WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE PARTNERSHIP BOARD

At a Hybrid Meeting of the West Dunbartonshire Health and Social Care Partnership Board held in the Civic Space, 16 Church Street, Dumbarton on Tuesday, 30 September 2025 at 2.00 p.m.

Present: Michelle Wailes**,** Libby Cairns and Lesley McDonald, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde and Councillors Fiona Hennebry, Michelle McGinty and Martin Rooney, West Dunbartonshire Council.

Non-Voting Beth Culshaw, Chief Officer; Julie Slavin, Chief Financial Officer; Lesley James, Head of Children's Health, Care and Criminal Justice and Chief Social Work Officer; Helen Little, MSK Manager; Dr Saied Pourghazi, Clinical Director; Selina Ross, Chief Officer – West Dunbartonshire CVS; Barbara Barnes, Stakeholder Member; Val Tierney, Chief Nurse and – Clydebank; Carolyn Ralston, Stakeholder Member; Andrew McCready, Staff Representative (NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde); Kim McNab, Service Manager - Carers of West Dunbartonshire, David Smith*, Unpaid Carers Representative.

*joined the meeting at 2.20 p.m.

Also Attending: Michael McDougall, Manager of Legal Services; Margaret-Jane Cardno, Head of Strategy and Transformation; Sylvia Chatfield, Head of Mental Health, Learning Disabilities and Addiction; Fiona Taylor, Head of Health and Community Care; Michelle McAloon, Head of Service - HR and Natalie Roger, Committee Officer.

Apologies: There were no apologies submitted.

Michelle Wailes in the Chair

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

It was noted that there were no Declarations of Interest in any of the items of business on the Agenda however Councillors Martin Rooney and Fiona Hennebry made Transparency Statements noting a connection to matters discussed at Items 8 and 9 respectively, however, noting that having applied the objective test, they did not amount to an interest.

RECORDING OF VOTES

The Board agreed that all votes taken during the meeting would be carried out by Roll Call vote to ensure an accurate record.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of Meeting of the Health and Social Care Partnership Board held on 19 August 2025 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

ROLLING ACTION LIST

The Rolling Action list for the Health and Social Care Partnership Board was submitted for information and relevant updates were noted and agreed with the Board content to close off one of the actions.

VERBAL UPDATE FROM CHIEF OFFICER

The Chief Officer provided a verbal update on the recent business of the Health and Social Care Partnership. The Chief Officer highlighted endemic challenges relating to delayed discharges, including care home quality and staffing challenges. The impact of the recent moratoriums and Large-Scale Investigation have compounded the challenge. The Chief Officer reported as of 30 September 2025 there were 46 acute delayed discharges. Clearly this was particularly concerning given the start of the winter period and the significant improvement that had been made in performance in the previous 12 months. The Chief Officer continued to describe the progress of developing savings proposals. She was pleased to report there have been improvements in staff absence, particularly within the NHS. Staff absence continues to be a key focus for improvement alongside the wellbeing of staff.

There were questions from Members which were answered by the Chief Officer, the Head of Children's Health, Care and Criminal Justice and Chief Social Work Officer, and the Chief Nurse, the Head of Mental Health, Learning Disabilities and Addiction and the Head of Service - HR. It was agreed that a written update would be provided to Members by the Chief Officer with particular focus on the Residential Care Home situation by the end of October.

ADULT CARER ASSESSMENT AND SUPPORT PLAN PROCESS AND THE SHORT BREAKS PROCESS REVIEW UPDATE

A report was submitted by Margaret-Jane Cardno, Head of Strategy and Transformation and Sylvia Chatfield, Head of Mental Health, Learning Disabilities and Addiction, updating the Board on the outcome of the Adult Carer Assessment and Support Plan (ACASP) process review, and the Short Breaks process review undertaken, and to present the redesigned Short Breaks process framework, which aims to address key challenges observed in previous process and improve service access, equity, and efficiency for unpaid carers across West Dunbartonshire.

After discussion and having heard the Head of Strategy and Transformation, the Head of Mental Health, Learning Disabilities and Addiction and the Service Manager - Carers of West Dunbartonshire in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Board agreed:-

(1) to approve proposal two, namely, to allocate two nights for carers with a 'considerable' rating and three nights for those with a 'critical' rating on adult carer assessment and support plan sections. This would mean a maximum possible score of 21 nights for someone who is critical in every area of the Adult Carer Assessment and Support Plan;

(2) to endorse the implementation of the redesigned Short Breaks process; and

(3) to instruct Officers to provide a six-month update on the redesign impact.

HOME CARE REVIEW UPDATE

A report was submitted by Fiona Taylor, Head of Health and Community Care, providing an update on the Care at Home service. This includes the progress and impact of the Redesign project, Care Inspectorate inspection in April 2025 and financial sustainability.

After discussion and having heard the Chief Officer and the Head of Community Health and Care in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Board agreed to note the content of the report and to bring the report back in the first quarter of 2026 for a further update.

WHAT WOULD IT TAKE: UPDATE

A report was submitted by Lesley James, Head of Children's Health, Care and Criminal Justice and Chief Social Work Officer, providing an update on the implementation of the What Would It Take Strategy.

After discussion and having heard the Head of Children's Health Care and Criminal Justice and the Manager of Legal Services in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Board agreed to note the content of this report.

VARIATION IN ORDER OF BUSINESS

Having heard Michelle Wailes, Chair, the Board agreed to vary the order of business as hereinafter minuted.

2024/25 ANNUAL REPORT ON THE AUDIT AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

A report was submitted by Julie Slavin, Chief Financial Officer, providing assurance that the annual review of the work of the Audit and Performance Committee throughout 2024/25 demonstrated effectiveness and fulfilled its role and responsibilities in line with CIPFA good practice guidance.

Having heard the Chief Financial Officer in further explanation, The Board agreed:-

(1) to consider and accept the Audit and Performance Committee Chair's Annual Report on the effectiveness and work of the Committee for 2024/25; and

(2) to recognise that future improvements to the Audit and Performance Committee would be shaped to consolidate its support to the HSCP Board.

AUDITED ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

A report was submitted by Julie Slavin, Chief Financial Officer, presenting for consideration and approval, audited Annual Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025.

After discussion and having heard the Chief Financial Officer in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Board considered the audited Annual Accounts for the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 and approved for final signature by the Chair, Chief Officer and Chief Financial Officer.

2025/26 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE PERIOD 5 REPORT

A report was submitted by Julie Slavin, Chief Financial Officer, providing an update the financial performance as at period 5 to 31 August 2025 and a projected outturn position to 31 March 2026.

After discussion and having heard the Chief Financial Officer in further explanation, the Board agreed:-

(1) to note the updated position in relation to budget movements on the 2025/26 allocation by West Dunbartonshire Council and NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board and approve the direction for 2025/26 back to our partners to deliver services to meet the HSCP Board's strategic priorities;

(2) to note the reported revenue position for the period to 31 August 2025 is reporting an adverse (overspend) position of £1.083m (1.24%);

(3) to note the projected outturn position of £2.599m overspend (1.20%) for 2025/26 including all planned transfers to/from earmarked reserves;

(4) to note the impact of recovery planning actions taken to date by the Senior Management Team to address the projected overspend;

(5) to note the update on the monitoring of savings agreed for 2025/26;

(6) to note the current reserves balances and the impact the projected overspend has on unearmarked balances;

(7) to note the update on the capital position and projected completion timelines; and

(8) to note the impact of several ongoing and potential pressures on the reported financial position for 2025/26, as well as on the previously identified budget gaps for 2026/27 and 2027/28.

RECORDS MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

A report was submitted by Margaret-Jane Cardno, Head of Strategy and Transformation, providing an update including details of the most recent Progress Update Review (PUR) undertaken and submitted to the Public Records (Scotland) Act Assessment Team.

After discussion and having heard the Head of Strategy and Transformation in further explanation the Board agreed to note the detail given about the Progress Update Review in relation to the Records Management Plan.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Members noted that the next meeting of West Dunbartonshire Health and Social Care Partnership Board would be held on Tuesday, 25 November 2025 at 2.00 p.m. as a Hybrid Meeting in the Civic Space, 16 Church Street, Dumbarton G82 1QL.

The meeting closed at 4.18 p.m.