

**MINUTES of MEETING of ARGYLL AND BUTE HSCP FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE
held BY SKYPE
on FRIDAY, 21 MAY 2021**

Present: Councillor Kieron Green (Chair)

Graham Bell Councillor Gary Mulvaney
Sarah Compton-Bishop

Attending: Fiona Davies, Interim Chief Officer, Argyll and Bute HSCP
Judy Orr, Head of Finance and Transformation, Argyll and Bute HSCP
Caroline Cherry, Head of Older Adult Services and Community Hospitals,
Argyll and Bute HSCP
Dr Nicola Shinaia, Associate Director of Public Health, Argyll and Bute HSCP
Charlotte Craig, Business Improvement Manager, Argyll and Bute HSCP
David Forshaw, Principal Accountant, Argyll and Bute Council
Louise Beattie, Service Improvement Officer, Argyll and Bute Council
Donald Watt, Service Manager Registered Services, Argyll and Bute HSCP
Lynsey Innis, Senior Committee Assistant, Argyll and Bute Council

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of:-

Councillor Sandy Taylor
Elizabeth Higgins, Lead Nurse, Argyll and Bute HSCP
George Morrison, Depute Chief Officer, Argyll and Bute HSCP
Julie Lusk, Head of Adult Services, Argyll and Bute HSCP
Jane Fowler, Head of Customer Support Services, Argyll and Bute Council
Brian Reid, Acting Head of Service, Children and Families and Justice Social Work,
Argyll and Bute HSCP
Helen Urquhart, PA to Depute Chief Officer, Argyll and Bute HSCP

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Sarah Compton-Bishop declared a non-financial interest in relation to agenda item 10 (Jura Respite Flat) due to family connections within the Jura Care Centre Group.

3. MINUTES

The Minute of the previous meeting of the Finance and Policy Committee, held on 23 April 2021, was approved as a correct record.

4. BUDGET MONITORING AS AT 31 MARCH 2021

The Committee gave consideration to a report providing a summary of the financial position of the Health and Social Care Partnership as at 31 March 2021, the end of financial year 2020-21.

Decision

The Finance and Policy Committee –

1. Noted that the outturn position for 2020-21 is an underspend of £1.089m as at 31 March 2021 which includes a repayment of £1.0m from over delivered vacancy savings to Argyll and Bute Council as agreed in negotiating the settlement for 2021-22.
2. Noted the repayment arrangements for previous years overspends, as described at paragraph 3.6 of the report.
3. Approved the new earmarked reserves, set out at paragraphs 3.5.2 and 3.5.3 of the report, to be put forward to the Integration Joint Board.

(Reference: Report by Head of Finance and Transformation, dated 21 May 2021, submitted)

5. COVID-19 COSTS 2020-21

Consideration was given to a report which provided information on the Health and Social Care Partnership's response to the Covid-19 pandemic and associated estimated costs.

Decision

The Finance and Policy Committee –

1. Noted the details provided in relation to costs of the Covid-19 response in 2020-21.
2. Noted that the Scottish Government had in principle approved all mobilisation plans, but that approval for individual cost lines had not yet been received.
3. Noted the details of the excess funding received which must be carried forward as an earmarked reserve at the year-end to be used against Covid costs in 2021-22.

(Reference: Report by Head of Finance and Transformation, dated 21 May 2021, submitted)

6. FINANCIAL RISKS 2021-22

Having noted the process of identifying and reporting financial risks to the IJB, the Committee gave consideration to a report providing an updated assessment of the risks for 2021/22. The report noted the considerable uncertainty around levels of Covid funding from the Scottish Government for the next year.

Decision

The Finance and Policy Committee –

1. Considered the updated financial risks identified for the Health and Social Care Partnership.
2. Noted that there are continuing uncertainties around Covid costs and funding which are described in more detail in a separate report.
3. Noted that financial risks would continue to be reviewed and monitored on a two monthly basis and reported to the Board.

(Reference: Report by Head of Finance and Transformation, dated 21 May 2021, submitted)

7. BUDGET OUTLOOK 2022-23 TO 2024-25

Consideration was given to a report summarising the budget outlook covering the period 2022-23 to 2024-25. The report noted that the outlook was based on three different scenarios, best case, worst case and mid-range, and included new funding estimates and a review of inflation and cost and demand pressures.

Decision

The Finance and Policy Committee considered and noted the current estimated budget outlook report for the period 2022-23 to 2024-25.

(Reference: Report by Head of Finance and Transformation, dated 21 May 2021, submitted)

8. TRANSFORMATION UPDATE

The Committee gave consideration to a report summarising the progress on transformation which was presented to the Transformation Board on 11 May 2021 and outlined the key areas of focus for transformation work planned for 2021/22.

Discussion took place around the engagement process for exploring future opportunities for care home and service accommodation and the possibility of linking into a pilot process on engagement through the Scottish Health Council.

Decision

The Finance and Policy Committee considered the progress which was presented to the Transformation Board on 11 May 2021 and indicated areas where further details may be required.

(Reference: Report by Head of Finance and Transformation, dated 21 May 2021, submitted)

9. DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT

The Committee gave consideration to a report providing an assessment of their work throughout the last financial year. The report contained information on the activity of

the Committee; the self-assessment completed by the Committee on 19 March 2021 and the Committee membership and remit.

Decision

The Finance and Policy Committee noted the annual report from the Chair of the Finance and Policy Committee.

(Reference: Report by Chair of the Finance and Policy Committee, dated 21 May 2021, submitted)

10. JURA RESPITE FLAT

Having noted the delay to action the decision to include Jura Care Centre respite flat as an operational saving in 2019 and the subsequent decision of the IJB not to approve the saving in 2021, consideration was given to a report outlining the ongoing negotiations between the HSCP and Jura Care Centre Group on the role and function of the respite flat and the implications this has on future budgets. The report also provided information in respect of the alignment of funding of office space on Jura which could be used for visiting clinicians and community nursing to access IT.

Decision

The Finance and Policy Committee –

1. Noted the content of the report.
2. Discussed progress of negotiations between the HSCP and Jura Care Centre Group to clarify function and budget of the flat and recommendations to review usage and function.
3. Noted the cost of £6k moving from Council to NHS costs for Islay and Jura to reflect the use of the office costs.

(Reference: Report by Head of Older Adults & Community Hospitals, dated 21 May 2021, submitted)

Councillor Gary Mulvaney left the meeting at 2:50pm, during discussion of agenda item 10 (Jura Respite Flat).

11. CHILDREN AND FAMILIES - PROGRESS UPDATE ON SAVINGS PROGRAMME

Consideration was given to a report summarising the progress to date of the Children and Families transformation work in terms of its delivery of their savings programme for 2020/21. The report also included the current position for 2021/22.

Decision

The Finance and Policy Committee –

1. Discussed the end of year progress and the successful delivery of savings programme for 2020/21.

2. Discussed and noted some of the low level risks identified which could affect deliverability for a few savings for 2021/22.
3. Agreed to the alignment of any future savings programme with the Scottish Government's new strategic plan of delivering "The Children's Promise 2021-24".

(Reference: Report by Interim Head of Service, Child Health and CAMHS, dated 21 May 2021, submitted)

12. RELOCATION OF GP PREMISES AND SERVICES INTO COWAL COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

The Committee gave consideration to a report providing an update on the proposed relocation of GP premises and services into Cowal Community Hospital. The report noted that the proposal is in two phases, the second of which involves an open tender process which will enable strategic development of support for the remote and rural model of care reflected across Argyll and Bute.

Decision

The Finance and Policy Committee –

1. Supported the progression of the GP Practice relocation in Dunoon and move towards the GP led model of service provision reflected in other localities within Argyll and Bute and in line with the new GP contract.
2. Noted the approval process through NHS Highland.
3. Requested to highlight the activity in the IJB Committee update.

(Reference: Report by Depute Chief Officer, dated 21 May 2021, submitted)

13. FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

The Committee gave consideration to the Finance and Policy workplan.

Decision

The Finance and Policy Committee agreed to note the contents of the workplan.

(Reference: Finance and Policy Committee Workplan, submitted)

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Finance and Policy Committee noted that the date of the next meeting was scheduled to take place on Friday, 25 June 2021.

Having noted that this was the Head of Finance and Transformation's last meeting of the Finance and Policy Committee, the Chair took the opportunity to thank her for the hard work and dedication she has provided together with the high level of reporting

not only to this Committee but to the Integration Joint Board and wished her a long and happy retirement.