

INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD

**COUNCIL CHAMBER - WOODHILL HOUSE, WESTBURN ROAD, ABERDEEN, AB16
5GB, WEDNESDAY, 2ND JULY, 2025**

Integration Joint Board Members:

Dr J Tomlinson (Chair), Councillor A Stirling (Vice-Chair), Dr C Backwell, Councillor R Cassie, Ms J Duncan, Councillor M Grant, Councillor D Keating, Councillor G Lang, Mr S Lindsay and Professor S Paranjothy (substitute for Ms S Webb).

Integration Joint Board Non-Voting Members:

S Kinsey (Third Sector Representative), F Alderson (Third Sector Representative), V Brown (Third Sector Representative), C Wood (Carer Representative), J Howie (Deputy Interim Chief Social Work Officer), R Taylor (Primary Care Advisor), J Barnard (Nursing Lead Advisor), I Kirk (UNISON Trade Union), K Grant (NHS Trade Union) and L Jolly (Interim Chief Officer).

Officers: C Cameron, S Campbell, L Flockhart, T Gordon, L Gravener, G Milne, J Raine-Mitchell, A Pirrie, J Shaw (Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership); K Bond, L Cowie, R Meiklejohn, A McLeod (Aberdeenshire Council); E Black, D Lovie (NHS Grampian); C Smith (External Auditor).

Apologies: P Bachoo, A Mutch, S Webb.

Prior to the start of the meeting, the Chair made a number of announcements, as follows: he announced the resignation of Fiona Culbert as a Carer representative and expressed his gratitude for her contributions over the past 5 years. He advised that this was the final meeting for Susan Donald, Interim Chief Finance and Business Officer before her retirement, thanked her for her contribution. He welcomed Gillian Milne as Interim Chief Finance and Business Officer and Professor Shantini Paranjothy as the Interim Director of Public Health, who would take on the IJB NHS Grampian Member role following the departure of Susan Webb later in the month. In relation to the previous meeting, when the IJB was focussed on being able to support members of the public, the Chair advised that correspondence had been received from members of the public and that it was being progressed through the operational arrangements with oversight from the Chief Officer and her team.

1 Sederunt and Declaration of Members' Interests

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

2a 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.

2b Exempt Information

The Joint Board **agreed**, that under paragraphs 6 and 7 of the Categories of Exempt Information, found at Appendix 2 of the Standing Orders of the Integration Joint Board, the public and media representatives be excluded from the meeting for Item 15 of the business below, on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information of the classes described in the relevant paragraphs.

3 Minute of the Meeting of Integration Joint Board of 28 May 2025

There had been circulated and was **approved** as a correct record the Minute of the Meeting of the Integration Joint Board of 28 May 2025, subject to (1) the inclusion of Joyce Duncan in the list of Members in attendance; and (2) amendment to Items 11 and 14 to include a reference to the Board giving due regard to the Integrated Impact Assessments as part of the discussion of the items.

4 Integration Joint Board Action Log

There had been circulated and was **noted** a report by the Chief Officer providing updates on progress with actions which had still to be completed and advising when these were scheduled to be reported to the Integration Joint Board. The Chief Officer noted that the reference to the Equalities Mainstreaming and Progress Report target date should September 2025 and the ADHD assessment pathway report, initially planned for today's meeting would be deferred until September 2025 due to the need for further work. She also noted that an update on the Recovery Plan would be reported to the next meeting on 3 September 2025, as part of the financial update report.

5 Chief Officer's Report

There had been circulated a report by the Interim Chief Officer, providing an update of the ongoing work of the Health and Social Care Partnership, including (a) an update on NHS Grampian Strategic Change Board; (b) reference to the annual report on the Use of Special Urgency Powers in 2024-25; (c) notifying the interim appointment of Andrew Dick as Chief Social Work Officer during Leigh Jolly's tenure as Chief Officer, with Janine Howie taking the role of Deputy Interim Chief Social Work Officer; and (d) an update on the NHS Grampian General Practice Vision Programme.

By way of update, the Interim Chief Officer discussed the role and remit of the Strategic Change Board, emphasising the need for practical steps and realistic goals, advising that further updates would be provided to the IJB; she reported that there had been no use of special urgency powers in the last year; she noted that the GP Practice Vision Programme was progressing, with a focus on sustainability and addressing financial constraints and that the Strategic Change Board would oversee

the workstreams; and finally she highlighted some recent initiatives to support workforce wellbeing.

After discussion, the Integration Joint Board **noted** the updates provided.

6 2024-25 Unaudited Financial Outturn Position and 2025-2026 Financial Update Report

There had been circulated a report dated 20 June 2025 by the Interim Chief Officer, providing an update on the 2024/25 unaudited financial outcome position and the second financial update report for 2025/26. The report noted that the audit of the annual accounts would take place over the summer and the final audited Accounts would be brought to the IJB Audit Committee meeting on 3 December 2025.

The Interim Chief Finance and Business Officer introduced the report and noted two errors, namely that the date of the IJB Audit Committee referred to in paragraph 5.2 of the report should be December 2025, not 2024; and in Appendix 4b the year to date actuals reflected April 2025 instead of April and May 2025, and she indicated that the correct appendix would be circulated to Members after the meeting. She advised that the year-end position showed an over-budget position of £24.4 million, with a significant overspend in staffing costs and the three highest service areas of overspend related to older people care management, adult services and community care. A formal request would be required to both funding partners (Aberdeenshire Council and NHS Grampian) to ensure that an increase in funding in line with the Integration Scheme could achieve an overall balanced position as at 31 March 2025.

In respect of the current financial position for 2025/26, although a current underspend of £471,000 was noted, the 2025/26 forecast predicted a £506,000 over-budget position by year end, with a more reliable forecast expected after Quarter One data was available. The Interim Chief Finance and Business Officer highlighted the potential emerging budget pressures related to a small number of potentially very expensive care packages, and she proposed including this information in future financial updates to assist with the development of the medium-term financial strategy. In addition, the savings projects were expected to have a shortfall of £1.818 million, which may increase due to potential redundancy and voluntary severance costs associated with the in-house care at home and ARCH redesign project. It was also noted that the latest iteration of the Recovery Plan would be presented to the Board at the next meeting on 3 September 2025.

Members discussed the current predicted out-of-balance position and the likelihood of achieving savings and noted that it was too early to predict accurately until further work had been carried out. Some concerns were raised about the accuracy of staffing costs and the potential impact on the budget; also the feasibility of achieving the savings targets and the need to engage with funding partners. Members also discussed the financial challenges and the need for robust control mechanisms and accurate forecasting.

Thereafter, the Integration Joint Board **agreed** to:

- (1) note the unaudited financial outturn position for 2024-25 set out in Appendices 1 and 2 to the report;
- (2) note the budget reconciliation detailed in Appendix 3;

- (3) instruct the Chief Officer to formally request that NHS Grampian and Aberdeenshire Council fund the reported over budget position for the year ended 31 March 2025 as set out in paragraph 5.9 ;
- (4) note the financial position and forecast for 2025-26 based on the year-to-date budget and year to date actuals as at 31 May 2025 as set out in the Table at paragraph 6.3 and in Appendix 4;
- (5) note the virement in paragraph 6.5; and
- (6) note that further discussion would be undertaken at a future IJB development session and by the Budget Review Group to address the financial position and potential mitigations.

7 IJB Audit Committee Update

There had been circulated a report dated 20 June 2025 by the Interim Chief Officer which provided an update on key issues in relation to Audit which had been progressed since the last meeting of the IJB.

Councillor Grant, the Chair of the IJB Audit Committee provided an update on issues considered at recent meetings and highlighted the limited assurance opinion from the Chief Internal Auditor in respect of the IJB's audited annual accounts for 2024/25. He noted that the IJB Audit Committee had agreed to escalate the limited assurance finding to the IJB for further consideration, emphasising the need to focus on addressing significant risks and ensuring proper oversight and accountability within the IJB's operations. In addition, he provided a summary of a review of four internal audit reports reviewed by the Committee, including the IJB counter fraud, Very Sheltered Housing, Care Management System and Aberdeenshire Responders Care at Home. He highlighted the ongoing concerns about the Care Management System and the need for further details on the associated costs.

During discussion, Members commented on the need to ensure there was effective governance and learning from past audits. The importance of addressing major and severe risks and ensuring governance processes were in place to mitigate these risks was emphasised.

The Interim Chief Officer emphasised the importance of using the audit findings as an opportunity for a reset. She highlighted the need for the Risk and Assurance Group to be fit for purpose, ensuring proper reporting and scrutiny of risks identified in the Audit Committee. She also mentioned the necessity of a whole system change and learning from specific audits to improve the overall system.

Thereafter, the Integration Joint Board **agreed** to note the key points and findings in relation to audit matters, which gave rise to the Chief Internal Auditor's findings of limited assurance in relation to the opinion within the IJB Unaudited Annual Accounts for 2024-25, and noted that the IJB Audit Committee had agreed to escalate the issue to the full IJB for further consideration, which would be considered at a future date.

8 **Insch Hospital**

With reference to the Minute of the IJB of 1 June 2022 (Item 11) there had been circulated a report dated 20 June 2025 by the Interim Chief Officer which provided an update on work undertaken in relation to the future use of the Insch hospital building.

The Partnership Manager, Central introduced the report and provided an overview of the issues at Insch Hospital which had led to the mothballing of the hospital at the onset of the pandemic and its subsequent closure. Following a strategic review of service needs for residents of Insch and the surrounding area, and a report to the IJB in June 2022, it had been agreed to explore the creation of a well-being hub and additional clinical space within the hospital site, but progression of this had been impacted by staffing, finance and infrastructure challenges. Subsequently, consideration had been given by the Friends of Insch Hospital and community to pursuing a Community Asset Transfer for the hospital building and engagement with the Health and Social Care Partnership in relation to the development of a wellbeing hub had been paused while the option of a community asset transfer was explored. Subsequently, the Friends of Insch Hospital and Community had confirmed their wish to pursue a Community Asset Transfer and in order to enable this to happen, it had been confirmed that the IJB would require to declare the hospital building surplus.

The Partnership Manager noted that an IIA had been carried out as part of the development of the proposals, and it was noted that no negative impacts could be mitigated at this initial stage but impacts and mitigations would become clearer with planned engagement. She outlined the next stage of communication and engagement which would be required, including the formation of a Project Group to oversee the communication and engagement activities, the group to include representatives of the Friends of Insch Hospital and Community, the Community Council, the medical practice, NHS Grampian and Aberdeenshire Council's Garioch Area Management Team. A further report would be brought back to the IJB upon completion of the initial communication and engagement activities. It was noted that the Garioch Area Manager had offered to provide some project officer time to support the community in pursuing a Community Asset Transfer (CAT), despite the process being under NHS Grampian rather than the Council. This was welcomed, given the team's experience with community action planning and their willingness to work collaboratively with NHS Grampian, the community and the Health and Social Care Partnership.

During discussion Members suggested that lessons should be learned from the Insch experience for future community hospital reviews and there was an acknowledgement that the community's perception and experience over the past five years had been challenging, particularly due to the prolonged uncertainty and lack of progress. The Partnership Manager and Interim Chief Officer expressed a commitment to learning from past experiences and improving future engagement. They emphasised the importance of open and transparent communication and the need to rebuild trust with the community.

There was a suggestion that the Project Group overseeing the communication and engagement activity should have an independent Chair, potentially from the Community Council or Friends of Insch Hospital and Community, although no definitive decision was taken in this matter.

Thereafter, the Integration Joint Board **agreed:**

- (1) to note the work undertaken and the challenges in progressing recommendations approved in June 2022;
- (2) in order to progress towards declaring Inch Hospital surplus, to instruct officers to work with key stakeholders to undertake the initial communication and engagement activity with the community in relation to the disposal of the building, as advised by Healthcare Improvement Scotland;
- (3) for a further report to be presented to the IJB following completion of the communication and engagement work, which may include a recommendation to advise NHS Grampian that the IJB declares the building surplus, to enable NHS Grampian to support the community to progress a Community Asset Transfer for the Inch Hospital building; and
- (4) a timescale for the completion of the communication and engagement work of December 2025 for a further report back to the Integration Joint Board.

9 Strategic Community Hospital Review Update

With reference to the Minute of the IJB of 19 February 2025 (Item 3) there had been circulated a report dated 19 June 2025 by the Interim Chief Officer which referred to the decision of the IJB on 19 February 2025 to commence a review of the current community hospital network and activity across Aberdeenshire, aimed at ensuring that the community hospital provision was sustainable going forward.

The Partnership Manager, Central introduced the report and advised that officers had scoped what was required to undertake a rapid review of community hospital activity. She also advised that the review would focus on planning and investigation in collaboration with key stakeholders. She outlined the objectives of the review which aimed to (1) agree on an efficient model for community hospitals that support community healthcare services; (2) ensure the physical assets were sustainable and fit for purpose; (3) deliver community hospital services in a sustainable and consistent manner across Aberdeenshire; (4) address workforce requirements; (5) produce a clear strategy to support the delivery of community hospital services in the future.

She advised that an Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) accompanied the report which identified 18 negative impacts, of which 4 could be mitigated, 11 could not be mitigated satisfactorily at this time and mitigations for 3 impacts were presently unknown. The IIA would continue to be developed as the project progressed.

It was noted that the review would include comprehensive community engagement, aiming to involve all Aberdeenshire residents, not just those in towns with community hospitals, since people may access services in various ways. The project team was working with Friends groups and local stakeholders to identify suitable venues and ensure accessibility for engagement events. Staff engagement would also be prioritised with workforce sub-groups and surveys to gather input on how staff wish to be informed and involved. The engagement timeline for community events was planned from July to January, with details to be communicated once venues and formats were finalised.

During discussion, Members asked about the default use of community hospitals for discharge, the ambitious timeline for the planning phase and the ultimate decision-maker for the review. They also emphasised the need for whole-system buy-in, the

importance of the discharge process, the value of lived experience and the need for clear communication to avoid misconceptions about closures. The need for early engagement with stakeholders from acute services was highlighted and the importance of clear communication with staff and their involvement in the review process.

Thereafter, the Integration Joint Board **agreed**:

- (1) to approve the agreed approach to undertake Phase 1: Planning and investigation stage of the Community Hospital review in Aberdeenshire as instructed by the IJB on 19th February 2025; and
- (2) to agree that an initial report to the IJB on the progress of this review should be submitted to the first meeting in 2026, with any updates required prior to that meeting to be reported back through the Chief Officer's regular update report to the IJB.

10 Aberdeenshire Adult Carer Strategy 2025-2030

There had been circulated a report dated 16 June 2025 by the Interim Chief Officer, containing an updated Adult Carer Strategy for Aberdeenshire, as required by the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 which was implemented in 2018.

The Lead Social Worker introduced the report and advised that approval was being sought for wider public consultation on the draft strategy, which had been produced after a review of the previous strategy and was a continuation of the direction set by the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 and the previous Aberdeenshire Strategy (2018 to 2022). She confirmed that the development of the draft strategy had included an engagement and consultation period and thanks were given to those who had participated in the review, especially unpaid carers, and the draft aimed to accurately reflect the views received from carers and others during the consultation. She confirmed that a Delivery Plan would be developed following approval of the draft strategy and an annual report on progress would be provided to the IJB, detailing changes and whether the objectives had been achieved.

During discussion, Members commented on the length of the draft strategy and suggested that a more concise document with executive summary might improve engagement; that a comparison with the previous strategy to highlight changes would be helpful, which would help to see how feedback from the engagement process was incorporated into the new strategy. Some concerns were expressed about the flat cash budget and its impact on the strategy, and officers confirmed that the current spend was within budget and that the commitments of the strategy were covered by the allocation from the Scottish Government. There were some concerns raised about the provision of respite care and it was noted that the strategy focused on offering a variety of short breaks to meet carers' needs, rather than relying solely on traditional planned respite care. This approach aimed to provide more flexible and suitable options for carers. The need for support for former carers was highlighted, noting that they often felt abandoned once they were no longer deemed carers. Implementing check-ins and signposting to other services to provide continued support was suggested.

Thereafter, the Integration Joint Board **agreed** to approve the draft strategy for wider consultation, noting the comments in relation to producing a more concise document,

the need for support for former carers and the annual reporting arrangements for the strategy.

11 Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) Annual Report on the Use of Directions between April 2024 - March 2025

There had been circulated a report dated 3 June 2025 by the Interim Chief Officer which provided an overview of the directions which had been issued by the Aberdeenshire Integration Joint Board during the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025. The report explained that under the Public Bodies (Joint Working)(Scotland) Act 2014, integration authorities were provided with the mechanism to issue binding directions to the Health Board and/or Local Authority, to enable the IJB to action its strategic commissioning plan for how it would plan and deliver services using integrated budgets under its control, providing the legal basis on which the Health Board and Local Authority deliver services under the control of the IJB. The list of the directions which had been issued were attached as an appendix to the report.

The Programme Manager introduced the report and responded to questions from Members about the budget figure associated with the Home Care CACI Cygnum System and around the contract period, and officers noted that all annual procurement plans and processes were in place, with regular updates and service reviews.

Thereafter, the Integration Joint Board **agreed**:

- (1) to acknowledge the use of directions by the Aberdeenshire IJB during the period April 2024 and March 2025 as provided in the annual report in appendix one; and
- (2) that the report should be shared by the Chief Officer with the Chief Executives of both Aberdeenshire Council and NHS Grampian.

12 Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership Annual Performance Report 2024 - 2025

There had been circulated a report dated 20 June 2025 by the Interim Chief Officer seeking approval of the Annual Performance Report for 2024-25 and for the report to be shared with Aberdeenshire Council and NHS Grampian.

The annual report covered the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 and highlighted how the Partnership had delivered against its five agreed local strategic priorities as well as the National Health and Wellbeing Outcomes, measured through the National Core Suite of Integration Indicators.

The Programme Manager introduced the report and noted that at the time of preparing Appendix 2, Data Annex report, some performance data remained incomplete as it had not yet been published by Public Health Scotland (PHS). Once available, the relevant data would be updated and finalised for publication via the Health and Social Care Partnership website.

The report recognised the extremely challenging financial position faced by the AH&SCP during 2024/25 and the significant programmes of review and redesign work that were in progress to ensure financial stability moving forward.

During discussion, Members commented on the monitoring and assurance routes for the Care Inspectorate inspections carried out; the need for a reference in the report to the Budget Oversight Group; suggested a mention of psychiatry and hard-to-fill posts due to their significant budget pressure; the downward trend in the staff survey results. Officers responded to the issues raised and provided clarification.

Thereafter, the Integration Joint Board **agreed**:

- (1) to approve the Aberdeenshire H&SCP Annual Performance Report for 2024 – 2025;
- (2) that the Interim Chief Officer should publish the Annual Performance Report on the AH&SCP website and for the Interim Chief Officer to share the report with the Chief Executives of Aberdeenshire Council and NHS Grampian;
- (3) to note that additional data and supporting narrative would be incorporated into the report before its publication; and
- (4) once the final report was published a link to the report should be sent to all the Members of the IJB.

13 Review of Older People's Residential Care Homes

With reference to the Minute of the Integration Joint Board of 19 February 2025 (Item 3) there had been submitted a report dated 20 June 2025 by the Interim Chief Officer outlining the results of an options appraisal to consider a proposal to rationalise the number of residential care facilities for older people operated by the Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership building on the work undertaken through a strategic assessment process.

The Partnership Manager, Central introduced the report and provided an overview of the review, highlighting the two-stage approach – the first stage involved an options appraisal focussing on potential rationalisation to achieve a budget reduction of £827,000 for the financial year and the second stage involved a wider strategic review to inform the future sustainable model for residential care provision. She highlighted that the analysis had shown that closing any in-house care homes during the current financial year would not be feasible due to associated costs and risks and no care home closures were proposed during the current financial year, with a further report on progress planned to be presented to the IJB on 8 October 2025. She mentioned the equality, staffing and financial implications that the IJB should consider which were outlined in Section 6 of the report.

During discussion, Members raised some concerns about income maximisation measures and their potential impact on residents who may not have the funds to pay and officers clarified that placements would continue to be based on need, not ability to pay. There was discussion of what improvements were planned to achieve a lean and efficient operating model, and what would change in the next year. Officers also highlighted that some care home buildings were old and not up to modern standards and that investment was lacking to bring them up to current expectations. Some concerns were raised about the financial sustainability of keeping care homes open when budgets were exceeded, noting the need for a whole-system approach and that future difficult decisions may be required if break-even could not be achieved. There

was discussion of the impacts on staff and their concerns about the ability to continue providing care with reduced staffing levels.

Thereafter, the Integration Joint Board **agreed**:

- (1) to acknowledge the decision taken by the IJB at its meeting on 19 February 2025 for officers to undertake a review of Older People's Residential Care Homes and Very Sheltered Housing across Aberdeenshire – to include the review and rationalisation of in-house care home provision where indicative savings had been identified;
- (2) to note the outcomes of the subsequent options appraisal exercise undertaken by the Aberdeenshire HSCP;
- (3) there should be no planned care home closures in this financial year (2025/26) due to the risks identified;
- (4) to the acceleration of income maximisation measures with appropriate policy decisions being brought back to the IJB for approval to address and ensure the financial viability of the HSCP's in-house care homes and very sheltered housing (VSH) complexes;
- (5) to acknowledge the work being undertaken as part of the ongoing workstream to drive improvement across all in-house services and to ensure a lean and optimally efficient operating model;
- (6) the proposal to conclude work on agreeing the strategic direction and future sustainable model for care home and VSH provision across Aberdeenshire supported by a commissioning strategy;
- (7) that a progress report should be presented to the Integration Joint Board on 8 October 2025.

14 Move to a New Service Arrangement for Information & Systems Team and Digital Project Delivery

There had been submitted a report dated 10 June 2025 by the Interim Chief Officer, which was asking the IJB to agree to the transfer of the Information and Systems Team to Customer and Digital Services (Aberdeenshire Council) to support the delivery of the upgrade from Carefirst to Eclipse and the provision of systems support, management information, responses to FOI and SARs and wider activity on behalf of the Health and Social Care Partnership and Children's Services.

The Head of Service Customer and Digital Services introduced the report and explained that the move aimed to provide better support, professional expertise and efficient delivery of digital projects, including the critical upgrade from Care First to Eclipse and it was intended to ensure the team received the necessary support and resources to meet key milestones and deliverables.

During discussion, Members asked about the financial implications of the transfer and officers clarified that the budget would transfer along with the team, and the costs would be managed within the existing budget. There were some concerns expressed about the impact of Care First becoming unsupported and the potential risks, and it

was noted that there was no immediate deadline for support to end, and the focus was on delivering Eclipse within two years. There was a concern about future governance and potential conflicts of interest between the Council and NHS and the Legal Monitoring Officer suggested that a formal direction could be drafted and brought back to the IJB for approval to ensure that the IJB retains control over the budget and outcomes.

Thereafter, the Integration Joint Board **agreed**:

- (1) the transfer of the Information & Systems Team to Customer & Digital Services (Aberdeenshire Council) to support the delivery of the upgrade from Carefirst to Eclipse and the provision of systems support, management information, responses to FOI and SARs and wider activity on behalf of HSCP and Children's Services;
- (2) to transfer the Digital Manager from HSCP to Customer & Digital Services (Aberdeenshire Council) to support delivery of HSCP digital projects, with a focus initially on the development of Eclipse and encapsulating the wider programme of digital transformation required to support the HSCP recovery plan;
- (3) that a formal Direction should be drafted and brought to the next meeting of the IJB for approval, to ensure future control and governance over the transferred budget and services; and
- (4) that the Chief Officer and Head of Customer and Digital Services should provide updates to the IJB on the progress and outcomes of the transferred service.

15 Health & Social Care Partnership Grants Review - Scottish Huntington's Association

With reference to the Minute of the Integration Joint Board of 9 October 2024 (Item 15), and 28 May 2025 (Item 17), there had been circulated a report dated 20 June 2025 by the Interim Chief Officer which informed the IJB of further detailed work which had been undertaken to identify the appropriate funding route for future provision of a service to comply with the national framework for Huntington's disease.

The Programme Manager provided an update of the work that had been undertaken, including the use of special urgency powers to enable further detailed work to be undertaken to identify an appropriate funding route for future provision of the service, and she confirmed the intention that a recommendation on the future funding would be reported back to the IJB by no later than the December 2025 meeting.

Thereafter, the Integration Joint Board **agreed** to:

- (1) note the decision taken by the IJB at its meeting on 9 October 2024 to cease the current HSCP grant funding application process in line with the current grant awards ending as of 31 March 2025;
- (2) note the decision taken by the Interim Chief Officer, using Special Urgency Powers, to authorise expenditure form a 3 month extension of grant funding to

Scottish Huntington's Association to 30 June 2025, as reported to the IJB at its meeting on 28 May 2025; and

- (3) approve the further extension of grant funding to Scottish Huntington's Association from 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026, following further discussions with stakeholders, and subject to a further report back to the IJB by no later than 10 December 2025.