WORKING TOGETHER FOR THE FUTURE OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY
Health and Social Care

Minute of the Dumfries and Galloway Integration Joint Board (IJB) meeting held on Tuesday 24th March 2026 at 10am – 4pm in Seminar Room 4, Education Centre, DGRI

Voting Members Present:		
Kim Dams	**(KDa)**	NHS Voting Member ***(Chair)***
Ian Carruthers	**(IC)**	Local Authority Voting Member ***(Vice Chair)***
Greg Black	**(GB)**	NHS Voting Member ***(Virtual)***
Richard Brodie	**(RB)**	Local Authority Voting Member
Gwilym Gibbons	**(GG)**	NHS Voting Member
Maureen Johnstone	**(MJ)**	Local Authority Voting Member
Andy McFarlane	**(AMcF)**	Local Authority Voting Member
Vicky Keir	**(VK)**	NHS Voting Member
Advisory Members Present:		
Sean Barrett	**(SB)**	Chief Finance Officer
Grecy Bell	**(GBe)**	Registered Medical Practitioner (Primary Medical Services)
Rod Edgar	**(RE)**	Communication & Engagement Manager
Nicola Hay	**(NH)**	Scottish Care Representative
Mark Kelly	**(MK)**	Nurse Director
Jim Parker	**(JP)**	Unpaid Carer Representative
Alan Webb	**(AWe)**	Third Sector Representative
Valerie White	**(VW)**	Director of Public Health
In Attendance:		
Kirsty Bell	**(KB)**	Programme Manager / Governance Officer
Viv Gration	**(VG)**	Deputy Head of Strategic Planning and Commissioning
Donna Maxwell	**(DM)**	Performance and Improvement Manager - Commissioning and Contracts
Amber Murray	**(AM)**	EA to Chief Officer
Rebecca Scott	**(RS)**	Procurement Category Manager, D&G Council ***(Virtual)***
Apologies:		
Ken Donaldson	**(KD)**	Medical Director
Linda Dorward	**(LD)**	Local Authority Voting Member
Ann Farrell	**(AFa)**	Local Authority Staff Representative
Pam Jamieson	**(PJ)**	Workforce Director
Callum Macoll	**(CM)**	Staff Side Representative
Gareth Marr	**(GM)**	Chief Officer
Stephen Morgan	**(SM)**	Chief Social Work Officer
David Rowland	**(DR)**	Director of Strategic Planning and Transformation

1. WELCOME, APOLOGIES AND NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

Formal apologies were noted and formally documented as part of the minute of the meeting.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chair asked for Declarations of Interests where all members confirmed nothing to highlight.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minute of the meeting of the IJB held on 24th March 2026 were submitted for approval and agreed as a correct record, with no matters arising at today's meeting.

4. ACTION LIST / ROLLING AGENDA

AM went through the action plan and will update accordingly and highlighted the committee actions were also updated, and reminded members the importance to complete their Register of Interest by deadline provided.

5. PROCESS FOR APPOINTING CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

KB highlighted the Chief Finance Officer is jointly accountable to both the NHS Board and the Local Authority for the effective management, stewardship and governance of the integrated budget, ensuring that resources are deployed in line with the strategic priorities set out in the Integration Scheme.

In addition to financial accountability, the Chief Finance Officer plays a central role in supporting the delivery of integrated health and social care services by providing robust financial advice, oversight and assurance. This includes ensuring financial sustainability, compliance with statutory duties, and the alignment of financial planning with service delivery objectives. The Chief Finance Officer also contributes strategically to the development, implementation and delivery of the IJB's Strategic Plan, working collaboratively with partners to ensure that financial planning underpins service transformation and supports improved outcomes for local communities.

On 27th October 2025, Sean Barrett was appointed as the Interim Chief Finance Officer (Section 95 Officer) for the Integration Joint Board.

Representatives from both organisations met and the following process for prospective candidates was agreed:

- The position was advertised on 10th May 2026 with a closing date of 21st May 2026.
- Shortlisting Panel consisting of Chief Officer and Executive Director (Finance) of Dumfries and Galloway Council who met and agreed two candidates suitable for shortlisting.
- It is worth noting that one of the shortlisted candidates withdrew their application on 26th May 2026.
- Assessment Centre consisting of Professional Interview, Stakeholder Presentation and Real Time Scenario Exercise was held on the 28th May 2026.
- The candidate was allocated an overall score from the assessment centre activities which together with a group discussion by the Professional Interview panel determined whether the candidate was offered a final interview.

- One candidate was taken forward for final interviews which were held on the 29th May 2026.
- The interview panel consisted of Chair of the IJB, Chief Executive and Workforce Director or NHS Dumfries and Galloway and the Chief Executive of Dumfries and Galloway Council.
- All candidates were scored based on their performance at the interview. Following this process the Panel agreed to offer the position to Sean Barrett, Interim Chief Finance Officer subject to agreement by the IJB.

KB highlighted members were advised that Sean Barrett had been recommended following the recruitment process and approval was required to complete the formal appointment process.

Decision:

The Integration Joint Board:
- **Noted the process for appointing to the position of Chief Officer**

- **Approved the appointment of Sean Barrett as the preferred candidate for the permanent Chief Finance Officer post**

6. PROPOSED NEW INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD DIRECTIONS

DM introduced the final proposed suite of new IJB Directions, explaining that the revised approach significantly reduces the number of Directions and provides greater clarity regarding responsibilities, anticipated outcomes, assurance arrangements and reporting requirements. Members were advised that further work would be required during the first year of implementation to identify local outputs and performance measures and to align financial resources against each direction.

IJB Members welcomed the significant work undertaken to simplify and strengthen the Directions framework.

It is worth noting that we have drawn on the learning and experiences of other IJBs in shaping our approach to Directions, and we believe this model represents the right fit for Dumfries and Galloway IJB.

DM mentioned the key discussion points included:
- The importance of aligning reporting requirements with existing NHS Board and Local Authority performance reporting arrangements.
- Avoiding duplication and unnecessary bureaucracy.
- Ensuring the IJB continues to maintain sufficient oversight and assurance of delivery.
- Clarifying governance arrangements where Directions apply to one statutory partner but require Partnership working.
- Strengthening collaboration and cross-sector working within all Directions.
- Ensuring carers, people with lived experience and communities continue to influence delivery and reporting.
- Linking future work, including the Coming Home Report, to the new directions framework.

Members agreed that collaborative working should be more explicitly referenced throughout the Directions.

VW welcomed the revised framework but highlighted the importance of aligning reporting arrangements with existing reporting structures within both NHS Dumfries and Galloway and Dumfries and Galloway Local Authority. She expressed concern that the Partnership could inadvertently create multiple reporting streams and duplicate performance reporting requirements. VW stressed that while robust assurance was important, reporting requirements should not become overly bureaucratic and should support service improvement rather than create additional administrative roles.

Officers agreed that alignment with both partner organisations would be essential. It was confirmed that governance officers from NHS Dumfries and Galloway and Dumfries and Galloway Council would work together to ensure reporting arrangements were streamlined, proportionate and integrated with existing governance processes. An update would be provided to a future meeting on the proposed reporting approach.

Action: KB / DM

VW reiterated that the IJB had a responsibility to drive transformational change and therefore required meaningful information to demonstrate whether improvements were being achieved. Officers advised that the assurance framework would allow escalation of issues where performance concerns or significant risks emerged.

IC questioned whether there was a potential conflict between reducing reporting requirements and maintaining effective strategic oversight. He emphasised that the IJB should retain the ability to scrutinise performance, understand delivery issues and, where necessary, revisit or amend strategic decisions.

JP mentioned that feedback received from colleagues involved in the Carers Programme Boards had been generally positive regarding the revised Directions. He noted however that engagement with Carers continued to be challenging and highlighted examples from other parts of Scotland where dedicated carers' forums had provided valuable opportunities to gather feedback and influence service developments. JP stressed the importance of ensuring Carers' voices informed implementation and monitoring arrangements. KD agreed that meaningful involvement of carers and people with lived experience remained a priority and encouraged members to continue highlighting opportunities to strengthen these arrangements.

KD suggested that a standard collaboration statement could be incorporated across all Directions to reinforce expectations around joint working, partnership delivery and collective responsibility for outcomes. Officers agreed to consider this suggestion when finalising the revised directions.

AMcF commented that while the revised directions were clearer and easier to follow, there appeared to be recurring themes and terminology across several directions. He noted references to prevention, early intervention, community-based models of care and social supports were repeated throughout the framework. Whilst acknowledging these themes were fundamental to delivery, he cautioned that repetition could result in the Directions appearing formulaic and potentially dilute the focus on the distinct objectives of each individual direction.

Action: DM

All IJB Members supported the proposals subject to amendments discussed during the meeting and requested that the final version be circulated for information once updated.

Decision:

The Integration Joint Board:

- **Approved and issue the proposed new IJB Directions (Appendix 1) to both Parties.**

- **Assured that work will continue to allocate the budget to the proposed new IJB Directions.**

- **Assured that work will continue with responsible Officers to identify outputs, within the anticipated delivery section, across the new IJB Directions.**

- **Agreed to receive six monthly assurance reports on the delivery of new IJB Directions (subject to approval) with effect from December 2026 and annual report as per statutory requirement.**

- **Noted that all extant Directions relating to NHS Services (Appendix 2) are revoked and retained by the NHS Board.**

7. INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD COMMITTEE UPDATES

Papers were presented and shared prior to the committee highlighting the key points, confirming the next IJB Committee Assurance Day is 2nd June 2026.

a) **IJB Audit Risk and Governance** *(meeting 02.06.2026)* – MJ updated the key points discussed at the committee was:
   - Updated governance policies were reviewed and approved, KB confirmed all policies will be published on the DGHSCP Website w/c 29th June 2026.
   - Integration Scheme changes arising from revised voting arrangements were highlighted.
   - Council proposals to reduce voting membership arrangements to four Local Authority voting members and four NHS voting members were noted, full council will confirm the voting members following Full Council on Thursday 25th June 2026
   - Extended voting rights for carers, third sector representatives and lived experience representatives remain subject to national implementation from 1 September 2026.

   Members discussed:
   - The requirement to prepare locally for expanded voting rights.
   - The lack of national guidance and training support.
   - The need for local induction, support and governance arrangements.
   - Ensuring representatives feel confident exercising voting rights from September 2026.

   KB will arrange a meeting involving both Governance Officers, Third Sector and Carers Representatives to agree implementation arrangements for extended voting rights.

   Action: KB

b) **IJB Strategic Planning Finance & Commissioning** *(meeting 02.06.2026)* – Updated by Kim Dams where the major areas discussed was:
   - Approval of the IJB Financial Plan and Budget, which will be updated today in the IJB.
   - Progress with Strategic Planning Group reset arrangements.
   - Consideration of revised IJB Directions.
   - Review of the Complex Care Plan and Coming Home agenda.
   - Quarterly Engagement and Participation report considered.
   - Alcohol and Drug Partnership Annual Performance Report reviewed.

   Members highlighted:
   - The significant implications of the Coming Home Report, C Ronaldson is working on this and is part of the Action Plan for the committee and an update will be brought back.
   - Need for future gap analysis, financial assessment and risk review.

- The importance of integrating future reforms with the new Directions framework.

8. FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE – YEAR END 2025 / 2026

This report provides a comprehensive update on the financial performance of budgets delegated to the Integration Joint Board as at the end of financial year 2025 / 2026. It compares the position against the Financial Plan approved in June 2025 and highlights the scale of the financial challenge facing services delegated by both NHS and the Local Authority for this year end and for the Financial Year 2026 / 2027

SB noted:
- NHS Delegated Services overspend: £13.2m
- Local Authority Delegated Services overspend: £9.5m
- Combined overspend: £22.7m

SB confirmed the overspend is being addressed through partner support and recovery arrangements allowing a balanced year-end position for accounting purposes.

Members held a detailed discussion regarding:
- Long-term financial sustainability.
- Governance and accountability arrangements.
- Demand led pressures and workforce challenges.
- Ongoing savings requirements.
- Risks associated with reducing services without investing in prevention.
- Opportunities for transformational change through prevention and early intervention.
- The relationship between financial sustainability and the new Directions framework.
- The importance of wider community planning, third sector involvement and reform.

The Integration Joint Board acknowledged the substantial efforts of NHS and Council staff in managing significant financial pressures while continuing to deliver services safely.

IC expressed concern regarding the recurring nature of the financial challenges facing the Partnership and questioned how the IJB would achieve long term financial sustainability. IC sought clarification regarding governance arrangements, accountability for overspends, and mechanisms available should delegated budgets remain unsustainable. IC highlighted the need for the Board to give greater consideration to prevention and early intervention as part of future financial planning and requested that the discussion be progressed through future reporting and workshop activity rather than simply noted. Members agreed that prevention should form a stronger part of future Directions reporting and assurance arrangements.

DM will embed prevention and early intervention reporting within future Directions assurance reports, and include evidence of preventative activity and intended outcomes.

Action: DM

Workshop discussion on prevention, transformation and whole-system financial sustainability.

Action: SB / KD / GM

Decision:

The Integration Joint Board:
- **Noted the overspend of £13.2m and the reasons for this overspend relating to the services delegated by the NHS as per section 3.16.**
- **Noted the overspend of £9.5m and the reasons for this overspend relating to the services delegated by the Local Authority as per section 3.23.**

- **Noted that the IJB hold fully committed reserves of £10.7m as of 31st March 2026.**

- **Noted that a £13.2m payment was transferred from the NHS Board to the IJB. This includes additional financial support provided to the NHS by the Scottish Government for 2025 / 2026, forming part of the financial support package for Dumfries and Galloway NHS, as outlined in section 3.13.**

- **Noted that an additional payment of £9.5m has been requested from Dumfries and Galloway Council to support the year end overspend position in line with the Integration Scheme as per section 3.15.**

- **All numbers are draft subject to external audit scrutiny of the NHS, Council and IJB accounts.**

- **Noted the FY26/27 budget position and previously agreed savings plans from both funding partners as per sections 3.31 to 3.34.**

- **Approved the arrangements set out by the Local Authority for the application of the £2.8 Million being made available to support the IJB's approved Adult Social Care Savings Plan and to support the IJB to return the delegated Social Work budget back to a financially sustainable level as per sections 3.36 and 3.38.**

9. DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS 2025 / 2026

The Draft Annual Accounts for the IJB reflect the financial position which will be presented to the IJB at its meeting on the 23rd June 2026 reflecting a breakeven outturn position for the 2025/26 financial year after additional resource of £13.2m from the NHS Board and £9.498m from the Local Authority to reflect a combined overspend of £22.72m in the delegated budget.

SB reminded the IJB Members of statutory requirements to submit accounts for external audit and public inspection.

Decision:

The Integration Joint Board:

- **Approved the submission of the unaudited Draft Annual Accounts for the financial year ending 31st March 2025 which will be submitted to the external auditors for review and are subject to public consultation.**

10. COMMISSIONING: TOWARDS A STRATEGIC ALLIANCE

V Gration and R Scott joined the meeting to provide a presentation overview, which will be shared with these minutes.

Action: AM

VG mentioned at the IJB meeting on 16th December 2025, the Integration Joint Board agreed to progress to a Strategic Alliance commissioning model for third sector supports. To prepare for move to a Strategic Alliance a Public Social Partnership has been under development in Dumfries and Galloway from 1st April 2026 as the market engagement and service design stage of the procurement process.

The practical arrangements for progressing from a PSP to a Strategic Alliance, alongside the relevant policy context, local relevance, current procurement position, risks and an illustrative case study, are highlighted within the report.

This approach is a well-established and tested model within public service reform and strategic commissioning. Evidence indicates that, where supported by clear governance, proportionate procurement controls and appropriate assurance arrangements, it can be implemented and managed safely and effectively.

VG highlighted the potential benefits across:

For People
- More connected, coordinated support.
- Better outcomes.
- Greater community involvement.
- Reduced crisis intervention.

For Finance
- Better use of resources.
- Reduced duplication.
- Increased external investment.
- Shift from crisis response towards prevention.

For Services
- Greater collaboration between sectors.
- More place-based delivery.
- Stronger community-led approaches.
- Reduced waiting times and unnecessary service use.

Members agreed to continue development of Strategic Alliance and Public Social Partnership arrangements, and to provide future updates on PSP findings and proposed procurement approach.

Action: VG

Develop communication materials to explain the Strategic Alliance approach to wider stakeholders and communities.

Action: RE

IC queried whether existing procurement processes and framework requirements were preventing smaller providers and micro-enterprises from becoming involved in service delivery. IC referenced examples where organisations may struggle to access care-at-home contracts because of requirements to demonstrate previous service delivery experience before being able to enter frameworks.

IC concerns was that:
- Existing systems could inhibit innovation.
- Local providers and new entrants could be excluded.
- This might limit the Partnership's ability to develop community-based models of care.

RS agreed to take the issue away and explore whether there were opportunities to address barriers associated with procurement frameworks and SDS Option 2 arrangements.

Action: RS

Decision:

The Integration Joint Board:
- **Noted that a Public Social Partnership has been established in Dumfries and Galloway from 1 April 2026 as the market engagement and service design stage for third sector strategic alliance commissioning**

- **Noted that the PSP provides a structured mechanism through which communities, people with lived experience, Unpaid Carers and support provider partners can contribute to the testing and refinement of future service models**

- **Noted the procurement approach set out at section 3.6, including completed market engagement and due diligence, governance arrangements, and alignment with procurement legislation and local standing orders**

- **Noted that a further report on the preferred future commissioning route, resource implications, governance arrangements and evaluation framework will be presented when the subsequent Strategic Alliance is proposed**

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS DEEMED URGENT BY THE CHAIR DUE TO THE NEED FOR A DECISION

No AOCB was noted.

The next meeting of the Formal IJB is on Tuesday 22nd September 2026 at 10am in Seminar Room 4, Education Centre, DGRI