



Dumfries and Galloway
Integration Joint Board
Strategic Planning, Finance and Commissioning Committee

**Minute of Dumfries and Galloway Integration
Joint Board Strategic Planning, Finance and
Commissioning Committee meeting held on
2nd June 2026**

For Approval

Minute of the Dumfries and Galloway Integration Joint Board (IJB) Strategic Planning, Finance and Commissioning Committee held on Tuesday 2nd June 2026 at 2pm – 5pm via Microsoft Teams

Voting Members Present:

Kim Dams	(KD)	NHS Voting Member (Chair)
Ian Carruthers	(IC)	Local Authority Voting Member (Vice Chair)
Andy McFarlane	(AMcF)	Local Authority Voting Member
Linda Dorward	(LD)	Local Authority Voting Member
Maureen Johnstone	(MJ)	Local Authority Voting Member

Advisory Members Present:

Sean Barrett	(SB)	Interim Chief Finance Officer
Kirsty Bell	(KB)	Programme Manager
Rod Edgar	(RE)	Communication and Engagement Manager
Ann Farrell	(AF)	Local Authority Staff Side Representative
Nicola Hay	(NH)	Scottish Care Representative
Gareth Marr	(GM)	Chief Officer
David Rowland	(DR)	Director of Strategic Planning and Transformation
Alan Webb	(AWe)	Third Sector Representative
Valerie White	(VW)	Director of Public Health

Supporting Present:

Penny Halliday	(PH)	Independent Chair Alcohol and Drug Partnership
Mark Kelly	(MK)	Director of Nursing
Donna Maxwell	(DM)	Performance and Improvement Manager
Isabel McKnight	(IMcK)	Strategic Planning Group Chair
Caroline Ronaldson	(CR)	Head of Adult Social Care
Julie Watters	(JW)	Chief Internal Auditor

Apologies:

Grecy Bell	(GBe)	Registered Medical Practitioner
Greg Black	(GB)	NHS Voting Member
Richard Brodie	(RB)	Local Authority Voting Member
Ken Donaldson	(KD)	Medical Director
Viv Gration	(VG)	Deputy Head of Strategic Planning and Commissioning
Stephen Morgan	(SM)	Chief Social Work Officer
Amber Murray	(AM)	EA to Chief Officer / Admin Support
Jim Parker	(JP)	Unpaid Carer Representative

1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

Apologies were noted as above.

2. Declaration(s) of Interest

No declarations of interest were noted.

3. Draft Minutes of the Meeting of 3rd March 2026

Notes from the meeting on the 3rd March 2026 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

4. Action Plan and Rolling Agenda Matrix

All actions were updated prior to the committee, and will continue to be updated.

5. IJB Financial Plan and Budget 2026 / 2027

SB presented the IJB financial plan and budget for 2026 - 2027, outlining a challenging financial position with a combined deficit and the need for significant savings, committee members including KD, IC, AMF and GM discussed the implications, clarified details, and formally approved the NHS delegated budget.

The report will consolidate both budgets and outline the totality of resources available to the IJB for 2026-27.

- **Budget Overview and Deficit:** SB explained that the IJB is managing resources of approximately £323 million, but faces a combined underlying deficit of £22.5 million before savings, due to pressures from pay, inflation, service demand, and policy changes. The NHS delegated budget excludes Acute services and has a deficit of £15.5 million, with a savings programme identified but a residual gap remaining.
- **Savings Programme and Risks:** SB detailed that a savings programme of £5.8 million has been identified, but £1.6 million of further savings still need to be found. The delivery of these savings is critical and high risk, with savings spread across community health, social care, mental health, primary care, and strategic services.
- **Acute Services and Reserves:** AMcF queried the impact of the restructure on reserves, and SB clarified that Acute services will draw down some reserves during the year, and these will no longer be IJB reserves. GM added that some elements of Acute remain under the IJB via a set aside budget, and Nicole Hamlets team will manage these operationally.
- **Approval Process:** KD asked for confirmation from committee members to approve the NHS delegated part of the budget. Members including IC, MJ, AMcF, and KD confirmed approval, and SB noted that all relevant information was included in the paper.
- **Responsibility for Overspend:** IC sought reassurance regarding responsibility for overspend, and KD confirmed that each party the council and NHS is responsible for their respective budgets.

Decision(s)

Committee Members:

- Noted the NHS delegated budget financial and savings plan as set out in sections 3.20 to 3.24
- Approved the Financial Plan for 2026/27 as set out in this report and the current projected shortfall on the NHS delegated budget of £15.52m.
- Noted the delegated NHS budget of £198.69m as per section 3.21.
- Noted the allocation of a set-aside budget of £26.45m, in line with the amended integration scheme, as per section 3.23.
- Noted that delivery of the savings proposals will be undertaken through the Health and Social Care Partnership. This includes the requirement to achieve savings to reduce the in-year deficit and support delivery of the Financial Plan, alongside the significant risks associated with meeting the savings targets.
- Noted the totality of delegated resources, as per section 3.28, to the IJB and the associated financial recovery plan targets, as per section 3.29, to achieve a balanced budget in 2026/27.
- Noted the IJB holds reserves of £10.74m, which are fully committed.
- Agreed to receive quarterly financial updates at future meetings of this committee on progress against delivery of financial recovery plans.

6. Strategic Planning Group Update

IMcK provided a verbal update on the Strategic Planning Group, describing efforts to reset the group with new terms of reference, improved attendance, and a focus on planning and reporting; committee members including KD and IMcK discussed the need for better engagement and reporting, with IMcK requesting ongoing support from the Integration Joint Board.

- **Group Reset and Terms of Reference:** IMcK explained that the Strategic Planning Group has undergone a reset due to low attendance, with new terms of reference developed with support from H Green and DR. The group aims to shape integration, influence commissioning priorities, and focus on outcomes for people.
- **Attendance and Participation:** IMcK highlighted the issue of low attendance, noting that only 13 out of 40 people regularly joined meetings. The group has now been reduced to 30 nominated representatives, who will be contacted to encourage participation.
- **Reporting and Matrix Development:** IMcK stated that a matrix for planning and reporting will be discussed, aiming to clarify what should be reported to the strategic planning group and how it aligns with integration objectives.
- **Support from IJB Board:** KD asked if Isabel needed any support from the IJB board, and IMcK will reach out if needed, but currently is focusing on understanding local culture and reporting requirements.

7. Full IJB Direction Update

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on a proposed set of new IJB Directions and a proposal on IJB Local Outcomes for:

- consideration and feedback
- recommended approval into Integrated Joint Board on 23 June 2026.

DM presented the progress on developing new IJB directions, seeking feedback on proposed local outcomes; committee members including IC, KB, AMcF, VW, GM, RE, AW, and IMcK discussed the level of detail, data sharing, performance measures, and the need to strengthen outcome statements, resulting in actions to revise and clarify the directions before final approval.

- **Level of Detail in Directions:** IC questioned the high-level nature of the proposed directions, seeking clarification on how service delivery details are captured. KB explained that detailed plans and performance metrics sit beneath the high-level directions, and background information can be circulated.
- **Data Sharing and GDPR Compliance:** AMcF raised concerns about data sharing across partners and GDPR compliance. DM responded that arrangements for sharing data will be developed, including with commissioned and independent sector partners, and evidence of integrated delivery will be required.
- **Local Outcomes and National Indicators:** VW clarified that the four local outcome areas are additional to the nine national health and wellbeing outcomes, and DM confirmed that mapping work has been done to align the new directions with national outcomes.
- **Strengthening Outcome Statements:** VW suggested enhancing outcome statements to include engagement and co-production, and GM agreed to revise the wording to reflect community led design. AW and IMcK discussed the challenge of measuring person centred outcomes versus service performance, and KB noted the need to align with Audit Scotland integration indicators.
- **Approval in Principle and Next Steps:** KD confirmed that the committee approved the directions in principle, subject to suggested amendments, with DM to present the revised directions at the next IJB Committee meeting.

Decision(s)

Committee Members:

- **Discussed and provided feedback on the proposal for Local Outcomes for the new IJB Directions (Appendix 1).**
- **Approved a set of Local Outcomes for the new IJB Directions for consideration and approval on 23rd June 2026.**
- **Noted that work will continue over the next year with responsible Officers to identify local outputs across the proposed new IJB Directions.**

8. Complex Needs Plan Update

The Complex Needs Plan 2023 – 2026 was approved by the Integration Joint Board in September 2023 and set out the Health and Social Care Partnership's approach to supporting adults with learning disabilities and complex needs.

Since the approval of the Plan, the national Coming Home Report and subsequent Action Plan (2026) have been published. These set out clear expectation that individuals with learning disabilities and complex needs should live in their communities, with hospital care used only where clinically necessary and for the shortest possible time.

Caroline presented an update on the Complex Needs Plan in response to the National Coming Home Action Plan, emphasising the shift towards community-based support and the challenges of housing, workforce, and commissioning; committee members including KD, SB, AMcF, VW, MK, IC, GM, AW, and CR discussed financial implications, workforce

shortages, partnership development, risk management, and national governance, with actions to seek further information and develop a refreshed plan.

- **Shift to Community-Based Support:** CR explained that national expectations now require reduced reliance on hospital care and support for people with complex needs to live in their communities, necessitating whole system transformation and collaboration across health, social care, housing, and commissioning.
- **Financial and Workforce Challenges:** KD and SB discussed the significant financial implications, with Sean noting pressures on social care budgets and a £9.5 million overspend last year. AMcF highlighted workforce shortages among community providers, and VW described the establishment of a strategic housing group to strengthen partnerships.
- **Risk Management and Unintended Consequences:** MK expressed concern about potential unintended consequences, such as increased admissions, and emphasised the need for robust risk assessments. CR and AW discussed the limited national funding and the importance of sustainable community-led models.
- **National Governance and Oversight:** AW asked about the national oversight group referenced in the plan, and CR responded that the group has not yet met, with further details expected by the time the refreshed plan is presented. The committee requested more information on national governance and funding criteria.
- **Approval and Next Steps:** The committee endorsed the direction of travel towards community-based supports, noted the implications of the Coming Home Action Plan, and requested CR and SB to bring back further details and a final plan for approval in July.

Action: CR

Decision(s)

Committee Members:

- **Noted the significant implications of the Coming Home Action Plan for the HSCP**
- **Noted that a revised Complex Needs Plan is currently in development to reflect these national requirements**
- **Endorsed the proposed direction of travel, including the focus on community-based support, housing, workforce, and commissioning reform**
- **Noted that a finalised Complex Needs Plan will be presented to the IJB by the end of June 2026 for approval**

9. Quarterly Communication and Engagement Report

This paper provides information and assurance to the IJB Strategic Planning, Finance and Commissioning Committee about significant communications and engagement activities undertaken within the period from January to May 2026, presented within the context of work which has taken place before this period.

RE presented the quarterly Communication and Engagement activity report, highlighting expanded engagement efforts, the impact of the pre-election period, and notable initiatives such as the launch of MyCare.Scot and community involvement in naming the surgical robot; committee members including KD, DR, IMcK, and RE discussed positive community engagement, consultation fatigue, and the use of AI in analysing feedback.

- **Expanded Communication and Engagement:** RE explained that the report now covers both communication and engagement activities, with increased membership in the consultation and engagement working group and ongoing development of the participation and engagement strategy.
- **Impact of Pre-Election Period:** RE noted that the pre-election period limited communication activities, resulting in a soft launch for MyCare.Scot and delayed campaigns, but activities resumed post-election.
- **Community Initiatives and Positive Engagement:** RE described community involvement in naming the surgical robot, which received positive feedback, and David highlighted successful community engagement in redeveloping cottage hospital sites into health and social care hubs.
- **Consultation Fatigue and Use of AI:** IMc raised concerns about consultation fatigue, and Rod responded that proactive outreach and the use of AI for analysing qualitative feedback have improved engagement and reduced participant burden.
- **Social Media and Internal Communications:** RE reported growth in NHS Facebook followers and improvements in internal communications, with more frequent updates to accommodate increased material.

Decision(s)

Committee Members:

- **Noted the information presented within the paper on communication and engagement activity**

10. Alcohol and Drug Partnership Annual Performance Report 2024 / 2025

The purpose of this report is to update the IJB on Dumfries and Galloway Alcohol and Drug Partnership's activity and progress towards delivering the ADP Strategy.

VW, as vice chair, presented the Alcohol and Drug Partnership annual performance report in PH absence, outlining progress in performance reporting, challenges with drug-related deaths, new contracts, MAT standards implementation, and future strategy alignment; committee members noted the ongoing challenges and the need for timely reporting.

- **Performance Framework Development:** VW explained that the ADP has improved its performance reporting framework, with significant input from George Noakes, and the appendix represents a step forward in tracking progress.
- **Challenges and Drug-Related Deaths:** VW highlighted ongoing challenges, including a recent spike in suspected drug-related deaths in the west of the region, changes in drug supply and strength, and proactive communications in response.
- **MAT Standards and Buprenorphine Prescription:** VW also noted progress in MAT standards implementation, with Dumfries and Galloway leading in Buprenorphine prescription, an alternative to methadone that supports recovery for suitable individuals.
- **Residential Rehabilitation and Future Strategy:** The ADP has established a residential rehabilitation pathway and will update its strategy to align with new Scottish Government expectations, which may have financial impacts.

Timely Reporting Commitment: VW committed to ensuring that future annual reports are presented to the IJB in a more timely manner, and KD thanked VW for stepping in and providing the update.

Action: VW

Decision(s)

Committee Members:

- Took assurance that the ADP is following a Best Value approach to strategic planning and commissioning and has made good progress against its 3 year Delivery Plan.

11. Any Other Business

No AOCB was noted.

12. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of this Committee will be on Tuesday 1st September 2026 at 2pm – 5pm via Microsoft Teams