

SERVICE AND PARTNERSHIPS PERFORMANCE PANEL

Minutes of hybrid webcast meeting on
21 October 2025 at 10.00 a.m.

Present
in County
Buildings: Councillors Philip Saxton (Chair), Stephen Ferry, Brian McGinley, Gavin Scott and George Weir.

Attending
Remotely: Councillors Ian Cochrane and Lee Lyons.

Apology: Councillor Kenneth Bell.

Attending
in County
Buildings: T. Eltringham, Director of Health and Social Care; M. Inglis, Head of Children's Health, Care and Social Work Justice Services; K. Anderson, Assistant Director – Corporate Policy, Strategy and Performance; W. Carlaw, Service Lead – Democratic Governance; S. McCardie, Service Lead - Performance, Community Planning and Sustainability; J. Tait, Service Lead – Thriving Communities; G. Farrell, Service Lead - Customer Services and Communication; L. Jarvie, Co-ordinator - Sustainability, Climate Change and Nature; G. Carroll, Children's Services Planning and Performance Lead Officer; K. Stanhope, Information and Advice Supervisor; S. Armour, NHS Ayrshire and Arran; J. Chapman, Committee Services Officer and C. McCallum, Clerical Assistant.

Attending
Remotely: S. Tyeson, Senior Manager – Planning and Performance.

Chair's Remarks.

The Chair

- (1) welcomed everyone to the meeting; and
- (2) outlined the procedures for conducting this meeting and advised that this meeting would be broadcast live.

There was an adjournment at 10:05 am due to technical difficulties.

The Panel reconvened at 10:23 am.

1. Sederunt and Declarations of Interest.

The Chair called the Sederunt for the meeting and having called the roll, confirmed that that there were no declarations of interest by Members of the Panel in terms of Council Standing Order No. 17 and the Councillors' Code of Conduct.

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2. Minutes of previous meeting.

The Minutes of 16 September 2025 ([issued](#)) were submitted and approved subject to an amendment to Item 7 – “Community Wealth Building Programme 2021-2015” where an additional sentence was added to read “Officers also responded to a question on the application of plural ownership”.

3. Action Log and Work Programme.

There was submitted an update of the Action Log and Work Programme ([issued](#)) for this Panel.

The Assistant Director - Corporate Policy, Strategy and Performance stated that the actions on the Action Log were complete but one item had been omitted and would be added for the next Panel meeting in November.

The Panel

Decided:

- (1) to note the current position with regard to the Action Log; and
- (2) to note the current status of the Work Programme.

4. South Ayrshire Child Poverty Strategy (2024-2029): Year 1 Annual Progress Report (2024-2025)

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 6 October 2025 by the Chief Executive advising on progress that had been made during the first year of South Ayrshire Child Poverty Strategy (2024-2029).

A Member of the Panel gave their view on the paper which was responded to by various Officers.

A Member of the Panel stated that there were many positives within the Report and to keep up the good work.

A Member of the Panel commented that it was reassuring to see evolving priorities within the Report.

A Member of the Panel requested clarification on how a data zone was defined. The Service Lead - Performance, Community Planning and Sustainability advised that she would speak to colleagues and obtain official wording as to how a data zone was defined. They also enquired why the money advice item was on the first row only within the appendix on Page 19. The Service Lead - Customer Services and Communication advised that money advice would be reported through debt handled rather than financial gain.

Following comments made by a Member of the Panel in relation to issues within the Housing Allocation Policy, it was noted that there was currently an ongoing local review into the Allocation Policy and Members will be updated in due course.

A Member of the Panel enquired as to how many people presented themselves or had been in contact with the Advice Hub and how long it would take for an appointment. The Service Lead - Customer Services and Communication advised that the annual figure was 6,410 cases with £6.6million of financial inclusion and that every referral was triaged with priority cases being dealt with the same day of referral and all other cases within a maximum of 48 hours.

A Member of the Panel asked the Service Lead - Customer Services and Communication about the value of a targeted systematic approach process in relation to financial advice. The Service Lead - Customer Services and Communication advised that the referrals received were not all drop in and they did receive referrals from across South Ayrshire and provided examples of these referrals.

A Member of the Panel enquired as to why a systematic approach was not used to contact every resident of South Ayrshire Council. The Assistant Director – Corporate Policy, Strategy and Performance advised that due to resources there required to be a targeted approach but was happy to take this back to colleagues in housing operations with regards to people on the cusp of rent arrears or poverty.

The Panel

Decided: to note

- (1) the Year 1 progress (2024-2025) of South Ayrshire Child Poverty Strategy (2024-2029) attached as Appendix one to the report; and
- (2) the supporting case studies attached as Appendix two to the report.

5. Integration Joint Board (IJB) Annual Performance Report 2024-25

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 1 October 2025 by the Director of Health and Social Care providing the Panel with a copy of the Integration Joint Board (IJB) Annual Performance Report 2024-25 for scrutiny.

A Member of the Panel gave their view on the Report and commended Officers on the good work.

A Member of the Panel questioned whether the four red rows within the table on page 14 of the appendix were independent of each other. The Director of Health and Social Care advised that they were not independent of each other and in fact were related and arose as a result of South Ayrshire's ageing population. He further advised that there were issues providing a service to older people and provided examples of these, along with the ongoing work taking place to tackle these issues.

Having heard a Member of the Panel enquire as to why there were 123,675 of unplanned bed days, the Director of Health and Social Care advised that this was a result of delayed transfer of care.

A Member of the Panel enquired if there was a shortage of Carers and Occupational Health Therapists assessing patients awaiting discharge. The Director of Health and Social Care advised that the work in terms of the assessment activity was progressing well and advised that we were in fact Sector Leading in Scotland for assessing the needs of people who had Mental Health Issues, Dementia, and other issues in terms of incapacity. He further advised that there had been a difficulty in recruiting staff within Care Homes and Care at Home and that a lot of work was being done to try and recruit in-house rather than relying on contracted care with external providers, that there had been some success with that work, but it was not keeping pace with the demand.

Following a question from a Member of the Panel in relation to G.P appointments, it was noted that South Ayrshire's access to G.P appointments were pretty settled but work was still being done to try and reduce the number of people who must go to Hospital.

There was a discussion in relation to the number of young Carers that were in South Ayrshire and the importance of identifying and supporting these young Carers.

A Member of the Panel thanked the Director of Health and Social Care for his contribution to the Panel over the years and wished him good luck in his retirement.

The Panel, having considered the contents of the IJB Annual Performance Report 2024-25,

Decided: to note the contents of the Report.

6. **Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (2024-2029): Year 1 Annual Progress Report (2024-2025)**

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 6 October 2025 by the Chief Executive advising on progress that had been made during the first year of South Ayrshire Local Outcomes Improvement Plan.

There was a discussion in relation to the increase of Young Carers and it was noted that the increase was due to Young Carers being a key priority within Community Partnership and to the service being very pro-active in that regard.

A Member of the Panel gave their view on the Report and commented on the variety of issues being addressed.

A Member of the Panel commended the good work of Thriving Communities and gave his views.

The Area Commander and acting Chief Inspector for South Ayrshire introduced themselves to the Panel and provided members with a breakdown of the work taking place by the Community Safety Partnership.

The Panel

Decided: to note

- (1) the Year 1 progress of the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (2024- 2029) attached as appendix one to the report; and
- (2) the supporting case studies attached as appendix two to the report.

The meeting ended at 11:35 am.

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