



**CONFIRMED MINUTE OF THE FIFE HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE
INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD (IJB)**

WEDNESDAY 29 JULY 2026 AT 10:00am

Present:	David Ross (DR) Chair Alistair Morris (AM) Vice-Chair Amanda Wong (AW), Associate Director, AHPs Prof Chris McKenna (CMcK), Medical Director, NHS Fife Debbie Fyfe (DF), Joint Trade Union Secretary Paul Dundas (PD), Independent Sector Lead Vicki Bennett (VB), Staff Representative, NHS Fife Kenny McCallum (KMc), Staff Representative, Fife Council Fife Council – David Alexander (DA), Dave Dempsey (DD), Eugene Clarke (EC), Lynn Mowatt (LM), Rosemary Liewald (RLie), Sam Steele (SS) NHS Fife Board Members (Non-Executive) – Colin Grieve (CG), Gillian McAuley (GMcA), Jo Bennett (JB), Craig MacDonald (CMacD)
Professional Advisers:	Lynne Garvey (LG), Director of Health & Social Care/Chief Officer Dr Aylene Kelman (AK), Deputy Medical Director Tracy Hogg (TH), Chief Finance Officer
Attending:	Caroline Cherry (CCh), Principal Social Work Officer Clare Buchanan (CB), Local Democracy Reporter Jill Nowell (JN), Director of Pharmacy & Medicines Karen Marwick (KM), Head of Complex & Critical Care Services Lesley Gauld (LGau), Team Manager Lisa Cooper (LC), Head of Primary & Preventative Care Services Ronan Burke (RB), Public Protection Service Manager Roy Lawrence (RLaw), Head of Culture, Engagement & Communities Scott Fissenden, Change & Improvement Manager Vanessa Salmond (VS), Head of Corporate Services, IJB Secretary & Head of Strategic Planning & Performance Gemma Reid (GR), H&SC Co-ordinator (Minute)
Apologies:	Chris Conroy (CC), Head of Community Care Services Joy Tomlinson (JT), Director of Public Health Lynn Barker (LB), Director of Nursing Lynne Parsons (LP), Employee Director, NHS Fife Kenny Murphy (KM), Third Sector Lead James Ross, (JR), Head of Service, Children and Families and Justice Social Work Services & Chief Social Work Officer Patrick Browne (PB), Fife Council John Kemp (JK), NHS Non-Executive Member Fiona Henderson (FH), GP Representative Susannah Mitchell (SM), GP Representative

		Morna Fleming (MF), Carers Representative Ken Fraser (KF), Public Representative
No.	AGENDA ITEM	ACTION
1	CHAIRPERSON'S WELCOME / OPENING REMARKS / APOLOGIES David Ross, Chair of the Integration Joint Board (IJB), opened the meeting by welcoming all attendees and noted apologies as above. Those present were reminded that they should mute their mobile phones for the duration of the meeting and mute their microphone when not talking and in an effort to keep to our timings for this meeting, all questions and responses should be as succinct as possible. David advised members that the meeting would be recorded to assist with Minute taking and the media have been invited to listen in to proceedings.	
2	DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS David Ross asked members if there were any declarations of interest to be highlighted. Alistair Morris declared an interest in relation to Item 6.5 (Carers Strategy), advising that his wife is the Chief Executive of Fife Carers.	
3	MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING AND ACTION NOTE 27 MAY 2026 Vanessa Salmond noted feedback received regarding attendee list on the minute and confirmed future minutes would be explicit of roles. The Minute and Action Note from the meeting held on 27 May 2026 were then both approved as an accurate record.	
4	CHIEF OFFICER UPDATE Lynne Garvey, Chief Officer of the IJB highlighted the briefing distributed the previous day and noted the range of activity being delivered across the Partnership. Lynne gave her personal thanks to staff, partners, carers, volunteers and communities for their continued commitment in managing ongoing system pressures while progressing service transformation and improvement. Lynne shared some key achievements: • Progress within the Community Hospitals Transformation Programme, including the successful relocation of patients to the refurbished Ward 2 at Glenrothes Hospital. • Positive outcomes from the iMatter survey, with the Employee Engagement Index matching the highest score achieved in the last five years despite a lower response rate. • Ongoing partnership working, including the Meet the Providers event and Shared Lives Week, which reinforced the importance of collaboration and person-centred support. • Continued support for unpaid carers, highlighted through engagement at the recent carers' wellbeing event. • Preparations for the launch of the Urgent Care Walk-In Service pilot in	

	Buckhaven, aimed at improving access to care closer to home. Lynne concluded by acknowledging the significant progress being made across the Partnership and the continued focus on improving outcomes for the people and communities of Fife. <u>Discussion</u> Eugene Clarke noted that iMatter response rates were down by 11.2% and queried if there are steps being taken to improve this. Lynne confirmed that a more targeted approach would be adopted next year, highlighting the importance of managers having a stronger visibility through outreach activities to support teams. While acknowledging that response rates were consistent with those seen across Scotland, she provided assurance that she would work with Roy Lawrence to improve compliance in the coming year. Lynne also noted that, despite the response rate challenges, the index score was the highest achieved in the last five years.	
5	COMMITTEE CHAIR ASSURANCE REPORTS Agreement on the principles of these reports was discussed at the Audit & Assurance Committee on 26th June 2026, the Strategic Planning Group on 1st July 2026, the Quality & Communities Committee on 8th July 2026, and the Finance, Performance & Scrutiny Committee on 21st July 2026. Vanessa Salmond introduced the reports and confirmed that all statements had been signed off by current Chairs. Vanessa advised that the reports were presented to provide the Board with a consolidated overview of committee activity, performance against workplans, levels of assurance, and any risks requiring escalation, strengthening links between committee scrutiny and Board decision-making. Vanessa confirmed that there were no areas of concern or escalation from a governance perspective. David Ross then invited Committee Chairs to comment in turn before opening to questions from Board members. Dave Dempsey, Chair of the Audit and Assurance Committee, highlighted the Review of Terms of Reference on page 19, noting that confirmation had been provided after the circulation of papers. He acknowledged that a broader review of committee structures is planned. Tracy Hogg, Depute Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee noted nothing to escalate from the group. Sam Steele, Depute Chair of the Qualities and Communities Committee confirmed there were no areas of concern to escalate and confirmed that Committee had taken assurance from all reports. David Alexander, Interim Chair of the Finance, Performance and Scrutiny Committee noted a positive meeting. <u>Decision</u> The Board was assured that the Governance Committees are discharging their functions and remit and escalating any issues appropriately.	
6	LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS & ANNUAL REPORTS 6.1 Commissioning Strategy	

	David advised that this report was discussed at the Strategic Planning Group on 1st July 2026 and the Finance, Performance and Scrutiny Committee on 21st July 2026 and invited Tracy Hogg to present the report. Tracy presented the final progress report on the Commissioning Strategy 2023–26 and noted that the strategy had been substantially delivered over the three-year period. Assurance was provided regarding implementation, including the development of collaborative commissioning arrangements with providers, increased local commissioning, and progress in embedding ethical and sustainable commissioning practices. Tracy noted ongoing challenges relating to workforce sustainability, financial pressures, and increasing demand, and welcomed the strong foundation established to support delivery of the Strategic Plan 2026–29. David then invited Tracy, in her capacity as Depute Chair of the Strategic Planning Group and David Alexander, Interim Chair of the Finance, Performance and Scrutiny Committee to comment on discussions at Committee before opening to questions from Board members. Tracy noted nothing of concern to escalate from the Strategic Planning Group. David noted no comments from the Finance, Performance and Scrutiny Committee. <u>Member discussion</u> Vicki Bennett sought clarification on the extent of Staffside and Trade Union involvement in the development of the Commissioning Strategy. In response, Tracy advised that the new strategy will be developed collaboratively with Staffside representatives and Trade Unions to ensure their views are reflected throughout the process. Paul Dundas welcomed the proposed approach, noting his involvement with commissioning and procurement colleagues and expressing his commitment to working collaboratively in the development of the new strategy. <u>Decision</u> The Board was assured that the Commissioning Strategy 2023-26 has been effectively delivered in line with the Commissioning Strategy Vision and Principles.	
	6.2 Mainstreaming the Equality Duty David advised that this report was discussed at the Finance, Performance and Scrutiny Committee on 21st July 2026 and invited Tracy Hogg to present the report. Tracy noted the report was presented to the Board for assurance and decision to approve. Members were asked to consider the Mainstreaming the Equality Duty and Equality Outcomes Progress Report 2026 and approve its submission to ensure compliance with the Equality Act 2010. Tracy noted the progress made in mainstreaming equality and delivering the five equality outcomes published in 2023, with all actions within the 2023–2026 action plan now complete. It was noted that development of the equality outcomes had been aligned with the Strategic Plan, supported through engagement with the Equality and Human Rights Commission and the IJB Equality Peer Support Network to ensure continued compliance. Members also noted improvements to the Equality	

	Impact Assessment process, progress through the Strategic Planning Group and Performance Reporting Framework, and the development of new equality outcomes and a supporting action plan for 2026–2029, approved in March 2026, to align with the refreshed Strategic Plan 2026–2029. David then invited David Alexander, Interim Chair of the Finance, Performance and Scrutiny Committee to comment on discussions at Committee before opening to questions from Board members. David advised that there was nothing to escalate from the Finance, Performance and Scrutiny Committee. <u>Member discussion</u> Jo Bennett queried what data source we are using to confirm compliance with the Equality Act. Tracy advised that she would pick this up with Jo offline. <u>Decision</u> The Board approved the Mainstreaming the Equality Duty and Equality Outcomes Progress Report 2026.	TH
	6.3 Home First Strategy Final Report David advised that this report was discussed at the Strategic Planning Group on 1st July 2026, the Quality and Communities Committee on 8th July 2026 and the Finance, Performance and Scrutiny Committee on 21st July 2026, and invited Lynne Garvey to present the report. The Integration Joint Board considered the final report on the Home First Strategy 2023-2026, which summarised progress over the previous three years and outlined how learning from the Strategy will inform the next phase of the Fife HSCP Strategic Plan. Lynne Garvey highlighted the significant shift achieved towards prevention, early intervention, and supporting people to remain at home or in a homely setting wherever possible, while recognising that further progress is required to fully realise the Home First ambition. Lynne noted progress in strengthening discharge pathways, reducing reliance on bed-based care through greater community provision, and embedding more integrated ways of working across health and social care services. Key programmes, including Single Handed Care and Community Hospitals Transformation, were noted as being well established and contributing to more personalised care, improved flow, and greater system resilience. The Board heard that the Strategy had delivered recurring savings of £4.75 million, with the majority of planned savings achieved while maintaining safe, person-centred care. Lynne noted that challenges remain in relation to changing demand and digital enablers. Learning from these areas has informed development of the HSCP's overarching strategy and future priorities. It was noted that a strong foundation has been established, with Home First principles embedded in day-to-day practice and ongoing programmes of work continuing to support delivery. The outcomes and learning from the Strategy will directly inform priorities for 2026-2029, particularly around prevention, digital transformation and further strengthening integration across the health and	

	social care system. David then invited Tracy Hogg, Depute Chair of the Strategic Planning Group, Sam Steele, Depute Chair of the Quality and Communities Committee and David Alexander, Interim Chair of the Finance, Performance and Scrutiny Committee to comment on discussions at Committees before opening to questions from Board members. Tracy advised there was nothing to escalate from the Strategic Planning Group. Sam noted nothing to escalate from the Quality and Communities Committee. David shared that there had been positive discussions at the Finance, Performance and Scrutiny Committee. <u>Member discussion</u> Paul Dundas acknowledged the significant work undertaken throughout delivery of the Home First Strategy, recognising both the challenges encountered and the more positive position now reflected in the report. Jo Bennett noted the strong links between the Home First agenda and the Care Home Collaborative programme and sought clarification on the anticipated timescales for implementing a single point of access approach. In response, Lynne Garvey advised that work is progressing towards a single point of access model and highlighted ongoing national developments around the establishment of Flow and Navigation Hubs. It was noted that these hubs are intended to act as a single point of coordination across all pathways, including mental health, social care and social work services. Lynne advised that development of the coordinated hub is progressing at pace in response to new national direction and expectations. Rosemary acknowledged the positive progress demonstrated within the report, particularly in relation to pathway development and associated outcomes. She highlighted the case study on page 135, presented by Laura, as particularly impactful and noted the importance of continuing to meet the expectations of local residents through service delivery and transformation. <u>Decision</u> The Board was assured that the Strategy has delivered a sustained system-wide shift towards prevention, early intervention and community-based care, supporting people to remain at home or in a homely setting wherever possible.	
	6.4 Public Protection Annual Report David advised that this report was discussed at the Quality and Communities Committee on 8th July 2026 and invited Caroline Cherry and Ronan Burke to present the report. Caroline Cherry introduced the report, providing an overview of public protection arrangements across Fife and noted the positive impact of the appointment of a Public Protection Manager and welcomed Ronan Burke, Public Protection Service Manager, the first role of its kind in Fife. It was noted that public protection activity remains subject to Care Inspectorate scrutiny, with a future Public Protection Inspection anticipated. Members also noted the establishment of a Public Protection Oversight Group to strengthen governance and scrutiny arrangements. Ronan Burke outlined the current public protection landscape within a national	

	context and highlighted progress towards a more integrated, multi-agency approach, including the establishment of a Public Protection Leadership Group bringing together partner agencies. The Board heard that Fife is well positioned nationally, supported by the creation of the Public Protection Manager role. However, increasing demand and complexity continue to present challenges. Members noted the implementation of a "No Wrong Door" approach and other initiatives to improve access to support and respond to rising demand. Ronan highlighted ongoing improvement activity, including quality assurance and evaluation processes to ensure learning is identified, shared and embedded in practice. The importance of co-production with service users was also emphasised. Ronan noted the continued increase in the number and complexity of individuals managed through Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA), placing additional pressure on housing and support services, and heard that strong partnership working remains essential to effective risk management. In relation to child protection, neglect was identified as a continuing area of significant concern. Ronan shared that demand across public protection services remains high and increasingly complex, reinforcing the importance of prevention and early intervention. Lynne Garvey highlighted Health's commitment to fund two Adult Support and Protection posts. Members noted that these posts, alongside existing NHS resources, will support the development of a dedicated Public Protection Team in Fife. David then invited Sam Steele, Depute Chair of the Quality and Communities Committee to comment on discussions at Committees before opening to questions from Board members. Sam advised that there were no issues requiring escalation from the Committee and welcomed both the report and the appointment of Ronan Burke, noting the report provided a comprehensive overview of activity and progress across public protection services. <u>Member Discussion</u> Rosemary Liewald gave thanks for the report and welcomed Ronan Burke to his new role. She raised concerns regarding the prevalence of self-neglect and hoarding, noting that there had been several severe cases within her ward. Rosemary highlighted the importance of understanding what community support networks are available to support individuals experiencing these issues and indicated that she would welcome further discussion out with the meeting. Paul Dundas welcomed the establishment of the Public Protection Service Manager post and expressed confidence that the additional capacity and leadership would strengthen Fife's ability to meet its public protection responsibilities. He commented that the role would add significant value in supporting vulnerable individuals and welcomed the report. Eugene Clarke noted that public protection activity is often centred on individuals and queried whether consideration is given to an individual's own perception of risk and danger when assessing and managing concerns. In response, Caroline Cherry noted the links between public protection and the work of the Community Safety Partnership, noting the importance of balancing	
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	risk management with avoiding the creation of a culture of fear within communities. Jo Bennett welcomed the establishment of the Public Protection Oversight Group, commenting that it would strengthen governance and oversight arrangements. She also raised the issue of information sharing, highlighting potential vulnerabilities where individuals are experiencing a crisis and timely information exchange is critical. Ronan Burke advised that information sharing in relation to Adult Support and Protection is built into the legislation under Section 5. He noted that, from a broader public protection perspective, discussions are ongoing with the Data Protection Officer to consider information sharing arrangements across services, particularly in relation to 16 to 17-year-olds where there can be overlap between different legislative frameworks. Members heard that these arrangements continue to be monitored to ensure information is shared appropriately and under the correct legislative provisions. <u>Decision</u> The Board was assured of Public Protection arrangements in place.	
	6.5 Carers Strategy in Fife David advised that this report was discussed at the Strategic Planning Group on 1st July 2026, the Quality and Communities Committee on 8th July 2026, and the Finance, Performance and Scrutiny Committee on 21st July 2026, and invited Roy Lawrence to present the report. Roy presented the Carers' Strategy for Fife 2026-2029 for approval and noted the significant contribution made by unpaid carers across Fife and the vital role they play in supporting individuals, communities, and the wider health and social care system. Roy shared that the strategy was informed by extensive engagement with carers, partners, communities and staff, with strong support for retaining the five existing strategic outcomes. The strategy reflects carers' priorities, including improved information, more coordinated support, earlier intervention, greater access to short breaks, and enhanced support for young carers. Members were advised that the strategy meets statutory duties under the Carers (Scotland) Act, aligns with the Fife HSCP Strategic Plan, and supports preparation for future national developments through Care Reform. Roy noted the establishment of a national leadership forum, jointly led with the Director of Carers Trust Scotland, bringing together representatives from Shared Care Scotland, Scottish Government, local authorities and HSCPs to strengthen support for unpaid carers, share learning and influence future policy and practice. It was highlighted that Fife is well placed to both contribute to and benefit from this collaborative work. Roy acknowledged the ongoing challenges of increasing demand and financial pressures. However, the strategy was noted to provide a framework for improving quality, strengthening partnership working, reviewing commissioning arrangements and ensuring carers' experiences and outcomes remain central to service planning and delivery. Roy expressed his thanks to adult and young carers across Fife, HSCP staff, third sector partners and members of the Joint Carers Strategy Group for their contribution to the development of the strategy and welcomed the framework for	

	improving outcomes for carers over the period 2026-2029. David then invited Tracy Hogg, Depute Chair of the Strategic Planning Group, Sam Steele, Depute Chair of the Quality and Communities Committee and David Alexander, Interim Chair of the Finance, Performance and Scrutiny Committee to comment on discussions at Committees before opening to questions from Board members. Tracy noted nothing to escalate from the Strategic Planning Group. Sam advised there were no issues raised at the Quality and Communities Committee. David noted nothing to escalate from the Finance, Performance and Scrutiny Committee. <u>Member Discussion</u> Lynn Mowatt thanked officers for the report, highlighting the strong engagement undertaken with carers and partner organisations and the clear focus on improving support for carers. She expressed her appreciation to all those involved in developing the strategy. Lynn also sought assurance on measures being taken to recruit and retain staff as part of the workforce strategy. In response, Roy highlighted a number of initiatives to support workforce recruitment and retention, including the appointment of Purdie Plenderleith, who replaced Dafydd McIntosh as Workforce Development Lead, and the team's recent recognition at the Palace through work with the King's Trust. Members heard of ongoing collaboration with sustainable medical and nursing workforce groups, equality, diversity and inclusion initiatives to support a more inclusive workforce, and opportunities to support care-experienced individuals to transfer their skills into paid employment. Rosemary Liewald commended the excellent work of Fife Young Carers and sought assurance that support for young carers would continue, particularly through partnership working between Fife Young Carers and Education Services. She referred to information packages developed for schools and asked for an update on progress and feedback received. Roy advised that Fife Young Carers remains the key delivery partner for support to young carers and highlighted the provision of funded tutorial support for young people whose education has been impacted by their caring responsibilities. Roy noted the continued focus on supporting young carers through both educational and wider support services. <u>Decision</u> • The Board was assured that the Strategy is aligned with national legislation, strategies and policies, national carer organisations, and the views of carers and the public in Fife. • The Board approved the Carers' Strategy for Fife 2026 – 2029.	
	6.6 NHS Fife Child Protection Annual Report 2025/26 David advised that this report was discussed at the Quality and Communities Committee on 8th July 2026 and invited Gillian McAuley, Executive Nurse Director to present the report. Gillian McAuley presented the report, highlighting the ongoing commitment to safeguarding children and young people and supporting their wellbeing. She noted the continued collaborative approach across services to implement	

	national child protection guidance and respond to evolving national priorities and frameworks. Thanks were extended to the Child Protection Team, colleagues and partners across Fife for their dedication and commitment. The report provided a comprehensive review of the previous year, identifying both achievements and challenges. It demonstrated continuing strengths in governance, workforce development and safeguarding arrangements, aligned to Public Protection accountability and assurance frameworks. Robust governance structures, regular oversight, scrutiny and performance assurance processes were noted, alongside a strong culture of learning and continuous improvement. Gillian advised that the increasingly complex operating landscape continued to present challenges in responding to demand, requiring an ongoing focus on team resilience and service sustainability. The report confirmed that assurances had been achieved against all eight quality standards and provided moderate assurance, supported by evidence of strengthened governance and enhanced multi-agency working. Examples of good practice included the Child Protection Newsletter, the introduction of the Neglect Hub, reflecting the most common child protection concern in Fife, and the provision of multi-agency training resources for staff. Gillian also acknowledged and thanked Dougie Dunlop for his contribution as Independent Chair and welcomed Maria Lloyd, who would assume the role following her tenure as Head of Education in Fife. David then invited Sam Steele, Depute Chair of the Quality and Communities Committee to comment on discussions at Committee before opening to questions from Board members. Sam advised that the Committee had been assured by the report. <u>Member Discussion</u> Jo Bennett thanked officers for the report and welcomed the positive performance against standards and improvements in access to advice and support. She sought an update on timescales for introducing electronic IRDs. Lisa Cooper advised that opportunities to collaborate and share solutions with other agencies are being explored, although data protection considerations have limited some options. Progress is being made towards an electronic IRD solution, however no implementation timescale is currently available. Rosemary Liewald welcomed the report and highlighted the progress made through the Bairns' Hoose project, noting that Fife is in a stronger position than previously. She emphasised the importance of continuing to support and sustain the workforce. Eugene Clarke suggested future reports include more consistent "so what" and "what next" sections, together with clearer information on areas where progress has been limited. Gillian agreed to incorporate this feedback in future reporting. David Ross noted the significant increase in referrals and enquiries and queried whether this reflected improved awareness among practitioners. Gillian advised that enhanced training and awareness had increased recognition and reporting of concerns, which demonstrated the value of the training programme. She added that workload levels continue to be monitored to ensure staff are appropriately supported. <u>Decision</u>	
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	The Board was assured on the governance and effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements across NHS Fife and the Fife Health and Social Care Partnership.	
7	LIVED EXPERIENCE & WELLBEING 7.1 Lived Experience – Carers Act David Ross welcomed Roy Lawrence, who introduced the item and presented a short video highlighting the experiences of unpaid carers across Fife. Members viewed the video, which showcased the lived experiences of carers and the impact of caring responsibilities on individuals and families. Roy noted that the insights shared had helped shape the priorities, actions and commitments within the Carers' Strategy and reinforced the importance of continuing to improve support and outcomes for carers across Fife. Roy expressed his appreciation to those involved in the video. David Ross commented that the video effectively brought to life the realities of caring and the experiences of carers across Fife.	
8	INTEGRATED PERFORMANCE & QUALITY 8.1 Performance Report – May 2026 David Ross advised that this report was discussed at the Quality and Communities Committee on 8th July 2026 and the Finance, Performance and Scrutiny Committee on 21st July 2026 and invited Vanessa Salmond to present the report. Vanessa Salmond presented the abridged Performance Report for May 2026, noting that it had been intentionally prepared as a high-level summary. Members heard that the full report had been scrutinised through the relevant governance routes. The report focussed on key issues, areas of assurance, improvement activity and matters requiring escalation. Vanessa noted that the overall assessment provided moderate assurance and demonstrated a positive direction of travel. Performance management arrangements continue to mature, supported by ongoing improvement activity and strengthened governance arrangements. Members heard of continued improvement in system flow and strong performance within CAMHS. Areas identified for enhanced oversight included psychological therapies, childhood immunisations, complaints handling, staff absence and smoking cessation. It was noted that each area is subject to escalation arrangements and associated improvement plans, with progress currently on track. Vanessa advised that, while several indicators remain under escalation, the report provides assurance of overall improvement in performance management as at May 2026. Lynne Garvey highlighted the robustness of governance arrangements, noting that performance is regularly scrutinised by SLT through dedicated improvement sessions focussed on key performance indicators. She advised that this approach is strengthening accountability across portfolios and supporting continuous improvement. Lynne noted that smoking cessation performance has improved since the introduction of the improvement process and is now just below target. In relation	

	to complaints, targeted professional leadership, enhanced direction and increased scrutiny have been implemented to improve compliance and performance. David Ross then invited Sam Steele, Depute Chair of the Quality and Communities Committee and David Alexander, Interim Chair of the Finance, Performance and Scrutiny Committee to comment on discussions at Committee before opening to questions from Board members. Sam advised that the Quality and Communities Committee had received assurance from the report and supported the proposed changes to the key performance indicators. David commented on the level of detail contained within the report, noting that while the comprehensive information was appropriate and valuable for Committee scrutiny, a more concise summary format was preferable for Integration Joint Board reporting. <u>Member discussion</u> Rosemary Liewald thanked officers for the detailed report and raised concerns regarding lower-than-expected immunisation uptake. She queried what further action could be taken at a locality level, including the use of educational materials and engagement through early years settings and parent and toddler groups. Lisa Cooper outlined ongoing improvement actions, including involvement of Health Visiting teams, targeted engagement with families choosing not to immunise, home visits, and increased visibility of Immunisation Service Team Leaders within localities to promote uptake and better understand barriers. Lisa confirmed that a universal approach is in place across Fife, complemented by targeted interventions in localities and areas of deprivation. Eugene Clarke sought further detail on the SMART improvement activities referenced within the report. Lisa advised that future reports would provide greater detail as performance reporting arrangements continue to mature. Vanessa Salmond highlighted that further detail on the performance management approach had been considered at a recent development session and noted that, while Board reports have been streamlined, they are supported by robust governance and scrutiny processes. Gillian McAuley provided an update on complaints performance and advised that significant improvement work has been underway since January. Gillian noted that Stage 2 complaints performance had improved from 2% in January to 58% in June, exceeding the planned trajectory of 40%, with a target of 70% by April 2027. The number of complaints within the system has also reduced by half. Sam Steele queried whether there was an opportunity to promote immunisation through antenatal services. Lisa agreed to explore links with community midwifery colleagues. Jo Bennett welcomed the reduction in patients waiting for care home services and asked whether waiting-time data was available. Lynne Garvey confirmed that this information is reported monthly to the Scottish Government. Jo also sought assurance that improvement actions relating to psychological therapies would reduce the current escalation status. Lynne advised that, given ongoing demand pressures, significant assurance could not yet be provided, although discussions with the new Director had provided confidence that	LC
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	appropriate improvement actions were being progressed and closely monitored. Chris McKenna advised that psychological therapies performance continues to receive detailed scrutiny at NHS Committee level. Members heard that a significant mismatch between demand and capacity had been identified, with further work required to understand whether improvements should focus on reducing demand, increasing capacity, or both. Current resources are insufficient to fully meet demand. Colin Grieve queried whether more recent data was available for the information presented on pages 243-244. Vanessa Salmond confirmed that the data included in the report was incorrect and would be updated. <u>Decision</u> The Board was assured regarding the progress of key HSCP performance metrics.	VS
	8.2 Annual Performance Report 2025-26 David Ross advised that this report was discussed at the Strategic Planning Group on 1st July 2026, the Quality and Communities Committee on 8th July 2026 and the Finance, Performance & Scrutiny Committee on 21st July 2026, and invited Vanessa Salmond to present the report. Vanessa Salmond presented the Annual Performance Report for final approval, noting that it is a statutory requirement and provides an assessment of performance against the nine National Health and Wellbeing Outcomes. Vanessa recorded her thanks to staff, partners and the Strategic Planning Team for their contribution to the report. Vanessa noted that the report had been strengthened following Committee scrutiny, with minor amendments incorporated. The report highlights achievements, challenges, areas of innovation and service improvement over the past year and marks the final year of the current Strategic Plan. Key achievements included increased numbers of people being supported to live independently at home, significant expansion of Community Led Support, development of preventative mental health initiatives, and improved Care Inspectorate gradings. The Board also noted areas of ongoing challenge, including emergency admissions, falls, carers' outcomes and care experience survey results. Members heard that the year-end financial position reflected an overspend of £9.5 million. The report recognised both the achievements and challenges experienced during the year and acknowledged the contribution of staff, partners, carers and local communities. The Board was invited to approve the report for publication. David Ross then invited Tracy Hogg, Depute Chair of the Strategic Planning Group, Sam Steele, Depute Chair of the Quality and Communities Committee and David Alexander, Interim Chair of the Finance, Performance and Scrutiny Committee to comment on discussions at Committees before opening to questions from Board members. Tracy noted nothing of concern to escalate from the Strategic Planning Group. Sam reported no comments from the Quality and Communities Committee. David advised there was nothing to raise from the Finance, Performance and	

	Scrutiny Committee. <u>Member discussion</u> Dave Dempsey noted that two versions of the report had been presented: the statutory report for the Scottish Government and an Easy Read version. He queried whether there was a public-facing summary report that provided a level of detail between the two formats. Vanessa Salmond advised that the full report is the statutory submission required by the Scottish Government and confirmed that consideration would be given to the format of future reports. She noted that the Easy Read version had been produced in line with guidance to improve accessibility for specific groups. Lesley Gauld advised that a summary version of the report had been produced in SWAY format and shared the relevant link in the meeting chat. Jo Bennett sought clarification on emergency admission rates and whether analysis of this data could help inform future unscheduled care planning. In response, Lynne Garvey noted that Fife performs well against the Scottish average for emergency admissions. She highlighted that the Strategic Needs Assessment provides a more detailed understanding of trends within local communities and helps inform how the workforce can be deployed differently to meet changing needs. <u>Decision</u> The Board: - - Reviewed the draft Annual Performance Report 2025-2026 and provided final approval for publication and circulation to partner agencies (Scottish Government, Fife Council and NHS Fife). - Was assured that Fife Health and Social Care Partnership is meeting its legislative requirements under Section 42 (Integration authority: performance report) of the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014.	
	8.3 Finance Update – Month 2 David Ross advised that this report was discussed at the Finance, Performance and Scrutiny Committee on 21st July 2026 and invited Tracy Hogg to present the report. The Board considered the Month 2 Finance Report, outlining a projected breakeven position at year end, with a small forecast underspend of £24k against a budget of £791m. Tracy noted changes to the budget since April and the associated Directions. It was highlighted that the process for approving in-year Directions is under review, as allocations received from the Scottish Government can result in expenditure being incurred before formal IJB approval is sought. Tracy shared that prescribing costs and Service Level Agreements (SLAs) remain areas of financial risk and will continue to be closely monitored. Forecast expenditure within Community Care and Complex and Critical Care services also remains sensitive to changes in demand and workforce availability, with ongoing review and escalation to partners where required. Tracy noted that the HSCP is required to deliver savings of £23.5m in 2026/27. Weekly savings monitoring meetings remain in place following their success in	

	supporting delivery during the previous financial year. Work is also ongoing through SLT to identify £3m of management savings within the savings programme, with officers confident this remains achievable. In addition, opportunities are being explored to bring forward savings planned for 2027/28. Tracy noted the reserves position, with £2.878m brought forward from 2025/26, including funding earmarked for unscheduled care. Of this, £1.5m has been drawn into the service position at Month 2, leaving a balance of £1.288m, which remains committed for use during 2026/27. Tracy gave assurance that demand-led pressures across services will continue to be closely scrutinised in partnership with NHS Fife and Fife Council, with recovery actions implemented if required. David Ross then invited David Alexander, Interim Chair of the Finance, Performance and Scrutiny Committee to comment on discussions at Committee before opening to questions from Board members. David commented that there had been positive feedback from the Finance, Performance and Scrutiny Committee. <u>Member discussion</u> Dave Dempsey queried whether approval of Directions could be deferred until there is assurance that additional allocations are being used in the most effective manner and queried whether such allocations are binding on the IJB. Tracy advised that the allocations and associated Directions are determined by the Scottish Government. Vanessa Salmond proposed taking the matter forward through the IJB Governance Group within Scottish Government. Sam Steele referred to GLP-1 prescribing and asked whether information was being gathered to support future monitoring, noting that some individuals currently access these treatments privately. Lisa Cooper advised that GLP-1 prescribing is not currently being enabled in Fife. A prescribing pathway is being developed and progressing through the appropriate governance processes for approval. Lisa advised that while funding has been identified within the budget, implementation will need to align with available resources and service capacity. <u>Decision</u> The Board: - • Noted the content of the report including the provisional outturn position for delegated services for 2026-27 financial year as at May 2026 as outlined in Appendices 1-3 of the report; • Was assured that there is robust financial monitoring in place; • Approved the Directions to NHS Fife and Fife Council for additional allocations in year.	VS
9	GOVERNANCE & OUTCOMES 9.1 Review of IJB Strategic Risk Register David Ross advised that this report was discussed at the Audit and Assurance Committee on 26th June 2026, the Quality and Communities Committee on 8th July 2026 and the Finance, Performance and Scrutiny Committee on 21st July	

	2026 and invited Tracy Hogg to present the report. The Board considered the revised Strategic Risk Register, developed following approval of the Strategic Plan 2026-2029. Tracy noted that the IJB is required, under the Integration Scheme and Risk Management Policy and Strategy, to maintain a Strategic Risk Register identifying the key risks to delivery of the Strategic Plan. All risks continue to be managed by the Senior Leadership Team and overseen by the relevant Governance Committees. It was noted that a review of the register had been undertaken following a risk deep dive in March 2026 and subsequent discussions at SLT and the IJB Development Session. This included consideration of emerging risks arising from the refreshed Strategic Plan and opportunities to streamline existing risks. Tracy noted the proposed creation of a new Strategic Plan Delivery risk, combining the previous Demographics/Changing Landscapes, Transformation and Strategic Planning risks. A new Focus on Prevention risk has also been developed to reflect the increased emphasis on prevention and communities within the Strategic Plan. The Board heard that the existing Information Governance risk has been revised to place a greater focus on digital transformation. It was also proposed that the Primary Care Services risk be removed from the IJB register to avoid duplication with NHS Fife's Corporate Risk Register, while assurance reporting will continue through existing governance arrangements. In addition, the Clinical and Care Governance risk is proposed for closure, having reached its target risk score with all improvement actions completed. Tracy noted a number of minor amendments to the wording of other risks and advised that the revised Risk Register and Risk Matrix was included within the report appendices. David Ross then invited Dave Dempsey, Chair of the Audit and Assurance Committee, Sam Steele, Depute Chair of the Quality and Communities Committee and David Alexander, Interim Chair of the Finance, Performance and Scrutiny Committee to comment on discussions at Committees before opening to questions from Board members. Dave Dempsey expressed concern that a number of risks previously identified for close monitoring had not reduced as expected, with target dates continuing to be extended. He questioned how risks would be reduced to their target levels and whether the risk deep-dive process is delivering the intended improvements. Sam Steele advised that the matter had been discussed in detail at the Quality and Communities Committee and that the Risk Register had been updated following that discussion. Dave also queried why the governance-related risk was not overseen by the Committee responsible for governance matters. Tracy Hogg confirmed that oversight of this risk sits with the Finance, Performance and Scrutiny Committee. David Alexander noted that the Committee had received assurance regarding the revised Risk Register and was content for the report to progress to the Integration Joint Board for approval. <u>Decision</u> The Board approved the refreshed IJB Strategic Risk Register.	
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	9.2 Governance Manual Update David Ross advised that this report was discussed at the Audit & Assurance Committee on 26th June 2026 and invited Vanessa Salmond to present the report. Vanessa Salmond presented the report outlining the outcome of the review of the IJB Governance Framework, which completes an outstanding audit action carried forward from 2024/25. Members heard that the review sought to provide clearer distinction between the Code of Corporate Governance and the Governance Manual. The revised Governance Manual has been developed as a practical and accessible guide to support understanding of governance processes, roles and responsibilities. It was noted that the revised Manual was developed with input and support from the Audit and Assurance Committee and forms part of a suite of governance documents that will continue to evolve and be updated as required. Vanessa advised that supporting governance documents are subject to ongoing review and refresh, including the Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Scheme of Delegation and Fife Integration Scheme, to further strengthen governance arrangements across the Partnership. David Ross invited Dave Dempsey, Chair of the Audit and Assurance Committee to comment on discussions at Committee before opening to questions from Board members. Dave noted that committee were assured by the report. <u>Decision</u> The Board endorsed the revised approach as a more robust and effective basis for governance, assurance, and continuous improvement.	
	9.3 IJB Workplan 2026-27 David Ross advised that the IJB Workplans were available within the meeting pack for member information.	
10	OPERATIONAL UPDATE 10.1 Urgent Care Walk-In Service David Ross advised that this report was discussed at the Quality and Communities Committee on 8th July 2026 and invited Lisa Cooper to present the report. Lisa advised that the report was presented to inform members and provide moderate assurance regarding planning for delivery of the first pilot within Fife. Members noted that, following national policy direction, all Boards are required to pilot the model across Scotland. Lisa highlighted that the paper outlined plans to deliver the model at the Randolph Wemyss Memorial Hospital within 100 days, in line with Scottish Government direction. Planning is at an advanced stage, with both operational and strategic oversight groups established. It was noted that whilst this is a Fife-wide model, the initial launch in the Levenmouth area will be tested alongside an agreed workforce model to ensure safety. Lisa noted the risks identified within the report and the actions being taken to mitigate these. Lisa highlighted that three appendices had been included for	

	information. A communications plan has been developed to support public understanding of the model, including how to access the service and when it is appropriate to attend. Lisa also noted the draft Direction to NHS Fife to commission delivery of the model. Lisa invited Dr Aylene Kelman, Deputy Medical Director to provide an update. Dr Kelman reported positive engagement, particularly within the Levenmouth cluster, and advised that active work is ongoing to finalise staffing rotas, with encouraging indications that workforce requirements can be met. Work also continues on the development of clinical pathways, with engagement at a national level and learning being shared from other areas to identify effective approaches. Dr Kelman further reported on a positive meeting with Healthcare Improvement Scotland, which is supporting the learning and evaluation process. David Ross invited Sam Steele, Depute Chair of the Quality and Communities Committee to comment on discussions at Committee before opening to questions from Board members. Sam noted no areas of concern to escalate from committee. <u>Member discussion</u> Eugene queried how the pilot would be evaluated, who would undertake the evaluation, and the criteria that would be used. Lisa advised that a national evaluation framework is currently being developed. Locally, the Performance and Planning and Participation and Engagement Teams are supporting the work, informed by learning and data from other Boards. In response to a further question, Lisa noted that no timescale for the national evaluation framework is currently available. Professor Chris McKenna, Medical Director, advised that Healthcare Improvement Scotland will lead the national evaluation, alongside local assessment arrangements, although no timescales have yet been confirmed. Eugene expressed concern that public funding is being committed without a clearly defined evaluation process. Chris reiterated that national evaluation arrangements are being developed and that local measures of success have been identified. Dave Dempsey sought clarification on whether the service would be available to all Fife registered patients and noted that he was not assured by the pilot due to his concerns around the level of uncertainty surrounding the pilot. Lisa confirmed that the model is commissioned for the whole of Fife, however the Test of Change currently focuses on the Levenmouth locality to ensure safe implementation. Chris clarified that access to the service will be based on defined eligibility criteria, which will be clearly communicated. He commended the work of the Primary Care and Urgent Care teams, as well as colleagues involved in the development of the model, and provided assurance that every effort would be made to ensure its success. Rosemary welcomed the progress made and thanked Lisa and the wider teams for their work, highlighting the need for the service and expressing confidence that it would be successful and capable of future expansion. In response to further questions on measures of success, Lynne advised that the Medical Director had provided assurance regarding safe access arrangements. She commended Lisa, Dr Kelman and their teams for their work	
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	and noted that Public Health Scotland, Healthcare Improvement Scotland and NHS 24 are contributing to the development of evaluation measures and key performance indicators. Members were assured that the IJB would continue to receive updates on the performance and success of the service. David Alexander referred to recent media reporting on the evaluation of earlier pilots and noted the significant potential and anticipated benefits of the service. <u>Decision</u> The Board was moderately assured given the risks described and the operational delivery considerations articulated, with assurance that an operational group and oversight group are now convened.	
11	MINUTES OF GOVERNANCE COMMITTEES / LOCAL PARTNERSHIP FORUM / ITEMS TO BE HIGHLIGHTED The minutes of the following Governance Committees were provided for information: • Quality & Communities Committee - Confirmed Minute of 22 April 2026 • Strategic Planning Group – Confirmed Minute of 5 May 2026 • Audit & Assurance Committee – Confirmed Minute of 8 May 2026 • Local Partnership Forum - Confirmed Minute of 13 May 2026 • Finance, Performance & Scrutiny Committee - Confirmed Minute of 15 May 2026 David Ross requested that any queries on the above were directed to the Committee Chair due to timescales.	
12	AOCB • Mental Health Response Car Dave Dempsey requested an update on the Mental Health Response Car, noting that an evaluation report had been anticipated earlier in the year. Lynne Garvey reported positive progress and advised that the service is now in a position to undertake further testing and evaluation within the Levenmouth, Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath areas. Karen Marwick confirmed that recruitment for nursing staff is ongoing and that discussions are underway with the Scottish Ambulance Service regarding the recruitment of a paramedic. Members were advised that a further update report will be presented to the IJB in September. Eugene welcomed the progress reported. Dave Dempsey sought clarification on whether the service remained a pilot or had become a permanent provision. Lynne confirmed that dedicated Levenmouth funding had now ceased and that the service is currently being supported through Fife Council and delegated IJB budgets on a temporary basis. Lynne remained hopeful that ongoing funding requirements will be considered as part of future financial planning for the next financial year.	

DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

IJB DEVELOPMENT SESSION – Wednesday 26 August 2026 (Kirkcaldy Town House)

INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD – Wednesday 30 September 2026, 13:00 – 16:00 (Fife House / MS Teams)