

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, 26 May 2026 at 2.00 p.m.

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

Non-Voting Beth Culshaw, Chief Officer; Julie Slavin, Chief Financial Officer; Helen Little, MSK Manager; Selina Ross, Chief Officer – West Dunbartonshire CVS; Barbara Barnes, Stakeholder Member; Anne MacDougall, Stakeholder Member; John Kerr, Housing Development and Homeless Manager; Lesley James, Head of Children's Health, Care and Criminal Justice and Chief Social Work Officer; Kim McNab, Service Manager – Carers of West Dunbartonshire* and Andrew McCready, Staff Representative (NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde).

*Arrived later in the meeting.

Also Attending: Alan Douglas, Chief Officer – Regulatory and Regeneration (Legal Officer); Sylvia Chatfield, Head of Mental Health, Learning Disabilities and Addiction; Fiona Taylor, Head of Health and Community Care; Karyn Wood, Head of HR; Neil McKechnie, Contracts, Commissioning and Quality Manager; Alastair Handley, Systems, Digital and Information Governance Manager and Natalie Roger, Committee Officer.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Dr Saied Pourghazi, Clinical Director; Carolyn Ralston, Stakeholder Member and Val Terney, Chief Nurse.

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, Councillor Martin Rooney made a Transparency Statement noting a connection to matters discussed regarding the Change Project: Care at Home report, however, noting that having applied the objective test, it does not amount to an interest.

RECORDING OF VOTES

The Board agreed that all votes taken during the meeting be done by a 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 24 March 2026 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.

VERBAL UPDATE FROM CHIEF OFFICER

The Chief Officer provided a verbal update on the recent business of Health and Social Care Partnership. The Chief Officer explained that the SMT had been busy and that detailed updates on the 3 Transformation projects were contained within the Meeting. Heads of Service have also been working on Annual Delivery Plans which will be brought to the August IJB as a comprehensive Delivery Plan.

There is work on 2 new Transformation Projects; Transforming Together to align with the Healthcare Project and a new one on Public Protection, pulling together the work on Social Work Governance and processes. Work is underway on the development of the new Strategic, Workforce and Digital plans for 2027 onwards.

The Chief Officer explained the changes in structure following Margaret Jane Cardno leaving at the end of April and consequent changes in reporting lines. Neil McKechnie, Contracts, Commissioning and Quality Manager, now reports into Julie Slavin, as do the Service Improvement Leads. Val Tierney, Chief Nurse has taken on responsibility for Health Improvement, Health Visiting and School Nursing. The Chief Officer explained that she herself would take on the responsibility for Digital and Governance which is currently managed by Alastair Handley, Systems, Digital and Information Governance Manager and on her retirement at the end of September, this would be the responsibility of Karyn Wood, Head of HR.

The Chief Officer acknowledged that it was Lesley James' last meeting and noted the significant progress made in the Service and fully detailed within the 'What Would it Take' Report. The Chief Officer explained that a new Chief Social Work Officer had been appointed and will be joining from the end of July. In addition, the recruitment for a new Chief Officer was well underway.

The Chief Officer commented that it has been a time of great change and the SMT have been focussed on delivery and ensuring continuity at this time.

Kim McNab joined the meeting at this point.

CHANGE PROJECT: CARE AT HOME

A report was submitted by Fiona Taylor, Head of Health and Community Care, providing an update on the Care at Home Service including the progress and impact of the Redesign Project, Care Inspectorate Inspection and financial sustainability.

After discussion and having heard the Head of Health and Community Care and the Chief Officer in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Board agreed:-

- (1) to note the contents of the report;
- (2) enhanced monitoring via update reports to the HSCP Board in relation to absence levels, compliance with planned hours of care, and workforce establishment (including gaps and mitigation); and
- (3) to note the motions passed at recent Council meetings.

CHANGE PROJECT: LEARNING DISABILITY REVIEW PROGRESS UPDATE

A report was submitted by Sylvia Chatfield, Head of Mental Health, Learning Disability and Addictions, ~~updating the Board~~ providing an update on progress made following approval of the Paper entitled: "Proposed Next Steps Following a Comprehensive Review of Learning Disability Services" in August 2025.

After discussion and having heard the Head of Mental Health, Learning Disability and Addictions and the Head of Children's Health, Care and Criminal Justice and Chief Social Work Officer, in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the comprehensive Learning Disability Review work undertaken and delivered to date, following approval of Phase Two implementation on 19th August 2025 and Year One proposals on 27th June 2024; and
- (2) to note the ongoing implementation of the Learning Disability Review options throughout this financial year 2026/2027, as approved by the Board in August 2025.

CHANGE PROJECT: WHAT WOULD IT TAKE? STRATEGY 2024-2029

A report was submitted by Lesley James, Head of Children's Health, Care and Criminal Justice and Chief Social Work Officer, providing an annual report on activity during 2025-2026 on the implementation of the 'What Would It Take Strategy' which

seeks to improve outcomes for children and young people, drive improvement in services and ensure sustainability.

After discussion and having heard the Head of Children's Health, Care and Criminal Justice and Chief Social Work Officer in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Board agreed:-

- (1) to note the considerable improvement work taking place to improve outcomes for children and young people; and
- (2) to note the content of the report regarding efficiencies and savings generated to strengthen service sustainability.

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

A report was submitted by Julie Slavin, Chief Financial Officer, and presented by Neil McKechnie, Contracts, Commissioning and Quality Manager providing an update on the implementation and impact of Adult Carer Assessment and the Support Plan (ACASP) process and Short Breaks process that was agreed by the HSCP Board on the 30 September 2025.

After discussion and having heard the Contracts, Commissioning and Quality Manager and Kim McNab, Service Manager – Carers of West Dunbartonshire, in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Board agreed to note the improvement activity undertaken to support the implementation of the redesigned Short Breaks process which brings together carer and cared for people into one streamlined process.

DIGITAL STRATEGY UPDATE

A report was submitted by Beth Culshaw, Chief Officer and presented by Alastair Handley, Systems, Digital and Information Governance Manager, demonstrating progress made in the implementation of the HSCP Digital Strategy 2024-2027 and looking ahead to the development of a follow up Digital Strategy which will apply from 2027 onwards.

After discussion and having heard the Chief Officer and the Systems, Digital and Information Governance Manager in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Board agreed to note the detail of the report and progress made in the implementation of the Digital Strategy as shown in the Digital Strategy Update - Appendix A of the report.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chair adjourned the meeting for a short time. The meeting reconvened at 3.33 p.m. with all those Members and officers listed in the Sederunt present.

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING IN PRIMARY CARE SERVICE

A report was submitted by Sylvia Chatfield, Head of Mental Health, Learning Disability and Addictions updating on the present position of the Wellbeing Nurse (WBN) Team and future operational plan for this service, and to update on the Primary Care Mental Health Team (PCMHT) review which was recently completed by all six partner HSCP areas.

After discussion and having heard the Head of Mental Health, Learning Disability and Addictions in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Board agreed:-

- (1) to transfer funding from the WBN Service to PCMHT; and
- (2) to note the current work being undertaken as part of the PCMHT Review.

Note: Anne MacDougall left the meeting at this point.

PERFORMANCE AND QUALITY FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE UPDATE REPORT

A report was submitted by Julie Slavin, Chief Financial Officer, providing an update on the financial performance as at period 12 to 31 March 2026 and a draft outturn position to 31 March 2026.

After discussion and having heard the Chief Financial Officer and the MSK Manager in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Board agreed:-

- (1) to note the updated position on 2025/26 budget allocations by West Dunbartonshire Council and NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board and approve the direction for 2025/26 back to partners to deliver services to meet the HSCP Board's strategic priorities;
- (2) to note the draft outturn position (subject to audit) for the period to 31 March 2026 is reporting a favourable (underspend) position of £0.092m (0.04%);
- (3) to note this is subject to change as the financial ledgers are not yet closed and transfers to and from reserves have yet to be finalised;
- (4) to note the update on the monitoring of savings agreed for 2025/26;
- (5) to note the current draft projected reserves balances and approve an addition of £3.792m to earmarked reserves as set out in section 4.21 of the report;
- (6) to approve uprating of the Scottish Recommended Allowances to kinship and foster carers in line with the minimum rates advised in Appendix 7 of the report and note the anticipated costs of applying the uplift;
- (7) to note the update on the projected capital position; and

- (8) to note the HSCP Board's Audit and Performance Board will consider the 2025/26 draft unaudited accounts at the 23 June 2026 meeting.

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A report was submitted by Fiona Taylor, Head of Health and Community Care, providing an update on the improvement work in progress to reduce the risk of people being delayed in discharge from hospital.

After discussion and having heard the Head of Health and Community Care in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Board agreed to note the contents of the report

GOVERNANCE, COMPLIANCE AND REGULATIONS ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITY REPORT 2025/26

A report was submitted by Beth Culshaw, Chief Officer, providing an update on community engagement activities undertaken in the year 2025/26 and to provide assurance that the HSCP is operating in line accordance with the agreed Engagement and Participation Strategy 2024-2027.

After discussion, the Board agreed to note the contents of the report.

VALEDICTORY

LESLEY JAMES - HEAD OF CHILDREN'S HEALTH, CARE AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND CHIEF SOCIAL WORK OFFICER

Michelle Wailes, Chair, informed the Board that this would be the last meeting that Lesley James would attend as she would soon be leaving her post within the HSCP.

On behalf of the Board, the Chair thanked her for her contribution and wished her well.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Members noted that the next meeting of West Dunbartonshire Health and Social Care Partnership Board would be held on Tuesday, 18 August 2026 at 2.00 p.m. as a Hybrid Meeting in the Civic Space, 16 Church Street, Dumbarton G82 1QL.

The meeting closed at 4.07 p.m.