

## **INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD**

**COUNCIL CHAMBER - WOODHILL HOUSE, WESTBURN ROAD, ABERDEEN, AB16  
5GB, WEDNESDAY, 28TH MAY, 2025**

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

Dr J Tomlinson (Chair), Councillor A Stirling (Vice-Chair), Ms J Duncan, Councillor R Cassie, Councillor M Grant, Councillor D Keating, Councillor G Lang, Mr S Lindsay and 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 Barnard (Nursing Lead Advisor), I Kirk (UNISON Trade Union), K Grant (NHS Trade Union) and L Jolly (Interim Chief Officer), S Donald (Interim Chief Finance and Business Officer), Dr S Rough (substitute)(Primary Care Clinical Lead).

**Officers:** K Bond, C Cameron, S Campbell, C Coldwell, L Flockhart, L Gravener, V Henderson, J Howie, A MacLeod, R McGregor, A Pirrie, J Raine-Mitchell, J Shaw, A Stott (Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership); L Cowie, M Stephenson, M Beattie, N Stephenson and A McLeod (Aberdeenshire Council); E Black (NHS Grampian).

**Apologies:** Dr C Backwell, Ms R Taylor, Ms A Mutch, Mr P Bachoo.

Prior to the start of the meeting, the Chair made a number of announcements as follows: he welcomed Councillor Ross Cassie as a substantive member of the IJB, and thanked Councillor Neil Baillie for his contributions while he was a substantive member of the IJB. He advised that this would be Susan Webb's last meeting before she moves to other employment in Lothian and thanked her for her contribution and wished her well for the future. He welcomed Leigh Jolly to the role of Interim Chief Officer and thanked Pam Milliken for her dedicated contribution to the Board and wished her well in her new role in NHS Grampian. He welcomed Shona Campbell to the role of Interim Strategy and Transformation Manager and thanked Angela MacLeod and Philippa Jensen for their contributions in that role.

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

The Chair asked for Declarations of Interest.

Councillor Cassie made a transparency statement in relation to item 10 by virtue of his wife being employed by a care provider whose services are commissioned by the Council. Having applied the objective test he had concluded that he had no interest to declare.

Fiona Alderson advised that she had an interest in item 17 by virtue of being Manager of Networks of Wellbeing. She advised that she would leave the meeting and take no part in the item.

## 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 Integration 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 Items 17 and 18 of the business below, on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information of the classes described in the relevant paragraphs.

Item No	Paragraph No of Schedule 7A
17	6, 7
18	6

## 3 Minute of Meeting of Integration Joint Board of 19 March 2025

There had been circulated and was **approved** as a correct record the Minute of the Meeting of 19 March 2025.

## 4 Integration Joint Board Action Log

There had been circulated and was **noted** a report by the Interim 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 Joint Board.

## 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 introduction to the new Interim Chief Officer, Leigh Jolly; (b) information on the Morse Roll Out – Health Visiting and School Nursing; (c) information on a validation exercise carried out by the Care Inspectorate on Community Justice Social Work; (d) details of a response submitted to the consultation on Public Bodies Climate Change Duties; (e) reference to recent meetings with MSPs and MPs to discuss ongoing work of the

Partnership; and (f) the outcomes of recent Care Inspections of Services in Aberdeenshire.

By way of update, the Interim Chief Officer took the opportunity to formally introduce herself to the Board, having started in post on 28 April 2025. She acknowledged the challenging financial times and the need to deliver services differently in order to achieve financial stability. She emphasised the importance of listening to those with lived experience to inform decision-making and to understand the implications of recommendations. She noted that the report was shared for information and invited any urgent questions or direct enquiries outside the meeting.

The Integration Joint Board **noted** the updates provided.

## **6 Appointment of IJB Standards Officer**

There had been circulated a report dated 14 April 2025 by the Interim Chief Officer, asking the IJB to appoint the Aberdeenshire Council's Legal Service Manager (Governance) as the IJB Standards Officer and agree to submit details of the appointment to the Standards Commission for Scotland for approval.

Having heard from the Interim Chief Officer as to the proposals, the Integration Joint Board **agreed** to appoint Aberdeenshire Council's Legal Service Manager (Governance) as the IJB Standards Officer and agree to submit details of the appointment to the Standards Commission for Scotland for approval.

## **7 Appointment of the Chief Officer, Aberdeenshire Health & Social Care Partnership**

There had been circulated a report by the Chief Executive of Aberdeenshire Council and Interim Chief Executive of NHS Grampian, which informed the IJB of the interim appointment of Leigh Jolly as Interim Chief Officer for a period not exceeding nine months and seeking approval to initiate the recruitment process for a permanent Chief Officer for the Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership.

The Interim Chief Executive of NHS Grampian was in attendance to introduce the report and outlined the proposed timeline for the recruitment process, including the long list panel, shortlisting, and the Members of the IJB who would be on the interview panel.

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

- (1) note the interim appointment of Leigh Jolly as Interim Chief Officer, Aberdeenshire Health & Social Care Partnership for a period not exceeding nine months;
- (2) agree to initiate the recruitment process for a permanent Chief Officer, Aberdeenshire Health & Social Care Partnership;
- (3) review/approve any required recruitment advertising costs.

## 8 Working Better Together: Exploring Opportunities for Operational Collaboration

There had been circulated a report dated 1 May 2025 by the Interim Chief Officer, which proposed a joint exploratory review of business services functions between the Health and Social Care Partnership and Aberdeenshire Council to achieve greater operational efficiency and value for money.

The Board heard from the Head of Finance, Aberdeenshire Council, who advised that the proposed review would focus on areas where operational responsibilities already sit between the Council and the Health and Social Care Partnership, such as admin, IT, finance, estates and business support. She advised that the review would be non-binding and any proposals arising would come back for full scrutiny.

During discussion, Members welcomed the report and emphasised the importance of the exploratory work. Some concerns were raised about capacity and ensuring that both organisations had the resources to undertake the review without overstressing services and assurance was sought that the review would not add undue pressure to already stretched teams. There was also a suggestion to involve NHS officers in the review to ensure connectivity and to avoid issues with IT systems.

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

- (1) approve the commencement of joint exploratory work to identify potential operational efficiencies between the Health & Social Care Partnership and Aberdeenshire Council;
- (2) note that this work will be non-binding, with any future proposals subject to full scrutiny and formal approval;
- (3) acknowledge the shared responsibility of both organisations to pursue efficiency and best value in the delivery of public services.

## 9 2025-26 Financial Update Report

There had been circulated a report dated 14 May 2025 by the Interim Chief Officer, providing details of the financial position at the end of April 2025, in terms of the year-to-date budget, expenditure and income.

The Interim Chief Finance and Business Officer provided an overview of the report and explained the budget setting process for 2025/26, and emphasised the changes in financial reporting arrangements, including monthly financial update reports to the Senior Management Team and regular cross-service meetings with budget holders. She indicated that the report showed an underspend position of £1.795 million at the end of April 2025 but urged caution that this early position offered limited insight into the full-year financial outcome.

During discussion, Members commented on the variances per budget page, the reasons for the under budget figures on community hospitals, the frailty pathway and the impact on SDS budgets. There was also some discussion of the importance of comparing the current run rate to the previous year to monitor progress. There was some discussion around the nature of clinical engagement in the budget setting process and the importance of their involvement in committing budgets. The need for

detailed financial information and the importance of timely action to address the financial challenges that were faced was acknowledged.

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

- (1) to note the financial position based on the year-to-date budget and year to date actuals as at 30 April 2025; and
- (2) to note that the Budget Recovery Group would continue its work and that a Terms of Reference for the Group would be brought back to the IJB for approval in July 2025.

Prior to the start of Item 10 on the agenda, the Interim Chief Officer provided an introduction to the next five items on the agenda, emphasising that the upcoming items formed a core element of the Recovery Plan agreed upon by the IJB in March 2025. She emphasised that the IJB must deliver services differently to achieve financial sustainability while ensuring the needs of communities were understood and supported. She advised that engagement with communities and workforce had been challenging but necessary to understand the implications of changes and to mitigate risks. She also advised that the Sustainability Board had played a role in overseeing and scrutinising the work outlined in the papers, considering feedback from the engagement process. She advised that Integrated Impact Assessments (IIAs) had been used to ensure decision-makers understood the potential impacts of their decisions, including any negative effects and possible mitigations. She acknowledged the difficulties and distress caused by the changes and emphasised the commitment to working with individuals, families and communities with kindness, clarity and compassion. Finally, the Interim Chief Officer apologised and acknowledged that officers had not got the communication right around the changes, particularly in relation to the Learning Disability Day Service provision, which had led to the difficulties and distress.

## **10 In-House Care at Home Service Redesign**

With reference to the Minute of the Integration Joint Board of 19 February 2025 (Item 3) there had been circulated a report dated 16 May 2025 by the Interim Chief Officer, providing a summary of the review of the In-House Home Care and ARCH service which was commissioned to ensure a redesign and to address service sustainability challenges by delivering a cost-effective model that meets strategic priorities.

The Chair advised that there had been two requests to speak on the item from (1) Ms Fiona Robertson and (2) Mr Aaron Cunningham. The Integration Joint Board agreed to hear from both requests to speak.

The Partnership Manager, South introduced the report and highlighted that following extensive public and staff engagement, the main recommendation was to focus the in-house service on a specialist reablement service, which is a short-term support service helping people regain skills and confidence to live independently. The reablement model has shown evidence of reducing ongoing care packages, promoting independence and well-being. Other elements of the service, such as remote and rural and complex care provision, would be recommissioned through the Support at Home framework. The proposal included the merging of the daytime ARCH and Home Care Service under one management structure to improve flexibility and efficiency. The ARCH service would be streamlined to focus on end-of-life care, community alarm

response and uninjured fallers, with planned care no longer provided. No care package would be stopped without alternative service provision unless it was part of the normal care management review process. The redesign would offer the opportunity for a new strategic direction.

The Integration Joint Board then heard from each of the speakers in turn.

Ms Robertson, representing Disabled People Against Cuts NE Scotland, expressed concerns about the reduction of in-house care services. She highlighted the risks of shifting care to the private sector, including potential future cost increases and the impact on people in remote areas. She emphasised the high risk of abuse faced by disabled individuals, particularly those with intellectual disabilities, and the importance of continuity of care and community support in mitigating these risks. She urged the Board to reject the proposed measures until a comprehensive impact assessment involving disabled people's organisations was conducted.

Mr Cunningham, representing ASH-A discussed the impact of service cuts on autistic individuals, emphasising the long wait times for diagnosis and the subsequent negative effects on education and mental health. He highlighted the risks of abuse and exploitation faced by those with intellectual disabilities when support services were inadequate. He criticised the use of IQ as a criterion for accessing services, arguing that it does not accurately reflect the needs of autistic individuals and could lead to many being excluded from essential support.

The Chair thanked both speakers for their contributions.

During discussion, Members asked about the target for reducing the unit cost of service, issues related to service provision in remote and rural access and if an analysis of the impact on individual's SDS budgets had been carried out. There was also discussion of the capacity of private providers and officers indicated that the risks were acknowledged and the next phase would involve detailed scoping and engagement with providers. In addition, assurance was given that all staff were trained in the delivery of reablement.

After further discussion, Councillor Casse moved, seconded by Councillor Grant, that the IJB should agree all the recommendations in principle, subject to no implementation being undertaken until a full financial business case was approved.

As an amendment, Councillor Stirling, seconded by Councillor Keating moved that the IJB should agree the recommendations as contained within the report, with Officers being required to report back to the IJB by exception. In addition, the Budget and Recovery Group should be informed of any unforeseen circumstances arising from the work.

The Voting Members of the Integration Joint Board then voted:

For the motion	2	Councillor Cassie and Councillor Grant.
For the amendment	7	Dr Tomlinson, Councillor Stirling, J Duncan, Councillor Keating, Councillor Lang, S Lindsay and S Webb.

The amendment was carried and the Integration Joint Board **agreed** to:

- (1) agree the strategic direction for the In-house Home Care and Aberdeenshire Responders Care at Home Service (ARCH) to deliver a reablement service, end of life care and a streamlined responder service;
- (2) agree to the redesign of the In-house Care at Home Service to become a specialist service to deliver short-term, intensive reablement support and for officers to commence call offs from the existing Support at Home Framework for care packages that do not meet this service priority;
- (3) agree to integrate the ARCH and Home Care Service daytime provision as one service under one management structure;
- (4) agree to retain the ARCH overnight service (10pm to 7am) until the impact of the reduced provision introduced in mid-March 2025 can be evaluated with an update report to the IJB on 3 September 2025;
- (5) agree to cease the planned care being delivered by ARCH and deliver unplanned care with the following priorities: end of life care, community alarm response and uninjured fallers;
- (6) agree to cease providing an ARCH response to internal and registered social landlord sheltered housing complexes through their own call systems; and
- (7) Officers to report back to the IJB, by exception, and the Budget and Recovery Group should be informed of any unforeseen circumstances arising from the work.

## **11 Activity Hubs Review (North)**

With reference to the Minute of the Integration Joint Board of 19 February 2025 (Item 3) there had been circulated a report dated 16 May 2025 by the Interim Chief Officer, providing a summary of the review of the Activity Hubs in North Aberdeenshire, the purpose of the review was to ensure equitable service provision across Aberdeenshire and to achieve a saving as agreed in the IJB Financial Recovery Plan.

The Partnership Manager South introduced the report and advised that the review was initiated to address the financial challenges and to ensure the sustainability of services. She advised that the focus was on the strategic direction for the Activity Hubs and need for a more efficient model. She explained that there had been engagement with staff, service users and stakeholders to gather feedback and to inform the recommendations and the proposed changes aimed to streamline the services, improve outcomes for users and to achieve significant cost savings. The recommendations included consolidating some hubs, enhancing community-based support and ensuring that no service user was left without appropriate care.

The Partnership Manager, South also confirmed that no provision would be stopped until an alternative plan was in place.

During discussion, there were some concerns raised about the accessibility and availability of alternative services, especially for those in remote and rural areas. It was noted that mitigations would be put in place before any changes to service provision were implemented, as outlined within the Integrated Impact Assessment.

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

- (1) reduce and consolidate the day activity (older adult day care) sessions per week across three very sheltered housing sites in North Aberdeenshire from the current 10 sessions provided to 5 sessions; and
- (2) a strategic review of the provision of older adult day care for older people across Aberdeenshire to be completed by 31 December 2025.

## **12 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 circulated a report dated 15 May 2025 by the Interim Chief Officer, providing a summary of an options appraisal process undertaken in respect of in-house residential care provision for older people.

Given the amount of business to be conducted, and in view of the report proposing to bring a further update to the next meeting on 2 July, 2025, the Integration Joint Board **agreed** to defer consideration of the report to the next meeting.

## **13 Assisted Transport Policy for Adult Social Work Services**

With reference to the Minute of the Integration Joint Board of 19 February 2025 (Item 3), there had been circulated a report by the Interim Chief Officer, providing a summary of the review of the Assisted Social Care Transport Policy and proposals to achieve a saving of £800,000, subject to a more in-depth review.

The Chair advised that there had been two requests to speak on the item from (1) Ms Fiona Robertson and (2) Mr Saddiq Ahmed. The Integration Joint Board agreed to hear from the requests to speak.

The Partnership Manager, North introduced the report and highlighted the need for the review due to significant budget pressures for the current financial year. He noted that the current service cost around £1.2 million annually and he noted that some local authorities do not provide social care transport. He provided a summary of the current transport arrangements, which included PTU buses for older adult activity centres and adult day services, as well as transport provided through SDS options. He outlined the engagement process that had been carried out with service users and staff, which revealed concerns about the lack of suitable alternatives, unreliability of public transport and the potential impact on unpaid carers. He acknowledged the complexities and impacts of ceasing the service and stressed the need for individual assessments and co-created solutions to support service users.

The Integration Joint Board then heard from each of the speakers in turn.

Ms Robertson, representing Disabled People Against Cuts NE Scotland, emphasised the severe cumulative impacts of austerity measures on disabled individuals. She argued that cuts to services like assisted transport should not be assessed in isolation, as they exacerbate each other and lead to unintended consequences. She highlighted that removing transport support would isolate disabled people, increase stress and burnout among carers, and ultimately result in higher costs for health and social care services due to worsened conditions and increased mental health issues. She urged



the IJB to reject the proposals and called for a comprehensive cumulative impact assessment to be conducted in collaboration with affected individuals.

Mr Ahmed, a parent of a service user, expressed concerns about the proposed changes to the assisted transport policy. He suggested that services had already been cut for some individuals since February. He criticized the report as being based on conjecture and lacking concrete actions or mitigations. He highlighted the additional costs and lack of public transport alternatives, particularly for rural areas, and suggested that the ultimate goal was to cut services and reduce the number of service users.

The Chair thanked both speakers for their contributions.

During discussion Members expressed concerns about the lack of alternatives and asked which mileage and taxi allowances would no longer be covered by SDS. Officers advised that transport was not a statutory requirement and would be excluded from SDS, but individual solutions would be sought. There was also discussion of the impact on staff and the availability of suitable alternative transport, especially in rural areas. Assurance was sought that actions would be taken to address transport links and that learning from this process would be captured and officers confirmed ongoing efforts to work with community partners and other services.

The Interim Chief Officer confirmed that the transition would be managed carefully, with individual support to ensure that no one was left isolated.

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

- (1) acknowledge the work of the review into Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership (AHSCP) Assisted Transport Policy for Adult Social Work Services;
- (2) agree for Aberdeenshire HSCP to cease the provision of assisted social care transport (unless required by statute) following recommendations by the Short Life Working Group (SLWG); and
- (3) approve the revised policy for Assisted Social Care Transport, as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report.

## **14 Review and rationalisation of in-house Learning Disability Day Service provision**

With reference to the Minute of the Integration Joint Board of 19 February 2025 (Item 3), there had been circulated a report by the Interim Chief Officer, providing a summary of the review of the in-house learning disability day service provision as agreed by the IJB as part of its budget setting process for the financial year 2025-26.

The Chair advised that there had been six requests to speak on the item from (1) Mr Conrad Ritchie, (2) Mr Brian and Mrs Sandra Wood, (3) Ms Denise Macdonald, (4) Mr Saddiq Ahmed, (5) Ms Charlene Coltherd and (6) Mr Aaron Cunningham.

The Integration Joint Board agreed to hear from all the requests to speak.

The Chief Officer, by way of introduction, emphasised the importance of transparency and honesty in the discussion about the review and rationalisation of in-house learning

disability day service provision. She acknowledged feedback from local Members and Councillors, highlighting concerns raised by the public regarding the impact of discussions on learning disability services. She outlined three aspects of the work being done: (1) the decisions from 2017 and reinforced in February 2025 to focus on substantial and critical assessed needs; (2) the new eligibility criteria for in-house day services agreed in February 2025; and (3) the rationalisation of buildings. She apologised for any confusion caused by the implementation and stressed the need for clear communication and support for individuals affected by the changes. She gave a commitment to work with families and individuals to ensure that those impacted by the changes were supported into alternative provisions if they were no longer eligible for in-house services.

The Partnership Manager, North introduced the report and acknowledged the impact of change and apologised for any deficiencies in the approach taken. He emphasised the importance of individual and person-focused assessments and responses. He outlined the rationale for the review, including the need to implement the learning disability strategy across all areas of Aberdeenshire and highlighted budget pressures and the application of the eligibility criteria. He highlighted the engagement process, including face-to-face meetings and survey responses and acknowledged the challenges faced during the engagement. He detailed the proposed changes to the delivery of services, including the implementation of a hub and satellite model and the closure of specific premises. He also discussed the proposed staffing model and the impacts on service users, emphasising the commitment to support individuals through the transition.

The Integration Joint Board then heard from each of the speakers in turn.

Mr Ritchie highlighted the lack of meaningful consultation with families and service users before some services were withdrawn at Robertson Road in Fraserburgh. He advised that the lack of clarity had caused unnecessary stress and upheaval for vulnerable individuals. He emphasised that proper consultation could have avoided the distress caused. He also expressed concerns about the proposed closure of Suite K at Buchan Day Opportunities and the impact on services such as Can Do Recycling and Connecting the Broch. He questioned where the affected individuals would go and why there was a reduction in services for families in rural areas. He also mentioned that the Can Do Recycling Project returns a profit, making its closure unjust and unfair.

Mr and Mrs Wood shared their concerns about the proposed changes to the Learning Disability Day Service provision, emphasising the impact on their son who has severe disabilities. They highlighted the importance of the current inclusive environment at the day centre, where their son engages in various activities with friends of varying abilities. They expressed fears that the changes would segregate individuals based on their disabilities, leading to isolation and a loss of meaningful interactions. They also criticised the lack of proper consultation and the significant increase in service costs, which they believe unfairly targets the most vulnerable.

Ms Macdonald shared her concerns about the impact of changes to the day services for her partner's sister, who has Down's syndrome and a congenital heart condition. She highlighted the challenges they face, including the need for stability and the importance of the current day centre in Fraserburgh for her well-being. She emphasised the lack of clarity and empathy in the consultation process and the potential negative consequences of reducing the number of attendance days for users, and which could affect their ability to manage care and work. She stressed the

importance of maintaining the current service to avoid further stress and disruption for her partner's sister and other service users.

Mr Ahmed raised concerns about the assessment process for eligibility criteria changes, noting that families and carers were not informed about the changes. He questioned who was responsible for making the assessments, highlighting that his son had not been formally assessed for about 20 years. He emphasized the lack of consultation and transparency, expressing a loss of trust in the decision-makers. He also warned against the historical mistreatment of disabled individuals and urged not to devalue vulnerable members of society.

Ms Coltherd spoke about her daughter, who has congenital heart disease and Down's syndrome. She emphasized the importance of the Robertson Road Day Centre for her daughter's socialization and development. She expressed concerns about the proposed changes to the day services, highlighting the lack of alternative resources in Fraserburgh and the potential negative impact on her daughter's well-being and their family's financial stability. She urged reconsideration of the cuts, stressing the need for proper consultation and the devastating effects on the disabled community.

Mr Cunningham expressed strong concerns about the potential negative impacts of the proposed service cuts. He highlighted the severe consequences these cuts could have on vulnerable individuals, including increased stress, mental health issues, and even life-threatening situations. He emphasized that the decision to prioritize financial savings over the well-being of people was deeply troubling and could lead to tragic outcomes. He urged the decision-makers to reconsider the cuts, stressing the importance of protecting the lives and well-being of those who rely on these essential services.

During discussion, Members raised concerns about the timing of building closures and emphasised the need for assurances that buildings would remain open until suitable alternatives were in place. There was also discussion of the environmental impacts of closing recycling projects. There were also concerns expressed about the potential consequences of cutting services, including impacts on mental health and social isolation. There was discussion of the steps required to rebuild trust with families and individuals affected by the changes and to ensure clear communication with all stakeholders. The need for ongoing monitoring and updates was highlighted, as well as the need to consider all aspects of the integrated impact assessments.

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

- (1) to acknowledge that to achieve consistency of service across Aberdeenshire the Learning Disability Strategy "Be all you can be", fully supported by the IJB in March 2020 is being fully implemented across Aberdeenshire, following successful implementation in the South;
- (2) to note that the IJB, at its meeting on 19 February 2025 approved a review of in-house learning disability day services, specifically all building base usage and the staffing model moving forward;
- (3) that the IJB have considered the outcomes of the review as set out in the report;
- (4) to Direct Aberdeenshire Council to implement a hub and satellite model for the delivery of services because of the review as follows:

North:-

In-house Learning Disability Day Services at Robertson Road Centre, Fraserburgh would be retained as the main hub in North, with Banff Day Services and Buchan Day Opportunities (Suite H & E only) as satellite bases.

Central:-

In-house Learning Disability Day Services at Inverurie Day Centre would be retained as the main hub in the Central area, with Ellon Resource Centre and Pitscurry, Pitcaple as satellite bases.

- (5) to Direct Aberdeenshire Council to cease the following service provision:-

North

BEAT, 16 Old Gamrie Road, Macduff

Can Do Recycling and Shop, Unit 1 and Unit D, Anderson Place, Fraserburgh

Woodwork Project at Aden Country Park, Mintlaw, Peterhead

Buchan Day Opportunities, Crimond Medical and Community Hub (Suite K),

Logie Avenue West, Crimond

Connecting the Broch

Central:-

Can Do, 11 Castle Street, Ellon, AB41 9RF

Benchmark, 1 Castle Street, Ellon, AB41 9RF

The Buzzard Café, C/o The Pitscurry Project, Inverurie, AB51 5DY

- (6) to implement the proposed staffing model across Central and North Aberdeenshire as set out in the report;
- (7) to agree to a further review of the remaining building bases in 24 months providing the opportunity to analyse and understand how embedding the Learning Disability Strategy “Be all you can Be” will change the demands of the Estate;
- (8) that a clear plan should be developed for transitioning individuals to alternative provisions, ensuring no-one loses service until suitable alternatives are in place;
- (9) the Chief Officer to report to each meeting of the IJB on progress of communication and transition efforts;
- (10) that Officers should consider alternative delivery models involving community groups, third party providers and private providers to enhance service capacity; and
- (11) that Officers should establish a mechanism for individuals to escalate concerns if they feel their needs are not being met.

**15 Aberdeenshire Health & Social Care Partnership - Health & Care Staffing Act 2019 2024/25 Reporting Template**

There had been circulated a report dated 16 May 2025 by the Interim Chief Officer, providing the draft content for the 1014/15 Health and Care Staffing Act 2019 reporting

template for Aberdeenshire Council and the Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership, which is required by Scottish Government and asking the IJB to provide comments to be included in the final submission.

The Workforce Transformation Programme Manager introduced the report and provided some more context in relation to work undertaken comply with the various duties under the Health and Care Staffing Act 2019.

During discussion, there were some concerns expressed that the tone of the report might be too positive compared to the NHS report, which had many instances of limited assurance. It was suggested that the risks should be amended to reflect a more cautious approach and to ensure it accurately reflects the challenges faced.

Thereafter, the Integration Joint Board **agreed**

- (1) to note the draft content for the 2024/25 Health and Care Staffing Act 2019 reporting template for Aberdeenshire Council and the AH&SCP, which is required by Scottish Government (as contained in Appendix 1); and
- (2) to delegate to the Chief Officer, in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair to provide additional comments for the final submission to reflect a more cautious approach towards implementation, given the risks.

## **16 Alcohol and Drug Partnership Annual Reporting Survey 24/25**

There had been circulated a report dated 28 May 2025 by the Interim Chief Officer, containing the annual reporting survey for the Aberdeenshire Alcohol and Drug Partnership (ADP). The report advised that it was a Scottish Government requirement that all ADP's complete an annual survey and have it signed off by the ADP Committee and the local IJB. The survey covers areas that progress is not already reported on nationally through other means and the data collected will be used to better understand progress at a local level.

The Partnership Manager, North introduced the report and responded to comments from Members in relation to what could be done to ensure engagement with young people in the survey in future, and a suggestion that the new Chair of the ADP be invited to a future meeting to present their strategic plan and performance.

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

- (1) to note the Aberdeenshire Alcohol and Drug Partnership Annual reporting survey and to delegate to the Chief Officer, in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair to finalise the response for submission to the Scottish Government, incorporating the comments provided by Members; and
- (2) That an invitation be extended to the new Chair of the Aberdeenshire Alcohol and Drug Partnership to attend a future meeting of the IJB to present their strategic plan and performance, to enhance ongoing engagement between the IJB and ADP.

## 17 Health and Social Care Partnership Grant Funding 2025

With reference to the minute of the Integration Joint Board of 9 October 2024 (Item 15), there had been circulated a report dated 19 May 2025 by the Interim Chief Officer, providing an update on work undertaken in relation to grant funding and commissioning opportunities.

The Programme Manager provided an update on the ongoing work and responded to questions from Members.

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 H&SCP grant funding application process in line with the current grant awards ending as of 31 March 2025;
- (2) note the IJB's approval at its meeting on 11 December 2024 for Officers to undertake further work to determine the future appropriate commissioning route for four grant recipients outlined in Section 4.1 of the report; and to review the H&SCP's future grant funding arrangement for Houseability subject to outcomes of the Housing service's commissioning strategy;
- (3) agree the proposed recommendations for extension of grant funding until 31 March 2026 to the four organisations as outlined in Section 5.1 of the report;
- (4) agree to cease grant funding to Houseability when its current extension ends on 30 June 2025;
- (5) note the decision by the Chief Officer, using Special Urgency Powers as set out in the process agreed by the IJB including consultation with the Chair, Vice Chair and Chief Executives of both NHS Grampian and Aberdeenshire Council to authorise expenditure for a 3-month extension of grant funding to Scottish Huntington's Association to 30 June 2025.

## 18 Social Care System Contract Extension

There had been circulated a report dated 15 May 2025 by the Interim Chief Officer, seeking approval for a direct award for an extension to a current contract for the OLM Carefirst support and maintenance contract which was due to expire on 30 June 2025.

The Head of Service, Customer and Digital introduced the report and provided further information and responded to questions raised.

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

- (1) approve the Supplementary Procurement Work Plan detailed in Appendix 1 and the Procurement Approval Form (PAF) in Appendix 2 to the report; and
- (2) Direct Aberdeenshire Council to directly award the Social Care System Contract Extension to OLM as the existing supplier.