

## Highland Council/NHS Highland Joint Monitoring Committee

Minutes of the Meeting of the Highland Council/NHS Highland Joint Monitoring Committee held in Fort William Medical Centre, Fort William Health Centre, Camaghael, Fort William, PH33 7AQ, on 25 September 2024 at 10.30am.

### Present:

#### Highland Council

Mr David Fraser (Vice Chair)  
Mr Raymond Bremner (remote)  
Mr Derek Brown (remote)  
Mr Ian Kyle (remote)  
Mr Derek Louden (remote)  
Mr Brian Porter (remote)  
Mrs A MacLean (sub for A Christie)  
(remote)  
Mrs K Lackie (sub for F Malcolm)  
Ms J Park (sub for F Duncan) (remote)

#### NHS Highland

Ms Sarah Compton-Bishop (Chair)  
Dr Tim Allison  
Mr Alex Anderson (remote)  
Ms Louise Bussell (remote)  
Ms Ann Clark (remote)  
Ms Heledd Cooper  
Ms Pamela Cremin  
Ms Fiona Davies  
Mr Gerry O'Brien (remote)

#### Staff Representatives

Ms Elspeth Caithness (NHS Highland) (remote)  
Mr John Gibson (Highland Council) (remote)

#### Third Sector, Carer and Service User Representatives

Mr Christopher Allan (Scottish Care Highland Branch Chair – Care Homes) (remote)  
Ms Hannah Eaton (for Dr Gaener Rodger) (Inspiring Young Voices) (remote)  
Mr Campbell Mair (Scottish Care - Care at Home) (remote)  
Mr Ian McNamara (Highland Senior Citizen's Network) (remote)  
Ms Mhairi Wylie (Highland Third Sector Interface) (remote)

#### Officers Present

Ms A Johnstone, **TITLE**, NHS Highland (remote)  
Mr S Steer, Director of Adult Social Care, NHS Highland (remote)  
Mrs L Dunn, Joint Democratic Services Manager, Highland Council  
Ms F MacBain, Senior Committee Officer, Highland Council

### Ms S Compton-Bishop in the Chair

#### 1. Calling of the Roll and Apologies for Absence Gairm a' Chlàir agus Leisgeulan

Apologies were intimated on behalf of Mr Alasdair Christie, Ms Fiona Duncan, Ms Fiona Malcolm, Ms Roisin Connolly, (Connecting Carers), Ms Gaener Rodger (Inspiring Young Voices),

#### 2. Declarations of Interest/Transparency Statement Foillseachaidhean Com-pàirt/Aithris Fhollaiseachd

There were none.

### 3. Minutes Geàrr-chunntas

There had been circulated and were **APPROVED** minutes of the meetings of the Joint Monitoring Committee held on 19 June 2024.

### 4. Highland Health and Social Care Partnership Annual Performance Review 2023/24

#### Ath-sgrùdadh Coileanaidh Bliadhna Com-pàirteachas Slàinte is Cùraim Shòisealta na Gàidhealtachd 2023/24

There had been circulated Report No JMC/11/24 by the Chief Officer, Highland Health and Social Care Partnership.

During discussion, the following issues were raised:

- further information on Self-Directed Support (SDS) uptake data was sought and would be provided outwith the meeting. It was pointed out that SDS referred to all four options, and the importance of including the needs of the workforce in considerations was emphasised;
- information on the revised timescales for implementation of the ten commissioning proposals for Care Homes and Care at Home was requested;
- a one-page accessible summary at the start of future Annual Performance Review reports, to set in context the breadth of activity and scale of the challenge to sustain operational delivery, would be helpful;
- more realistic rag ratings, with improved use of the amber category for targets close to being achieved, would be beneficial;
- noting that NHS Highland A&E performance was below the target and the national average, it was queried what the variation was between the three smaller, rural hospitals, and Raigmore, with Raigmore's performance being significantly lower, due in part to its size and the increased complexity of cases seen. A means of sharing particular hospital A&E performance data with local communities, possibly through district planning groups, would be considered offline and reported back to Raymond Bremner;
- it was suggested a key was missing from the graph on P17 of the papers;
- consideration was given to the challenges around making Care Home and Care at Home sustainable, while balancing the need for excellence with the volume of work and services; and
- the benefits of local-based first responders was emphasised, including their ability to deal with minor issues and avoid a visit to an acute hospital.

The Committee:

- i. **APPROVED** the Highland HSCP Annual Performance Report 2023/24;
- ii. **AGREED** further information be provided outwith the meeting on SDS performance, including a breakdown by area and information on whether SDS usage was levelling off, as requested at the previous meeting;
- iii. **AGREED** to provide information at the next meeting of the Committee on the revised timescales for implementation of the ten commissioning proposals for Care Homes and Care at Home; and
- iv. **AGREED** that future Annual Performance Reports should start with a one-page accessible summary to set in context the breadth of activity and scale of the challenge to sustain operational delivery.

## **5. Chief Officer's Report Adult Services Aithisg Àrd-Oifigeir mu Sheirbheisean Inbheach**

There had been circulated Report No JMC/12/24 by the Chief Officer, Highland Health and Social Care Partnership.

During discussion, the following issues were raised:

- the challenges were summarised, including the need to reduce delayed discharges, and progress implementation of the Adult Social Care (ASC) strategy. Reference was made to the public meeting that had been held to address concerns about the closure of Moss Park Care Home, Fort William, and options for the future, with that situation illustrating the susceptibility of the system to Care Home closures;
- the complexity of the community planning and SDS landscape was highlighted, with particular reference to third sector partners, felt the loss of a governance layer below the strategic level. Reference was made to capacity building and project work being undertaken by the Joint Officers Group, and that a mechanism was required to facilitate third sector partner involvement in this. This would also be considered at a future development session;
- the importance of the preventative agenda was emphasised and it was suggested prevention should be included as a standard point of reference in reports;
- various issues that should be considered at a future development session included the transformation agenda, the importance of operational solutions being realistic and joined up, preventative measures, and how to work in an environment of reducing resources; and
- it was important to consider contributory factors to Care Home closures and the impact of the national care contract on smaller care homes in Highland. Reference was made to efforts being undertaken to lobby for change in this area.

The Committee **NOTED**:

- i. the work undertaken in implementing the Highland Health and Social Care Partnership Joint Strategic Plan and assurance performance information as supplied; and
- ii. that a mechanism would be put in place to ensure third sector involvement at an operational level and that third sector partners would be provided with an update on project work and capacity building being undertaken by JOG.

## **6. Learning Disability Services Seirbheisean Ciorraim Ionnsachaidh**

There had been circulated Report No JMC/13/24 by the Chief Officer, Highland Health and Social Care Partnership.

A presentation, the slide from which would be circulated outwith the meeting, was provided on Learning Disability Services, including numbers affected, health checks, projected support spend, recruitment challenges, and plans for the future.

- the normalisation and integration of people with a learning disability was vital, especially in relation to employment. A significant challenge for public health was the lower overall general health of people with a learning disability and how to tackle this;
- it was important to acknowledge that ASC extended beyond Care at Home and Care Homes. Small improvements to a younger adult's life could have significant impacts on later stages;
- consideration required to be given to the extent to which the Committee was achieving the terms of its remit and this would be considered at a future development session;
- capacity issues in ASC required investment in strategically sited and procured new services, accompanied by a regional carer workforce development plan that included housing and immigration; and
- information was sought on the cost of ensuring health checks were being undertaken on people with Learning Disabilities and it was explained that at present around 50% of qualifying people were being checked, prioritised by those with the greatest need. The situation was subject to ongoing discussions.

The Committee **NOTED**:

- i. the progress achieved in delivering Annual Health Checks to people with a Learning Disability;
- ii. and support the actions to enable individuals with a learning disability to lead full and active lives in their own homes in community settings; and
- iii. the risks associated with the provision of support to individuals with complex needs and the recruitment and retention difficulties being experienced by the support sector.

## 7. Children's Services Update Cunntas às Ùr mu Sheirbheisean Chloinne

There had been circulated Report No JMC/14/24 by the Executive Chief Officer Health and Social Care & Chief Social Work Officer – Highland Council.

During discussion, information was sought on Neuro Developmental Assessment Service (NDAS) Indicator 13 (with specific reference to the 5% of children and young people waiting less than 18 weeks from date of request received by NDAS) and a report on NDAS was requested for the next meeting of the Committee.

The Committee:

- i. **NOTED** the work undertaken by the children's services planning partnership in delivering the Highland Integrated Children's Services Plan 2023 – 2026;
- ii. **NOTED** the work of the delivery groups;
- iii. **AGREED** a report on NDAS be presented to the next meeting of the Committee; and
- iv. **AGREED** further information on NDAS Indicator 13 (with specific reference to the 5% of children and young people waiting less than 18 weeks from date of request received by NDAS) be provided to the Committee as soon after the meeting as possible.

**8. Highland Health & Social Care Partnership Finance Report Month 3 2024-25  
Aithisgean Ionmhais Mios 3 2024–25 Com-pàirteachas Slàinte & Cùraim  
Shòisealta na Gàidhealtachd**

**a. Highland Health & Social Care Partnership Finance Report  
Aithisg Ionmhais Com-pàirteachas Slàinte & Cùraim Shòisealta na  
Gàidhealtachd**

There had been circulated Report No JMC/15/24 by the Director of Finance, NHS Highland.

During discussion, an explanation was sought and provided on the procedure that would be followed if NHS Highland did not close their budget gap by the end of the financial year.

The Committee **NOTED** the financial position at Month 3 2024/2025 (June).

**b. Highland Council Finance Report  
Aithisg Ionmhais Chomhairle na Gàidhealtachd**

There had been circulated Report No JMC/16/24 by the Chief Officer – Corporate Finance.

During discussion, information was sought and provided on the Council's three year savings target and delivery plan, as well as on business cases for the additional £20million of funding for ASC projects received by the Council. A key message was the importance of ensuring any proposals were robust and able to deliver the required transformation, while being mindful of the need to work at pace and with a pragmatic light touch. The roles of the Joint Officers Group and Portfolio holders were outlined, and a workshop / development session was planned. It was suggested that progress should be reported to the Committee on a quarterly basis and, while capacity building for community-led service delivery was welcomed as a workstream, it was queried whether any of the capacity building funding could be used towards third sector development to contribute to ASC transformation.

The Committee **NOTED**:

- i. this report and update provided;
- ii. the out-turn position for Council and Integrated Children's Services for the 2023/24 financial year;
- iii. the financial update provided for the Council and Integrated Children's Services for the 2024/25 financial year; and
- iv. the update provided regarding the Council's Delivery Plan.

**9. National Care Service Update  
Cunntas às Ùr mun t-Seirbheis Chùraim Nàiseanta**

There had been circulated Report No JMC/17/24 by the Executive Chief Officer Health and Social Care, Highland Council and Chief Officer NHS Highland.

During discussion, it was requested that the NHS Highland and Highland Council responses to the National Care Service (Scotland) Bill (Stage 2) consultation be circulated to the committee. Kate Lackie provided a verbal update on progress to date.

The Committee:

- i. **NOTED** the position in relation to the legislation seeking to implement the National Care Service which would result in the introduction of a single model of integration and the consequent removal of the Lead Agency Model;
- ii. **NOTED** that further updates providing clarity on the legal, financial and governance implications would come forward to future meetings of the Council and this Committee as appropriate; and
- iii. **AGREED** the Highland Council and NHS Highland responses to the National Care Service (Scotland) Bill (Stage 2) consultation be circulated to the Committee (**Post-meeting note**: the link to the responses was added to the meeting chat).

#### **10. Meeting Planner 2024-2026**

##### **Planaidear Choinneamhan 2024–2026**

There had been circulated and was **NOTED** the draft meeting planner for 2024-2026. A brief summary was provided of some of the key issues to be considered at the development session on 24 October 2024, and at future meetings. Some concern was expressed at the development session date and this would be looked at outwith the meeting.

The meeting ended at 12.55pm