

## **INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD**

**BY SKYPE, 2 MARCH, 2022**

### **Integration Joint Board Members:**

Mrs R Atkinson, (NHS Grampian) (Chair); Councillor A Stirling (Vice Chair); Ms A Anderson (NHS Grampian); Mrs J Duncan (NHS Grampian); Ms R Little (NHS Grampian); Councillor D Keating, Councillor G Reynolds, Councillor D Robertson; and Ms S Webb (NHS Grampian).

### **Integration Joint Board Non-Voting Members:**

Ms F Culbert, Carers' Representative; Mr D Hekelaar, Third Sector Representative; Ms I Kirk, UNISON; Mr M McKay, NHS UNISON; Ms L Jolly, Chief Social Work Officer; Mrs J McNicol, Advisor; Ms A Mutch, Public Representative); Mr C Smith, Chief Finance and Business Officer; Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership; and Ms P Milliken, Chief Officer, Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership.

**Officers:** Mrs G Fraser, Mr J Shaw, Mrs S Strachan, Mrs A Macleod, Ms L Gravener, Mr R McGregor, Mr N Stephenson, Ms A Pirrie, Aberdeenshire Health & Social Care Partnership; Ms J Fletcher, Dr A Glennie, NHS Grampian; Ms K Bond, Ms F Campbell, Ms J Raine-Mitchell, Ms L Cowie and Mrs A McLeod, Aberdeenshire Council.

**Apologies:** Provost W Howatson; Dr S Reary, Primary Care Representative; Ms S Kinsey, Third Sector Representative.

## **1. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

Mrs S Webb advised she had a connection to Item 14, by virtue of being the NHS Grampian Lead for Vaccinations. She did not consider the connection to be an interest and concluded that she would remain and participate.

## **2A. STATEMENT OF EQUALITIES**

In making decisions on the following items of business, the Joint Board **agreed**, in terms of Section 149 of the Equality Act, 2010:-

- (1) to have due regard to the need to:-
  - (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, and victimisation;
  - (b) advance equality of opportunity between those who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and
  - (c) foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it: and
- (2) where an equality impact assessment has been provided, to take its contents into consideration when reaching a decision.

## **2B. EXEMPT INFORMATION**

The Joint Board **agreed**, that under paragraphs 6, and 7 of the Categories of Exempt Information, found at Appendix 2 of the Standing Orders of the Integration Joint

Board, the public and media representatives be excluded from the meeting for Items 15 and 16 of the business below, on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information of the classes described in the relevant paragraphs.

### **3. MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD**

#### **(a) MINUTE OF 3 NOVEMBER, 2021**

There had been circulated, and was **approved** as a correct record, the Minute of Meeting of 3 November, 2021, subject to the addition of Ms F Culbert to the list of non-voting members in attendance.

#### **(b) MINUTE OF 8 DECEMBER, 2021**

There had been circulated, and was **approved** as a correct record, the Minute of Meeting of 8 December, 2021, subject to the addition of Ms Fiona Culbert to the list of non-voting members in attendance.

#### **(c) IJB AUDIT COMMITTEE OF 23 JUNE, 2021**

There had been circulated, and was **noted**, the approved Minute of Meeting of the Audit Committee of 23 June, 2021.

### **4. INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD ACTION LOG**

There had been circulated and was **noted** a report by the Chief Officer providing updates on progress with actions which had still to be completed and advising when these were scheduled to be reported to the Joint Board, including a number of items for which there were reports on the agenda today.

### **5. CHIEF OFFICER'S REPORT**

There had been circulated a report by the Chief Officer providing an update of the ongoing work of the Health and Social Care Partnership, highlighting winter planning arrangements, which were continuing to face increased demand, and had been exacerbated over the last few months by the recent storms in Aberdeenshire. Support had been provided by the Council through a Winter Care Emergency Relief Initiative, where Council staff had joined a response pool to assist within the Partnership's eight Care homes and six very sheltered housing complexes. In addition, work was ongoing with Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action (AVA) to place volunteers in these settings, and recruitment was continuing for additional health and care staff through new funding received from the Scottish Government and a communications campaign to promote employment opportunities in social care was underway. The Chief Officer also provided updates on vaccination rates and progress on the provision of local vaccination centres throughout Aberdeenshire. It was noted that the first edition of a Communications Brief had been issued to members of the IJB, which highlighted areas of work being undertaken by the Partnership.

There was discussion of the impacts of the recent storms Arwen, Malik and Corrie, and the work of staff, volunteers and 'community champions' who had responded to

the needs of their communities throughout these periods; that a refinement of the vulnerable residents list had been developed throughout the period of the storms; that lessons had been learned in relation to lack of mobile phone and landline reception, and this was included as part of a wider de-brief by the Council, which would allow for a more targeted approach in future to ensure that those most vulnerable would be supported. Assurances were sought, and were given, that the vulnerable list would include all individuals who have been in contact with social care services, including unpaid carers, in order to ensure that all vulnerable residents were supported. Particular concerns were noted in relation to the move away from analogue phone coverage, which was relied on for telecare services, and no apparent contingencies had yet been identified for these services, in the event of a future power outage. The Chief Officer advised that a Civil Contingencies Officer was to be recruited by the Health and Social Care Partnership, and this post would take the lead on resilience issues, with a new Resilience Group being formed, and supported by the new post.

Issues relating to planned recruitment numbers, timescales and the monitoring of recruitment were discussed, with plans for a 'dashboard' to help inform recruitment activity. The need to support communities to be able to undertake resilience efforts within their communities was noted, to ensure that all residents were supported, including those not under the direct care or receiving regular support from the Health and Social Care Partnership.

Thereafter, the Joint Board **agreed**:

- (1) in relation to the recent storm impacts section of the report, to recognise the work done by 'Community Champions' in the response to the recent storms;
- (2) that the Chief Officer provide an update on planned recruitment activity in the next monthly IJB briefing note, including numbers of posts and timescales for recruitment; and
- (3) to note the terms of the updates provided.

## **6. FINANCE UPDATE AS AT DECEMBER 2021**

There had been circulated a report dated 15 February, 2022 by the Chief Finance and Business Officer, providing an update on the financial monitoring information for the 2021/22 financial year, covering the period up to the end of December 2021. The report also provided an update on the projected costs and funding arrangements for dealing with the ongoing impact of the Covid 19 pandemic during 2021/22.

The Joint Board heard from the Chief Finance and Business Officer on the financial position to the end of December 2021, together with a projected forecast for the year as a whole. The year to date position at end of December indicated an underspend of £0.610 million, and for the remainder of the year an underspend of £4.683 million was forecast, equating to 1.27% of the IJB budget. It was noted that the covid-19 pandemic continued to have a significant financial impact on the IJB across many areas, and the Scottish Government had advised IJBs to continue to plan on the assumption that all additional costs relating to Covid would be fully funded in 2021/22, as was the case in 2020/21. With regard to additional funding from the Scottish Government which had been confirmed on 5 October, 2021, the Chief

Finance and Business Officer confirmed that plans have been developed and costed to ensure that where possible the funding could be implemented in 2021/22, to ensure the aims of the various funding streams, with particular focus on recruitment, and further detailed guidance was awaited from the Scottish Government in terms of the ability to carry forward the funding to 2022/23 in earmarked reserves.

There was discussion of the uncertainty around the potential to carry forward any uncommitted funding which was received as new investment late in the financial year, and the need to take cognisance of budgetary over and under spends when considering the Medium Term Financial Strategy going forward. It was noted that the revenue budget for 2022/23 would be presented to the Integration Joint Board on 30 March, 2022 and an informal workshop session was scheduled for 8 March to consider budgetary matters.

The Joint Board, having considered the financial position as detailed in the report and appendices, **agreed:**

- (1) to note the financial position set out in the report at 6.3 and Appendices 1 and 2;
- (2) to approve the budget adjustments detailed in Appendices 1 and 3;
- (3) to note position relating to additional funding in Section 7; and
- (4) to note the progress towards achieving the proposed savings in Appendix 4.

## **7. IJB GOVERNANCE HANDBOOK**

There had been circulated a report dated 25 January, 2022 by the Chief Officer asking the Integration Joint Board to adopt a Governance Handbook, which was attached as Appendix 1 to the report, which aimed to clearly codify the existing governance arrangements for the Integration Joint Board and provide a clear framework for decision-making.

The Principal Solicitor (Governance) introduced the report and advised the Joint Board that the contents of the documents proposed to form the Governance Handbook, had been reviewed and a number of amendments had been proposed, and a summary of the changes had been provided for members' consideration. She advised of a number of additional minor amendments and typos which were proposed to be clarified within the documents, and suggested that the document be subject to a further review in around 18 months. In addition, she confirmed that the final version of the Handbook would be checked for accessibility with assistance software.

There was discussion of the numbers constituting a quorum for the Audit Committee, and it was considered that the quorum should require two voting members, one from each constituent authority to be in attendance. It was also suggested that consideration be given to a possible change in the non-voting membership to reflect 'third sector interface', as the appropriate body, rather than individual organisations. The Principal Solicitor (Governance) asked that she be given the opportunity to consider the wording in the legislation and to report back on this matter.

Thereafter, the Joint Board agreed:

- (1) to adopt the Governance Handbook, as attached to the report, subject to a number of minor points of clarification, and that a further review of the documents be undertaken in around 18 months;
- (2) that the quorum for IJB Audit Committee should be 4 members, 2 of which should be voting members, with one from each constituent authority; and
- (3) that Officers give further consideration to a rewording of the description of the non-voting membership in relation to third sector interface, and to report back as appropriate.

## **8. CHIEF SOCIAL WORK OFFICER ANNUAL REPORT 2020/2021**

There had been circulated a report dated 24 November, 2021 by the Chief Social Work Officer, presenting for consideration, in terms of Adult Social Work Services, her Annual Report for 2020/21.

The Joint Board heard from the Chief Social Work Officer, Ms Jolly, who acknowledged the leadership of Mr Iain Ramsay, who held the role of Chief Social Work Officer during 2020/21, prior to her appointment in June 2020. She advised that the role of the Chief Social Work Officer was unique with regard to having oversight and scrutiny in all aspects of social work and social care, and the postholder has responsibility for ensuring that services are delivered in a way which takes account of a human rights approach, one in which principles of social justice are applied through tackling inequality and disadvantage, working collaboratively with colleagues across sectors and involving communities and individuals who receive services and those who care for them. The report before the Joint Board highlighted some of the challenges and achievements of a particularly challenging period, and noted that those involved were continuing to contend with the challenges associated with Covid-19 alongside budgetary pressures and more complex needs and growing complexity. She advised that going forward some of the challenges ahead were staff resilience, recruitment and retention of staffing, managing capacity, demand and pressures across services, and the need to continue to identify and meet unmet need. She paid tribute to the resilience and commitment of staff, both statutory and from the third sector independent organisations during a prolonged period of pressure and in addition she acknowledged all unpaid carers who often went unrecognised and who undertake a crucial role in supporting vulnerable people within our communities.

There was discussion of the need to listen to the voice of unpaid carers and to better understand their needs in considering how services should be delivered in the future, and the need to work collaboratively with the independent third sector and unpaid carers. There was also discussion of the transition process for young people moving over to adult services and the need for further consideration of the needs and wishes of those involved.

Having considered the terms of the report in terms of Adult Social Work services, the Joint Board **agreed:-**

- (1) that they had considered and commented on the Chief Social Work Officer Annual Report for the 2020/2021 financial year in relation to Children and Adult Social Work Services;
- (2) to acknowledge the level of investment in Adult Social Work Services for the residents of Aberdeenshire;
- (3) to acknowledge the commitment of social work staff in the consistent delivery of high performing services; and
- (4) to welcome more regular reporting on the social work element of social care to the Integration Joint Board.

## **9. CLINICAL ADULT AND SOCIAL WORK GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

There had been circulated a report dated 4 February, 2022 by the Chair of the Clinical and Adult Social Work Governance Committee, updating the Joint Board on the key issues arising from the Committee meetings held on 9 December, 2021 and 3 February, 2022.

The Joint Board heard from Ms Little, Chair of the Clinical and Adult Social Work Governance Committee, on the recent work undertaken by the Committee, which included consideration of an overview of the Grampian Operational Pressure Escalation System (G-OPES) and of the G-OPES Assurance Framework, which provides a robust mechanism for monitoring the levels of pressure on the Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care system and a clear pathway for escalation. In addition, the Committee considered an update on the Care Inspectorate virtual inspection of the Aberdeenshire H&SCP Central Home care service, which examined support plans and audits, and considered the identified risks currently impacting on the Care at Home Service and the work being undertaken to support the service.

After consideration, the Joint Board **agreed** to note the key points and assurances from the Clinical Adult and Social Work Governance Committee in relation to governance matters.

## **10. UPDATE ON THE GRAMPIAN WIDE MENTAL HEALTH AND LEARNING DISABILITY PROGRAMME**

There had been circulated a report dated 26 January, 2022 by the Interim Partnership Manager (North) which detailed progress to date which had ensured the ongoing delivery of 'priority and critical services' throughout the Covid Pandemic, and asking the Joint Board to approve an agreed approach to deliver the Transformation Programme (Grampian-wide MHLDD) and any elements specifically relating to the Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership.

The Joint Board heard from the Interim Partnership Manager, North, and the Lead Manager, Cornhill, of the unprecedented levels of mental health and affected

wellbeing over the last two years, and which was likely to continue for the foreseeable future. They highlighted the close links between the three Mental Health and Learning Disability Services in Aberdeenshire, Moray and Aberdeen City, which allowed for shared links and resource, whilst still allowing for local variation and local service development. The report aimed to assure the three Integration Joint Boards of the work that was ongoing in mental health and learning disability services and how the work had been prioritised, with the focus throughout Covid being on protecting priority and critical services. The report also highlighted the ongoing remobilisation, recovery and renewal phase and how the recently re-established Transformation Board for Grampian-wide MHLDD would take forward delivery of the Transformation Programme to ensure all partners experience a more sustainable model of care and treatment options moving forward.

There was discussion of the benefits of a review of the model for the delivery of mental health and learning disability services, which would be a significant piece of work and should ensure the wellbeing of staff; continuing challenges in staff recruitment; waiting times and referral rates; the need to build resilience within local communities and the promotion of mental wellbeing; and the need for cross working between Education and Children's Services and CAHMS to ensure that families have access to support when required.

After consideration, the Joint Board **agreed**:

- (1) to note the report taken to Aberdeen City Integrated Joint Board on 21 November, 2021 detailing progress to date which has ensured the ongoing delivery of 'priority and critical services' throughout the Covid Pandemic; and
- (2) to approve the agreed approach moving forward to deliver the Transformation Programme (Grampian-wide MHLDD) and any elements specifically relating to the Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership.

## **11. ADOPTION OF NEW MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS OF DEVOLVED PUBLIC BODIES**

There had been circulated a report dated 9 November, 2021 by the Chief Officer and Standards Officer, seeking the adoption of a revised Model Code of Conduct for Members of Devolved Public Bodies by the Joint Board. The report advised that the Joint Board was being asked to adopt the new Model Code of Conduct, as the guiding principles for the conduct of devolved body members.

The Principal Solicitor (Governance) introduced the report and advised that a flowchart had been developed to assist members in navigating the new provisions in relation to declarations of interest and the Standards Commission had published guidance to assist members interpret the Code.

After consideration, the Joint Board **agreed** to adopt the revised Model Code of Conduct for Members of Devolved Public Bodies.

## **12. STATUS UPDATE OF “MAKING CONNECTIONS” ABERDEENSHIRE DEMENTIA STRATEGY 2021 – 2030**

With reference to the Minute of Meeting of 21 July, 2021 (Item 11), there had been circulated a report by the Partnership Manager (Central), providing an update on progress of the “Making Connections” Aberdeenshire Dementia Strategy 2021-2030. The report advised that considerable progress had been made against key actions within the delivery plan, including (1) the delivery of training to enhance the awareness of dementia to ensure that staff and partner agencies were equipped with knowledge in how to support those living with dementia and their unpaid carers; (2) the regular monitoring of post diagnostic support; (3) ongoing work around a project to develop the use of technology; (4) and the establishment of a working group to consider how to best support those people living with dementia at an early onset.

The Joint Board heard from the Partnership Manager, Central and Location Manager, Central of progress made in terms of the main themes of the strategy, and responded to questions raised in relation to work around people with more moderate needs, care home placements, and noted the creation of a new post of Dementia nurse, which would allow for training to be provided in the home to assist those caring for dementia sufferers. It was noted that one of the aims of the strategy was to raise awareness and to provide pathways to gaining support for people who have not yet been diagnosed.

Thereafter, the Joint Board **agreed** to note the progress of the “Marking Connections” Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership Dementia Strategy 2021-2030.

## **13. CHARGING POLICY AND UNIT COSTS 2022/23**

There had been circulated a report dated 29 October, 2021 by the Chief Finance and Business Officer, which recommended that the Joint Board note the proposed RPI increase of 3.4% to charges and unit costs in 2022/23 and makes comment regarding the proposed charging policy for 2022/23, comprising of non-residential charging policy, the rates for Charges and Allowances, as detailed in the report and the Unit Costs detailed in the Charges and Allowances appendix 2 to the report.

The Chief Finance and Business Officer introduced the report and outlined the proposals for 2022/23; advised that Aberdeenshire Council’s Corporate Charging Framework recommends that a full review of charges be carried out every third year; that a full review of charges for social care services would have been due to take effect in 2021/22 but Communities Committee, on 18 February, 2021, had agreed not to carry out a full review due to the impact of Covid-19, and to apply an RPI uplift for charges and unit costs instead; that due to Covid-19 continuing to have a significant impact on the provision of services, it was proposed that a further uplift in line with the RPI, of 3.4% be adopted for 2022/23, and in addition that for 2023/24 and beyond, a short-life Member Officer Working Group would be set up to undertake a full review of the Charging Policy and Unit Costs.

Members of the Joint Board welcomed the opportunity for a Member Officer Working Group to look at the general charging policy, and for the opportunity to look at the wider impacts of charging and how services were delivered, recognising there has to be an affordability for service users and also enough income for health and social care services to be delivered. Officers were also asked to provide some further



explanation on the complexity in calculating unit costs, referred to in section 1.1 of the report, and to clarify the reference in Section 8 of Appendix 1 of the report on Free Personal Care to include behavioural management and psychological support, as per Schedule 1 of the Community Care and Health (Scotland) Act 2002.

Thereafter, the Joint Board **agreed**:

- (1) to note that in light of the Covid-19 pandemic and the impact to service users, the provision of services, and the complexity in calculating unit costs for services being provided in a different way, it is proposed that only the RPI increase of 3.4% is applied to charges and unit costs in 2022/23 instead of undertaking a full review of charges in order to obtain full cost recovery;
- (2) that for 2023/24 and beyond, a short life Member Officer Working Group would be formed to undertake a full review of the Charging Policy and Unit Costs;
- (3) that officers provide further detail to the Board, of the reference in recommendation 1.1 to 'the complexity in calculating unit costs for services being provided in a different way'; and
- (4) that officers clarify the reference on page 213 to Free Personal Care to include behavioural management and psychological support, as per Schedule 1 of the Community Care and Health (Scotland) Act 2002.

#### **14. INVERCARRON RESOURCE CENTRE – DECISIONS BY DELEGATED OFFICER**

There had been circulated a report dated 18 February, 2022 by the Chief Finance and Business Officer and Interim Partnership Manager (South), concerning proposals to establish a Vaccination Centre for Kincardine and Mearns at Invercarron Resource Centre (IRC) in Stonehaven. The report advised that IRC had been identified as the only suitable accommodation for a longer-term Centre to deliver a vaccination centre to the area and the Board was being asked to (1) note the decision of the Chief Officer, using Special Emergency Powers, to endorse the officer operational decision to use the IRC as a vaccination centre; (2) to Direct the Council to urgently procure the necessary works to support the delivery of a vaccination service at IRC; (3) to agree the potential use of earmarked reserves held by IJB for additional Covid costs, should NHS Grampian be unable to provide funding; and (4) to vary the Direction to the Council to urgently procure the necessary works to support delivery of a vaccination service at IRC to reflect that funding for the procurement may be provided by NHS Grampian through available Covid funding, or may be provided by the IJB through the use of covid reserve funding.

The Chair indicated that a request to speak had been submitted by Mr William Watson, on behalf of the Stonehaven and District Community Council, and the Board **agreed** to hear from Mr Watson.

Mr Watson advised the Joint Board that the Stonehaven and District Community Council was currently collecting public support, by way of a petition, for the IRC to be re-opened and the proposed vaccination centre located elsewhere within the town of Stonehaven. Over one thousand signatures had already been collected in support of

the petition. He advised that the IRC had provided vital support for the elderly people of Stonehaven for over 25 years and was a vital service for the town. The community were extremely concerned that a formal consultation process had not been undertaken and considered that the closure was contrary to the needs of the community. He urged the Joint Board to give consideration to the views of the community and to reject the proposals that were before them, and advised that the Community Council was willing to participate in discussions around the identification of a more suitable location within the town for the vaccination centre.

Mr Watson responded to questions from Members around the usage of the centre, which had been closed since the beginning of the pandemic, whether an impact assessment had been undertaken to establish the effects of the closure of the IRC on unpaid carers, and around the question of possible alternative locations and venues for a vaccination centre. Mr Watson suggested that consideration could be given to siting modular units within the grounds of Forest View, which could be achieved in a relatively short timescale. Officers advised that Forest View was not considered suitable and had inadequate space for temporary buildings or space within the buildings.

The Chair then thanked Mr Watson for his contribution to the meeting.

There was discussion of what support had been given to user groups to find alternative venues to meet, and officers advised that support had been offered since last summer to groups to find alternative accommodation. Officers also outlined the process that was undertaken to reach the decision and advised that a large number of venues had been considered, but due to the specific clinical criteria and limited budgets, IRC was identified as the only suitable option for a vaccination centre and had been approved by the Aberdeenshire Vaccination Board. In addition, the operational responsibility of the building rested with the Health and Social Care Partnership. In addition, it was noted that a development worker had been appointed to support the groups which were being displaced, and this post was being funded through a grant secured by the Health and Social Care Partnership.

Some concerns were expressed that the community had felt let down by the decision to repurpose the IRC, without meaningful consultation, and that other locations could have been considered. Work would be required to rebuild public confidence, and to ensure that the displaced groups were assisted in finding alternative accommodation for their activities.

There was a question as to why IJB covid funds (i.e. conditional agreement 2) would be any more secure than NHS Grampian funds, as both relied on Scottish Government approval. The Chief Finance and Business Officer advised that there was no doubt the IJB funds would roll over and be available.

Thereafter, the Joint Board **agreed**:

- (1) to note the decision by the Chief Officer, using Special Urgency Powers as set out in the agreed process agreed by the IJB including consultation with the Chair, Vice Chair and Chief Executives of both NHS Grampian and Aberdeenshire Council, to

- 1.1.1 Endorse the officer operational decision to use the Invercarron Resource Centre in Stonehaven as a vaccination centre;
  - 1.1.2 Direct the Council to urgently procure the necessary works to support delivery of a vaccination service at IRC. The funding for the procurement will be provided by NHS Grampian (NHSG) through available Covid funding; and
- (2) to agree the potential use of earmarked reserve held by IJB for additional Covid costs, should NHSG be unable to provide funding;
  - (3) to vary the Direction to the Council to urgently procure the necessary works to support delivery of a vaccination service at IRC to reflect that funding for the procurement may be provided by NHSG through available Covid funding or may be provided by the Integration Joint Board through the use of covid reserve funding if approved under (2) above.

## **15. 2022/23 ANNUAL PROCUREMENT WORK PLAN (SOCIAL CARE)**

There had been circulated a report dated 26 January, 2022 by the Chief Officer, requesting members' consideration of the annual procurement plan 2022-23, including the work plans and business cases as appended to the report.

Having heard further from officers, there was discussion of specific proposals, including the processes followed to ensure contracts were providing value for money.

Thereafter, the Joint Board **agreed:**

- (1) to approve the business cases for items on the Annual Work Plan which were within its remit and where the value of the matter was over £1,000,000;
- (2) to note that the business cases for items on the Work Plan with a value of between £50,000 and £1,000,000 might be reserved for approval by Aberdeenshire Council's Communities Committee, prior to the implementation of the Joint Board's direction;
- (3) that Aberdeenshire Council be directed to procure the services detailed within the Work Plan, on behalf of the Joint Board;
- (4) to note the updates on Spend on Aberdeen City Contracts (4.7), Out of Area Individual Placements (4.8), and Support at Home (Care at Home and Supported Living)(4.9);
- (5) to note that the contract requirements relating to care and support services align with the Strategic Plan, Outcome 2; and
- (6) to note that an update on the outcomes from the approved procurements in the report would be included in the Commercial and Procurement Shared Service's annual report.

## 16. THIRD SECTOR INTERFACE DIRECT AWARD 2022/23 TO 2024/25

With reference to the Minute of Meeting of the Joint Board of 3 November, 2021 (Item 11), there had been circulated a report dated 28 January, 2022 by the Chief Officer, seeking the approval of the Joint Board to approve the Direct Award to Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action as the Health and Social Care Partnership's Third Sector Interface (TSI) from 2022/23 to 2024/25. The report advised that to enable forward planning in relation to funding arrangements from April 2022, work had been undertaken by officers to develop the specification for a future Direct Award to AVA from 2022/23, and the proposed service specification had taken cognisance of national guidance on the role of TSIs in relation to health and social care integration and was built upon the three existing key objectives of the Direct Award to AVA, namely (1) promoting and supporting volunteers; (2) development and capacity building; and (3) facilitation and co-ordination.

Having heard from the Partnership Manager that officers would continue to work closely with AVA in the implementation and monitoring of the service to build positive relationships and to maximise opportunities for collaborative working, and this would be supported by 6 monthly reports from AVA on progress against delivery of key outcomes, there was discussion of the connection with the Local Outcome Improvement Plans (LOIPs) and the reporting of outputs through an action plan, and noted there would be regular reporting to the Joint Board on the development of key outcomes.

After discussion, the Integration Joint Board (IJB) **agreed** to approve the Direct Award to Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action as the HSCP's Third Sector Interface from 2022/23 to 2024/25.