



# Health & Social Care Moray

## Media release

Date of issue: 14.02.18

### Significant funding gap faced by Moray Integration Joint Board

Current levels of health and social care services will be impossible to maintain in their current form in the face of cuts to budgets, the chair of the Moray Integration Joint Board (MIJB) has warned.

The board - which has responsibility for joining up community health and social care services including social care, home care, day services, district nursing and community hospitals - received a £1.2 million (3%) reduction in its funding from Moray Council today (Wed).

Christine Lester, chair of the board, said budget cuts on top of growing demand from an ageing population, high cost care packages and legislative changes are putting unprecedented pressure on the local health and social care system.

“The health and social care services now under the direction of the MIJB touch on the lives of many people across Moray,” Mrs Lester said.

“We as a Board face a very difficult task in meeting our obligation to deliver statutory services within a balanced budget when current level of resource is already less than what is required to meet cost and demand pressures.

“Like all public bodies we continually look to be more efficient and make the best use of taxpayers’ money. We are working on the required system redesign which will help us shift the balance of care from hospital to affordable and sustainable community-based services which improve health and wellbeing outcomes for people, but redesign takes time and investment.”

Under integration legislation both Moray Council and NHS Grampian delegated a range of health and social care functions to the Moray Integration Joint Board which are delivered through the Health & Social Care Moray partnership.

NHS Grampian and Moray Council each determine the level of funding they provide to the integrated board to deliver the services on their behalf.

The Board faces dealing with an estimated funding gap of around £5million if it is to set a balanced budget of its own by the end of March.



## Health & Social Care Moray

The board fully appreciates the financial challenges being faced by its funding partners, Tracey Abdy, Chief Financial Officer, reported at the January meeting of the board.

“Work has begun on the identification of further efficiency savings whilst striving to drive the pace of change through service redesign. An initial exercise has been completed to determine potential areas for consideration and the senior management team is in the process of developing options that will be presented to the Board as part of the budget setting process,” she said.

The budget will be presented to the board on 29 March.

**ENDS**