

CÙRAM IS SLAINTE NAN EILEAN SIAR

INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD



Meeting date: 20 March 2025
Item: 5.1
Title: Chief Officer Update
Responsible Officer: Chief Officer
Report Author: Chief Officer

1 Purpose

This is presented to the Integration Joint Board (IJB) for:

- Awareness

This report relates to a:

- National Policy
- Funding mechanisms
- Commissioning arrangements

Competence:

- There are no legal, financial or other constraints associated with the report.

2 Report summary

2.1 Situation

This report replaces the Chief Officer verbal update to the Board and provides information on key national and local developments that have a material interest for the IJB as a Public Body. The update reflects engagement with a number of Strategic partners, namely Scottish Government ministers and officials, COSLA, NHS Scotland and Health and Social Care Scotland (Chief Officers Professional Body).

2.2 Background

The context for this update focuses on the financial forward look, engagement with Cabinet Secretary and the output from the recently published Audit Scotland Finance Bulletin (March 06 2025).

The Financial Bulletin alongside the accompanying bulletin outlines the precarious position facing IJBs in Scotland and builds on the work of [IJB Finance and Performance report 2024](#) published last year. The accompanying [The IJB Finance Bulletin tool](#) is a helpful

resource contrasting the budgetary position for all Integration Authorities and should be viewed as a useful tool to help inform budget setting alongside the development of Commissioning Plans and Directions for 2025-26. The Board should note the Integration Joint Boards' Finance Bulletin 2023/24, specifically Exhibit 6 shows that Eilean Siar has the largest funding gap as a proportion of net cost of services.

Given the challenging nature of finances, alongside escalating costs and increasing demand for services Health and Social Care Scotland (HSCS) undertook a comprehensive review of finances across Scotland. The review indicated that there is a financial gap of £564.2 million across Scotland just to stand still. HSCS alongside IJB Chairs/Vice Chairs met with Cabinet Secretary (March 04 2025) to present the findings and agree an engagement plan going forwards.

Inevitably, this work requires IJB across Scotland to make difficult decisions with regard to commissioned services which have a direct impact of the communities we serve.

2.3 Assessment

As the IJB approached budget setting for 25-26 careful consideration will need to be given to strategic commissioning within the financial resources available. Our local position sees reserves being depleted at a time where the demand for services continues to grow as a direct result of our ageing demographic and the associated co-morbidities and polypharmacy.

Building on the most recent development session focusing on ethical commissioning the Board will be supported in key decisions with regard to commissioning and ensure that this links directly to outcomes within the financial resource available.

2.3.1 Quality/ Patient Care

The report has no direct impact on quality of care (and services).

2.3.2 Workforce

No direct impact on the workforce including resources, staff health and wellbeing.

2.3.3 Financial

No financial impact

Accountants Name	Signature

Comment from the Chief Finance Officer:
No requirement for sign-off

2.3.4 Risk Assessment/Management

Strategic Risk Register defines risks to the IJB.

2.3.5 Equality and Diversity, including health inequalities

State how this supports the Public Sector Equality Duty, Fairer Scotland Duty, and the Board's Equalities Outcomes.

An impact assessment has not been completed because it is not required.

2.3.6 Climate Emergency and Sustainability Development

State how this report will support or impact on the Scottish Government's policy on Global Climate Emergency and Sustainability Development DL(2021)38.

No direct impact on sustainability

2.3.7 Other impacts

Not applicable

2.3.8 Communication, involvement, engagement and consultation

The Board has carried out its duties to involve and engage external stakeholders where appropriate:

No requirement to engage or communicate with stakeholders.

2.3.9 Route to the Meeting

This has been previously considered by the following groups as part of its development. The groups have either supported the content, or their feedback has informed the development of the content presented in this report.

IJB Board, standing item

2.4 Recommendation

Awareness – For Members' information only.

3 List of appendices

The following appendices are included with this report:

Appendices

1. HSCS Financial Outlook
2. Cabinet Secretary Correspondence
3. Audit Scotland Finance Bulletin