

NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde	Paper No. 25/174
Paper Title:	East Renfrewshire Integration Joint Board Report
Meeting:	NHSGGC Board Meeting
Date of Meeting:	18 December 2025
Purpose of Paper:	For Noting
Classification:	Board Official
Date of IJB	19 November 2025
Committee Chairperson:	IJB Vice Chair: Mehvish Ashraf

1. Purpose of Paper

The purpose of this paper is to inform the NHS Board on key items of discussion at the East Renfrewshire Integration Joint Board (IJB) which took place on [19 November 2025](#).

2. Recommendation

The Board is asked to note the key items of discussion at the recent meeting of the IJB as set out below and seek further information or assurance as required.

3. Key Items of Discussion

- **Chief Officer Update**

The IJB noted the Chief Officer's update. The report provided an update on national developments and East Renfrewshire's local priorities as set out in the new combined delivery plan. The report recognised key achievements and challenges from the latest performance report and provided an update on a range of areas of work, including the development of a digital strategy, the care at home tender, discharge without delay, the MWC visit to inpatient services and the recent promise event. It was noted that we would ensure invites to future events were extended to all IJB members.

- **Draft Combined Delivery Plan**

The IJB noted the draft combined delivery plan. The plan sets out East Renfrewshire's five strategic priorities: Keeping Our Promise, Living, Ageing and Dying Well, Healthy Communities, Valuing Our Workforce, and Public Protection. The priorities are supported by strategic enablers; digital, governance, commissioning, and communications and engagement. The plan aims to bring together outcomes alongside performance and financial information. IJB members welcomed the plan and were pleased it was written in plain English. There was discussion around the digital strategy and prevention. The Chief Officer provided assurance that the plan would draw on experience of individuals and is less about what the HSCP might stop and more about how we are focused in our activities and are positioning ourselves to support what we are hearing that is important to people.

- **Clinical and Care Governance Annual Report**

The IJB noted the report setting out the main aspects of safe, effective and person centred care. Members commented on the breadth of the report and how the OT Sparks group was a great example of how a service changed as a result of feedback.

- **Chief Social Work Officer Annual Report 2024/25**

The IJB noted the report providing an overview of the professional activity for social work for 2024/25. Members commented on how the Promise is brought to life and were pleased to see domestic violence highlighted alongside mental health and addictions.

- **Winter Planning Arrangements 2025/25.**

The IJB noted the winter planning arrangements and the NHSGGC whole system reset. Members were pleased to see the shift in direction of travel compared to previous years and commented on the key improvements in relation to access points as noted in the plan. There were also questions around flu and the potential impact. It was noted we have already experienced an outbreak in Bonnyton Care Home however everyone has now recovered. Members were also assured that there has been a good uptake of staff vaccinations and that uptake for our most vulnerable patients is around 98%. IJB members did highlight the use of acronyms in the plan and whilst they recognised a glossary was included noted it would be helpful to have this upfront or for a shorter user friendly version in future.

- **Prescribing Update and Action Plan**

The IJB noted the report and welcomed such a comprehensive update on prescribing, noting that the Chief Officer and Deputy Director of Pharmacy would be cochairing a group to look at system wide approaches given the board wide and national issues around prescribing. There was discussion around social and green prescribing, conditions related to population health and wellbeing and serial prescribing.

- **Communication and Engagement Strategy.**

The IJB approved the HSCPs first communications and engagement strategy which aims to build trust and transparency as well as improving access to information for those who use our services. The strategy is aligned to the HSCPs strategic priorities and NHS and Council strategies. IJB members recognised the importance of clear and consistent communication, particularly in such challenging times.

- **Commissioning for Young People and Adults.**

The IJB noted the report and approved the development of an all-age commissioning strategy. The strategy aims to create a flexible, inclusive, and sustainable system of support for people with disabilities, recognising that people need different support at different times in their life. The strategy will take into account the market position and best value. IJB members welcomed the strategy.

- **Revenue Budget Monitoring Report**

The IJB noted the report which shows a potential underspend for the year of £0.350 million, however underlying financial challenges remain significant, with an estimated £2.4m gap and further risks include delivering Care at Home within budget, recurring savings, prescribing volatility, and external factors such as funding changes. Actions to close the gap are included in the report and detailed action plans are being developed to support the Combined Delivery Plan which will reflect financial implications including opportunities for costs reductions, efficiencies, savings and any invest to save options. It was noted that the Council's commitment of up to £1.5m support remains in place to cover cost of deferral of non-residential charging if required.

- **Charging for Services 2026/27**

The IJB noted the report and recognised that the financial outlook remains very challenging following on from the external auditor report to September 2025 Performance and Audit Committee, which noted a risk of financial unsustainability. The IJB general reserve will be depleted in 2026/27 and, as set out by the IJB external auditor, this presents a continued risk to the IJB financial sustainability. The projected fall in General Reserves to just 0.1% of net expenditure in 2025/26 is not only financially unsustainable but also leaves the IJB with virtually no buffer to manage unforeseen demands or emergencies.

The paper sets out consequences if non-residential charging is not approved in December 2025, or is further deferred and the full cost of the deferral is not funded by the Council, this will generate a £1.5m recurring cost pressure to the IJB which will need to be resolved in the months between December 2025 and March 2026. This could mean an overall recurring cost pressure to be resolved in the four months remaining to March 2026 to increase to £3.9m for the IJB. Members of the IJB recognised that whilst charging for services may not be palatable, the alternatives could be far worse and affect a high number of residents. It was agreed members comments would be incorporated into the non-residential charging paper going to Council on 10th December. The IJB also recognised the requirement to identify alternative funding to mitigate the £1.5m pressure created if non-residential care charging is further deferred or not funded as a strategic risk to be added the strategic risk register.

4. Care Home Capacity Update

At NHS GGC Board on 13th November, it was requested to report on care home capacity across the IJBs and clearly outline aggregated risk associated with overall demand. As of 2nd December 2025, there are 42 vacancies within local care homes in East Renfrewshire. There are also a further 28 vacancies which are either allocated, or being held as part of phased admissions to ensure new admissions are managed safely. One home currently has a voluntary moratorium in place.

Care Homes are registered providers and all Care Homes in East Renfrewshire are rated grade 4 (Good) or better by the Care Inspectorate. Although there are vacancies in East Renfrewshire, a number of these care homes have rates above that of Scotland Excel national rates and will not accept residents being discharged from hospital without medication or discharge letters, given their registered status.

5. Issues for referral to Standing Committees of the Board or escalation to the NHS Board

There were no issues for referral or escalation to other Standing Committees or the NHS Board.

The HSCP continue to look at every opportunity to reduce costs to try to balance, or at least mitigate our pressures come year end. Workshops are planned with our Senior Management Team and IJB Budget seminar in December to consider savings proposals for the £6.8m pressure identified for 2026/2027 budget.

6. Approved Minutes from IJB Meeting held on 24 September 2025

At the November meeting, the minute of 24 September was approved. The minute from the November meeting will be discussed in January 2026.

There is a full history of IJB meeting papers and agendas on our website.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the East Renfrewshire IJB will take place on 28 January 2026.