



ANGUS INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD AUDIT COMMITTEE – 18 DECEMBER 2024

DIRECTIONS UPDATE

REPORT BY ALEXANDER BERRY, CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

ABSTRACT

This report provides an update on Directions issued by the IJB following the report issued to the Integration Joint Board Audit Committee in June 2024 (IJB 38/24). Following a review of the Directions Policy, this report also proposes a revision of the Directions Policy for forwarding to the IJB in February 2025.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Integration Joint Board (IJB) Audit Committee: -

- (i) Review the status of current Directions issued by Angus IJB;
- (ii) Review the Directions Policy and Procedure and recommend to the IJB that a review date of the policy is included, and that future policy reviews are undertaken by the Audit Committee;
- (iii) Recommend to the IJB that where an existing Direction is still valid and remains on the Direction log, authors of IJB reports related to the Direction must provide an update regarding the status of the previous Direction; and
- (iv) Requests a further update be prepared for the IJB Audit Committee in June 2025.

2. BACKGROUND

On 26 April 2023, IJB members approved the revised Angus IJB Directions Policy and Procedure as outlined in Appendix 1 to IJB report 26/23. The policy was developed in line with the provisions set out in the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014 (the Act) and the requirements of the Scottish Government statutory guidance on issuing and implementing directions (in development during 2019 and published formally in January 2020).

Directions are how the IJB action their Strategic Commissioning Plan to achieve its aims. Directions are also an important part of governance and accountability between its partner organisations. They are the legal basis by which the Health Board and the Local Authority deliver services that are under the control of the IJB. IJBs have a legal duty to both issue Directions and monitor their effectiveness

Angus IJB's Audit Committee has been delegated responsibility for overview of progress with the implementation of Directions, receiving twice-yearly progress reports (June and December), and escalating key delivery issues to the IJB.

This report outlines a summary of current or live Directions issued by the IJB from January 2022 to October 2024 and their status. The report does not provide detail of the Directions' content or commentary on their impacts, as it is considered that this level of oversight is facilitated through the normal management arrangements of the IJB and Angus Health and Social Care Partnership.

As agreed in report IJB 90/23, Directions have been archived after they have appeared in an IJB Audit Committee report update as revoked, superseded or complete.

3. CURRENT POSITION

Appendix 1 provides an updated summary of IJB Directions. The current position or status of each Direction is shown under a “status” column using a colour coding to support this. The indicators used to consistently describe the current status have been amended to:

- Direction revoked.
- Not started (could apply to recently issued Directions).
- Direction superseded.
- Work in progress (where the implementation of a Direction is underway but not yet complete).
- Complete (where all directed actions are complete).

The IJB have not issued any new Directions since December 2023 and the Audit Committee may wish to reflect on this and highlight this in future Chair’s Assurance Reports to the IJB.

Of the Directions included within the reporting period May 2024 and October 2024:

- Two remain work in progress.

Appendix 2 sets out the Directions Policy and Procedure. The original policy was approved in April 2023, but did not include a “review by” date in it. It was also not clarified how any policy review would happen.

Given the Audit Committee now considers an overview of progress with the implementation of Directions, it is suggested here that the Audit Committee should now review the 2023 Directions Policy and provide any feedback on proposed changes to the IJB in February 2025. With that in mind, the attached policy (appendix 2), contains proposed revisions (detailed in italics):

- To include a policy review date of three years or sooner in the event of new guidance or good practice becoming available and to reflect proposed future delegation of the review of the Directions Policy to the Audit Committee (Section 3.7).
- Where an existing Direction is still valid and remains on the Direction log, authors of reports to the IJB related to the Direction must provide an update regarding the status of the Direction. (Section 3.5).

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The financial implications associated with all issued Directions are set out in the original IJB reports and detailed in Appendix 1.

5. RISK

IJBs, Health Boards and Local Authorities have a legal obligation to issue and monitor the effectiveness of Directions as described by the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014. Failure to comply with the legislative requirement in respect of directions would place the Angus IJB in breach of its statutory duties related to accountability and good governance.

Failure to provide sufficiently detailed directions to partner organisations (NHS Tayside and Angus Council) may impact on the ability to deliver key areas of the Health and Social Care Partnership’s work.

Relevant additional assurance and risk assessment can be found within the status of each Direction as described in Appendix 1 which provides a commentary about the progress of each Direction, or in referenced IJB reports that relate to the original direction.

6. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

There are no specific equality implications from this report. Health and Social Care Partnership activities that relate to Directions and the Strategic Commission Plan are subject to individual Equality Impact Assessments.

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List of Appendices:

Appendix 1: Summary of Directions issued by the IJB within reporting period May 2024 – October 2024.

Appendix 2: Angus IJB Directions Policy and Procedure V4 (including proposed amendments).

Summary of Directions issued by the IJB within reporting period May 2024 – October 2024.

Status Key:

Direction revoked	Not started	Direction superseded	Work in progress	Activities complete
			2	

IJB Meeting Date & Report number	Report title	Direction Number & Issued to	Date Issued & Date Review	Functions covered by Direction	Full Text	Budget allocated by IJB to carry out direction	Review Date	Status
21/06/2023 35/23	Angus Primary Care General Practice Premises Strategy	03/23 NHST	21.06.23	Primary medical services provided under a general medical services contract, and arrangements for the provision of services made under section 17 C of the National Health Service Scotland act 1978, or an arrangement made in pursuance of section 2C(2) of the National Health Service Scotland Act 1978	NHS Tayside should provide the required cooperation to support the implementation of the actions in each of the identified priority areas detailed in the Angus GP Practice Premises Strategy.	The IJB's share of regional revenue budgets for General Medical Services (Property) will be committed to support this strategy. The IJB will use reserves (one off funding) to support this strategy where appropriate. There are no planned savings from this direction. NHS Tayside's commitment to the strategy will be supported through Corporate Support arrangements.	By October 2025	Work in progress at a local level with ongoing liaison with NHS Tayside. Last progress update provided in October 2024 within IJB Report 66/24. Direction to be retained.
21/06/2023 36/23	Primary Care Improvement Plan	04/23 NHST	21.06.23	Primary Medical Services	NHS Tayside should continue to implement the Primary Care Improvement Plan	The budget to be allocated to this direction is £4021k in relation to 23/24 expenditure.	By October 2025	Work in progress. Regular progress reports provided to SG. Last progress update provided in October 2024 within IJB Report 66/24. Direction to be retained.