

**Subject:** **Director's Report**

**Purpose:** To advise members of the North Ayrshire Integration Joint Board (IJB) of developments within the North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership (NAHSCP).

**Recommendation:** That members of IJB note progress made to date.

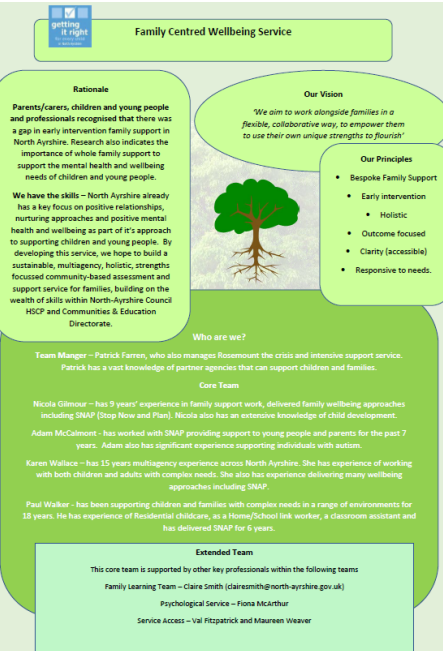
<b>Glossary of Terms</b>	
NHS AA	NHS Ayrshire and Arran
HSCP	Health and Social Care Partnership

<b>1.</b>	<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b>
1.1	This report informs members of the Integration Joint Board (IJB) of the work undertaken within the North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership (NAHSCP) nationally, locally and Ayrshire wide.
<b>2.</b>	<b>CURRENT POSITION</b>
	<b><u>National Developments</u></b>
	<b><u>Free digital resource for carers</u></b>
	<p>The Carers UK 'Digital Resource for Carers' brings together a number of specially designed digital products and online resources to provide comprehensive information and support for unpaid carers.</p> <p>Within the 'Working and Skills' section, there is a good practice guide for employers/line managers/HR teams in supporting carers in the workplace, as well as resources for working carers.</p> <p>If you are a carer, or if you work with carers in the community or support a staff member with caring responsibilities, sign up for this FREE resource at <a href="https://carersdigital.org">carersdigital.org</a> and enter the code <b>DGTL4110</b>.</p>
	<b><u>National Care Service Responses</u></b>
	<p>The Scottish Government have published the responses to the National Care Service consultation.</p> <p>Almost 1,300 responses were received from a wide range of individuals and organisations, after Ministers sought views on plans for the biggest reform of public</p>

	<p>services since the creation of the National Health Service. Around 1,100 of those responses are available to <a href="#">view online</a>.</p> <p>A significant proportion of the responses came from individuals with lived experience, or bodies that represent them. The social care workforce are also well represented in the responses, along with providers, all of whom see much room for improvement.</p> <p>The responses also helpfully highlight the risks that will emerge from such significant change, but the main theme is that change is needed, and it is needed now, as well as in the longer term.</p> <p>The public consultation represented the first phase of engagement for the National Care Service programme. Moving forward it will be critical to have lived experience and co-design at the heart to ensure that we deliver for the needs of people. A report analysing the responses is anticipated to be published during February.</p>
	<b><u>Audit Scotland Briefing – Social Care</u></b>
	<p>Audit Scotland published a briefing on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2022 on urgent action required to address the critical issues in delivery of social care services. This report will be considered and a report on the findings of the report will be tabled at a future IJB meeting. The briefing can be accessed <a href="#">here</a></p>
	<b><u>Consultations</u></b>
	<b><u>Prevention of Homelessness Duties Consultation</u></b>
	<p>A joint Scottish Government and COSLA consultation on proposals for new prevention of homelessness duties was published in December 2021. The consultation is open to individual and organisations to have their say on changes to the homelessness system in Scotland and will run until 31 March 2022. The consultation document can be access <a href="#">here</a>.</p>
	<b><u>Healthcare Framework for Care Homes</u></b>
	<p>The Scottish Government are working with key stakeholders to develop a Healthcare Framework for adults and older people living in care homes.</p> <p>As part of this engagement process the Scottish Government will host three regional events. NHS Ayrshire and Arran and the 3 HSCPs are invited to attend the session on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2022.</p> <p>The sessions are to engage with frontline professionals across all professional groups who provide care to people in care homes.</p> <p>This will include general practitioners, Allied Health Professionals, community nurses (e.g. district nurses, mental health nurses, learning disability nurses, care home nurses, practice nurses, palliative care nurses, other specialist nurses), service managers, pharmacists, dentists, social workers, care home managers, psychologists and paramedics.</p>
	<b><u>Young carers survey</u></b>
	<p>Carers Trust Scotland is conducting a survey on the pressures and challenges facing young carers and young adult carers right across the UK.</p>

	<p>The survey will be live until the end of January, when data will then be collected for analysis and the results released on Wednesday 16 March to coincide with Young Carers Action Day.</p> <p>The survey is for young carers aged 12 to 17 and young adult carers aged 18 to 25. By taking part in the survey, young carers and young adult carers will have the option to be entered into a prize draw for a £25 well-being gift box.</p> <p>If you know a young carer who might be interested in taking part, please direct them to the survey <a href="#">here</a>.</p>
	<b><u>North Ayrshire Developments</u></b>
	<b><u>Appointments</u></b>
	<p>Scott Hunter, our new Chief Social Worker commenced with NAHSCP on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2022. Scott brings a wealth of experience to the role, having previously been the CSWO in South Ayrshire.</p>
	<b><u>North Ayrshire Inspection of Children's Services</u></b>
	<p>In December 2021 the Care Inspectorate agreed to pause the planned next phase of the Children's Services inspection due to COVID restrictions, in particular the ability to facilitate focus groups. Further discussions on the next steps of the inspection resumed in January 2022 and IJB will be kept informed of progress in relation to the inspection, including any implications for the timescales of the inspection concluding.</p>
	<b><u>Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC)</u></b>
	<p>North Ayrshire Council has a strong track record of providing accommodation and support to assist individuals and families resettling from a number of countries including Syria and Afghanistan. Since 2015, North Ayrshire has welcomed 42 Syrian families and 8 Afghan Families, a total of 238 individuals.</p>
	<p>For a number of months, an escalating humanitarian crisis has been emerging in Kent which has seen significant numbers of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC) crossing the Channel seeking asylum in the UK. In response to this, and working with COSLA over recent months, a North Ayrshire multi-service officer taskforce was established. The UASC taskforce comprised of staff from across a variety of services and has been meeting regularly to discuss and explore what support could be offered from North Ayrshire to aid this humanitarian crisis. In recent weeks shortly prior to the festive break, there was a further unexpected rise in the number of UASC arriving in the UK, placing a significant further burden on Local Authorities in the southeast of England.</p>
	<p>In Scotland, a successful Local Authority voluntary assistance scheme was agreed with COSLA and had been operating for a number of months up to December 2021. This has enabled UASC to be placed across various local authorities that were able to assist. As part of the voluntary rota, North Ayrshire was allocated 2 UASC to be accommodated.</p>
	<p>During December 2021, based on the urgency of the evolving situation and the availability of a supported carer, together with the backlog of young people awaiting transfers through the voluntary rota, arrangements were made for one UASC to be</p>

	<p>placed in North Ayrshire. Furthermore, it is hoped there will be the potential to take a further UASC shortly based on the anticipated availability of a further suitable supported carer. An active recruitment plan has also been put in place to attract additional supported carers to assist further. North Ayrshire Council through the Cabinet have reaffirmed their commitment to support UASC.</p>
	<p><u>Hearing Impairment Support from SISG</u></p>
	<p>Sensory Impaired Support Group (SISG) is a charity that works and delivers services across Ayrshire, providing support and information to thousands of deaf, hard of hearing and visually impaired people who might otherwise miss out on valuable and important information and support.</p> <p>The charity is currently running a number of Hearing Support Hubs, peer support groups and hearing aid battery pick-up points across North Ayrshire. Please note that some services are currently impacted by Covid-19 restrictions, as detailed in the link below.</p> <p>To read more about what these services can offer and where they are based, click <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p>To find out more about SISG and the work that they do, visit their website <a href="#">here</a>.</p>
	<p><u>Blue Monday boost for community groups</u></p>
	<p>Despite Blue Monday being deemed the most depressing day of the year, this year it brought fantastic news for many third sector organisations in North Ayrshire.</p> <p>The North Ayrshire Communities Mental Health and Well-being Fund aims to provide funding of up to £50,000 for initiatives that promote mental health and well-being for adults at small scale, grassroots community level.</p> <p>Funded by the Scottish Government and led in North Ayrshire by Arran Community Voluntary Service, the scheme saw 86 local groups apply for a share of the fund, with an ask of nearly £1.2m.</p> <p>With the total available funding for North Ayrshire set at £407k, Arran CVS, partners in the Third Sector Interface North Ayrshire (TSI) and statutory partners have dug deep to double the funds available to £814k, offering a huge boost to projects that will bring benefits to the people of North Ayrshire. To read more, click <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p>A fuller follow up report will be presented to the IJB in March.</p>
	<p><u>North Ayrshire Family Centre Wellbeing Service</u></p>

	<p>Research shows the importance of whole family support to support the mental health and wellbeing needs of children and young people. North Ayrshire already has a key focus on positive relationships, nurturing approaches and positive mental health and wellbeing as part of it's approach to supporting children and young people. By developing the North Ayrshire Family Centre Wellbeing Service, we hope to build a sustainable, multiagency, holistic, strengths focussed community-based assessment and support service for families, building on the wealth of skills within North-Ayrshire Council HSCP and Communities &amp; Education Directorate.</p>	 <p><b>Family Centred Wellbeing Service</b></p> <p><b>Rationale</b> Parents/carers, children and young people and professionals recognised that there was a gap in early intervention family support in North Ayrshire. Research also indicates the importance of whole family support to support the mental health and wellbeing needs of children and young people.</p> <p><b>Our Vision</b> "We aim to work alongside families in a flexible, collaborative way, to empower them to use their own unique strengths to flourish"</p> <p><b>Our Principles</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bespoke Family Support</li> <li>Early intervention</li> <li>Holistic</li> <li>Outcome focused</li> <li>Clarity (accessible)</li> <li>Responsive to needs.</li> </ul> <p><b>Who are we?</b> Team Manager – Patrick Farren, who also manages Roomount the crisis and intensive support service. Patrick has a vast knowledge of partner agencies that can support children and families.</p> <p><b>Core Team</b> Nicola Gilmour – has 5 years' experience in family support work, delivered family wellbeing approaches including SNAP (Stop Now and Plan). Nicola also has an extensive knowledge of child development. Adam McCalmont – has worked with SNAP providing support to young people and parents for the past 7 years. Adam also has significant experience supporting individuals with autism. Karen Wallace – has 15 years multiagency experience across North Ayrshire. She has experience of working with both children and adults with complex needs. She also has experience delivering many wellbeing approaches including SNAP. Paul Walker – has been supporting children and families with complex needs in a range of environments for 18 years. He has experience of Residential childcare, as a Home/School link worker, a classroom assistant and has delivered SNAP for 6 years.</p> <p><b>Extended Team</b> This core team is supported by other key professionals within the following teams Family Learning Team – Claire Smith (clairesmith@north-ayrshire.gov.uk) Psychological Service – Fiona McArthur Service Access – Val Fitzpatrick and Maureen Weaver</p>
	<p>The service has been in operation since the beginning of November and an valuation report is currently being produced. It is early days with regards to this service with 21 referrals to date. Feedback has been extremely positive. The service covers Irvine and the 3 Town at the moment and is for primary aged children and their families.</p>	
	<p><u>Primary Care and Social Care Staff Wellbeing</u></p>	
	<p>The COVID-19 pandemic has heightened concerns about the health and wellbeing of all those who work in Health &amp; Social Care. The wellbeing of staff inevitably impacts the quality and safety of the services provided in every community in Scotland.</p> <p>The Scottish Government has allocated a total of £108,590 to North Ayrshire IJB in financial year 2021/22 to support the wellbeing and mental health of the primary care and social care workforces, as well as meeting practical needs over the winter period. The funding should give equal priority to those working in primary care and social work/social care sectors, including independent contractors, out of hours services and support staff.</p>	
	<p>Following consultation with staff, the key areas identified as local priorities, are :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support for teams to 'take a step back' together and participate in wellbeing opportunities</li> <li>Mindfulness Interventions</li> <li>Support and management of distress and anxiety; PTSD; bereavement; staff affected by 'long Covid'</li> </ul> <p>From the consultation survey with HSCP staff November 2021, 304 responses were received emerging themes were identified and allowed the HSCP to tailor the proposals for funding as follows :-</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provision of 6 x Mindfulness Programmes – available to all primary care and social care staff including Third and Independent Sector;</li> <li>Provision of 10 x Psychological Impact of WFH Workshops;</li> <li>Provision of 10 x Managing Emotional Wellbeing Workshops;</li> <li>Purchase of National Trust passes available to staff on loan basis;</li> </ul>	


	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishment of Primary Care &amp; Social Care Small Grant Scheme to allow staff to apply for small grants to facilitate health &amp; wellbeing initiatives in their own teams/services;</li> <li>Bespoke morning fitness video classes, drop in sports classes, walk leader training, family fund days, weight management/healthy lifestyle groups;</li> </ul>
	<b>COVID Update</b>
	This update continues to offer assurance to IJB on the partnership's continued response to the COVID 19 pandemic. The partnership, along with NHS and NAC still operate on an "emergency" footing.
	<b><u>Updates since last IJB</u></b>
	<b>Guidance</b>
	<b><u>Self Isolation for Residents in Adult Care Homes</u></b>
	<p>The Scottish Government published guidance on 20 January 2022 and made the following updates as summarised below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Self-isolation periods for residents who are contacts of Covid-19 positive case or are themselves Covid positive has now changed from 14 days to 10 days.</li> <li>2. Precautionary 14 days self-isolation of residents following discharge from hospital to a care homes has now been removed for residents on the non-respiratory pathway and has reduced from 14 to 10 days for residents on the respiratory pathway (the respiratory pathway is determined by the <a href="#">Respiratory Screening Tool as per the National Infection Prevention and Control Manual: Winter (21/22), Respiratory Infections in Health and Care Settings Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Addendum</a>. To summarised if you are on the respiratory pathway this means those that have answered yes to the screening tool i.e. are COVID-19 positive or a close contact of someone who is COVID-19 positive within 10 days).</li> <li>3. Removal of guidance on limiting the number of households who can visit a care home resident at any one time to two. This follows the announcement from the First Minister on changes to guidance for the general public.</li> <li>4. Named Visitors should be supported during outbreaks unless there are exceptional circumstances.</li> <li>5. Named visitors who visit a resident who is COVID-19 positive can visit the resident again during their isolation period.</li> </ol>

	<p><u>Vaccination Update</u></p>
	<p>The note below provides the IJB with an update on short-term planning (January to March) for the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme (including Influenza) with high level Summer/Winter plans.</p> <p><b>Data (measure based on 12 years &amp; over)</b></p> <p>Public Health Scotland data dashboard reports indicate that, as at 1<sup>st</sup> February 2022, 92% of eligible population in Scotland had received 1<sup>st</sup> dose vaccination with 86.3% in receipt of 2<sup>nd</sup> dose. 69% have also received their booster or 3<sup>rd</sup> dose.</p> <p>In Ayrshire and Arran Health Board boundary area 94.5% (305,585) of eligible individuals have received the first dose of their COVID-19 vaccine, with 89.2% (288,515) having also received their second dose. 72.4% (234,135) have received their booster or 3<sup>rd</sup> dose.</p> <p>In North Ayrshire Local Authority boundary area 94.2% (111,195) have received their first dose with 88.6% (104,688) also receiving their second dose. 70.9% (83,752) have received their booster or 3<sup>rd</sup> dose.</p> <p><b><u>Planning</u></b></p> <p>NHS Ayrshire &amp; Arran short term planning for January to March is as follows (subject to change as per SG &amp; JVC I guidance) :</p> <p>January Activity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximise uptake of boosters to increase protection</li> <li>• Severely immunosuppressed boosters (following 3<sup>rd</sup> dose)</li> <li>• Second doses for 12-15 year olds</li> <li>• Flu programme completion for 65yrs+, 18-64yrs “at risk”, pregnant women, health and social care staff and childhood</li> <li>• Focus on inclusivity, target identified groups</li> <li>• Ongoing Evergreen offer</li> <li>• 5-11yrs “at risk” and 5-11yrs household contacts first doses (last weekend in January)</li> <li>• 16-17 year old boosters</li> </ul> <p>February/March Activity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remaining adult boosters (including 16-17yrs), second dose 12-15yrs</li> <li>• Inclusion focus to maximise uptake in under served groups</li> <li>• Continuing 5-11yrs “at risk” and household contacts of immunosuppressed</li> <li>• 12-15yrs “at risk” and household contacts of immunosuppressed booster 12 weeks after 2<sup>nd</sup> primary dose</li> <li>• Ongoing Evergreen offer</li> <li>• Potential of additional booster for specific older cohorts (eg. over 80s, Care Homes) based on monitoring hospitalisation data – await JCVI guidance.</li> </ul>
	<p>Forward high level planning assumptions for 2022/23 are being considered as detailed below, however, these are liable to change and so should be used as such until clarity is received as we progress:</p> <p>Spring/Summer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Universal vaccination of 5-11 yr olds (pending JCVI recommendation)</li> <li>• COVID vaccination (JCVI Groups 1-9?)</li> </ul>



	<p>Autumn/Winter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• COVID vaccination (whole population?)</li> <li>• Flu vaccination, including extended groups</li> </ul>
	<p>Following recommendations/outcomes from a number of working groups a report will be tabled via NHS A&amp;A governance routes regarding approval of short-term programme priorities and future planning for Autumn/Winter and a Project Plan detailing a move to a more sustainable Vaccination Programme in terms of future modelling/premises/workforce and finance.</p>
	<p><b><u>Testing</u></b></p>
	<p><b>Symptomatic and asymptomatic Covid-19 testing in North Ayrshire</b></p> <p><b>Symptomatic Testing:</b> The Mobile Covid-19 Testing Unit allows residents <b>WITH</b> Covid-19 symptoms to get a free swab test. For information on the exact location of the testing unit, click <a href="#">here</a>. Tests must be booked in advance <a href="#">here</a> or by calling 0800 028 2816.</p> <p>Additionally, the Harbour Road Car Park in Irvine is being used as a temporary local facility for people <b>WITH</b> COVID-19 symptoms to get a test. You can book online <a href="#">here</a> or by calling 0800 028 2816.</p> <p>Due to high demand for PCR testing, if you are symptomatic and are an essential worker listed on the Scottish Government website, you are prioritised to get a test for COVID-19.</p> <p>When booking a test online, please answer “Yes” to the question “Is the person who needs a test an essential worker?” This means that you will get priority when booking a test slot. It does not prioritise the processing time to analyse your sample, which is usually within 72 hours.</p> <p>During periods of exceptionally high demand, there may be times when test site slots in your area are not available. If this happens, please try again later in the day.</p> <p><b>Asymptomatic Testing:</b> Free rapid testing people <b>WITHOUT</b> symptoms is currently available seven days a week, from 10am to 6pm. Check out the full location timetable <a href="#">here</a>. There is no need to book.</p> <p>Rapid coronavirus testing kits for people <b>WITHOUT</b> COVID-19 symptoms are also available at a number of community pharmacies. Click <a href="#">here</a> and enter your postcode to find your nearest stockist. Alternatively, you can order testing kits to use at home <a href="#">here</a>.</p>
	<p><b><u>Care Home Oversight Group Update</u></b></p>
	<p>The Care Home Oversight Group (CHOG) in North Ayrshire continues to meet twice a week to discuss any concerns highlighted in relation to care homes in North Ayrshire. The group continue to monitor and support care homes and monitor the sustainability and resilience in the social care sector.</p>
	<p>The group receive updates from Public Health in relation to any outbreaks within care homes and from the Care Inspectorate in relation to any service issues/concerns. Each week the group considers data in relation to :-</p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RAG status relating to COVID outbreaks; PPE; Infection Prevention and Control (IPC); Staffing;</li> <li>• Staff Testing;</li> <li>• Beds Available;</li> <li>• Visiting Status;</li> <li>• Current Concerns</li> </ul>
	<u>Care at Home Oversight Group Update</u>
	<p>The HSCP was asked in September 2021 by the Scottish Government to replicate Care Home oversight arrangements for Care at Home services. The North Ayrshire Care at Home Oversight Group has a remit to monitor, at minimum on a weekly basis, the care and support for adults in our community. The group also consider care at home and community health pressures in the local area and work as a multi-disciplinary team to find solutions to address these issues, focussing on managing risk.</p>
	<p>At present, the North meeting meets on weekly basis, and is Chaired by the Chief Officer. Each week, the group considers data and information in relation to :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workforce issues – sickness, annual leave, vacancies, hours worked/available;</li> <li>• Waiting lists for assessment; care packages;</li> <li>• Capacity issues for inhouse and commissioned providers;</li> <li>• Community Nursing provision, capacity and pressures;</li> <li>• Progress with winter plan recruitment.</li> </ul>
	<p><u>Care at Home Recruitment</u></p> <p>Care at Home recruitment activity remains a priority for the partnership with ongoing recruitment events with planned over the next four weeks. The Care at Home service are continuing to engage with employability colleagues around various workstreams and Ayrshire college. Targeted advertising on social media, newspapers, myjobscotland, leaflet drops and radio advertising is also taking place.</p> 
	<p>The Care at Home recruitment and information events have been scheduled for the following dates:</p> <p><b>Wednesday 2 February:</b> Gowanlea Day Services, Kilbirnie, 9.30am to 4pm  <b>Saturday 5 February:</b> Beith Community Centre, 9.30am to 4.30pm  <b>Thursday 10 February:</b> Unit 24, Bridgegate, Irvine, 9.30am to 4.30pm  <b>Saturday 12 February:</b> Stevenston Day Services, Largs, 9.30am to 4.30pm  <b>Saturday 12 February:</b> Unit 24, Bridgegate, Irvine, 9.30am to 4.30pm  <b>Saturday 19 February:</b> Beith Community Centre, 9.30am to 4.30pm  <b>Saturday 19 February:</b> 47 West Road, Irvine, 9.30am to 4.30pm  <b>Tuesday 22 February:</b> Saltcoats Town Hall, 9.30am to 4.30pm  <b>Saturday 26 February:</b> Stevenston Day Services, Largs, 9.30am to 4.30pm</p> <p>The Care at Home service currently has a variety of positions available throughout mainland North Ayrshire and Arran.</p>

	A communication was issued to the Council wide workforce seeking volunteers to support the Care at Home workforce actioned on 6 <sup>th</sup> January and a follow up request issued on 14 <sup>th</sup> January 2022. Training and shift shadowing is underway for volunteers.
<b>3.</b>	<b>PROPOSALS</b>
3.1	<b><u>Anticipated Outcomes</u></b>
	Not applicable.
3.2	<b><u>Measuring Impact</u></b>
	Not applicable
<b>4.</b>	<b>IMPLICATIONS</b>

<b>Financial:</b>	None
<b>Human Resources:</b>	None
<b>Legal:</b>	None
<b>Equality:</b>	None
<b>Children and Young People</b>	None
<b>Environmental &amp; Sustainability:</b>	None
<b>Key Priorities:</b>	N/A
<b>Risk Implications:</b>	N/A
<b>Community Benefits:</b>	N/A

<b>Direction Required to Council, Health Board or Both</b>	Direction to :-	
	1. No Direction Required	√
	2. North Ayrshire Council	
	3. NHS Ayrshire & Arran	
	4. North Ayrshire Council and NHS Ayrshire & Arran	

<b>4.</b>	<b>CONSULTATION</b>
4.1	No specific consultation was required for this report. User and public involvement is key for the partnership and all significant proposals will be subject to an appropriate level of consultation.

<b>5.</b>	<b>CONCLUSION</b>
5.1	Members of IJB are asked to note the ongoing developments within the North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership.

**For more information please contact Caroline Cameron, Director/Chief Officer on 01294 317723 or [carolinecameron@north-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:carolinecameron@north-ayrshire.gov.uk)**