



Western Isles Joint Integration Board

Risk Appetite Statement 2023

Health & Social Care systems are one of the most complex organisations. Risk is ever present across and throughout our systems, services and care delivery. Many strategic and operational decisions are underpinned by risk assessment, identifying action, management and reduction. It is important for the Integration Joint Board to be explicit about its approach to, and tolerance of risk, i.e. its Risk Appetite.

The Integration Joint Board, as a strategic ethical commissioning body for Health and Social Care services, seeks to operate within a low overall risk range. As an organisation we place the safety of those using our services as our highest priority, and will not accept known, unmanaged risks that materially impact negatively on those using or providing services.

Our lowest risk appetite relates to patients, clients and staff safety, and compliance requirements. This means that colleagues across the Health and Social Care Partnership are expected to pro-actively consider current available evidence and take action(s) to reduce to reasonably practicable levels, identified risks that originate from or are present within current or planned care and treatment systems, options, equipment, and environment.

We have a marginally higher risk appetite towards delivery of the boards corporate responsibilities, including strategies, finance and population health improvement, the impact(s) of which may be longer term.

Our highest risk appetite as a strategic board relates to the pursuit of innovation in new models of integrated care delivery and the introduction of digital technology including AI (artificial Intelligence), where significant positive gains in terms of positive experience and outcomes are established, or can be anticipated, within the constraints of the regulatory environment and authorised limits.



The IJB and all colleagues within the Health and Social Care Partnership are required to work within our established risk management, reporting and escalation systems, and are expected at all levels, to proactively identify, assess, manage, mitigate, remove or escalate risk on an ongoing basis.

During major incidents that place the service(s) locally and or nationally on an emergency footing the Integration Joint Board accepts the fluid, escalating and rapidly changing nature of such events, decisions will be taken and recorded in the face of presenting situation, available information, resource availability and real time risk-based prioritisation.

Nick Fayers
Chief Officer
Integration Joint Board
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