

Meeting of South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership	Strategic Planning Advisory Group	
Held on:	24th March 2026	
Agenda item:	8	
Title:	SA HSCP Engagement Strategy 2026 - 2030	
Summary:		
<p>The purpose of this report is to update the SPAG on the development of a new Engagement Strategy for South Ayrshire during 2026.</p>		
Author:	Rebecca Hunter – Planning and Performance Officer	
Recommendations:		
<p>It is recommended that the Strategic Planning Advisory Group:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. Note the progress made so far with the development of the Engagement Strategy. 		
Route to meeting:		
<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>		
Directions:	Implications:	
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"/>	

SA HSCP ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATION STRATEGY

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the SPAG on the development of the new Engagement Strategy for South Ayrshire during 2025/26.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that the Strategic Planning Advisory Group:

- i. Note the progress made so far with the development of the Engagement Strategy.**

3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

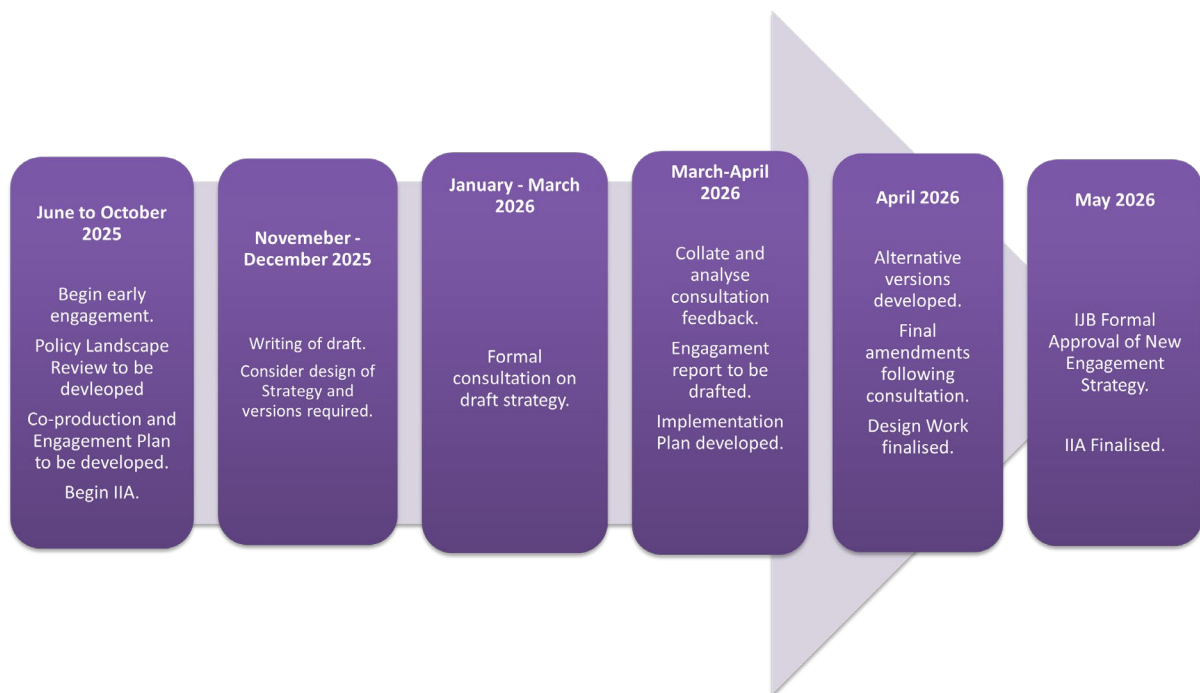
- 3.1 The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act, 2015 empowers local communities and individuals in a number of different ways, but particularly by strengthening their voices in the decision-making process. The Health and Social Care Partnerships are required to engage with local communities, identified 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 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 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 was agreed that 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 Health and Social Care Engagement Strategy commenced development in November 2025.

4.2 Amendments have been made to the initial timeline since the last SPAG meeting. This is due to staffing changes, flu outbreaks restricting face-to-face consultation and the holiday period. The strategy is now on track to be taken to the IJB for approval in May 2026 following a comprehensive consultation period.



4.3 There have been opportunities to join up some of the consultation process to avoid '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 South Ayrshire Council have recently launched their new Engagement Strategy. Consideration and developments will be made to ensure that the HSCP Strategy aligns to both the Council and NHS Strategy and will ensure there are dedicated actions to improve joint working between the three areas.

4.5 A Draft Strategy was created and circulated in January 2026, and a full engagement plan has been carried out to gain feedback. Engagement is still taking place and will end on the 20th March 2026. An Engagement Report will be produced alongside the final version of the Engagement Strategy and its accompanying Toolkit.

4.6 The engagement plan has seen consultation at the following:

- All Locality Planning Partnerships
- Ageing Well Champions Board
- Community groups
- Internal communications
- Social Media
- Attendance at events such as the Self-Directed Support Roadshow, and;
- An online survey, which is also available in paper format

4.7 So far in the consultation process feedback has been positive for both the Engagement Strategy and its accompanying Toolkit. We are reviewing feedback that has been received and will incorporate suggestions that have been made by groups to improve the overall document. There are trials about to take place of the Toolkit and the services undertaking these will give more in depth feedback once the toolkit has been completed.

4.8 Next Steps

- Once the consultation period ends of the 20th of March, the Strategy Writing Group will convene to finalise the Engagement Strategy and its Toolkit, which will then be shared for final comments.
- An Engagement Report will be produced and submitted to the IJB alongside the Strategy.
- The IIA which was started at the beginning stages of the strategy development will be finalised and submitted alongside the Strategy documents to the IJB.
- A Strategic Delivery Group will commence once the Engagement Strategy is approved at IJB to review and monitor the progression of the strategies delivery plan. This group will include relevant services and stakeholders and will drive the delivery of the action plan forward for the duration of this strategy.
- Regular oversight and input will be provided by the IJB's Strategic Planning Advisory Group.

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

Appendix 1 – Engagement Strategy 2026 - 2030

Appendix 2 – Engagement Toolkit DRAFT

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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24th March 2026