

## Message from Cllr Julie Dettbarn, IJB Chair



2020 has been a year like no other in which no single life has been untouched by the pandemic – whether that be through personal experience of the virus, its tragic impact on many families or the added anxiety and stress caused by balancing personal and professional commitments in the challenging environment Covid-19 has created for us.

I am truly grateful and constantly in awe of the work of all staff within the HSCP as well as our many partner organisations who have supported our communities through this difficult time. Everyone involved in the HSCP ultimately has one goal: to serve and support the people of South Ayrshire. This year you have all gone above and beyond to protect some of our most vulnerable citizens whilst also, importantly, looking out for one another!

Above all, it is the commitment and caring nature of people that has taken us through this difficult time and as we head into a festive period like no other, I want to take the opportunity to pay credit to the amazing work I have seen across our staff cohort and our partner organisations over the past year since I became the chair of the IJB this summer.

It is also important to recognise the amazing community spirit and resilience we have seen this year. There are of course few positives that can be taken from 2020 but I hope that South Ayrshire HSCP can continue to connect with and support our communities to look after each other beyond the pandemic. Similarly, I know that there have been some fantastic examples of innovative working, new partnerships emerging within and beyond the HSCP and I hope we can build on these developments to drive excellence in how we plan and deliver services in South Ayrshire.

Many of you will continue to work over the festive period and others will understandably feel anxious over the coming weeks but I very much hope you can all take some hard-earned rest and be with loved ones.

All the very best,

*Cllr Julie Dettbarn, South Ayrshire IJB Chair*