

**MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE HIGHLAND SENIOR CITIZENS NETWORK HELD AT INSHES CHURCH,
INVERNESS AND VIA ZOOM ON MONDAY 25 AUGUST 2025 AT 10:00**

Present: Ian McNamara, Chair
Isla Cuthbert (Zoom)
David Hannah (Zoom)
Lesley McDade
Brenda Nicolson (Zoom)
Joan Philip
Rob Polson (Zoom)
Irene Robertson
Evelyn Sinclair

Apologies – Linda Bailey, Brian Devlin, Robert Kay, Ann McKay and Councillor Isabelle MacKenzie

1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were as noted above.

2 DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were none declared.

3 MINUTE OF 30 JUNE 2025

The Minute of 30 June 2025 was approved.

Proposer: Joan Philip

Seconder: Isla Cuthbert

4 MATTERS ARISING

(a) Funding Applications

(i) National Lottery Community Action Funding Application

A decision on this application would be made around mid-September.

(ii) People's Postcode Trust

The Chair regretted to inform the Board that the application submitted to this Trust for funding to support the continuing production of the news-sheet had been unsuccessful. He had subsequently applied to the CORRA Fund for a grant for this purpose; their decision was awaited.

(iii) Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund

The Chair reported on an application that was being worked up which, if successful, would provide funding over a two year period to establish Café to Connect type meetings in a specific area in Highland which would be accessible to people with dementia and their carers.

5 HSCN Membership

The latest membership figures were noted.

6 TRUSTEES

The Board was pleased to welcome back Evelyn Sinclair.

7 REGULAR REVIEWS

(a) Risk Register

No new issues had been identified.

8 NEWS-SHEET – FINAL CUT

The final edition of the news-sheet had been issued.

9 SERVICE USER REPRESENTATION

The Chair currently attended meetings of the Joint Monitoring Committee in his role as a service users' representative. In light of changes being made to working arrangements between NHS Highland and the Highland Council, the Board agreed that the opportunity should be taken to consider how service users would be represented under the new arrangements. It was suggested that an approach be made to other voluntary organisations with a view to discussing the issue and developing a proposal to ensure continuing service user representation on the emerging Joint Integrated Board.

10 HSCN POLICY REVIEW

Updating the Board on the current position, Isla reported the addition of a new policy, Fair Work First.

11 TEA-BREAKS UPDATE

The Tea-breaks had restarted following the summer break and would now be facilitated by Trustees and members with an invited guest every four weeks.

12 MEETINGS ATTENDED

There were no meetings attended during the month.

13 SCAMS PEER TALKS

In addition to the scams talks, presentations on other topics could also be delivered to groups and it was agreed that these should be publicised.

14 FINANCE REPORT

The Board noted the circulated financial report to end of July 2025. The second tranche of funding from NHS Highland was due in early October.

15 ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

(a) HSCN Annual General Meeting 2025

It was agreed to hold the AGM at 10:00 on Monday 29 September 2025. A letter would be sent to HSCN members notifying them about the meeting.

(b) Realistic Medicine Conference

The Chair informed the Board that this conference would be held on 14 November 2025. Any Trustees interested in attending the event were asked to let the Chair know.

(c) SOPA

It was noted that a meeting of SOPA had been arranged for 4 October 2025.

(d) HSCN Information Leaflet

The Coordinators had agreed to update HSCN's information leaflet, however this piece of work had been put on hold due to the uncertainty around our funding situation. The current leaflet, with the Coordinators' details removed, was available on the website.

(e) Closure of the Spectrum Centre, Inverness

The Board expressed its concern about the closure of the Spectrum Centre and café and the impact that the loss of this community facility would have on the wide range of groups and individuals who used it.

(f) Services for Visually Impaired People

There was discussion on the anomalous situation that existed whereby some services were fully funded by statutory bodies while others, for example, for visually impaired people, were not despite being contracted by

statutory bodies to deliver services. Concern was expressed about the financial pressures on such organisations and their impact on service provision.

16 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Board meeting will be held at Inshes Church, Inverness on Monday 29 September 2025 preceded by the AGM at 10:00. The Zoom facility will be available for members who cannot attend in person.

The meeting closed at 11:50