

to one or both of the Health Board and Local Authority. Directions are also the means by which a record is maintained of which body decided what and with what advice, which body is responsible for what, and which body should be audited for what, whether in financial or decision making terms.

3. DETAIL OF REPORT

Directions are a legal mechanism and are intended to clarify responsibilities and requirements between partners, that is, between the IJB, the Local Authority and the Health Board. They are the means via which clarity on decision making is achieved under integration. Directions are therefore both a necessary and important aspect of governance under integration, providing a means by which responsibilities are made clear and evident.

As a legal requirement, the use of directions is not optional for IJBs, Health Boards or Local Authorities, it is obligatory. How local systems are using them will be subject to internal and external audit and scrutiny. At the time of publishing this guidance, practice is evidently variable and needs to be improved, with any impediments overcome jointly by partners using a collaborative approach that properly acknowledges the roles of the different partners.

This policy supports guidance for the IJB, professional advisors to the IJB and partners as to when legally binding directions should be used and are appropriate.

Directions are the end point of a process of a consultation of change and should not contain anything surprising or unknown about service change or redesign that enable change.

A key aspect of the policy is that it reflects guidance on what should be done, the implementation of the policy requires that partners engage in the consultative and developmental process which identifies the direction required.

4. RELEVANT DATA AND INDICATORS

Reporting on Directions issued and their implementation will be reported to the IJB on a 6 monthly basis.

5. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Directions are a key tool in ensuring partners are aware of their responsibilities in the delivery of the Strategic Plan. The policy links to formal guidance that notes Directions are not optional for IJB's.

6. GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

Directions strengthen the control and governance of decision making.

7. PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY

This policy is a result of internal audit and a summary review of guidance and best practice.

8. EQUALITY & DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

In line with support of an equal opportunities approach through the support of good governance in decision making.

9. GENERAL DATA PROTECTION PRINCIPLES COMPLIANCE

Directions are subject to GDPR compliance.

10. RISK ASSESSMENT

Good governance in decision making reduces risk across strategic risks.

11. PUBLIC & USER INVOLVEMENT & ENGAGEMENT

This recommendation is from internal audit reviewed at the IJB Audit and Risk Committee.

12. CONCLUSIONS

The IJB is asked to support the approval of the Directions Policy and the approval of the implementation of the policy across the partnership.

13. DIRECTIONS

Directions required to Council, NHS Board or both.	Directions to:	tick
	No Directions required	
	Argyll & Bute Council	
	NHS Highland Health Board	
	Argyll & Bute Council and NHS Highland Health Board	x

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Appendix 1 Directions Policy Direction

Reference Number	<i>[25/01/2023 / TBC on approval]</i>
Date direction approved by IJB	25/01/2023
Date from which direction takes effect	26/01/2023
Direction to	Argyll & Bute Council and NHS Highland Health Board
Does this supersede, revise or revoke a previous direction?	No
Functions covered by direction	All functions delegated to the IJB
Full text of direction	A direction shall be issued to Argyll and Bute Council and NHS Highland Board requiring them to participate in and implement the terms of the Argyll and Bute Integration Joint Board's Directions Policy to facilitate the delivery of the Strategic and Commissioning plans of the IJB.
Budget allocated by IJB to carry out direction	Not required for this direction as relates to all functions.
Performance Monitoring Arrangements	Reported to the Integrated Joint Board not less than six monthly or as required.
Date direction will be reviewed	January 2025 or on change of legislation.