



REPORT TO: HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD – 15 APRIL 2026

REPORT ON: STATUTORY CHILDREN’S RIGHTS REPORT

REPORT BY: CHIEF OFFICER

REPORT NO: DIJB12-2026

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To seek approval of the proposal to publish a joint statutory Children’s Rights Report with NHS Tayside, and of the content of the IJB element of that report.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Integration Joint Board (IJB):

- 2.1 Note the status of the IJB as listed public authority under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act 2024, and requirement to publish a Children’s Rights Report for the reporting period to 31 March 2026 (see sections 4.1 to 4.4).
- 2.2 Approve the proposal to discharge their statutory duty to produce and publish a Children’s Rights Report through a joint publication with NHS Tayside (see section 4.5.1).
- 2.3 Approve the content of the Children’s Rights Report, where it describes the functions of Dundee IJB, for insertion into the joint publication (see section 4.5.2 and appendix 1). Noting that NHS Tayside plans to approve their content during June 2026, after which the joint report will be published (see section 4.5.3).
- 2.4 Remits the Chief Officer to review the Strategic Risk Register with reference to the information contained within section 6 of this report.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 None

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act 2024 (“the UNCRC Act”) incorporates the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child into Scots law, strengthening the requirement for public authorities to treat children’s rights as a core consideration in the exercise of their functions. The Act places duties on public authorities to act compatibly with the UNCRC requirements. In practice, this means that when making decisions, developing policy, planning services, or delivering services that affect children and young people, relevant bodies must ensure that their actions and decisions do not breach the rights set out in the UNCRC.
- 4.2 Key requirements of the Act include that it is unlawful for a public authority to act in a way which is incompatible with the UNCRC requirements, and that children, young people and their

representatives can seek to enforce these rights through the courts. The Act also provides powers for the Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland to take legal action in relation to children's rights.

- 4.3 The UNCRC Act applies different duties to "listed public authorities" (also referred to as "listed bodies"). Listed bodies are those specifically identified in the Act and associated regulations as having functions which are likely to affect children and young people. Dundee IJB is a listed body because it is an Integration Joint Board established under the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014, with functions that can affect persons under the age of 18 through the delegation of relevant health and social care functions under the Dundee Integration Scheme¹. While Dundee IJB's primary responsibilities relate to adult services, its commissioning, planning and oversight decisions in areas such as primary care, sexual health and allied health services can have direct and indirect impacts on children, young people and families, and it therefore falls within the scope of the statutory reporting duty.
- 4.4 Listed bodies are required to publish a Children's Rights Report for each reporting period. The first reporting period covers October 2024 to March 2026, thereafter the reporting period is three years. Reports must be published as soon as practicable after the end of the period and must set out the steps taken, within the IJB's functions and areas of responsibility, to secure better or further effect of children's rights. Scottish Government has published statutory reporting guidance, and Children's Rights Reports must be prepared in accordance with this guidance (available at: [Part 3 Statutory Guidance](#).)

4.5 PROPOSED REPORTING ARRANGEMENTS

- 4.5.1 To provide a coherent overview of progress in securing children's rights across health and social care services, it is proposed that Dundee IJB contributes to a joint report with NHS Tayside. This will ensure that the Children's Rights Reports presents an integrated account of progress in relation to health and social care services. It is intended that this approach will help stakeholders, including members of the public, to understand the full process of planning for and securing children's rights across the sector through a single document. This approach is supported by Scottish Government Part 3 statutory guidance, which allows listed public authorities to prepare and publish Children's Rights Reports jointly where appropriate. The proposed joint reporting arrangements therefore provide a compliant way for Dundee IJB to discharge its reporting duty while presenting a clear, integrated account of progress.
- 4.5.2 Officers supporting the three IJBs across Tayside have collaborated to support a consistent approach to the provision and presentation of content for joint Children's Rights Reports. A shared template has been agreed for this purpose. The proposed Dundee IJB content, prepared in line with the agreed template, is attached at Appendix 1. The content for the first report reflects recognition, including from the Scottish Government, that public bodies are in the early stages of children's rights implementation, with a subsequent focus on future plans to further strengthen and expand the work of the IJB in this area.
- 4.5.3 NHS Tayside's timetable for production of its contribution to the joint report, and for securing approval through the Public Health Committee, is the end of June 2026. The joint reports will be published as soon as possible after they have been approved by all of the relevant governance groups.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This report has been subject to the Pre-IIA Screening Tool and does not make any recommendations for change to strategy, policy, procedures, services or funding and so has not been subject to an Integrated Impact Assessment. An appropriate senior manager has reviewed and agreed with this assessment.

¹ See Annex 1, Part 4 of the [Dundee Health and Social Care Integration Scheme](#) for a list of services to be integrated for people under the age of 18.

6.0 RISK ASSESSMENT

6.1 The content of this report relates to the following risk from the IJB Strategic Risk Register:

Risk	10 IJB Engagement - There is a risk of the work of the IJB being insufficiently supported and informed by communication and engagement with stakeholder
Risk Level	12
Risk Appetite	Within
The report demonstrates:	
	An increase in risk level
	A reduction in risk level
	The effectiveness of current controls
X	The identification and implementation of additional controls Commitments made within the Children's Rights Report regarding future activity and actions in some aspects include additional mitigating controls in relation to engagement of service users, unpaid carers and others with lived experience of health and social care services and supports.
	The presence of a new / emerging risk

7.0 CONSULTATIONS

7.1 The Chief Finance Officer, Heads of Service Health and Community Care, Child Health Commissioner and the Clerk were consulted in the preparation of this report.

8.0 DIRECTIONS

The Integration Joint Board requires a mechanism to action its strategic commissioning plans and this is provided for in sections 26 to 28 of the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014. This mechanism takes the form of binding directions from the Integration Joint Board to one or both of Dundee City Council and NHS Tayside.

Direction Required to Dundee City Council, NHS Tayside or Both	Direction to:	
	1. No Direction Required	X
	2. Dundee City Council	
	3. NHS Tayside	
	4. Dundee City Council and NHS Tayside	

9.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

9.1 None

Dave Berry
Chief Officer

DATE: 12 March 2026

Kathryn Sharp
Acting Head of Strategic Services

Clare Lewis-Robertson
Lead Officer, Strategic Planning and Business Support

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Appendix 1

Draft Dundee IJB Content for Joint Children's Rights Report with NHS Tayside

Integration Authorities are listed under the UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act 2024 because their decisions can affect children, young people and families. In Dundee, this includes decisions about services where functions have been formally delegated to the IJB:

- Hospital Accident and Emergency (A&E).
- Dental, eye care and pharmacy services.
- GP services (including out-of-hours).
- Community learning disability services.
- Allied health professional services (for example, occupational therapy and physiotherapy).
- Sexual and reproductive health services.
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More broadly the IJB might make decisions that impact directly and indirectly on children and young people. For example, the decisions the IJB makes about commissioning of adult services will have a direct impact on young carers.

Dundee IJB plans and commissions services and decides how resources are used. It also has an oversight role for operational performance. The Performance and Audit Committee reviews performance information and assurance about services and is informed by the Clinical and Care Governance Group. This helps the IJB to identify where service performance may affect children and young people's rights, agree actions for improvement, and track progress through regular reporting. This Children's Rights Report covers the functions that are the responsibility of the IJB and has been prepared in line with Part 3 statutory guidance. Information about children's rights implementation in health and social care delivery is covered in the Children's Rights Reports of Dundee City Council and NHS Tayside.

Since October 2024, Dundee IJB has made progress in the following areas, aligned with the principles of a children's human rights approach:

Embedding

- The IJB's Strategic Needs Assessment brings together population-level evidence, including information on the health and wellbeing needs of children and young people, to inform strategic planning, commissioning priorities and resource allocation across health and social care.
- Children's rights considerations have been incorporated into IJB strategic planning and commissioning processes, proportionate to the IJB's role. This includes links to wider children's services planning and recognition of impacts on children and young people across health and social care systems.
- An Equality Matters IJB Development Session, delivered to IJB members in November 2025, supported implementation of UNCRC requirements by strengthening members' understanding of children's rights, promoting non-discrimination, and ensuring decisions are informed by an equity-focused, rights-respecting approach.
- The IJB has considered reports on matters affecting children and young people (including Our Promise, the City Plan and Protecting People reports) to support assurance, improvement and informed strategic decision-making.

Equality and Non-Discrimination

- The Integrated Impact Assessment format that accompanies IJB decision reports includes consideration of potential impacts on children and young people, including human rights, equality and fairness.

Participation

- Dundee's Carers Partnership includes young carer representatives in its multi-agency work, helping ensure their voices shape strategic planning and the development of support across the city.

Accountability

- Dundee Health and Social Care Partnership officers who manage complaints are working to implement child-friendly complaints processes for the IJB, aligned with the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman's Children Friendly Complaints Principles. These principles aim to make complaints accessible, rights-based and responsive to the needs of all children and young people.

For the period April 2026 to March 2029, Dundee IJB will focus on:

- Strengthening how children's rights are routinely considered in IJB papers, impact assessments and decisions, particularly where adult health and social care services may affect children and young people, including young carers.
- Building on the Strategic Needs Assessment by continuing to improve how evidence about children's health, wellbeing and inequalities is used to inform strategic planning, commissioning priorities and resource allocation.
- Continuing to develop IJB members' understanding of children's rights, non-discrimination and best interests, helping ensure UNCRC considerations are well understood and meaningfully applied in strategic discussions and decisions. This will include working with professional leads who are IJB members to embed UNCRC within the aims and activities of the IJB.
- Considering an IJB Members' Development Session on the UNCRC and its implications for IJB member decision-making.
- Exploring proportionate ways for the IJB to be informed by the views and experiences of children and young people (including young carers), particularly where strategic decisions may affect them indirectly. This includes considering how children and young people could have greater voice and influence within the IJB's annual Budget Consultation process.
- Supporting the Strategic Planning Advisory Group to strengthen its understanding of UNCRC impacts and to embed children's rights in service design, commissioning and decision-making, ensuring plans and priorities reflect children and young people's best interests, voices and lived experiences.
- Refining the IJB's approach to Children's Rights Reporting to ensure clear, accessible information is published on what the IJB is doing, progress to date, and where further improvement is planned, in line with the expectation that public bodies demonstrate continuous improvement over time.