



Stephen Brown (Chief Officer)

Orkney Health and Care

01856873535 extension 2601

OHACfeedback@orkney.gov.uk

Agenda Item: 4

Orkney Integration Joint Board

Wednesday, 25 June 2025, 15:30.

Council Chamber, Council Offices, Kirkwall.

Minute

Present

Voting Members:

Orkney Islands Council:

Councillors Lindsay Hall, Rachael King and Jean E Stevenson.

NHS Orkney:

Rona Gold (via Microsoft Teams), Issy Grieve (via Microsoft Teams) and Joanna Kenny.

Non-Voting Members:

Professional Advisers:

- Stephen Brown, Chief Officer of the Integration Joint Board.
- Darren Morrow, Chief Social Work Officer of the constituent local authority, Orkney Islands Council (via Microsoft Teams) (for Item 3).
- Sam Thomas, Nurse representative, employed by NHS Orkney.

Stakeholder Members:

- Morven Brooks, Third Sector Representative.
- Willie Neish, Carer Representative.
- Ryan McLaughlin, Staff-side Representative, NHS Orkney (via Microsoft Teams).
- Frances Troup, Head of Community Learning, Leisure and Housing, Orkney Islands Council.

Clerk

- Hazel Flett, Service Manager (Governance), Orkney Islands Council.

In Attendance

Orkney Health and Social Care Partnership:

- Lynda Bradford, Head of Health and Community Care.
- John Daniels, Head of Primary Care Services.
- Shaun Hourston-Wells, Policy and Performance Manager.

Orkney Islands Council:

- Veer Bansal, Solicitor.

Chair

- Joanna Kenny, NHS Orkney.

1. Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded members that the meeting was being broadcast live over the Internet on Orkney Islands Council's website. The meeting was also being recorded, with the recording publicly available for listening to after the meeting for 12 months.

Apologies for absence had been intimated on behalf of the following:

- Non-Voting Members:
 - Dr Kirsty Cole, General Practitioner representative, appointed by NHS Orkney.
 - Dr Louise Wilson, Secondary Medical Care Practitioner representative, employed by NHS Orkney.
 - Dr Elvira Garcia (deputy for Dr Louise Wilson).
 - Janice Annal, Service User Representative.
 - Sarah Kennedy, Carer Representative.
 - Danny Oliver, Staff-side Representative, Orkney Islands Council.
- Orkney Health and Social Care Partnership:
 - Morven Gemmill, Associate Director of Allied Health Professions.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest intimated in respect of items of business to be discussed at this meeting.

3. Annual Performance Report

There had been previously circulated the draft Annual Performance Report for 2024/25, for consideration and approval.

Shaun Hourston-Wells advised that the Annual Performance Report was based on information collected by Public Health Scotland and the Scottish Government in order to highlight the performance of the Orkney Health and Social Care Partnership against the National Suite of Indicators, the Ministerial Steering Group Indicators (known as the Core Suite of Indicators) and the National Health and Wellbeing Outcomes.

The draft Annual Performance Report was not yet complete, given that some financial information would only be available in July. However, in order to meet the legislative requirement, it was proposed that the draft report, as submitted, be published, with a further update published when the outstanding financial information became available.

Key highlights directly related to the Board's six strategic priorities were outlined in section 4 of the covering report, and included the following:

- Unpaid Carers – support services delivered by Crossroads Care Orkney.
- Supporting older people to stay in their own homes – the Care at Home service had seen an increase in the number of people using the service, although the number of hours of unmet need had increased.
- Community Led Support – opportunities had been limited due to lack of staff resources, although the Islands Wellbeing Project and the Community Link Practitioners provided practical demonstration of the ethos of Community Led Support.
- Mental Health and Wellbeing – five Mental Health Officers were able to support over 100 people.
- Early Intervention and Prevention – a large number of initiatives continued to ensure a preventative approach to reduce the need for more costly interventions at a later date.
- Tackling Inequalities and Disadvantages – several initiatives addressed by other priorities ensured that services continued to be available to, and accessed by, everyone. One example was Improving the Cancer Journey initiative, which had received 19 referrals as of April 2025, and the Isles Wellbeing Project, which had supported 291 people in 2024/25, up from 197 in the previous year.

Councillor Rachael King referred to the family groups for the Local Government Benchmarking Framework, where Orkney was grouped in the most affluent and least deprived group and queried how the family groups were established. Joanna Kenny agreed, particularly as the Western Isles was at the other end of the scale.

Rona Gold complimented the standard and content of the Annual Performance Report, remarking that there were no surprises and that a lot of good work had been achieved, despite the challenging circumstances, with an honest appraisal of issues. Rona Gold also commented on the Local Government Benchmarking Framework and suggested that the family groupings were not particularly helpful, given Orkney, being a rural and island setting, was compared with a large urban city, namely Edinburgh.

In response to a query from Joanna Kenny as to whether benchmarking was a requirement of the Scottish Government, Shaun Hourston-Wells confirmed this was the case, with subtle changes every year, although the family groups were supposed to be similar, which was clearly not the case. Shaun Hourston-Wells agreed to seek further information on the family groups.

Councillor Jean Stevenson referred to residential care costs in Shetland, which were considerably higher than Orkney's; Lynda Bradford confirmed that Orkney's costs were based on full cost recovery and she was not aware how Shetland's were calculated.

In response to a query from Rona Gold on Directions and Escalation, given that the Annual Performance Report should be made available to both partners, Stephen Brown confirmed that Directions were required when the Board required one or other of the partners to do something, ie commission a new service or amend an existing one, whereas Escalation would be utilised when an issue required to be brought to the attention of the parties. In relation to the Annual Performance Report, the legislation stated that a copy should be made available to both parties, and officers would ensure that happened, but it did not require either a Direction or Escalation.

Councillor Rachael King echoed earlier comments about the standard of the report, which set out the number of things which had been achieved, but also the areas which were struggling to progress, given numerous challenges. One such area was unpaid carers, where Councillor King suggested that people did not identify themselves as carers, and who were entitled to support, and suggested that this could be highlighted, working with the local media. Issy Grieve concurred and referred to the section within the new Strategic Plan dedicated to unpaid carers, with a number of actions to be achieved during the year.

Joanna Kenny also echoed the plain, easy read, with further information provided through hyperlinks. The Annual Performance Report celebrated the enormous amount of work which had been achieved, and also catalogued the challenges being faced, particularly around funding. Parties were working closely together and seeking to continuously improve service delivery.

The Board **resolved**:

3.1. That the Annual Performance Report for 2024/25, attached as Appendix 1 to the report circulated, be approved for submission to the Scottish Government by 30 June 2025, and provided to both NHS Orkney and Orkney Islands Council.

3.2. That a further update be published once all financial information had been made available.

4. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting concluded at 15:55.