and
2. endorsed the priorities identified within the report to continue progressing the rights of children and young people over the next three years in line with legislative requirements.

(Reference: Report by Acting Chief Social Work Officer and Children's Rights Report 2026-2029, submitted)

Karen Leach and Kirstie Reid rejoined the meeting during the consideration of the following item of Business.

17. DAY SERVICES REVIEW

The Board gave consideration to a report detailing the outcome of the Day Services Review and the associated Integrated Impact Assessment.

Motion

The IJB notes that the Day Services Review demonstrates the need for sustainable, integrated and locally responsive services, reflecting the objectives of public sector reform in Argyll and Bute. The Board considers that the proposed redesign of day services highlights the importance of ensuring that future reforms support local decision-making and improved outcomes for older adults and unpaid carers across the area.

That the Integration Joint Board (IJB) notes the Scottish Government's ongoing programme of public sector reform and the potential impact on health and social care service and move for option 2 with these possible changes in mind.

The IJB recognises that Argyll and Bute has unique geographical and demographic challenges, including its island and rural communities, dispersed population, and the additional costs and complexities associated with delivering services across a large geographic area.

The IJB further notes discussions regarding future models of public service delivery, including the potential for a single authority model for health and social care, and recognises that such an approach may offer opportunities for improved integration, streamlined decision-making, reduced bureaucracy and costs.

The IJB therefore calls on the Scottish Government to work collaboratively with Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership and Argyll and Bute Council in the development and implementation of public sector reform, ensuring that:

- The unique circumstances of Argyll and Bute are fully recognised and reflected in policy, funding and service delivery arrangements.
- Local partners are fully involved in the design of any future governance arrangements, including any consideration of a single authority model.
- Any reforms maximise opportunities to improve outcomes, efficiency and local accountability while recognising the challenges of delivering services across a diverse rural and island area.
- Reforms support equitable, sustainable and accessible public services across Argyll and Bute.

The IJB further agrees to write to the relevant Scottish Government Ministers seeking a commitment to meaningful engagement and collaboration with Argyll and Bute HSCP and Argyll and Bute Council and NHS Highland as public sector reform proposals are developed.

Moved by Councillor Ross Moreland, seconded by Councillor Kieron Green.

Amendment

To defer the item to allow for full consideration at a Special meeting in 2 weeks' time in consultation with the chair and vice chair regarding date setting.

Moved by Karen Leach, seconded by Janice Preston.

As the meeting was being held on a hybrid basis, the vote required to be taken by calling the roll and board members voted as follows –

Motion

Councillor Kieron Green
Councillor Ross Moreland

Amendment

Councillor Dougie McFadzean
Janice Preston
Karen Leach
Brian Steven
Kenny Mathieson
Kirstie Reid

Decision

The Amendment was carried by 6 votes to 2 and the Integration Joint Board resolved accordingly.

(Reference: Report by Business Improvement Manager and Senior Manager – Resources dated 16 September 2026, submitted)

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was noted as Wednesday, 18 November 2026.