



INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD

Date of Meeting	1 July 2025
Report Title	Chief Officer's Report
Report Number	HSCP.25.051
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Consultation Checklist Completed	Yes
Directions Required	No
Exempt	No
Appendices	None
Terms of Reference	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 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. World Diversity Day celebration

On 31 May 2025, staff from Jesmond, Torry, and Fairview care homes in Aberdeen celebrated World Diversity Day at Aberdeen's Town House. They shared food, wore traditional costumes, and demonstrated local dancing. The event showcased 12 countries and was organised by care home managers with the Care Home Lead Nurse. Residents also participated in the celebrations.



A survey was sent to care home staff who have relocated to Aberdeen from other countries to assess their experiences. This will help the collaborative care home group and individual homes to welcome new staff and ease their transition.

Torry and Persley Castle care home managers contributed to the day's programme, which included presentations on equality, diversity, inclusion, and future steps.

2. Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) Community Appointment Day (CAD)

On 21 May 2025, the NHS Grampian Planning & Innovation Team, in collaboration with three GP practices (Elmbank, Woodside, and Torry), held a CAD for COPD. Patients diagnosed with COPD and their carers were invited to attend. The event included a



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"What Matters to Me" conversation, a talk on living well with COPD by Dr Kris McLaughlin and colleagues, and information stalls from various services and voluntary organisations.

Practice nurses from Elmbank and Woodside were available to speak with patients, and attendees could connect with others for peer support at the cafe.

A total of 109 people attended the CAD (83 patients and 26 carers), and 46 people completed a feedback form. Initial impacts recorded include:

- 83.4% felt the CAD improved their ability to self-manage their symptoms
- 85.1% felt the CAD increased their knowledge about services and support to help them live well
- 93.8% felt positive about accessing multiple services in one day
- The overall experience of the day was rated 4.46 stars out of 5.

Feedback from attendees included positive remarks about the event's regularity, the opportunity to meet nurses and other people with COPD, and the informative nature of the day

3. Strategic Change Board

During its May meeting, the Strategic Change Board (SCB) discussed recalibrating its approach to transformation due to current pressures on the health and care system. The board highlighted the importance of long-term, system-wide change over short-term responses.

Key themes included developing a shared model of change, clarifying system priorities, and enhancing engagement with staff and partners. This initiative was bolstered by a cross-system workshop on 16 May, co-led with Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS), to co-design a vision, principles, and cultural shifts for transformation.

The consensus was on moving from intent to impact through practical steps, shared ownership, and transparent discussions about the implications of change. A consolidated update will be presented to the Integration Joint Boards to support further discussion and alignment.

4. Social work practitioner application funding

ACHSCP has secured a grant of £1.239million from the Scottish Government for its 'Invest to Save' initiative, aiming to develop a Social Work Practitioner Application within the current financial year.

This new application leverages existing technology, enabling practitioners to document conversations directly into the Dynamics 365 platform. Dynamics 365 is currently utilised for social work applications encompassing Social Work and Citizen Services.



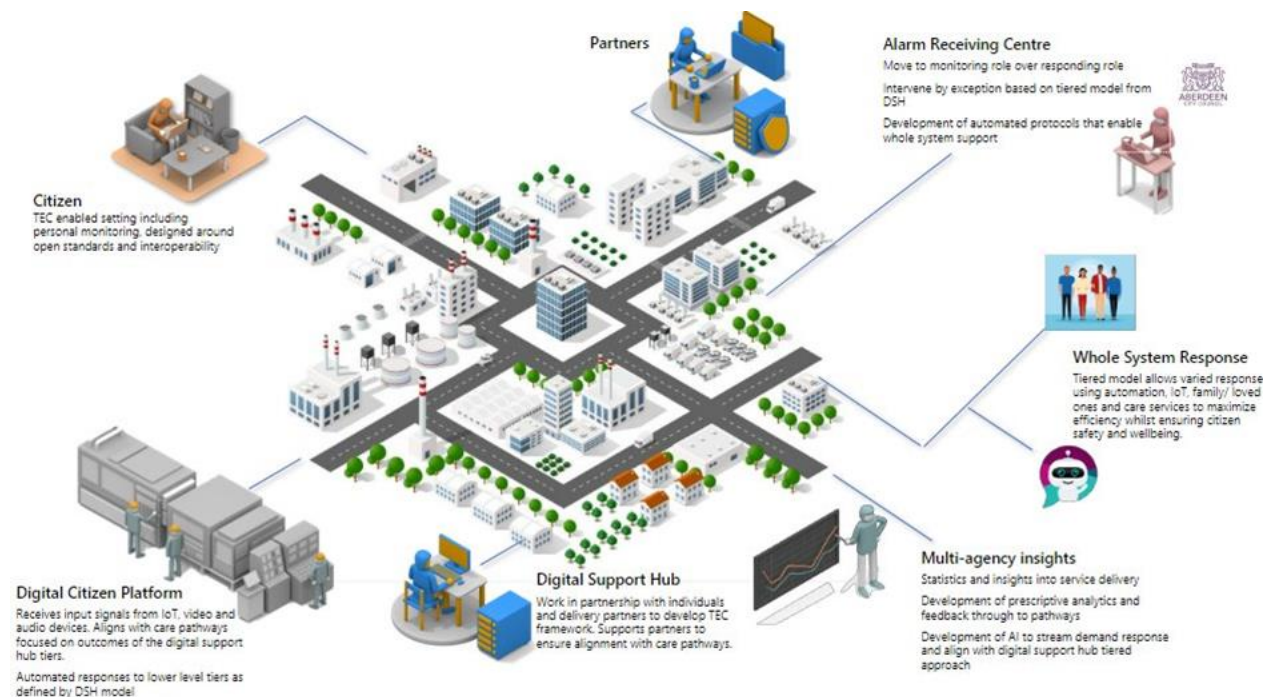
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Populating the relevant data within the Dynamics platform ensures the creation of a Care Commissioning Plan for individuals through the Home Care Commissioning Portal.

The introduction of this application will support the maintenance and real-time updates of care plans, enhancing care delivery efficiency by at least 15%.

These applications collectively advance the Aberdeen City Council's Smart City Vision, promoting technology reuse, platform interoperability, and data sharing to provide services better tailored to current and future needs, thereby proactively addressing health and wellbeing requirements.

Furthermore, the integration with Technology Enabled Care and the new digital alarm receiving centre introduces the potential for technology-supported care prescriptions, tailored to individual needs. This innovation aims to reduce hospital admissions and improve discharge support, minimising delays.



5. eMAR evaluation

The electronic Medication Administration Record (eMAR) system replaces traditional paper-based records. This digital solution aligns with ACHSCP strategic objective to implement innovative technologies in care settings. Initial training and go-live were completed in January 2025, and the system has been operational since then.

Evaluation of eMAR at the Back Hilton Road facility, which provides a care home service for 11 people with learning disabilities, has shown improvements across medication



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processes and procedures, including monitoring, management, administration, safety, and tracking of medication usage.

There are health and wellbeing advantages for service-users due to fewer medication errors and additional time savings from reduced error responses. Staff feedback on eMAR has indicated the system is simple, user-friendly, and efficient. The manager has seen an increase in staff confidence and a reduction in anxiety regarding administering medication.

The ACHSCP Strategic Plan aim is to increase the adoption of eMAR by care homes. Engagement with providers and sharing experiences from Back Hilton Road has encouraged another of Aberdeen's care home providers to proceed with implementing eMAR.

6. National care-at-home and housing support awards

Specialist Resource Solutions (SRS), which provides care in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire, has been honoured with two national awards at the 2025 Scottish Care National Care at Home and Housing Support Awards.

SRS was named Provider of the Year and was the winner of the Technology & People Award.

This recognition reflects the commitment, innovation and compassion that drives SRS's work across Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire, with the support and collaboration of ACHSCP and other partners.

SRS is part of the Granite Care Consortium, which is made up of local third sector and independent providers in Aberdeen. The consortium was set up to create market stability, improve outcomes and build a consistently trained and skilled workforce.

Another winner at the awards, which were held in Glasgow in May, was Shaun Duthie who works for Community Integrated Care (CIC) in Aberdeen.

He took home the Emerging Talent accolade on the evening and was recently promoted to the role of Service Leader. His exceptional leadership skills were proven during a recent independent inspection in Aberdeen, where all the CIC services he leads received excellent Care Inspectorate ratings.

Regional updates

1. Grampian Wellbeing Festival



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The second Grampian Wellbeing Festival was held across the region in May to support mental health and wellbeing and to raise awareness of community support, activities and events.

The festival was a huge success with over 200 events held in Aberdeen alone. These included concerts, wellbeing walks, aerobics, boogie-in the-bar and mindfulness.

The festival also included the Grampian Meaningful Engagement Network (GMEN) Festival on Friday 30 May 2025 at the Town House in Aberdeen

GMEN is a Grampian-wide partnership with representation from Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Moray, and is for anyone involved in developing, supporting and delivering meaningful activity with older adults.

The theme of the day was Keep Learning and featured a range of speakers and stalls.

Formal evaluation of the impact of the festival will be undertaken and shared in due course.

2. Stroke conference

As the Executive Lead for Grampian, ACHSCP's Chief Officer attended the Grampian Stroke Multidisciplinary Conference in partnership with Chest, Heart & Stroke Scotland (CHSS) on 21 May 2025.

The conference featured a full agenda, covering all stroke services, including rehabilitation and community services.

CHSS showcased their services across Grampian and introduced the new Health Defence programme, set to launch in September 2025 at the Aberdeen Vaccination & Wellbeing Hub, Bon Accord Centre.

The event also included insights from other health boards and recent research findings. An Occupational Therapy Advanced Practitioner from University Hospital Wishaw shared their experiences with Technology Enabled Rehabilitation, highlighting valuable learning and opportunities for Aberdeen.

3. NHSG escalation to Stage 4 of NHS Scotland support and intervention framework

The Scottish Government announced on 12 May 2025 that NHS Grampian had been escalated to Stage 4 of the NHS Scotland Support and Intervention Framework. The escalation reflects concerns about NHSG's financial position, leadership and governance.



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NHSG has welcomed the additional support and continues to work collaboratively with the Scottish Government as it oversees the development and delivery of the Improvement Plan to address the concerns.

More information is at <https://www.gov.scot/groups/nhs-grampian-assurance-board/>

National updates

1. New cardiovascular disease Directed Enhanced Service (DES)

The Scottish Government introduced a new cardiovascular disease (CVD) Directed Enhanced Service in May 2025 to improve early identification and prevention across Scotland.

A DES is a nationally commissioned service that health boards can offer to GP practices, distinct from Local Enhanced Services (LES) which are tailored to specific local needs.

This initiative enables practices to proactively screen a percentage of patients aged 35-60 by assessing five key risk factors – blood pressure, body mass index, smoking and alcohol status, and cholesterol and glucose risks – and prioritise patients from deprived areas, where CVD mortality rates are significantly higher.

Each practice has been given a capped number of patients who can be supported via the DES. This number varies across each practice, dependant on practice size and deprivation levels. The Scottish Government uses the term 'missingness' to describe patients who are deemed at risk on all five measurements. Patients can then be offered screening and given a CVD risk score, which then allows practices to give appropriate primary prevention measures and with all those screened receiving lifestyle advice.

The initiative, which is optional for GP practices, aligns with Scotland's broader preventative health agenda, aiming to reduce avoidable deaths from CVD by 20% over the next 20 years.

2. Review of Social Work Governance report

The Care Inspectorate's Review of Social Work Governance and Assurance across Scotland was published on 5 May 2025.

The publication highlights both strengths and areas for improvement and examines how social work leaders are supported to ensure statutory duties are met, how staff are effective and uphold core values, and how risks are managed.

The review found that while social work governance structures were mostly effective and values were upheld, challenges exist in ensuring social work has equal influence within



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health and social care partnerships and in managing significant staffing and financial pressures.

The review also included a staff survey and whilst the key findings of this report are Scotland wide, we have received a bespoke report on the findings of the staff survey for Aberdeen which was very positive.

A paper summarising key points and next steps will be presented in due course to the Clinical Care & Governance Committee.

The full publication is at:

<https://www.careinspectorate.com/images/documents/8101/Review%20of%20social%20work%20governance%20and%20assurance%20across%20Scotland.pdf>

3. Publication of Population Health Framework

The Scottish Government and the Convention for Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) have jointly published the Population Health Framework and the Health and Social Care Service Renewal Framework <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scotlands-population-health-framework/> <https://www.gov.scot/publications/health-social-care-service-renewal-framework/>

Both frameworks represent a significant milestone in the ambition to improve the health of the population. They focus on key activities to tackle the root causes of poor health, reduce inequalities and build a more sustainable, person-led and community-focused health and social care system for Scotland.

4. Care Reform Bill passes Stage 3

Plans to transform social care across Scotland will now be progressed after the Scottish Parliament approved the Care Reform (Scotland) Bill on 10 June 2025

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/care-reform-scotland-bill-stage-3-debate-social-care-ministers-opening-speech-10-june-2025/>.

The bill will bring forward a number of enhancements to social care including:

- enshrining “Anne’s law” in legislation to uphold the rights of people living in adult care homes to see loved-ones and identify an essential care supporter
- strengthening support for unpaid carers by establishing a legal right to breaks, following the additional £13 million already allocated for up to 40,000 carers to take voluntary sector short breaks
- empowering people to access information on their care and improving the flow of information across care settings
- improving access to independent advocacy to guarantee people are involved in decisions about their care



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- creating a national chief social work adviser role to provide professional leadership, as part of plans for a new National Social Work Agency.

Alongside the bill, an advisory board will be established to drive progress and scrutinise reform, replacing an interim board that met for the first time in May.

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 as it is a noting report.

5.2 Financial

There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report as it is a noting report.

5.3 Workforce

There are no direct workforce implications arising from the recommendations of this report . as it is a noting report

5.4 Legal

There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations of this report as it is a noting report.

5.5 Unpaid Carers

There are no direct implications relating to unpaid carers arising from the recommendations of this report as it is for noting.

5.6 Information Governance

There are no direct information governance implications arising from the recommendations of this report as it is for noting only.

5.7 Environmental Impacts

There are no direct environmental implications arising from the recommendations of this report as it is a noting report.

5.8 Sustainability



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There are no direct sustainability implications arising from the recommendations of this report as it is a noting report.

5.9 Other Implications

There are no other direct implications arising from the recommendations of this report as it is for noting only.

6. Management of Risk

There are no direct risk management issues.