



Graham Lawther
Aberdeen City Health & Social Care Partnership Business Partner
T: 07557 516334
E: glawther@aberdeencity.gov.uk
18 March 2025

Health and social budget care for 2025/26 agreed

Aberdeen City Integration Joint Board (IJB) members have agreed their revenue budget for 2025/26.

The decision means Aberdeen City Health & Social Care Partnership (ACHSCP) will have a total budget of £439million to meet the needs of the most vulnerable people in the city in the coming financial year.

Some 40% of the funding comes from Aberdeen City Council (ACC) and 60% from NHS Grampian.

Aberdeen City Council (ACC) agreed its General Fund budget for 2025/26 on 05 March 2025, with an increase of £9.536million for the IJB for 2025/26. This includes £4.2million over and above the uplift provided by Scottish Government

NHS Grampian meets to agree its 2025/26 budget on 10 April 2025. This will include consideration of £12.647m of additional funding for the Aberdeen IJB.

The agreed IJB 2025/26 revenue budget details savings of £14.354million which need to be made in the 12 months from the start of April to balance the accounts at the end of next March.

IJB chair Cllr John Cooke said: “We are determined to protect essential front-line services. Our budget will ensure that the number of residential care beds are protected – that will be good for service users and will also help ease the pressures on the hospital sector and the Scottish Ambulance Service.

“It will ensure that support packages are provided for everyone in need of high and urgent Care at Home. We are also protecting counselling services to prevent potential increasing demand on mental health services, and housing services will still be fully delivered. We will also preserve, as far as possible, day care services working with commissioned service providers.

“This board, like every other board in Scotland, is under enormous financial pressure, with rising costs, increasing demand and the ever-growing complexity of the cases we deal with. Budget pressures for 2025/26 are significant – including pay inflation, the Real Living Wage increase, employer National Insurance contributions, rising prescribing costs, and the need to control spending on services commissioned from outside organisations.

“Despite these challenges, I am confident that we will be able to deliver savings while protecting services. We will be focusing on developing transformative projects which will bring greater efficiency and innovation to the delivery of our health and care services, to put us on a more sustainable footing, in line with the recommendations of the Accounts Commission. Staffing costs will be tightly controlled by careful vacancy management and by redesigning roles where appropriate, but this will not affect front-line services. We are also engaged in an extensive rationalisation of the properties we use to secure best value for money.

“The delivery of savings will be closely managed by a Budget Savings and Oversight Group to monitor and guide the process, overseen by our Risk Audit and Performance Committee and by the Board itself.”

The IJB budget for 2025/26, and budgets for the following three years, together underpin the delivery of the draft ACHSCP Strategic Plan 2025-29. The plan includes a strong focus on improving health outcomes in Aberdeen, and an ongoing emphasis on prevention, including community rehabilitation, and re-enablement interventions to support people to recover and retain their abilities.

Cllr Cooke said: “I must reiterate that we will be protecting essential frontline services, maintaining the number of residential care beds, and making sure support packages are provided for everyone in need of high, urgent and emergency care at home.

“There is no escaping from the fact that the work ahead will be hard and will require all of our combined efforts. But I am fully aware of the professionalism and the commitment of our staff to deliver the best possible care for those who depend upon us. By working together we can reach our goals and make health and social care provision in Aberdeen sustainable into the future.”

ENDS