

<b>Meeting of South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership</b>	<b>Strategic Planning Advisory Group</b>	
<b>Held on:</b>	<b>25<sup>th</sup> November 2025</b>	
<b>Agenda item:</b>	<b>7</b>	
<b>Title:</b>	<b>South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership Engagement and Participation Strategy</b>	
<b>Summary:</b>		
<p>The purpose of this report is to set out the proposed direction of travel for the development of a new Engagement and Participation Strategy for South Ayrshire during 2025/26.</p>		
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Rebecca Hunter – Planning and Performance Officer</b>	
<b>Recommendations:</b>		
<p>It is recommended that the Strategic Planning Advisory Group:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. <b>Agree the time is right to progress the Engagement and Participation Strategy development from November 2025;</b></li> <li>II. <b>Note draft timescales for strategy completion and;</b></li> <li>III. <b>Note regular progress reports will be brought to SPAG.</b></li> </ol>		
<b>Route to meeting:</b>		
<p>The existing Participation and Engagement Strategy 2017 requires to be refreshed for the forthcoming time period. There have been a number of previous conversations and thinking in relation to the development of this strategy through the development of a number of other HSCP Strategies since 2023.</p>		
<b>Directions:</b>		<b>Implications:</b>
1. No Directions Required	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Financial <input type="checkbox"/>
2. Directions to NHS Ayrshire & Arran	<input type="checkbox"/>	HR <input type="checkbox"/>
3. Directions to South Ayrshire Council	<input type="checkbox"/>	Legal <input type="checkbox"/>
4. Directions to both SAC & NHS	<input type="checkbox"/>	Equalities <input type="checkbox"/>
		Sustainability <input type="checkbox"/>
		Policy <input type="checkbox"/>
		ICT <input type="checkbox"/>

## SOUTH AYRSHIRE HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE PARTNERSHIP – ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATION STRATEGY

### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to broadly set out the direction of travel for development of the new Engagement for South Ayrshire during 2025/26.

### 2. RECOMMENDATION

#### **2.1 It is recommended that the Strategic Planning Advisory Group:**

- I. Agree the time is right to progress the new Engagement and Participation Strategy development from November 2025;**
- II. Note draft timescales for strategy completion and;**
- III. Note regular progress reports will be brought to SPAG.**

### 3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act, 2015 empowers local communities and individuals in a number of different ways, but particularly by strengthening their voices in the decision-making process. The Health and Social Care Partnerships are required to engage with local communities, identified as suffering from deprivation to produce an action plan to address inequalities in the area.
- 3.2 The Integration Joint Board has adopted the National Standard for Community Engagement as part of its previous Participation and Engagement Strategy. These standards are still used across Scotland for partners to adopt and integrate into services and will continue to shape the new strategy.
- 3.3 The existing Engagement strategy was agreed by the IJB on in 2016. During the strategic development of the Communications Strategy (2024-2029) it was agreed that a separate Engagement Strategy would be developed when the time was right.
- 3.4 Early conversations around a new Engagement Strategy has begun to take place and the development of a number of strategies between 2023-2025 themes were identified that related to how the HSCP carry out community engagement.
- 3.5 A number of staffing changes have taken place in relation to Planning and Performance in South Ayrshire. Important for consideration within this report is that during the life cycle of the current strategy there has been several changes to the Planning and Performance Team, including the reduction of Planning and Performance Officers that carry out strategy development. During the Adult Social Work structure in 2024 there were also further changes to Planning and Performance due to the Engagement Officers moving from this department to now being line managed by the Locality Senior Managers. As of such it is now

the right time to progress with the development of the new Engagement Strategy.

3.6 Following the changes to Planning and Performance in 2024/25, continued joint working between Planning and Performance and the Engagement Officers has remained in place. Ongoing discussions around the development of a new Engagement Strategy remain during the development of other strategies and information and views were gathered in preparation of the new strategy being developed.

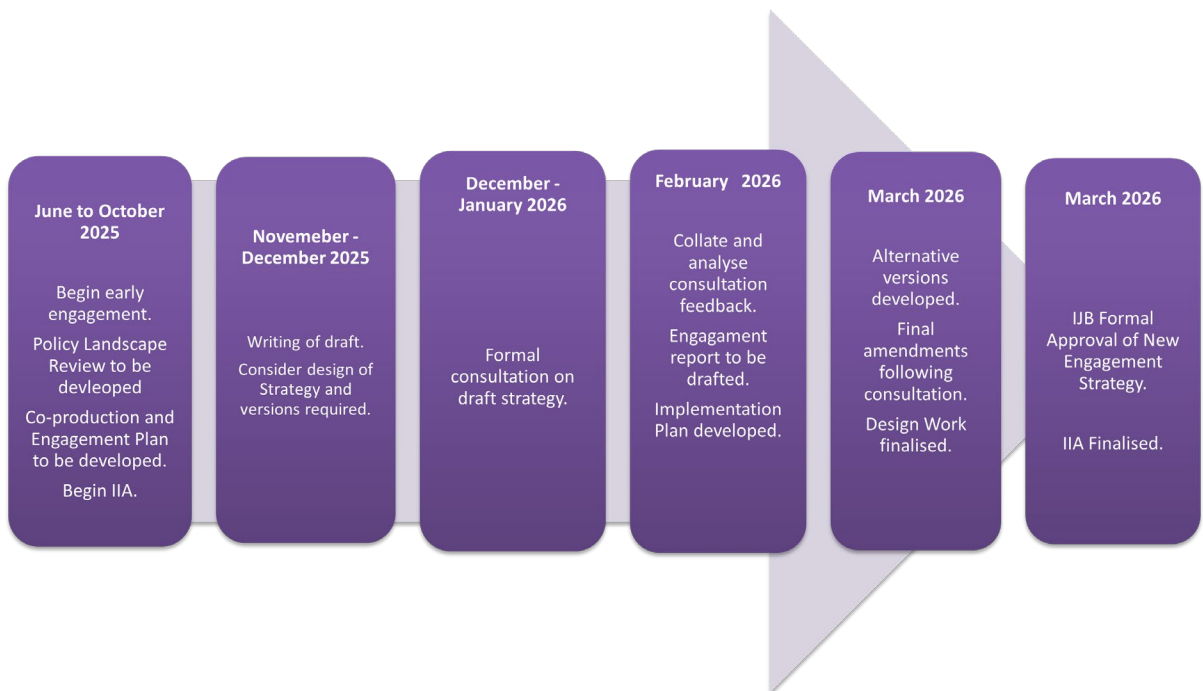
#### 4. REPORT

4.1 A new South Ayrshire Engagement Strategy will be developed during 2025/26 starting development in November.

4.2 A draft timeline is set out within this paper. This will be regularly reviewed, and a more detailed timeline produced by the strategy development group in due course.

4.3 There will be opportunities to join up some of the consultation process to avoid an ‘over consulting’ of groups of stakeholders where there may be a cross over. We have good learning and networks from the development of the Communications, Digital, Mental Health, Dementia and Carers strategies between 2023-2025.

4.4 The new strategy will be developed and in operation by mid-2026.



4.5 During the writing process, regular reports will be brought to the Strategic Planning Advisory Group until the strategies are agreed by the IJB.

4.6 It is proposed that the drafting process for each strategy follows a series of steps, broadly set out below:

### **Engagement**

- The Engagement Strategic Group will provide oversight to the strategy development. This group will meet monthly throughout the period of developing the strategy.
- Having a development time of approx. six months will allow us to implement good practice in engagement e.g., more than one phase of engagement, employing a range of engagement methods to reach as many people as possible.
- A range of methods will be used to engage with people and a full range of citizens, partners and stakeholders will be encouraged to participate.

### **Governance**

- The Strategic group purpose will be to: develop and agree on the scope and vision of the strategy; oversee the development of the strategy document; develop arrangements for the implementation and review of the strategy and oversee the communications strategy.
- A writing group consisting of the Engagement Officers and the Planning and Performance Team will be assembled to write the draft.
- Regular oversight and input will be provided by the IJB's Strategic Planning Advisory Group.

### **Communications**

- A communications plan will be developed to make sure all stakeholders are aware that a strategy is being developed and are aware of the part they can play in its development. We have good learning from strategy development in 2024 to guide our actions.

### **Review, Plan and Monitor**

- Throughout the development of previous strategies, we have already begun to review the current position. This involves undertaking a strategic review of the implementation of the current strategy and what the current landscape looks like in South Ayrshire.
- After assessing the evidence of the current position, we have already been able to plan activities and services that will help move towards the strategic outcomes and vision of life in South Ayrshire. Engagement with people with lived experience throughout this stage has been helpful to build a vision, not only people's life experiences, but views about solutions and the kind of support that would be most useful.
- It will be important to know how well the implementation of the plan is progressing. Therefore, the implementation plan should include detail on measurable performance indicators and outcomes, agreed responsibilities with timescales, a clear reporting process, a feedback loop process that

ensures the HSCP learns along the way and enables it to change course when needed, and a plan for services and other stakeholders to continue to influence the plan.

#### **4.7 Next Steps**

4.7.1 The Steering Group and Strategy Writing Groups will meet in January to produce a draft, and engagement and consultation will be planned and implemented.

### **5. STRATEGIC CONTEXT**

5.1 The Engagement Strategy will align to the following strategic objectives:

- We nurture and are part of communities that care for each other.
- We work together to give you the right care in the right place.
- We help build communities where people are safe.
- We are transparent and listen to you.

### **6. IMPLICATIONS**

#### **6.1 Financial Implications**

6.1.1 There are no specific financial implications arising directly from the consideration of this report.

#### **6.2 Human Resource Implications**

6.2.1 There are no human resource implications to agreeing this report.

#### **6.3 Legal Implications**

6.3.1 There are no legal implications to agreeing this report.

#### **6.4 Equalities implications**

6.4.1 A detailed Equality Impact Assessment will be completed and will be developed and expanded at each stage of strategy development to ensure it is robust. The new Integrated Impact Assessment Tool will be used.

#### **6.5 Sustainability implications**

6.5.1 There are no sustainability implications to agreeing to this report.

#### **6.6 Clinical/professional assessment**

6.6.1 There is no requirement for clinical/professional assessment for this specific report.

### **7. CONSULTATION AND PARTNERSHIP WORKING**

7.1 This report has been prepared in consultation with relevant officers.

7.2 Significant consultation will be undertaken during the preparation of the strategies. A full range of citizens, partners and stakeholders will be

encouraged to participate. A communication and engagement plan for each strategy will be drafted in due course.

## 8. RISK ASSESSMENT

8.1. There are no risks in agreeing this report.

### **APPENDICES**

N/A

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

[South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership Participation and Engagement Strategy 2017.](#)

[Participation Handbook](#) National Standards for Community Engagement.

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*25<sup>th</sup> November 2025*