

CÙRAM IS SLÀINTE NAN EILEAN SIAR

INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD



Meeting date: 19 June 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:

- Update to national financial forecast (including prescribing)
- Interim National Advisory Board
- Programme for Government
- Notice of Integration Scheme – Consultation

National HSCP Financial outlook

Following on from my update in March in which I shared the financial forecast for IJBs for 2025-26. The forecast was based on the financial position as projected (March 2025). Following the early projection further work has been undertaken nationally by IJB Chief Finance Officers which has given rise to a revised projection of an overall deficit of £497.5m set against a backdrop of diminishing reserves.

Given the gravity of the situation HSC Scotland has engaged directly with Cabinet Secretary, Ministers alongside key strategic partners with the aim of providing clarity and transparency of IJB finances and opening dialogue with regard to potential strategic choices and options.

Appended to this report is:

- Letter to Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care (21.05.25)
- Slide decks focusing on prescribing and revised financial forecast discussed with Minister (Prescribing 03.04.25 / IJB revised financial outturn 05.06.25)

Given the challenging nature of finances locally, particularly the depletion of reserves and the financial forecast for 2026-27 indicating a £5.3 million deficit, the IJB will be required to develop a sustainable financial strategy that is reflected in decisions on commissioned services going forwards.

NCS Advisory Board

Scottish Government has recently established an interim NCS Advisory Board. Whilst the current arrangements are for interim board, plans are to be developed for a full board through a fair appointment process.

The Board has a remit to:

- Advise Scottish Ministers, local councils, health boards and IJB's on improving delivery of social care support services, social work services and community health services
- Supports evidence-based, human rights-led service design
- Help shape policy and funding decisions

The early work of the Advisory Board is to focus on the production of National Care Service (NCS) Charter of Rights by February 2026.

Whilst the Board is initially established on an interim basis, during the early months, a fair and open appointments process will recruit an independent chair and individual members for the full Board to continue the work of the interim Board. The full Board will also include some members who have been nominated by organisations involved in the delivery of integrated health and social care services.

The current membership of the Board is included in the appendices of this report.

Programme for Government

The Programme for Government (PfG) was published on May 6th 2025. The programme focus on: eradicating child poverty, growing the economy, tackling the climate emergency, delivering high quality and sustainable public services.

Within the important work on delivering high quality sustainable public services there is an important commitment for the Western Isles, namely the development of the Barra and Vatersay Community Campus, a partnership between NHS WI, CnES and Scottish Futures Trust

([Programme for Government 2025 to 2026 - gov.scot](https://gov.scot/Programme-for-Government-2025-to-2026))

Consultation – Integration Scheme

The Board approved the draft Integration Scheme in the last committee series. Legislation requires that the Scheme is published and is available for wider public consultation for a period of 6 weeks. A press release was published on June 6th inviting the community to feedback on the draft Scheme. The findings of the consultation will be reflected in the final draft for consideration by NHS WI Board and CnES Policy and Resources Committee.

The intention is to present the final draft to the IJB at the public series in September of this year before passing to Scottish Ministers for approval.

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. Revised HSCS financial outlook
2. Prescribing financial analysis (in connection with the above)
3. Correspondence to Cabinet Secretary
4. NCS Interim Board Membership