



## AGENDA ITEM NO 6

REPORT NO IJB 21/25

### ANGUS INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD

30 APRIL 2025

#### CHIEF OFFICER UPDATE

##### REPORT BY JILLIAN GALLOWAY, CHIEF OFFICER

#### 1. ABSTRACT

1.1 This report provides an update to Angus Integration Joint Board (IJB) on behalf of the Chief Officer on items that do not merit a full report, but the Board may wish to note. The report summarises a range of work being taken forward, taking a collaborative and strategic approach, aimed to continue to address a variety of issues facing Angus Health and Social Care Partnership (AHSCP) and improve outcomes for service users and carers in Angus. The report also includes information in relation to a range of policy updates. Topics covered in the report include:

- Delay in transfers of care
- Unmet need – update
- National Care Service Update
- Public Bodies Climate Change Duties
- Health Visiting Action Plan
- Correspondence to Neil Gray, Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care
- Resilience Management
- New National Suicide Prevention website and Public Awareness Campaign
- Chief Medical Officer for Scotland visit to Angus Health and Social Care Partnership

#### 2. RECOMMENDATION

2.2 It is recommended that the IJB note the update provided within this report.

#### 3. BACKGROUND AND CURRENT POSITION

##### 3.1 Delay in transfers of care

*As at 16/04/2025 there were 6 delays & (plus 6 LD) - Total Delays in transfers to care 12*

Classification	Number delayed
Ninewells	1
Royal Victoria Hospital	2
Angus Community Hospitals	2
Psychiatry of Old Age	1
General Adult Psychiatry/Angus Integrated Drug and Alcohol Recovery Service	0
Murray Royal	0
Learning Disability	6

### **3.2 Unmet need**

The level of unmet need across AHSCP continues to be reported monthly to Scottish Government as part of the national dataset. As of week commencing 17 April 2025, the numbers reported were 259 people with 366 hours of unmet need – a further reduction in care at home hours from the last Chief Officer update to IJB in February 2025. The levels of unmet need continue to range from low to critical and the Services continue to prioritise resources to those with the greatest need. In Angus there are 857 service users residing in care or nursing homes, respite beds and supported accommodation. There are currently 32 beds available across Care and Nursing homes in Angus.

### **3.3 National Care Service**

The Scottish Government is continuing to progress with the amended NCS Bill. The Bill, now titled Care Reform (Scotland) Act 2025 includes:

The establishment of a non-statutory NCS Advisory Board by March 2025. The intension is that the board membership should be limited to around 15 members and will include representatives from:

- Scottish Government
- Local Government
- NHS Health Boards
- People with lived experience
- Integration Authorities
- Social Work – strategic level
- Third sector
- Trade unions

The establishment of the Board has been delayed, and it is now anticipated, and interim Advisory Board will be in place by May 2025.

A letter was received by stakeholders on 3 April 2025 from MSP Maree Todd advising of Scottish Government's ongoing commitment to publishing the NCS Charter of Rights despite the amendments. The Charter will lay out the rights of people accessing community health and social care and the Charter will be co-designed alongside stakeholders.

### **3.4 Public Bodies' Climate Change Duties**

In March 2025, Leaders, Chairs and Chief Executives of the Scottish Sector received notification from the Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Energy in relation to amendments to climate change legislation and the publication of documents related to public bodies' climate change duties.

In November 2024, Scottish Government (SG) amended the climate legislation through the Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2024. The national net zero target of 2045 remains unchanged. The Act replaced the SG's annual emissions targets with five-year carbon budgets, the value of which will set later this year.

The first of the public bodies climate change duties is to contribute to national emissions reduction targets. In the context of the duties, 'targets' includes both our final 2045 target, and the five-year carbon budgets. Bodies must, therefore, work to reduce emissions over each budget period, as well as aiming to finally achieve net zero. This is considered to vitally important to avoid greater cumulative emissions between now and 2045.

A consultation on new Statutory Guidance has recently opened. The guidance aims to support public bodies in putting the climate change duties into practice and will replace the previously published guidance. As the intended users of the guidance, it is important that the IJB and AHSCP staff contribute to the consultation, to ensure it is robust and fit for purpose. The consultation will close on 23 May 2025.

### **3.5 Health Visiting Action Plan**

On 27 March 2025, Chief Officers received communication from the Scottish Government's Improving Health and Wellbeing division within the Children and Families Directorate regarding the newly published [Health Visiting Action Plan 2025-2035](#).

The Health Visiting service is within NHS Tayside's Women Children & Families Division and Health Visitors are based within Primary Care. As Angus IJB is Lead Partner for Primary Care, it is important that members are sighted on the action plan which aims to create the conditions to allow the enhanced delivery of the health visiting service and the full and consistent delivery of the Universal Health Visiting Pathway as a central offer within the service. This will be achieved by committing the Scottish Government and its delivery partners to a suite of actions focused around the following four interconnected strategic objectives:

- We have a skilled, confident and knowledgeable health visiting workforce able to fully promote and protect child health and development in line with professional expectations.
- We have sufficient health visiting workforce capacity to identify and appropriately respond to the needs of all pre-school children and their families.
- Health Visitors have a clear role and remit which is coherently integrated into wider children and family support services.
- The health visiting service is appropriately prioritised and promoted by relevant leaders and decision makers in recognition of its role in prevention and early intervention.

The Health Visiting Action Plan will be discussed at the AHSCP Clinical Partnership Group which will monitor progress and any implications for Angus IJB.

### **3.6 Correspondence to Neil Gray, Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care**

The Chair of the national IJB Chairs (Rachael King) and Chief Officers' Group (Professor Soumen Sengupta) wrote to the Cabinet Secretary on 25 February 2025 outlining concern about the finances of Integration Joint Boards and Health and Social Care Partnerships, noting significant financial challenges, with a projected funding gap nationally of £560 million for 2025/26.

The letter set out the service impact of the financial shortfall threatening the ability to maintain current service levels and achieve key improvements, such as shifting care from acute services to the community and reducing delayed discharges.

The letter also highlighted the evidence set out in the Audit Commission Report (2024) which showed a worsening financial position, with the funding gap nearly tripling from 2022/23 to 2023/24.

The letter called for greater transparency and collaborative efforts to address these financial challenges, noting a planned engagement session on 5 March 2025, with key stakeholders.

### **3.7 Resilience Management**

Since my last report the Angus Incident Management Team was convened on two occasions.

#### **i. South Grange Evacuation**

As a result of a chemical incident identified on Tuesday, 18 February 2025, which led to water contamination and discolouration at South Grange Care Home, Monifieth, 79 residents were transferred to alternative accommodation. An Incident Management Team was convened, led by AHSCP, with representation from Angus and Dundee Health and Social Care Partnerships, Barchester Healthcare, and the Angus Council Resilience Team with the primary focus to ensure the safety and well-being of residents. A decision was made at the IMT on 24 February 2025 for the phased return of residents to commence and following discussions with residents and families, to ensure an informed decision was made, as of 27 February 2025 all residents have returned to their home at South Grange Care Home.

## **ii. Community Alarm – national network issue**

On 7 March 2025, an Incident Management Team meeting convened, led by AHSCP, to address issues related to a national digital network issue, there was a delay in response to community alarm calls. This impacted people across Angus who have community alarms, including telecare equipment, e.g. fall alarms, door sensors and fire alarm. Management support increased at Community Alarm Hub and additional support was arranged for the Enablement and Response Team to support visits to people in the community who had activated their alarm. The issue was rectified 9 March 2025.

### **3.8 New National Suicide Prevention website and Public Awareness Campaign**

On Wednesday 16 April 2025, Scotland's new national suicide prevention public awareness campaign went live. On the same day, Suicide Prevention Scotland's new website, [Suicide Prevention](#) was launched. This includes a subpage specifically for the national campaign [What if a conversation about suicide could save a life](#). Angus Health and Social Care Partnership will be sharing the resources and will link in with the Tayside Suicide Prevention Steering Group to enable a co-ordinated approach across Tayside.

### **3.9 Chief Medical Officer for Scotland visit to Angus Health and Social Care Partnership**

Members of the Angus Prevention and Proactive Care Programme Group provided an overview of a range of initiatives at the Realistic Medicine Conference in April 2024. Professor Sir Gregor Smith, Chief Medical Officer (CMO) for Scotland expressed an interest in the work being undertaken and arrangements were made for the CMO to visit Angus on Thursday 10 April 2025.

The CMO received a range of presentations outlining the approach to develop, at pace and scale, more preventative and proactive approaches for people living in Angus. He visited the Mental Health Enhanced Community Support Hub in Links Health Centre in Montrose, which provides a service to anyone aged 16 or over living in Angus who needs support with mental health, wellbeing or substance use. The CMO met people supporting Health Walks. He also joined a BE ACTIVE Live Well class within Montrose Sports Centre, which included a strength and balance class demonstration. He also met participants of a pulmonary rehabilitation class.

Following his visit Professor Sir Gregor Smith said "It was wonderful to have had the opportunity to visit Angus this week, to speak to the team and to people accessing services, about how this work is making a real difference to the quality of their lives. For those living with long term conditions, a prescription pad alone does not hold all of the answers – we need to think more broadly about the type of care that we would wish for ourselves and for our loved ones.

"For those living with long term conditions, it can feel incredibly isolating and have a real impact on their mental health and quality of life. The work being undertaken as part of the partnership between Angus Health & Social Care Partnership, Angus Council and ANGUSalive recognises patients as people and supports them to take control of their own lives, manage their conditions, and live with a sense of independence. This is Realistic Medicine in practice. This is kind and careful care.

"Thank you to everyone involved in the planning of this visit."