



## INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	4 February 2025
<b>Report Title</b>	Chief Officer's Report
<b>Report Number</b>	HSCP.25.005
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<b>Consultation Checklist Completed</b>	Yes
<b>Directions Required</b>	No
<b>Exempt</b>	No
<b>Appendices</b>	None
<b>Terms of Reference</b>	5

### 1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1. The purpose of the report is to provide the Integration Joint Board with an update from the Chief Officer on recent and upcoming activities.

### 2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Integration Joint Board:

- a) Notes the detail contained within the report.

### 3. Strategic Plan Context

- 3.1. The Chief Officer's report highlights areas of the Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership (ACHSCP) activity which are relevant to the delivery of the Strategic Plan.



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### 4. Summary of Key Information

#### Local updates

##### 1. Winter planning

Ahead of winter 2024/25, ACHSCP has been working on arrangements to provide the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) with assurance that the ACHSCP and its services are resilient ahead of the traditionally busier winter months.

Not only will the details around winter assurance be useful for the ACHSCP and the SLT, it will be helpful to have details to share with partners locally (NHS Grampian and Aberdeen City Council (ACC)) and nationally (Scottish Government).

The Winter Plan that has been submitted to the SLT utilises the existing work undertaken in relation to the national Discharge Without Delay (DWD) work as well as more internal Partnership assurance sources, avoiding the duplication of work where possible.

In relation to the national DWD work, areas covered include updates with regard to the nationally agreed drivers on:

- early planning for discharge
- prioritising the discharge of delayed patients
- family readiness for discharge
- co-ordination of care.

The internal measures include updates on workforce and services resilience, including business continuity planning.

SLT considered the Winter Plan in November and December 2024 and are scheduled to consider the plan monthly with the next review being in the early part of 2025.

##### 2. Staff wellbeing

In 2024, a total of 743 staff attended ACHSCP wellbeing activities across the city.

We continue to offer a wide range of complementary therapies and pedicures in order to support staff wellbeing and provide free benefits to bolster staff retention.

Support for stress management is also available through mindfulness sessions, and spaces for listening, including via the NHS Grampian listening services.

In the first part of this year, meantime, North East Scotland College will be providing 140 hours of free complementary therapies to ACHSCP staff from late January to May, based at Royal Cornhill Hospital.



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The collaboration with the college will provide our staff with therapy appointments at no cost to ACHSCP and will provide students with the valuable learning opportunities which they need in order to obtain their final qualifications. We are also exploring other opportunities with the college to tap into the skills of its students, providing mutual benefits.

### 3. ACHSCP Conference 2024

The ACHSCP held its annual conference at the Beach Ballroom on 5 December 2024.

Some 200 ACHSCP and partner organisation staff attended the event, which proved highly popular with the vast majority of those who went along.

On a 1-5 scale (1 Poor, 5 Excellent), well over half rated the event overall as "excellent", with 83% of respondents rating it either "good" or "excellent".

More than 95% of respondents rated the organisation of the conference as "good" or "excellent", the vast majority of those opting for an "excellent" rating. A matching proportion of attendees judged the event to have been a valuable use of their time.

More than two thirds of people rated the venue as "excellent".

The conference featured presentations and workshops and helped to showcase the progress and innovations which have been achieved over the past year. The event also gave staff and many people working for partner organisations the chance to meet up and exchange ideas, recent developments and future planning.

### 4. Ruthrieston House care home

Aberdeen City Council terminated its contract with VSA, which operates Ruthrieston House, after the Care Inspectorate (CI) raised "serious and significant concerns" about the quality of care.

The CI imposed an Improvement Notice on the home in December 2024, giving a deadline of 20 January 2025 for the improvements to be made. VSA, however, said it would be unable to meet that deadline because of the challenges involved, prompting the termination of the contract, which will take effect in March 2025.

ACHSCP staff have worked closely with VSA staff, Ruthrieston House residents and their families to ensure that those who live in the home are moved as seamlessly as possible into new services which meet their assessed needs. At the time of writing, good progress was being made.



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Meetings with residents, their families and Ruthrieston House staff were held to explain the decision and ongoing communication and full support is being provided.

### 5. Community hubs

The ACC Communities, Housing and Public Protection Committee has reviewed the work to develop a future model for Library and Information Services – based on a community hub model and with a clear concern to address the social and economic determinants of health.

The model has been developed with full regard to the six principles set out by Professor Sir Michael Marmot:

- giving every child the best start in life
- enabling all children, young people and adults to maximize their capabilities and have control over their lives
- creating fair employment and good work for all
- ensuring a healthy standard of living for all
- creating and developing sustainable places and communities
- strengthening the role and impact of ill-health prevention.

In addition to this, Aberdeen City Council and partner organisations will seek to develop a literacy strategy and a digital skills strategy for Aberdeen.

This provides an opportunity for ACHSCP to enhance its work in delivering a meaningful shift towards prevention and early intervention as part of its Delivery Plan.

This will involve community-led approaches to health and wellbeing which achieve outcomes which delay the need for care or a need to provide care of greater intensity.

This aligns with the aims of the proposed community hubs, especially in terms of building up people's understanding of how they can best manage their own health and wellbeing needs.

Alongside the potential to refocus the work of the Health Village to sustain a more proactive approach to early intervention, building individual and community health resilience as part of the work of the community hubs has the potential to enhance a person-centred approach which promotes quality of life, healthy life expectancy, and personal independence.

### Regional Updates

#### 1. ARI critical incident



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NHS Grampian (NHSG) called a critical incident on 29 November 2024 due to the pressures at our front doors and the challenges resulting from ambulances stacking at both Aberdeen Royal Infirmary and at Dr Gray's in Elgin.

All three Health and Social Care Partnerships in the Grampian area were asked to look at ways of supporting measures to ease these pressures.

Within Rosewell House there were 20 empty beds which had been closed since October 2023 due to challenges with safe staffing. In response to the critical incident, funding was agreed to resource the opening of these beds with bank/agency staff to support the initiative.

The NHSG Board agreed in December 2024 that these beds are to remain open for the three to six months to support efforts to ease winter pressures and will continue to be staffed via agencies.

### 2. Community appointment days

Aberdeen City Vaccination & Wellbeing Hub is testing Community Appointment Day (CAD) approaches across Grampian as part of Putting People First. This aims to create partnerships with the public to design more preventative and holistic models of care.

Following a successful CAD in Elgin in September, Aberdeen held its first such event on 27 November 2024 at Get Active@Northfield, focused on chronic pain. This was a joint initiative produced by health and social care staff, Sport Aberdeen, community partners and people with experience of chronic pain.

Almost 100 people attended and received person-centred, holistic care from a range of services, promoting prevention and self-management. This included:

- “what matters to you” conversations
- information and Q&A sessions provided by the NHS Chronic Pain Management Team (CPMT)
- a Pain Café with medication chats with a chronic pain nurse and peer support
- a wide range of community partner stalls.

A full evaluation of the event is under way. Initial feedback was very positive, with 87% of people saying they would recommend this type of event to a friend or family. The majority of attendees made very positive comments – particularly about the opportunities to speak to members of the CPMT, receiving support from the third sector and ACHSCP stallholders, and meeting others in a similar position for peer support.



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Following discussions with the CPMT and stakeholders, we are now planning further events to help to connect people living with chronic pain. The next CAD will take place tomorrow (Weds 5 Feb) at the Vaccination & Wellbeing Hub in the Bon Accord Centre. This will be a free event, open to all, 10am–4pm.



### National Updates

#### 1. National Care Service

On 21 November 2024, the Scottish Government's Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport, Maree Todd MSP, advised that she had paused the Stage 2 process for the National Care Service (Scotland) Bill.

This is to allow more time for the Scottish Government to reflect on the views expressed by stakeholders on the Bill and to consider what approach will secure the necessary parliamentary and stakeholder support..

The Minister reiterated her commitment to the National Care Service (NCS) and her shared aim of social care reform.

An update regarding the NCS is anticipated from the Scottish Government in 2025 and the IJB will continue to be kept up to date through the Chief Officer's Update report as required. The Aberdeen City NCS Programme Board is standing down in the meantime.

#### 2. Prisoners (Early Release) (Scotland) Bill

The final version of the Bill was agreed by the Scottish Parliament on 26 November 2024.





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The Bill changes the release point for most people serving short-term sentences – from following 50% of their sentence to following 40% of the sentence. Those serving all or part of their sentence for sexual assault or domestic offences are excluded from the change and will continue to be released following 50% of their sentence.

The change will come into effect from February 2025. Those who have already reached the new release point on commencement of the legislation will be released in three tranches over six weeks.

Relevant ACHSCP staff are working closely with Scottish Government officials to prepare for the change.

The impact will be monitored. Provisions within the Bill require Scottish Ministers to publish a report on the impact as soon as possible following two years of the change to the release point commencing. Specific information relating to those who are released in tranches will also be published within two months of the final tranche being released.

### 5. Implications for IJB

#### 5.1 Equalities, Fairer Scotland and Health Inequality

There are no direct equalities implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

#### 5.2 Financial

There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

#### 5.3 Workforce

There are no direct workforce implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

#### 5.4 Legal

There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

#### 5.5 Unpaid Carers

There are no direct implications relating to unpaid carers arising from the recommendations of this report.

#### 5.6 Information Governance

There are no direct information governance implications arising from the recommendations of this report



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### 5.7 Environmental Impacts

There are no direct environmental implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

### 5.8 Sustainability

There are no direct sustainability implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

### 5.9 Other Implications

There are no other direct implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

## 6. Management of Risk

There are risks associated with the levels of public engagement in our budget consultation activities. The Chief Officer will monitor progress and work with colleagues to address public feedback and/or information gaps which arise.