

**MINUTES of MEETING of ARGYLL AND BUTE HSCP FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE
held BY MICROSOFT TEAMS
on FRIDAY, 28 OCTOBER 2022**

Present: Councillor Amanda Hampsey (Chair)

Kenny Mathieson

Graham Bell

Attending: Fiona Davies, Chief Officer, Argyll and Bute HSCP
James Gow, Head of Finance and Transformation, Argyll and Bute HSCP
David Gibson, Chief Social Worker/Head of Children, Families and Justice,
Argyll and Bute HSCP
Caroline Cherry, Head of Adult Services – Health and Community Care, Argyll
and Bute HSCP
Stephen Whiston, Head of Planning, Performance and Technology, Argyll and
Bute HSCP
Fiona Broderick, Staffside, Argyll and Bute HSCP
Gillian Mccready, Service Improvement Officer, Argyll and Bute HSCP
Debbie Shaw, Service Improvement Officer, Argyll and Bute HSCP
Belen Ramos, Service Improvement Officer, Argyll and Bute HSCP
Fiona Thomson, Lead Pharmacist, NHS Highland
Lynsey Innis, Senior Committee Assistant; Argyll and Bute Council

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Sarah Compton-Bishop.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest intimated.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Finance and Policy Committee, held on 5 August 2022 were approved as a correct record.

4. BUDGET MONITORING - 6 MONTHS TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2022

The Committee gave consideration to a report providing a summary of the financial position of the Health and Social Care Partnership as at 30 September 2022 and a forecast for the year. The report also provided an update in respect of the delivery of the savings programme and the reserves position.

Decision

The Finance and Policy Committee –

1. Noted that there is a relatively small forecast revenue overspend of £737k as at 30 September 2022 and that it is anticipated that the HSCP will be able to operate within available resources in the current year.
2. Noted progress with the savings programme and confirmation of £3.3m in savings delivered, 55% of target.
3. Noted that earmarked reserves of £4.7m have been committed.
4. Noted that the net cost of the revised local authority pay offer is not known but is expected to add a further cost pressure to Social Work Budgets.
5. Noted that the Scottish Government are in the process of clawing back Covid Reserves (Circa £2m) and have reduced the Primary Care Improvement allocations by £2.8m as a consequence of reserves held.
6. Noted that Primary Care Improvement Programme plans now require to be amended to reflect reduced resource.

(Reference: Report by Head of Finance and Transformation, dated 28 October 2022, submitted)

5. FINANCIAL RISKS 2022/23

Consideration was given to a report which provided an update on the perceived financial risks facing the HSCP which could have an impact upon financial performance during 2022/23.

Decision

The Finance and Policy Committee –

1. Considered the 2022/23 financial risks identified for the HSCP as at 30 September 2022 and noted the mitigations.
2. Noted the risk of clawback of reserves and in-year funding reductions.
3. Noted that financial risks will continue to be reviewed every two months.

(Reference: Report by Head of Finance and Transformation, dated 28 October 2022, submitted)

6. TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME UPDATE

The Committee gave consideration to a report which provided a high level overview of the Transformation Programme and a summary of the key pieces of work and projects underway.

Decision

The Finance and Policy Committee –

1. Noted progress with the Transformation Programme and provided scrutiny in connection with progress and direction of the programme and its priorities.
2. Endorsed the proposal to take forward the development of two strategic business cases.

(Reference: Report by Head of Finance and Transformation, dated 28 October 2022, submitted)

7. PROGRESS UPDATE - CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND JUSTICE TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME BOARD

The Committee gave consideration to a report which provided a summary of the Children, Families and Justice Services financial and savings position as at 30 September 2022, the current challenges to delivery of savings and an overview of the planned actions to progress the outstanding savings.

Decision

The Finance and Policy Committee –

1. Noted the progress in respect of Children, Families and Justice savings as at 30 September 2022.
2. Noted the actions planned to recover the outstanding savings proposals.

(Reference: Report by Chief Social Work Officer, Head of Children, Families and Justice, dated 28 October 2022, submitted)

8. PROGRESS UPDATE - OLDER ADULTS AND COMMUNITY HOSPITALS BUDGET AND SAVINGS PROGRAMME

Consideration was given to a report which provided a summary of the Older Adult and Community Hospitals services financial and savings position as at 1 October 2022, the current challenges to delivering services, remaining on target for budget allocation and spend and an overview of the planned actions to progress the outstanding savings.

Decision

The Finance and Policy Committee –

1. Noted the overview of budgets in this area.
2. Discussed the ongoing challenges to delivering services for older adults post pandemic within allocated budgets.
3. Noted the progress in respect of Older Adult and Community Hospital savings programme to date (should now be referred to as Health and Community Care).

4. Noted the actions planned to support service delivery and progress of the Unscheduled Care Programme within Argyll and Bute.

(Reference: Report by Head of Adult Services – Health and Community Care, dated 28 October 2022, submitted)

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Finance and Policy Committee noted that their next meeting was scheduled to take place on Friday, 25 November 2022.