

SUMMARY REPORT OF GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Name of Committee | Highland Health and Social Care |
| Date of Meeting | 14 January 2026 |
| Committee Chair | Gerry O'Brien |

KEY POINTS FROM DISCUSSION AND ESCALATION

ALERT

- The Committee Commented on the Children and Young Peoples Services Report 25/26 ahead of it going to the Joint Monitoring Committee for approval.
- Ongoing issues were highlighted with performance data availability, including gaps in vaccination, care-home and KPI reporting.
- Workforce shortages continued to impact service delivery across the HSCP and were identified as a persistent high-level risk.

ASSURE

Assurances taken on:

- Finance Report – Month 7 2025/2026 (Moderate)
- IPQR (Limited)
- Highland HSCP Risk Register (Moderate)
- Engagement Framework Assurance Report 24/25 (Moderate)
- Draft Adult Social Care Commissioning Strategy and Intentions (Moderate)

ADVISE

- Members were asked to provide clear feedback on the draft commissioning strategy to support refinement before submission to the Joint Monitoring Committee.

RISKS

- Adult Social Care faced a significant forecast overspend, high supplementary staffing costs and risk to achieving breakeven by year-end.
- Staff shortages across health and social care continued to affect service capacity, flow and sustainability, with demographic challenges worsening the outlook.
- Inconsistent data quality, delayed datasets and variation in definitions posed risks to accurate monitoring and decision-making.

ACTIONS

- A Development Session would be scheduled on use of the risk register, mitigations and tracking progress.
- A further update on the Engagement Framework would be brought back later in the year following progress from the short-life working group.
- Members would submit detailed feedback on the Draft Adult Social Care Commissioning Strategy before it proceeded to the Joint Monitoring Committee.

- Terms of Reference amendments would be agreed offline and progressed to the Audit Committee in March 2026.

LEARNING

- Engagement Framework Assurance Report – Committee members were presented with the engagement online platform ‘The Engagement Hub’ and the range of benefits associated with the platform.