

NHS Golden Jubilee



Meeting: NHS Golden Jubilee Board
Meeting date: 28 May 2026
Title: NHS Golden Jubilee Board Assurance Framework
Responsible Executive/Non-Executive: Carole Anderson, Director of Transformation, Strategy, Planning and Performance
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1 Purpose

This is presented to the Board for:

Assurance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Awareness	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Discussion	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

This report relates to a:

Annual Delivery Plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Local Policy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Emerging Issue	<input type="checkbox"/>	NHS / IJB Strategy or Direction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Government Policy or Directive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Legal Requirement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

This aligns to the following NHS Scotland quality ambition(s):

Safe	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Effective	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Person-Centred	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

Please select the level of assurance you feel this report provides to the board/committee and briefly explain why:

Significant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Moderate	<input type="checkbox"/>
Limited	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not Yet Assessed	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comment: A significant level of assurance is recommended, as the Board Assurance Framework provides clear line of sight between the Board's strategic objectives, the principal risks, the controls in place, and the sources of assurance. Each Committee has completed its remit review and confirmed that its Terms of Reference, reporting arrangements, and planned assurance activity remain appropriate to provide robust oversight of the key risks within its remit.

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From the list below, please select which Board Priority this paper relates to. If none of the priorities suit, please select other and briefly explain why this paper needs to be reviewed at Board/Committee:

Service Sustainability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Financial Sustainability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Workforce Sustainability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Environmental Sustainability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Quality and Safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Population Health and Health Inequalities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>		

2 Report summary

2.1 Situation

The NHS Golden Jubilee Board Assurance Framework (BAF) is presented to provide a clear, consolidated description of how the Board obtains assurance that strategic objectives are being delivered and that principal risks are being effectively controlled.

The BAF sets out the organisation's high-level governance and assurance arrangements, including the roles of the Board and its Governance Committees, the key internal control environment, and the main sources of assurance that support the Annual Governance Statement.

NHS GJ Board is asked to note the Framework and to support its ongoing use as a live document that will be reviewed and refreshed as corporate objectives, risk themes, national guidance, and assurance requirements evolve.

2.2 Background

The BAF has been developed in response to the expectations set out in the Blueprint for Good Governance (Second Edition) that NHS Boards implement, maintain and be able to clearly describe an assurance framework. It draws together the organisation's purpose, aims, values, corporate objectives and principal risks with the strategic plans, change programmes and operational plans that deliver the desired outcomes. The Framework describes how assurance is obtained through routine performance and risk reporting, committee scrutiny, internal and external audit activity, and other lines of defence, providing 'line of sight' from Board objectives through to controls and evidence of effectiveness.

The Framework is intended to be accessible to Board Members, staff and partners, and to support consistent, proportionate assurance by clarifying the principal assurance routes and the expected levels of scrutiny across different areas of activity.

2.3 Assessment

Implementing and maintaining an up-to-date BAF strengthens Board oversight by clarifying how assurance is generated, tested and escalated across the governance system. It supports more effective triangulation of information (performance, risk, audit and other intelligence), helps identify gaps or duplication in assurance activity, and reinforces accountability by setting out the respective roles of the Board, Committees and Executive Leadership Team.

There is a risk that, without a clear and routinely refreshed Framework, assurance can become fragmented across Committees and reporting routes, reducing the Board's ability to demonstrate a coherent 'line of sight' from strategic objectives and principal risks to controls and evidence of effectiveness. The BAF mitigates this by setting out the core assurance information system and by providing a basis for periodic review as organisational priorities and external requirements change.

The BAF also supports preparation of the Annual Governance Statement by summarising the internal control environment and the primary sources of assurance relied upon by the Board, including committee assurance, internal audit, external audit and regulatory/third-line assurance.

2.3.1 Quality/ Patient Care

The Board Assurance Framework supports safe, effective and person-centred care by setting out the routes through which the Board and the Clinical Governance Committee receive assurance on the quality and safety of clinical care, including oversight of incidents, complaints, clinical governance indicators and whistleblowing.

2.3.2 Workforce

The BAF clarifies how workforce assurance is obtained through the Staff Governance and Person-Centred Committee, including assurance on delivery of the NHS Scotland Staff Governance Standard and related workforce controls (e.g., staff governance action plan monitoring, the quarterly People report, iMatter reporting, and wellbeing/development updates). This supports a consistent and evidence-based approach to assurance on workforce matters.

2.3.3 Financial

The BAF strengthens financial governance by setting out the assurance routes and internal controls relied upon by the Board and the Audit and Risk Committee, including scrutiny of the Annual Report and Accounts, quarterly finance reporting, and the financial plan. This supports robust oversight of financial management and stewardship.

2.3.4 Risk Assessment/Management

The BAF describes the organisation's Risk Management Strategy and the governance route for risk oversight, including routine review of the Strategic Risk Register by the Board, the Audit and Risk Committee and the Executive Leadership Team, with other Governance Committees considering risks assigned to their remit. It also confirms the use of risk appetite to support

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consistent decision-making and escalation where risks sit outside the agreed appetite.

2.3.5 Equality and Diversity, including health inequalities

There are no additional equality impacts arising specifically from the publication of the BAF itself.

2.3.6 Climate Emergency and Sustainability

There is no direct environmental impact arising from this document update.

2.3.7 Other impacts

No other direct impacts arise from this report.

2.3.8 Communication, involvement, engagement and consultation

The BAF has been developed by reflecting the requirements of the Blueprint for Good Governance and NHS Golden Jubilee's current reporting and committee arrangements. It is intended to be a widely accessible document for Board Members, staff and partners to support shared understanding of assurance routes, and it will be kept under review and updated as assurance requirements change.

2.3.9 Route to the Meeting

This paper was presented to Executive Leadership Team and is being presented to the Board as part of the governance process to note and support the ongoing use and maintenance of the Board Assurance Framework. Following ELT and Board approval, the Framework will be used as a live reference document to support routine reporting and committee scrutiny, and it will be refreshed in line with changes to corporate objectives, principal risks, national guidance and assurance requirements.

2.4 Recommendation

NHS GJ Board is asked for:

- **Assurance** – To give confidence of compliance with legislation, policy and Board objectives.
- **Awareness** – For Members' information only.
- **Decision** – Reaching a conclusion after the consideration of options.
- **Discussion** – Examine and consider the implications of a matter

3 List of appendices

The following appendices are included with this report:

Appendix No 1, NHS Golden Jubilee Board Assurance Framework