

Highland Council/NHS Highland Joint Monitoring Committee

Minutes of the Meeting of the Highland Council/NHS Highland Joint Monitoring Committee held in the offices of Highland Home Carers Ltd, 1 Highlander Way Inverness Retail and Business Park, Inverness, IV2 7GE, on 19 June 2024 at 10.30am.

Present:

Highland Council

Mr David Fraser (Vice Chair)
Mr Raymond Bremner
Mr Derek Brown
Mr Ron Gunn (for Mr A Christie) (remote)
Ms Fiona Duncan
Mr Ian Kyle
Mr Derek Loudon (remote)
Ms Fiona Malcolm
Mr Brian Porter

NHS Highland

Ms Sarah Compton-Bishop (Chair)
Dr Tim Allison
Mr Alex Anderson (remote)
Ms Louise Bussell
Ms Ann Clark
Ms Heledd Cooper
Ms Pam 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 Campbell Mair (Scottish Care - Care at Home)
Mr Ian McNamara (Highland Senior Citizen's Network)(remote)
Ms Hannah Eaton (for Dr Gaener Rodger) (Inspiring Young Voices) (remote)
Ms Mhairi Wylie (Highland Third Sector Interface)

Officers Present

Ms K Lackie, Assistant Chief Executive – People, Highland Council
Ms G Grant, Interim Head of Commissioning, NHS Highland (remote)
Ms R MacDonald, Depute Director Adult Social Care (Interim), NHS Highland
Mrs L Dunn, Joint Democratic Services Manager, Highland Council
Ms F MacBain, Senior Committee Officer, Highland Council

Other Highland Council Members Present

Mr Thomas MacLennan (remote)

Ms S Compton-Bishop in the Chair

1. Scheduled Change of Chair

Atharrachadh Cathraiche Clàraichte

The Committee **NOTED** that, as previously agreed, Ms Sarah Compton-Bishop, NHS Highland, would chair the Committee for the next 12 months, with Mr David Fraser, Highland Council, as Vice Chair.

Ms Compton-Bishop thanked Mr Fraser for his work as Chair over the previous 12 months.

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

Apologies were intimated on behalf of Mr Alasdair Christie, Ms Roisin Connolly, (Connecting Carers), Dr Gaenor Rodger (Inspiring Young Voices), and Mr Christopher Allan (Scottish Care Highland Branch Chair – Care Homes).

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

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Minutes Geàrr-chunntas

There had been circulated and **APPROVED** minutes of the meeting of the Joint Monitoring Committee held on 27 March 2024.

5. Care Home Collaboration and Outcomes Co-obrachadh agus Builean Dachaigh Cùraim

There had been circulated Report No JMC/06/24 by the Chief Officer, Highland Health and Social Care Partnership; Executive Nurse Director, NHS Highland; and Executive Chief Officer Health and Social Care & Chief Social Work Officer, the Highland Council.

Following a summary of the report and appendices, the following issues were raised during discussion:

- engagement should be undertaken where possible with care home activity co-ordinators, noting the value of such positive engagement experiences to residents of care homes;
- communication should be undertaken with the Scottish Government in relation to funding that had been agreed in March 2024, outlining the success of the funding and seeking an indication, by December 2024, of whether future similar funding would be forthcoming. In general, the lack of clarity and certainty about future funding was frustrating and made strategic planning challenging. This should also be communicated to the Scottish Government, and the importance of gathering useful evidence in support of recurring funding was emphasised. Attention was drawn to the reputational risks from being unable to continue delivering successful programmes, and it was queried how other support work was being demonstrated and evaluated, with reference to the recruitment challenges being faced and how these could be overcome in future. Attention was drawn to the care programme board and the development of a care home strategy, and to the Government's role in support of care homes;
- technology that enabled interaction between care home residents and their families should be rolled out, particularly in the current climate where the sustainability of smaller care homes was uncertain;
- attention was drawn to the usefulness of purchasing equipment which could be used for many years to provide services, especially when recruitment was proving challenging and vacancies were creating inadvertent savings;

- the importance of multi-generational activities, including in the community, was referenced and the Highland Council Assistant Chief Executive – People offered to investigate what activities were being undertaken in partnership between schools/pre-school centres and care homes. Other options for the future could be pursued through the Community Planning Partnership Board; and
- there were around 1800 care home beds in Highland, and only £700k of funding, and it was suggested the funding should be allocated at the level closest to service delivery. However, this had to be balanced with Scottish Government requirements to ensure future funding was forthcoming.

The Committee **NOTED** the report and the forward intentions as contained therein, and that Highland Council would investigate and report back on multigenerational activities being undertaken in partnership between schools/pre-school centres and care homes.

6. Integrated Children's Services Report

Aithisg Ùrachaidh Sheirbheisean Chloinne Amalaichte

There had been circulated Report No JMC/07/24 by the Chair of the Integrated Children's Services Planning Board.

During discussion, the following issues were raised:

- additional information was requested on KPIs and progress against targets, and this would be further considered at a development session. It was suggested this information should be presented at every meeting of the Committee;
- some issues on the risk register, particularly transitions, should be picked up as part of this report, and it was queried what the relationship was between monies such as the Child Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund and the risks outlined, and whether these funds could be used to accelerate outcomes. More clarity was sought on strategic golden threads, and the relationship between risk and budget ownership, all of which would be considered at a development session. Reference was made to a previous programme which had transitions as one of its outcomes and the Highland Council Head of Integration Adult Social Care offered to share the details of transitions pathways with Mhairi Wylie outwith the meeting;
- an update was sought and provided on NDAS (Neuro developmental assessment service), which was an active piece of work, and a more detailed update would be provided to the next meeting of the Committee. It was emphasised that looking at NDAS in isolation was not ideal;
- assurance was sought that positive feedback from the Vision 26 event would be spread geographically; and
- in relation to GIRFEC, the pre-requisite eLearning module was welcomed, and it was hoped that for any training undertaken, a benefit would be evidenced in outcomes and performance. It would be helpful if these activities were mapped out as part of development work to ensure they were productive, as part of a multi-agency approach. The challenges aligning a broad model like GIRFEC to individual needs was highlighted, as was the need for an appropriate triage system. It was important to ensure NDAS was the appropriate referral route for children, and to look at policies around the provision of additional support. It was suggested that multi-factoral

assessments should be built into the GIRFEC process, which should be viewed as a whole system approach.

Thereafter, 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** progress on KPIs and the reporting of other performance-related data be considered at a development session, including the alignment of risk and budget management;
- iv. **NOTED** that the Highland Council, Interim Head of Integration Adult Social Care would provide information on transitions pathways and responsibilities across the partnership to Ms Wylie outwith the meeting; and
- v. **AGREED** an update on NDAS (Neuro developmental assessment service) be provided to the next meeting of the Committee.

7. Adult Services Update Report

Cunntas às Ùr mu Sheirbheisean Inbheach

There had been circulated Report No JMC/08/24 by the Chief Officer, Highland Health and Social Care Partnership.

During discussion, the following issues were raised:

- concerns were expressed that Self Directed Support (SDS) Option 1 was generally viewed in a positive manner, and attention was drawn to some of the workforce-related concerns, including for unregulated, unsupported types of work. There should be as much of a focus on workforce as on the people receiving services;
- it would be helpful if 'unmet' need was defined along similar lines as NHS waiting lists, including both numbers waiting and wait times. A distinction was also made between assessed and unassessed need. Geographic and economic inequalities, as well as affordability, required consideration;
- noting that the strategy had been agreed in December 2023, it was important to have delivery timescales to work towards, with a focus on outcomes;
- Derek Loudon requested more specific information on SDS delivery staff shortages, including a breakdown by area and information on whether SDS usage was levelling off;
- Mhairi Whyllie queried the role of the Committee in relation to scrutiny of the reports and stated her intention to check the Committee's remit in this regard, with particular reference for the need for assurance around workforce, with it being the highest rated risk on the risk register;
- with increasing pressures, including cost pressures, on the care sector, there were concerns from the third sector on a lack of focus on prevention and on the third sector commissioning processes;
- a clearer understanding of the manifestation of risk at a district level would be helpful given the geographic size of north Highland;
- it was suggested that SDS was being managed differently for children's versus for adults' services, and it was important to consider how to maximise the benefits of SDS for all;

- it was pointed out that sudden care home closures were dealt with promptly yet the ongoing issue of waiting lists for care home places did not appear to be being tackled with the same efficiency. The reasons for this were summarised, including the need to match risk and outcomes with resources and circumstances; and
- effort and energy should be put into areas where overall risk could be reduced.

Thereafter, the Committee:

- NOTED** the work undertaken in implementing the HHSCP Joint Strategic Plan and assurance performance information as supplied;
- AGREED** timescales for delivery of the Strategic Plan be reported to the next meeting of the Committee; and
- NOTED** that more specific information on SDS delivery staff shortages be provided to Mr Loudon, including a breakdown by area and information on whether SDS usage was levelling off.

8. Risk Register Report Aithisg Clàir Cunnairt

There had been circulated Report No JMC/09/24 by the Executive Chief Officer Health and Social Care & Chief Social Work Officer, The Highland Council and the Chief Officer, Highland Health and Social Care Partnership.

During discussion, the following issues were considered:

- more detail was required on how risk mitigation was progressing, and this would be further considered at a development session, as would the format and presentation of the risk register, with suggestions including three additional columns for target, progress and timescales, and to include a risk movement indicator;
- information was sought and provided on how risks were identified and why there had been no additions since December 2023;
- other areas queried as potential risks included the functioning of the partnership and lead agency model, the national care service, the risk of theft of data / cyber-attacks, a widening of Risk 8 (Care Home Viability). It was clarified that the individual organisations had separate risk registers which contained risks relevant to that organisation only. In relation to the care model and the lead agency arrangement, officers would be asked to review Risk 4;
- NHS Highland and the care sector had facilitated risk management sessions on risks around IT issues; and
- in relation to the risks associated with the freezing of capital for the Belford Hospital, it was clarified that this was on the NHS Highland Risk Register.

The Committee **NOTED** the report, that Risk 4 would be reviewed by officers, and that other feedback on the risk register, including presentation, be considered at a development session.

9. Highland Health & Social Care Partnership Finance Reports
Aithisgean Ionmhais 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/10/24 by the Director of Finance, NHS Highland.

In response to a query about when the formal integration offers would be agreed, this being worked on at present, with a final decision likely in the coming weeks. The removal of uncertainty around the integration agreement would be welcomed and consideration should be given to including this on the risk register. With reference to the uncertainties, the impact on the non-statutory sector was queried, and the need to close the Adult Social Care budget gap was highlighted.

The Committee **NOTED** the draft financial position at the end of the 2023/2024 financial year.

b. Highland Council Finance Report
Aithisg Ionmhais Chomhairle na Gàidhealtachd

The Committee **NOTED** that no financial report for Children's Services was available for this meeting. Highland Council operated a quarterly financial reporting approach and the timing of the JMC meeting was ahead of a first Quarter 1 report for 2024/25 being available. A near final / Month 12 position for 2023/24 would be available by end June 2024 as part of the Council's annual accounts process, which fell later than the JMC meeting.

The meeting ended at 12.45pm