

## **INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD**

### **VIRTUAL MEETING - TEAMS, FRIDAY, 28TH JUNE, 2024**

#### **Integration Joint Board Members:**

Dr J Tomlinson (Chair), Councillor A Stirling (Vice-Chair), Councillor M Grant, Councillor D Keating, Councillor G Lang, Councillor S Logan, Joyce Duncan, Steven Lindsay (left prior to the determination of item 3 on the agenda), and Dr C Backwell.

#### **Integration Joint Board Non-Voting Members:**

F Culbert (Carer Representative), D Hekelaar (Third Sector Representative), I Kirk (UNISON Trade Union), K Grant (NHS Trade Union), L Jolly (Chief Social Work Officer), P Milliken (Chief Officer), C Smith (Chief Finance and Business Officer) and J Barnard (Nursing Lead Advisor).

**Officers:** L Cowie (Legal Service Manager – Aberdeenshire Council), Fiona Stewart (Principal Committee Officer – Aberdeenshire Council).

**Apologies:** Susan Webb, R Taylor, S Kinsey, P Bachoo and A Mutch.

### **1 Sederunt and Declaration of Members' Interests**

The Chair asked for Declarations of Interest. No interests were declared.

### **2 Public Sector Equality Duty**

In taking decisions on the undernoted items of business, the Committee **agreed**, in terms of Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010:-

- (1) To have due regard to the need to:-
  - (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
  - (b) advance equality and opportunity between those who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and
  - (c) foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it, and
- (2) to consider, where an Integrated Impact Assessment has been provided, its contents and to take those into consideration when reaching a decision.

### **3 Rationalisation of Residential Care Facilities - Outcome of Options Appraisal**

There had been circulated a report dated 18<sup>th</sup> June 2024 by the Chief Officer, asking the Integration Joint Board to consider outcomes of an options appraisal exercise relating to the rationalisation of residential care facilities.

The Board accepted requests to speak from the following groups/persons were invited into the meeting:

1. Meldrum, Bourtie and Daviot Community Council
2. Cllr Derek Ritchie
3. Cllr Andrew Hassan, and
4. Cllr Jenny Nicol

The Chief Officer introduced the report and thereafter the Board heard from each of the speakers, in turn.

Ms Chalmers, Secretary of Meldrum, Bourtie and Daviot Community Council expressed the concerns of the local community, reiterated that Westbank Care Home was an integral part of the community and asked that the care home should remain open to ensure that the residents were kept in the surroundings that they know.

Councillor Ritchie, as Local Member for Mid Formartine, highlighted the concerns of families over the proposals, the need for the care home to remain open as it was an integral part of the community, and the lack of communication with residents and their families over the proposed closure.

Cllr Ritchie urged the IJB to pay attention to the Planning and People Act, which had been updated recently and to the Gunning Principles. The Monitoring Officer confirmed that the Planning and People guidance did not apply in this case and that the powers given to the IJB to consult with users directly affected had been complied with.

Councillor Hassan referred to how much the community in Oldmeldrum valued the Westbank Care Home and the service it provides to some of the most vulnerable residents in the community and with an ageing demographic in Aberdeenshire there was an increasing demand for such a service.

Councillor Nicol referred to the need for meaningful consultation with residents and their families, the overwhelming community support for the care home and highlighted the loss of the existing respite facilities at the care home which helps to support up to 52 families in Aberdeenshire each year.

The Board then discussed the rationale and process for the options appraisal, the service perspective and the financial impact of closing the Westbank Care Home, the engagement process and what support would be available for residents, families and staff at the Care Home.

After discussion Joyce Duncan moved, seconded by Councillor Stirling that the Integration Joint Board approve the recommendations as set out in the report.

As an amendment, Councillor Logan, seconded by Councillor Grant moved that the Integration Joint Board approve recommendations one and two and change recommendation three to defer a final decision until 21 August 2024 whilst allowing officers to continue the work they have outlined.

The Members of the Integration Joint Board voted:

For the Motion:	(6)	Ms J Duncan, Councillor D Keating, Councillor G Lang, Dr J Tomlinson, Dr C Backwell, Councillor A Stirling.
For the amendment:	(2)	Councillor M Grant, Councillor S Logan.

It was noted that as Mr Steven Lindsay had unavoidably had to leave the meeting by this point, he was not in attendance and did not participate in the vote.

Thereafter, the Motion was carried and the Board:

- (1) Acknowledged the decision taken by the IJB at its meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024 to agree to the budget saving proposal to rationalise the number of residential care facilities for older people operated by the Aberdeenshire HSCP to ensure a fit for purpose, sustainable model for the future, with the proposal to close at least one care home and to continue to develop the strategic direction to maximise capacity across Aberdeenshire;
- (2) Considered the outcomes of the options appraisal exercise undertaken by the Aberdeenshire HSCP as noted at the IJB Meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024, including the Integrated Impact Assessment contained in Appendix 1; and
- (3) Agreed to direct Aberdeenshire Council to close Westbank Care Home this financial year to deliver the savings outlined in the report.