



Stephen Brown (Chief Officer)

Orkney Health and Care

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Orkney Integration Joint Board

Wednesday, 19 February 2025, 09:30.

Council Chamber, Council Offices, Kirkwall.

Minute

Present

Voting Members:

Orkney Islands Council:

Councillors Rachael King, Lindsay Hall and Jean Stevenson.

NHS Orkney:

Rona Gold (via Microsoft Teams), Issy Grieve and Joanna Kenny.

Non-Voting Members:

Professional Advisers:

- Stephen Brown, Chief Officer of the Integration Joint Board.
- Dr Kirsty Cole, General Practitioner representative, appointed by NHS Orkney.
- Darren Morrow, Chief Social Work Officer of the constituent local authority, Orkney Islands Council.
- Dr Louise Wilson, Secondary Medical Care Practitioner representative, employed by NHS Orkney (via Microsoft Teams).

Stakeholder Members:

- Janice Annal, Service User Representative (via Microsoft Teams).
- Sarah Kennedy, Carer Representative.
- Willie Neish, Carer Representative.
- Danny Oliver, Staff-side Representative, Orkney Islands Council.

Clerk

- Sandra Craigie, Committees Officer, Orkney Islands Council.

In Attendance

Orkney Health and Social Care Partnership:

- Lynda Bradford, Head of Health and Community Care.
- John Daniels, Head of Primary Care Services.
- Morven Gemmill, Associate Director – Allied Health Professions (via Microsoft Teams).
- Shaun Hourston-Wells, Acting Strategic Planning Lead.

Orkney Islands Council:

- Erik Knight, Head of Finance (for Items 1 to 10).
- Gavin Mitchell, Head of Legal and Governance (for Items 1 to 9 and 12 to 17).
- Craig Walker, Service Manager (Human Resources Operations) (for Items 1 to 16).
- Veer Bansal, Solicitor.
- Maya Tams-Gray, Committees Officer (via Microsoft Teams).

NHS Orkney:

- Keren Somerville, Head of Finance (via Microsoft Teams).

Not Present

Stakeholder Member

- Ryan McLaughlin, Staff-side Representative, NHS Orkney.

Chair

- Councillor Rachael King, Orkney Islands Council.

1. Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded members that the meeting was being broadcast live over the Internet on Orkney Islands Council's website. The meeting was also being recorded, with the recording publicly available for listening to after the meeting for 12 months.

Apologies for absence had been intimated on behalf of the following:

- Non-Voting Members:
 - o Sam Thomas, Nurse representative, employed by NHS Orkney.
 - o Frances Troup, Head of Community Learning, Leisure and Housing, Orkney Islands Council.
 - o Morven Brooks, Third Sector Representative.
- Wendy Lycett, Interim Director of Pharmacy, Orkney Health and Social Care Partnership.

2. Appointments and Re-appointments

There had previously been circulated a report setting out various appointments and reappointments to the Integration Joint Board, for consideration and approval.

Stephen Brown informed members that the Carer Representative role had been vacant since the previous incumbent left in September 2024, after completing their two-year term of office. After consulting with Crossroads and carer groups seeking volunteers, two individuals had come forward. He confirmed that NHS Orkney would be considering appointments to the Integration Joint Board at its Board Meeting to be held on 27 February 2025. He referred members, for their information, to section 4 of the covering report which detailed when the relevant authorities made their original appointments and when reappointments were due.

Following a query from the Chair regarding how individuals could get in touch with the Carer Representatives, Stephen Brown confirmed that, if the roles were approved, information on how to contact the Carer Representatives would be made available.

The Board thereafter noted:

2.1. That, in terms of the Orkney Integration Scheme all appointments, with the exception of the Chief Officer, Chief Finance Officer of the Board and the Chief Social Work Officer, who were members of the Board by virtue of the Regulations and the post they held, were for a period of two years.

2.2. That, in addition, individual Board appointments would be made as required when a position became vacant for any reason, and that any member of the Board could be reappointed for a further term of office.

2.3. That, following the previous Carer Representative on the Board fulfilling their term of office, the Carer Representative role had been vacant since September 2024.

2.4. That, in terms of the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Integration Joint Boards) (Scotland) Order 2014, the Integration Joint Board must appoint at least one person providing unpaid care in the area of the local authority.

2.5. The proposal to appoint two Carer Representatives, in light of the priority that the Integration Joint Board had given to supporting unpaid carers.

2.6. That NHS Orkney would be considering appointments to the Integration Joint Board at its Board Meeting to be held on 27 February 2025.

2.7. That, accordingly, appointments and reappointments of NHS Orkney representatives to the Integration Joint Board would be reported to the next meeting on 30 April 2025.

The Board resolved:

2.8. That Willie Neish and Sarah Kennedy be appointed as Carer Representatives on the Board, for an initial period of two years.

2.9. That Willie Neish and Sarah Kennedy be appointed to the Strategic Planning Group.

3. Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest intimated at this point in respect of items of business to be discussed at this meeting.

Note – Dr Kirsty Cole subsequently declared an interest in Item 16 below.

4. Minute of Previous Meeting

There had been previously circulated the draft Minute of the Meeting of the Integration Joint Board held on 6 November 2024, which was **approved** as a true record.

5. Matters Arising

There had been previously circulated a log providing details on matters arising from previous meetings, for consideration and to enable the Board to seek assurance on progress, actions due and to consider corrective action, where required.

Stephen Brown updated members that there would be a discussion with the National Chief Officers Group, which had an annual national campaign, regarding Guardianship Agreements. It was proposed to have a local campaign on the back of the national one. He confirmed that members would be appraised of progress.

Regarding Item 3 Annual Accounts, Stephen Brown stated that members would be aware that a briefing note had been issued in December 2024, advising that the Annual Accounts had been signed.

Referring to Item 4, Stephen Brown confirmed that conversations regarding the vacant positions on the Performance and Audit Committee were still ongoing. He confirmed that it had been agreed that the number of representatives on that Committee should be extended, and a report would be brought back to the Board once interest had been secured.

Regarding Item 5, Stephen Brown confirmed that he had met with Morven Brooks and members would receive a Third Sector Commissioned Service Update report at the April meeting.

Referring to Item 4 under Outstanding Matters, Stephen Brown highlighted that it had been agreed to bring either a paper or briefing regarding the issue of long COVID-19 prevalence in Orkney and what support was available. He continued that early indications were that the number of people needing support were less than anticipated. Currently 50 people were being supported by the respiratory physiotherapist which was less than anticipated going by national figures. He continued that, following work with GP colleagues to understand what was being presented, it was anticipated that a briefing note would be issue in July 2025.

Issy Grieve commented that, as there were new members on the Board, she made a plea that, where possible, the use of acronyms should be avoided in papers, including the Matters Arising Log.

Following a query from Councillor Lindsay Hall regarding recruitment for the new Chief Finance Officer, Stephen Brown informed members that the position had been advertised several times, with a successful appointee having to withdraw. He confirmed that he had been in discussions with officers regarding the next steps and it was hoped that interim arrangements would be put in place shortly. He gave thanks to Erik Knight from Orkney Islands Council and Keren Somerville from NHS Orkney for providing financial support to the Integration Joint Board on top of their own workloads.

The Chair gave her thanks to Erik Knight and Keren Somerville for attending Integration Joint Board meetings while there was no Chief Finance Officer.

Referring to Stephen Brown's earlier comment regarding Guardianship Agreements, the Chair confirmed that she had also raised the matter with the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities and Scottish Ministers.

Regarding the Annual Accounts, the Chair commented that there was a commitment to agree a timetable for 2024/25 audit as part of the audit strategy which gave the dates as the end of September rather than October and was hopeful that would be the outcome.

Referring to the Public Health Annual Report which was detailed in outstanding matters on page 3 of the report, the Chair queried whether the challenge with collecting data was going to have an impact. Stephen Brown stated that it was recognised certain areas of service with the digital capacity was not where it should be so providing data on a regular basis using systems was not always easy. He continued that he thought the issue around the data for vaccines was more complicated as some of the vaccine requirements had changed over the last few years. He concluded that, where there was data, it needed to be gathered in a format that would be understandable for individuals.

John Daniels commented that, in terms of vaccine specific data, high level data regarding children's vaccinations rates had previously been provided, which was the easiest comparable to make. He confirmed that they were quite often top of the table when compared to other Boards across Scotland but continued that doing a retrospective comparison was challenging. He confirmed that the vaccine transformation programme was not exclusive to Orkney and was happening across Scotland as part of the Primary Care Improvement Plan.

Dr Louise Wilson confirmed that the vaccine programmes had changed and would be changing again over the next few years. She further confirmed that there was data for all the vaccines in Orkney which was publicly available through the Health Scotland website.

The Board scrutinised the Log and took assurance.

6. Performance and Audit Committee

There had been previously circulated the approved Minute of the Meeting of the Performance and Audit Committee held on 25 September 2024 and the unapproved Minute of the Meeting of the Performance and Audit Committee held on 11 December 2024, to enable the Board to seek assurance.

Joanna Kenny, Chair of the Performance and Audit Committee, summarised that, at the meeting held on 25 September 2024, they had received the standard progress report on the Strategic Plan Priorities, giving updates for Community Led Support, Early Intervention and Prevention and Tackling Inequalities and Disadvantages. The External Auditor's Annual Report had also been presented. There was an Internal Audit on Internal Communications which, she confirmed, had been extremely valuable.

Moving to the meeting held on 11 December 2024, she referred members to the inspection assurance report on registered services, governance organogram and the progress update on the Strategic Plan Priorities, which gave updates on Mental Health, Supporting Older People to Remain in their Own Homes and Supporting Unpaid Carers. She commented that there had been a great deal of work coming to the Committee and it was pleasing to see the quality of the work.

Councillor Lindsay Hall commented that the content of both meetings highlighted the importance of having a Chief Finance Officer which he emphasised was important and needed to be taken account of.

Following a query from Danny Oliver regarding an update on progress with the establishment of the All Age Nurse Led Psychiatric Liaison Team, detailed on page 4 of the Minute of the Meeting of the Performance and Audit Committee held on 11 December 2024, Lynda Bradford confirmed that work was ongoing with the job descriptions, and it was hoped that the jobs would be advertised shortly.

Referring to adoption allowance and kinship under matters arising on page 2 of the Minute of the Meeting held on 25 September 2024, the Chair confirmed that item had been presented to the Council's Policy and Resources Committee on 18 February 2025.

Following a query from the Chair regarding falls, as detailed on page 10 of the September minute, Lynda Bradford confirmed that data was collected from falls at home if the service was aware of it. The Chair commented that the complexity of care within residential care homes, as well as in individuals' homes was recognised, and stated that she would be interested to see any data on this matter that may be available to the Board.

The Chair referred to the Governance Organogram on page 6 of the Minute of the Meeting held on 11 December 2024 and commented that it was very useful.

The Board scrutinised the Minutes of the Meetings of the Performance and Audit Committee held on 25 September 2024 and 11 December 2024 and took assurance.

7. Joint Clinical and Care Governance Committee

There had been previously circulated the approved Minute of the Meeting of the Joint Clinical and Care Governance Committee held on 1 October 2024, together with the Chair's Assurance Report, to enable the Board to seek assurance.

Councillor Jean Stevenson, Vice Chair, Joint Clinical and Care Governance Committee, commented that most of the issues that were raised at the meeting held on 1 October 2024 had moved on as there had been a further two meetings since that date. The one area that she did want to highlight was the update on the neuro-

developmental pathway under the Decisions Made section of the Chair's Assurance Report. She commented that there was a commitment to provide an update, and a post meeting note had been received following the meeting held on 1 October 2024 which detailed what was being done regarding waiting lists in the neuro-developmental pathways. She further commented that consultant paediatricians were to be allocated time to neuro-developmental assessments and that steps were being taken to progress a single point of entry for a multidisciplinary approach to the area.

Following a query from Councillor Lindsay Hall regarding being marked as a guest under attendance, as well commenting that his name had been spelt wrong, Joanna Kenny confirmed that a new piece of software was being used for automating minutes which was having teething problems and confirmed that issues with the software had been noted and were in hand.

The Chair commented that it would be helpful if who was Chairing the meeting could be included in future minutes.

Following a query from the Chair, Councillor Jean Stevenson confirmed that, as far as she knew, the MRI service provision had been reinstated for Orkney.

Regarding the Integrated Performance Report detailed at section 9.2 of the Minute, the Chair queried how the report linked to the Performance and Audit Committee's integrated performance report.

Stephen Brown confirmed that the integrated performance reports, which were integrated from an NHS delivery point of view, covered, for example, waiting list performance through to financial and workforce performances. He continued that there were clearly some elements of that integrated performance report that did link to the Performance and Audit Committee. He confirmed that going forward there would be greater visibility, in particular in relation to patient facing performance through the Performance and Audit Committee.

The Chair confirmed that it was important to ensure that the flow of information was going where it needed to go and queried whether the Peer Review detailed at section 9.3 in terms of the emergency department would also go to the Performance and Audit Committee.

Stephen Brown confirmed that the advantage of having the Joint Clinical and Care Governance Committee was that there was visibility for both the Integration Joint Board and the NHS Board in relation to peer reviews. He confirmed that the peer review that had been discussed at the meeting held on 1 October 2024 was regarding the emergency department. He confirmed that there was another one that was also expected to go to the Joint Clinical and Care Governance Committee shortly relating to mental health provision. He continued that the advantage of going to the Joint Clinical and Care Governance Committee was that it would feed its way through the Minutes and the Chair's Assurance Reports.

Regarding section 9.4 Medication Assisted Treatments Standards Report, the Chair sought assurance that, whilst the national team had advised the delivery model had made good progress, was there any commentary on how this translated for the isles?

Lynda Bradford commented that an issue was that one of the standards was for same day treatment which was clearly going to be a problem for the isles. The national team were satisfied that as much as possible had been done given that service was not able to be offered and therefore not able to meet that specific standard.

Issy Grieve commented that the Chair's Assurance Report at the end of the minute was very helpful as it summarised the main areas of concern, where areas had been escalated for risk, where actions were underway as well as providing positive matters.

Darren Morrow commented that, for both this meeting and the December meeting, he had been omitted from the attendee list.

The Board scrutinised the Minute of the Meeting of the Joint Clinical and Care Governance Committee held on 1 October 2024 and took assurance.

8. Joint Clinical and Care Governance Committee

There had been previously circulated the approved Minute of the Meeting of the Joint Clinical and Care Governance Committee held on 2 December 2024, to enable the Board to seek assurance.

Rona Gold clarified that she was Chair of the Joint Clinical and Care Governance Committee and had Chaired the meeting held on 2 December 2024. She confirmed that the Vice Chair, Councillor Jean Stevenson, had Chaired the meeting held on 1 October 2024.

Regarding the new electronic minute system, she confirmed that she had been making notes of the comments raised and would be feeding back to the relevant individuals.

She continued that the meeting held on 2 December 2024 was well attended with really good quality papers. She went on to highlight the Chief Social Work Officer's Annual Report which, she commented, was a real stand out in terms of its quality and content and confirmed that the Joint Clinical and Care Governance Committee took great assurance from the annual report. She confirmed that she took assurance from the annual report regarding maternity services which were particularly good examples of engaging with the community. She continued that the Winter Plan had been approved with the addition of information on how performance would be measured, timescales, finance and staff sickness.

She confirmed that assurance had been obtained from a number of committees as part of the new governance arrangements that fed into the Joint Clinical and Care Governance Committee. The Terms of Reference and a Work Plan for next year were approved. She confirmed that, through information which came to a recent meeting of the Integration Joint Board regarding an update on primary care services, it was realised there were some elements of primary care that would benefit coming to the Joint Clinical and Care Governance Committee for scrutiny and to provide assurance.

She further confirmed that the Public Protection Accountability Assurance Framework, which had been picked up by the Committee as an issue, had been added to the Risk Register and there were ongoing discussions regarding how to improve the approach to this, with an update going to a future meeting of the Integration Joint Board.

The Chair queried whether risks though the Integration Joint Board Risk Register were being tracked and whether that was something that would happen automatically.

Stephen Brown confirmed that there was an alignment of risk registers so where something was added to a risk register through any of the committees, consideration was routinely given as to whether it needed to feature on the other risk register.

The Board scrutinised the Minute of the Meeting of the Joint Clinical and Care Governance Committee held on 2 December 2024 and took assurance.

9. Strategic Planning Group

There had been previously circulated the unapproved Minute of the Meeting of the Strategic Planning Group held on 29 November 2024, to enable the Board to seek assurance.

Issy Grieve, Chair of the Strategic Planning Group, presented the unapproved Minute which, she confirmed, had been approved at the subsequent meeting held on 25 January 2025. She continued that the focus for the meeting had been the priorities for the new Strategic Plan 2025 to 2028 and identifying any gaps around the priorities that had come forward from the engagement exercises with various groups that had been held across Orkney. She continued that it had been hoped that when the Strategic Planning Group met in January 2025, a draft Plan would be ready for distribution but due to various reasons that target had not been met. She confirmed that it had been a very engaging meeting in January with a great deal of discussion from all partner organisation focused on the delivery of milestones.

Shaun Hourston-Wells commented that one section he was concerned about was the priority regarding supporting older or vulnerable people to stay in their own home. He continued that there was a commitment from various individuals to work together to give some content for that section which he was still to receive.

Dr Louise Wilson commented that NHS Orkney were currently finalising its Annual Delivery Plan and confirmed that there was a real desire across the organisation to ensure that, where appropriate, the same indicators could be used to provide focus across the whole system. She continued that work was progressing on all the indicators which she thought would also be shared through the Strategic Planning Group.

The Board scrutinised the Minute of the Meeting of the Strategic Planning Group held on 28 November 2024 and took assurance.

10. Revenue Expenditure Monitoring

There had been previously circulated a report presenting the revenue expenditure position as at 30 December 2024, for scrutiny.

Stephen Brown highlighted the following:

- There was currently an overspend of just over £2 million on the Orkney Islands Council commissioned services, a good proportion of which related to the additional costs incurred via the use of agency staff.
- There was a significant overspend in relation to adults in placements out of Orkney.
- NHS Orkney was essentially on track regarding the plan that had been agreed with the Scottish Government.
- The significant overspend of just over £1.3 million on set aside services which were those services that were predominately operated within the hospital.
- The projected full year variance on commissioned services for NHS Orkney was sitting at just over £1.1 million.
- If the set aside arrangements that had been negotiated with Scottish Government were removed, there would be a slight underspend in the operational budgets.

Following a query from Councillor Lindsay Hall regarding the underspend highlighted at section 4.6.1 of the report, Keren Somerville confirmed that there had been a number of elements within Primary Care services that had not been detailed as they were not significant so had not been highlighted.

John Daniels reassured members that at this stage the underspend as described was accurate for the period. He continued that he thought it should be looked at in the context of the overall budget for delegated primary care services which was £14.6 million, so the budget was, overall, on track for the year end. He continued that there were significant vacancies in the public dental service which was driving the underspend and the overspend was directly linked to the Board. He confirmed that there was significant work underway within NHS Orkney to better understand and align budgets in light of wide-ranging changes across Primary Care services. He confirmed that he hoped to bring a more detailed summary to the next meeting of the Integration Joint Board.

Following a further query from Councillor Lindsay Hall regarding the underspend against Mental Health detailed at section 4.8, Lynda Bradford confirmed that this was due to a couple of vacant posts which they had been unable to recruit to.

Joanna Kenny queried whether the recruitment campaign for foster carers would now begin following the Fostering and Adoption Allowance report which had recently gone through the Council's Policy and Resources Committee. Darren Morrow confirmed that this would be the case.

In response to a question from Dr Louise Wilson regarding the Set Aside Services year to date overspend which was £1,328K with the full year overspend projected to be £1,767K, she commented that it was unusual that a year-to-date budget was greater than the entire annual budget. Erik Knight confirmed that as it was coming towards the end of the financial year, there would be fluctuations but thought this would be a profiling issue. He confirmed that he could provide further clarity outwith the meeting if required.

Following a further query from Joanna Kenny, Erik Knight confirmed that during the first half of the year, payments to partners in the third sector were paid promptly. During the second half of the year, he confirmed that the payments were a little bit more erratic. He confirmed that he would get a member of the Accountancy Team to investigate the payments to the third sector and make sure they were up to date.

The Chair confirmed that she would be keen for an update on that matter once it was clearer.

The Integration Joint Board thereafter noted:

10.1. The financial position of the Orkney Health and Social Care Partnership as at 31 December 2024, as follows:

- A current overspend of £2,045k in relation to Orkney Islands Council commissioned services, which was an adverse movement of £475k on the Quarter 2 position.
- The position in relation to NHS Orkney commissioned services was on track with the plan agreed with Scottish Government and NHS Orkney, with a current overspend of £471k.
- There was a current overspend of £1,328k on Set Aside Services but that too was in line with the financial plan agreed with Scottish Government.
- The full year projected variance on delegated services was £4,198k, comprising overspends of £3,089k on Orkney Islands Council commissioned services and £1,109k on NHS Orkney commissioned services.

10.2. The balance within the earmarked reserves/holding account of £2,917k, as detailed in Annex 1 to the report circulated.

10.3. Orkney Islands Council's proposed financial recovery plan actions, detailed in Annex 2 to the report circulated, which aimed to deliver further reductions in spend to improve the year end projection to a position that was closer to balancing the budget, but not a balanced position.

11. Climate Change Duties

There had been previously circulated a report presenting the Climate Change Duties Report submitted to the Scottish Government, for information.

Shaun Hourston-Wells highlighted the following:

- The Climate Change Duties report, attached as Appendix 1 to the report circulated, covered the reporting period 1 January to 31 December 2023. Whilst this differed to the reporting period of both NHS Orkney and Orkney Islands Council, all previous iterations of the report covered the calendar year.
- Almost the entirety of the report related to policies and emissions associated with the employment of staff, ownership and occupation of buildings, plant and vehicles and the delivery of services. The content of the report, therefore, was very limited which the Scottish Government recognised in the Guidance issued to health and social care partnerships.

- The Integration Joint Board had included the governance information in previous iterations of the report and advised last year that the interests of the Integration Joint Board would be presented to Orkney Islands Council's Officers Group.
- Details of Orkney Islands Council's report on Climate Change Duties approved by the Policy and Resources Committee on 26 November 2024 were outlined in section 5 of the report circulated.
- Details of NHS Orkney's report on Climate Change Duties were outlined in section 6 of the report circulated.

Rona Gold commented that she was pleased that the Integration Joint Board had previously asked the Scottish Government why there was a need to produce a separate Climate Change Report when both organisations were already producing comprehensive plans. She appreciated that there had been a response outlining the reasons why, although she was still unclear on the reasoning.

Following a query from Rona Gold regarding the possibility of having a checklist at the end of reports that indicated, for example, whether the report related to climate change, Stephen Brown confirmed that it was for the Integration Joint Board to determine the templates for reports, so going forward adapting the template to include that information could be done.

The Chair commented that the Integration Joint Board had written twice to the Scottish Government regarding the need to produce a separate report and had not received a substantial response, so she therefore suggested Stephen Brown write again asking:

- What the Scottish Government expected of Integration Joint Boards in reviewing and reporting the climate change information.
- How the information was expected to guide, for example, service redesign.
- How the Integration Joint Board was expected to use the information.

Members agreed with this suggestion.

Stephen Brown commented that he would write to the Scottish Government if that was the wish of the Board. He continued that his own perception was that the sole reason that the Integration Joint Board had been asked to produce the report on an annual basis was that the Integration Joint Board was a public body and all public bodies were expected to get behind the climate change agenda. He continued that at one of the upcoming Development Sessions, a Scottish Government colleague be asked to attend for a discussion regarding what was happening elsewhere and what the Board should be doing to have better oversight in the integrated space.

The Chair concluded that this would be left with officers to action.

The Integration Joint Board thereafter noted:

11.1. The Orkney Integration Joint Board Public Sector Report on Compliance with Climate Change Duties for 2023, attached as Appendix 1 to the report circulated, which had been submitted to the Scottish Government by the deadline of 30 November 2024.

11.2. Analysis of Orkney Islands Council and NHS Orkney's Climate Change Duties Reports, as detailed in sections 5 and 6 of the report circulated.

12. National Care Service – Update

There had been previously circulated a report presenting an update on the latest developments relating to the National Care Service Bill, for information.

Stephen Brown highlighted the following:

- The Ministerial Announcement made in Parliament on 23 January 2025, where it was announced that Part 1 of the National Care Service Bill would be removed.
- The Minister announced her intention to establish a non-statutory National Care Service Advisory Board, membership of which would include:
 - o People who access and deliver support.
 - o Trade unions.
 - o NHS leadership.
 - o Local councils.
 - o Integration Joint Boards.
 - o The third sector.
 - o Scottish Government representatives.
- The Advisory Board's aspiration would include ensuring that people with experience of accessing care or being a carer had a strong voice on the Advisory Board and that their interests were at the heart of the Board's work.
- The Minister's intention was that the Advisory Board would develop a Support and Improvement Framework. Where agreed standards were not being met, the Framework would offer progressive and targeted support to those areas to help improve them.
- The Advisory Board would advise on how Ministers might use their existing powers of guidance, direction and funding in cases where agreed standards were still not met after support had been offered.
- There would be scope for the Advisory Board to advise Ministers about national priorities for integrated health and social care services, which could include:
 - o Delivery of the National Carers Strategy.
 - o Improving support for the workforce and advancing Fair Work.
 - o Delivery of Self-Directed Support.
- It was the Minister's intention to have the National Care Service Advisory Board established and hold its initial meeting by the end of March 2025.
- Although Part 1 of the Bill had been removed, Parts 2 and 3 remained and included legislation to govern the following areas:
 - o Anne's Law.
 - o Ethical Commissioning.
 - o Independent Advocacy.
 - o Right to breaks for Carers.

- o Information Sharing.
- o The establishment of a National Social Work Agency.
- There had been almost universal agreement across Scotland relating to the sections of the Bill outlined above, however, there remained some concerns particularly relating to the funding of some elements.

Following a query from the Chair regarding section 7 of the report, Stephen Brown confirmed that he thought the National Care Service would remain on the risk register but the narrative around the risk would be updated to reflect the changes.

The Integration Joint Board thereafter noted the implications of the Ministerial announcement on 23 January 2025 regarding removal of Part 1 of the National Care Service Bill, as outlined in section 4 of the report circulated.

13. Joint Inspection of Adult Support and Protection – Progress Review

There had been previously circulated a report presenting the Joint Inspection of Adult Support and Protection Progress Review, for scrutiny.

Lynda Bradford highlighted the following:

- The overview of progress made in Orkney was summarised at paragraph 4.3 of the report circulated.
- The Progress Review detailed a number of strengths which were detailed at paragraph 4.4 of the report circulated.
- The Progress Review also detailed some improvements outwith the areas previously identified as priority areas for improvements which were detailed at paragraph 4.5 of the report circulated.
- That the Care Inspection had recently published a multi-agency quality improvement framework which would be considered for use in Orkney.

Councillor Lindsay Hall commented that he was extremely pleased to see that in every priority area significant progress had been made.

Issy Grieve commented that she would like to reiterate her thanks to the team and recognise their hard work to have achieved what had been achieved in a short period of time.

Councillor Jean Stevenson commented that it showed what could be done when proper procedures and processes were in place, as well as with good communication between everyone concerned.

The Chair also thanked all concerned commenting that it was sometimes easy when reading such reports to underestimate the amount of work that went into something like this. She further commented that it was excellent to see what had been achieved in a short period of time.

The Integration Joint Board thereafter noted:

13.1. That, between October and April 2023, the Care Inspectorate led a joint inspection which reviewed processes and systems to ensure that adults at risk of harm in Orkney were safe, protected and supported.

13.2. That, between October and December 2024, Orkney Partnership underwent a progress review to enable the inspection team to gain assurance over progress with areas of improvement identified from initial inspection in 2023.

13.3. That, on 28 January 2025, the Care Inspectorate published its review of progress report in respect of the joint inspection of adult support and protection, attached as Appendix 1 to the report circulated.

13.4. The key highlights arising from the progress review, summarised in section 4 of the report circulated.

14. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The Board noted:

14.1. That the next meeting would be held on Wednesday, 30 April 2025 at 09:30 in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Kirkwall.

14.2. The following meeting dates for 2025:

- 2 July 2025.
- 3 September 2025.
- 5 November 2025.

15. Exclusion of Public

On the motion of Councillor Rachael King, seconded by Issy Grieve, the Board agreed that the public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting as the business to be considered involved the disclosure of exempt information of the classes described in the relevant paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 as amended.

16. Daisy Villa General Practice, St Margaret's Hope

Under section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, the public had been excluded from the meeting for this item on the grounds that it involved the disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 8 and 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

Dr Kirsty Cole declared an interest in this item, her connection being that she was a General Practitioner with another medical practice provider, and left the meeting at this point.

There had been previously circulated a report presenting an update on developments relating to the Daisy Villa General Practice.

The Integration Joint Board noted the update on developments relating to the Daisy Villa General Practice.

The above constitutes the summary of the Minute in terms of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 section 50C(2) as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985.

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17. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting concluded at 12:08.