



Integration Joint Board Strategic Planning Delivery and Commissioning Committee

22nd July 2025

This Report relates to
Item 8 on the Agenda

Cancer and Palliative Care Updates

Paper presented by David Rowland

For Discussion

Author:	Kirsty Bell, Health and Social Care Programme Manager, kirsty.bell3@nhs.scot
Approved for Submission by:	Nicole Hamlet, Interim Chief Officer David Rowland, Director of Strategic Planning and Transformation
List of Background Papers:	https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/strategy-plan/2023/06/cancer-strategy-scotland-2023-2033/documents/cancer-strategy-scotland-2023-2033/cancer-strategy-scotland-2023-2033/govscot%3Adocument/cancer-strategy-scotland-2023-2033.pdf
Appendices:	N/A

1. Introduction

1.1 The Cancer Strategy for Scotland 2023–2033 outlines a ten-year vision to improve cancer survival rates and ensure equitable access to high-quality care across the country. Since its publication, several key areas of work have been initiated to implement the strategy's goals together with the development local improvement plan.

1.2 The Scottish Government's draft Palliative Care Strategy is titled "Palliative Care Matters for All" and covers the period 2025–2030. It was published in draft form in October 2024 and underwent public consultation until January 2025.

2. Recommendations

2.1 **The IJB Strategic Planning, Delivery and Commissioning (SPDC) Committee is asked to:**

- Take assurance that the local Cancer Improvement Plan is fully aligned with the strategic priorities and objectives outlined in the Cancer Strategy for Scotland 2023–2033
- Take assurance that progress is being made towards the development of a local Palliative Care Improvement Plan that reflects the structured and strategic approach of the Cancer Strategy for Scotland. Once the local plan is established, a further report will be presented to the Committee, accompanied by a Direction.

3. Background and Main Report

Cancer Strategy 2023 - 2033

3.1 The Cancer Strategy for Scotland 2023–2033 sets out a 10-year vision to improve cancer outcomes, survival, and the quality of care across the country. It was developed collaboratively with people affected by cancer and healthcare professionals.

3.2 The strategy is structured around **11 strategic ambitions**, each addressing a critical aspect of cancer care:

- **Preventing More Cancers**
Focus on reducing risk factors like smoking, alcohol, poor diet, and physical inactivity through public health initiatives.
- **Earlier and Faster Diagnosis**
Expand screening, improve access to diagnostics, and reduce waiting times to catch cancers at earlier, more treatable stages.
- **Best Preparation for Treatment ("Pre-Treatment")**
Ensure patients are physically and mentally prepared for treatment, including nutritional support and prehabilitation.
- **Safe, Realistic and Effective Treatment**
Deliver high-quality, evidence-based treatments tailored to individual needs, with a focus on safety and outcomes.
- **Excellent Care and Support After Treatment**
Provide holistic follow-up care, including rehabilitation, surveillance, and support for long-term effects.
- **Sustainable and Skilled Workforce**
Invest in training, recruitment, and retention to ensure a capable and resilient

cancer care workforce.

- **Person-Centred Care for All**
Embed the principles of compassion, personalisation, coordination, and enablement in every aspect of care.
- **Tackling Inequalities**
Address disparities in cancer incidence, access, and outcomes across different communities and regions.
- **Mental Health as Part of Basic Care**
Integrate mental health support throughout the cancer journey, recognising its importance to overall wellbeing.
- **Flourishing Research and Innovation**
Support cutting-edge research, clinical trials, and the adoption of innovative technologies and treatments.
- **Cancer Information and Intelligence-Led Services**
Use data and digital tools to improve service planning, delivery, and patient outcomes.

Local Cancer Improvement Plan

3.3 We have established a Cancer Steering Group comprising key stakeholders from across the system—including Public Health, General Practice, Psychology, Improving the Cancer Journey representatives, management and Consultants—to ensure a coordinated, multidisciplinary approach to our local Cancer Plan.

3.4 We have conducted a mapping exercise to localise our strategic aims, focusing on key areas including:

- Screening
- Rapid Cancer Diagnostic Centre
- Improving the Cancer Journey
- cancer clinical pathways
- prehabilitation
- psychology
- transport
- and a single point of contact

3.5 Our cancer work is guided by national direction from the Scottish Government, to whom we report directly.

Draft Palliative Care Strategy 2025 – 2030

3.6 The Scottish Government's draft Palliative Care Strategy is titled "Palliative Care Matters for All" and covers the period 2025–2030. It was published in draft form in October 2024 and underwent public consultation until January 2025.

3.7 **Vision:** To ensure that everyone in Scotland who needs palliative care can access timely, high-quality, and person-centred support, including care around dying and bereavement.

3.8 **Strategic Foundations:**

- Builds on previous frameworks such as *Living and Dying Well* (2008) and the *Strategic Framework for Action* (2015).
- Emphasises equity, dignity, and community involvement in palliative care.

3.9 **Core Themes:**

- **Access for All** – regardless of age, diagnosis, or location.
- **Person-Centred Care** – based on what matters most to individuals and families.
- **Integrated Services** – across health, social care, and third-sector organisations.
- **Support for Families and Carers** – including bereavement services.
- **Workforce Development** – training and support for staff delivering palliative care.
- **Data and Improvement** – using evidence to drive quality and accountability.

3.10 Development of a local Palliative Care Improvement Plan will be linked to the national strategic aims and driven by a Palliative Care steering group.

4. Conclusions

4.1 The Cancer Strategy for Scotland 2023–2033 sets out a national vision to improve cancer outcomes and ensure equitable access to care. In response, a local Cancer Improvement Plan has been developed, aligned with the strategy's priorities. Key areas of focus include screening, rapid diagnostics, clinical pathways, psychological support, prehabilitation, transport, and a single point of contact for patients.

4.2 Additionally, the Scottish Government's draft Palliative Care Strategy 2025–2030, *Palliative Care Matters for All*, is currently under review following public consultation. Work is underway to develop a local Palliative Care Improvement Plan that mirrors the structured approach of the national cancer strategy.

4.3 The IJB Strategic Planning, Delivery and Commissioning (SPDC) Committee is asked to note assurance that both plans are progressing in alignment with national direction, with further updates to follow

5. Resource Implications

5.1 Resource implications will be worked out at scheme level.

6. Impact on Integration Joint Board Outcomes, Priorities and Policy

6.1 A statement regarding how the subject links with/contributes to the National Health and Wellbeing Outcomes for Health and Social Care and how it aligns with the IJBs 7 Strategic Commissioning Intentions as set out on page 6 within the IJB Strategic Commissioning Plan 2022-2025

7. Legal and Risk Implications

7.1 A risk management approach will be taken at scheme level.

8. Consultation

8.1 Health and Social Care Leadership Group.

9. Equality Impact Assessment

9.1 An EQIA has been completed as part of the local cancer improvement plan.

9.2 An EQIA will be completed in the development of the local palliative care plan

10. Glossary

EQIA	Equalities Impact Assessment
IJB	Integration Joint Board
SPDC	Strategic Planning, Delivery and Commissioning