

To: Renfrewshire Integration Joint Board

On: 29 April 2024

Report by: Head of Strategic Planning & Health Improvement

Heading: Sustainable Futures Programme: Further consideration of Flexicare and Mirin and Milldale options

Direction Required to Health Board, Council or Both	Direction to:	
	1. No Direction Required	X
	2. NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde	
	3. Renfrewshire Council	
	4. NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde and Renfrewshire Council	

1. Summary

1.1. Following the IJB's meeting in March 2024, this special IJB meeting has been arranged to focus on two savings proposals:

- The closure of the Flexicare service; and
- The merge of the Mirin and Milldale day services.

1.2. The paper sets out the process which has been followed to engage on the initial proposals and subsequently develop options appraisals and full EQIAs for the IJB's consideration. The detail of these assessments has been shared with IJB voting members and is summarised in this paper to inform the IJB's decision making at this meeting.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the IJB:

1. Consider the assessment of the option to close the Flexicare service, and approve or reject implementation of this proposal (Section 7);
- 2a. Consider the assessment of the option to merge Mirin and Milldale Day Services, and approve or reject implementation of this proposal (Section 8); and
- 2b. Should approval be provided under recommendation 2a, confirm the preferred location of the merged Mirin and Milldale service or identify further information required to reach a decision (Section 8).

3. Background

- 3.1. At its meeting in March 2024, the IJB considered several final savings proposals which had been developed following a period of engagement, options appraisal and the development of full EQIAs. As part of these considerations, IJB voting members voted on a motion to approve the proposal to close the Flexicare service, which resulted in a split vote of four votes to approve the proposal, and four votes to reject the proposal.
- 3.2. Section 9.4 of the IJB's Standing Orders states that 'in the case of an equality of votes the Chairperson or any other Voting Member shall not have a second or casting vote. If the members still wish to pursue the issue voted on, the Chair may either adjourn consideration of the matter to the next meeting of the IJB or to a special meeting of the IJB to consider the matter further or refer the matter to dispute resolution as provided for in the Integration Scheme. Otherwise, the matter shall fall'.
- 3.3. In line with these Standing Orders, the IJB's Chair and Vice Chair agreed following the meeting in March that a special meeting should be convened prior to the next scheduled meeting of the IJB at which the Flexicare proposal would be further considered.
- 3.4. In addition, the results of the options appraisal and EQIA process for the proposal to merge the Mirin and Milldale day services were not submitted to the meeting. This followed receipt of papers relating to a petition of a judicial review of the decision made by the IJB to progress further development of the proposal in November 2023, and was to allow the IJB to obtain further legal advice on the petition. At the meeting an amendment to the Sustainable Futures paper's recommendations was raised to reject the Mirin and Milldale merger proposal, maintaining the status quo for the time being. A further amendment was also raised which requested that any decision on the Mirin and Milldale proposal be made at a later date once IJB members had received and been able to consider the full analysis undertaken by officers, including the options appraisal and full EQIA. Each amendment received four votes. In line with the IJB's Standing Orders, full consideration will be given to the Mirin and Milldale proposal at this special meeting.
- 3.5. Following the outcome of the meeting in March, this paper provides the summary scoring and commentary for each of the Flexicare and Mirin and Milldale proposals for the IJB's consideration and decision-making. The paper is submitted within the context of the IJB's budget which was approved at its March meeting and set out measures to address the estimated net funding gap for 2024/25 of £15.09m on a non-recurring basis. The funding gap for future financial years based on a medium case scenario and applying a range of assumptions is an estimated £11.835m for 2025/26 (this is the gap remaining after the drawdown of remaining reserves not utilised in 2024/25), and circa £34.98m in 2026/27. These figures are however subject to change and will be updated as assumptions on the projected deficit become clearer over time.

- 3.6. The financial challenges for the IJB as set out above are significant and are similar to those faced by IJBs across Scotland. A review of IJB budget setting processes over recent weeks has identified the breadth of difficult savings proposals which IJBs have necessarily been required to approve. This includes, but is not limited to, a reduction in or cessation of services, reductions in staffing, the implementation of waiting lists and further service transformation to deliver additional efficiencies and savings.

4. Further assessment of options: approach to engagement

- 4.1. The update to the IJB at its meeting in March provided a summary of the engagement activity which has been undertaken in relation to the proposals considered under Sustainable Futures, as agreed in November 2023. This process extended into February 2024 to ensure appropriate opportunity to engage with service users and residents potentially impacted by the proposals under consideration. IJB members had the opportunity to attend several of these sessions to hear feedback, with the engagement programme for the Mirin and Milldale and Flexicare proposals being considered today including the following activity:

Flexicare proposal

- Two sessions to engage with families and carers, both online and in person, were held. One session was held with current service users.
- Two staff engagement sessions were also held, supported by opportunities for staff to discuss questions with their line managers outwith these sessions.
- A total of 31 attendances (9 service user attendances / 11 family and carer attendances / 11 staff attendances) were recorded. No online or paper feedback was submitted.
- It should be noted however, that the figures above may include staff and family members / carers who attended more than one session.

Mirin and Milldale proposal

- A total of six sessions to engage with families and carers, both online and in person, were held for Mirin and Milldale to reflect the level of demand. This included engagement with Supported Living providers and families, carers and guardians. A further online session for Supported Living carers and guardians was arranged however there were no attendees.
- Two staff engagement sessions were held, both online and in person, supported by opportunities for staff to discuss questions with their line managers outwith these sessions.
- Reflecting the HSCP's duty to engage with service users as part of any change process, officers have sought to engage with service users where this was possible. Three sessions were offered for service users at Mirin and Milldale, one of which was focused on individuals in Supported Living. The HSCP was able to engage with two Mirin and Milldale service users to ascertain their view however plans to engage with the wider group did not progress due to issues raised by welfare

guardians relating to the content and process of the engagement sessions. Guardians were assured plans for these sessions would take account of individual's needs and abilities and that these were developed in collaboration with the HSCP's skilled Participation Officer and Speech and Language Therapist. Advocacy organisations and Renfrewshire's Chief Social Work Officer were also consulted on the approach and content and the Chief Social Work Officer confirmed it was the HSCP's duty to establish the views, where possible, of any individual who has a welfare guardian.

- In total, 192 attendances for Mirin and Milldale (2 service user attendances / 115 family and carer attendances / 75 staff attendances) have been recorded through the 12 sessions arranged, with an additional 17 online or paper feedback forms were received.
- It should be noted however, that the figures above include both staff and family members / carers who attended more than one session.
- The provision of a write up of key points raised in engagement sessions to show that discussions had been captured, supported by factsheets and FAQs.

4.2. In addition to the engagement outlined above, the HSCP has continued to respond to enquiries, Freedom of Information requests and complaints received. A total of 94 enquiries have been received to date relating to Mirin and Milldale, with a further six FOI requests and one complaint. Four enquiries have been received relating to Flexicare. These figures count each individual enquiry received but include instances where individuals submitted multiple enquiries. IJB members have also received a range of communications during this time and engaged with individuals and groups separately.

4.3. The HSCP has sought to reflect lessons learned through the engagement process to ensure that issues that have arisen in relation to distribution lists, access to online meetings, and the provision of notes following engagement events are addressed as far as possible. The HSCP will also continue to review emerging lessons to inform the future programme approach.

5. EQIA and options appraisal process adopted

5.1. The paper considered by the IJB at its March meeting set out the approach taken to developing Equality Impact Assessments and Options Appraisals as agreed by the IJB in November 2023. This detail is included in this paper again for completeness and ease of reference.

Development of Equality Impact Assessments (EQIAs)

5.2. The feedback received through the engagement process set out above in Section 4 has been combined with available HSCP data, professional expertise and research into relevant national policy, legislation, and examples of good practice elsewhere to develop EQIAs for each of the proposals considered within this paper. These impact assessments enable consideration of whether any proposed changes have a disproportionate impact on people

with one or more of the 9 protected characteristics covered under the Public Sector Equality Duty.

5.3. To undertake an EQIA, the HSCP utilises the process, guidance and templates made available by NHSGGC's Equality and Human Rights Team. This is utilised for all relevant proposals and strategies developed by the HSCP (both health-related and social care-related) as it ensures a consistent, logical, and robust assessment is carried out each time, so that the IJB and HSCP meet their legal duties under the Equality Act 2010 and the Public Sector Equality Duty in Scotland. Other HSCPs also follow the process developed by NHSGGC for EQIAs they carry out. In doing so, the following steps have been undertaken:

- Draft EQIAs were developed, utilising data available and drawing upon the feedback provided during engagement sessions and related research.
- These draft EQIAs were submitted to the Equality and Human Rights Team for review, comment, and further guidance for development.
- The EQIAs were updated and considered by each Project Board, and further reviewed for quality assurance by the Equality and Human Rights Team.

5.4. In developing the EQIAs, the HSCP recognises that these assessments are intended to be 'live' documents that are subject to future review and update. Where additional evidence becomes available, this will be included within future iterations of the assessments.

5.5. Reflecting the points set out above, the range of proposals submitted to the IJB in November 2023, and agreed for further assessment, sought to be equitable and fair in identifying savings across all service user groups. At present, the IJB has agreed to proceed with a subset of the proposals set out relating to services for older people and people with physical disabilities. The overall impact of agreed savings proposals on particular service user groups will be considered in future iterations of equality impact assessments as appropriate.

The Options Appraisal process and criteria

5.6. The options presented for the IJB's consideration at this meeting have been assessed using the following consistent criteria and weighting as part of this options appraisal, as set out in the table below. These criteria have been developed to align with good practice options appraisal processes and were considered and approved by the Sustainable Futures Programme Board. This assessment has also been informed by the feedback received and the equality impact assessment process.

No.	Criteria	Weighting
1	Contribution to budget sustainability and ability to deliver cost effective services (e.g., net savings or opportunity for increase in income)	35%

2	Impact on service quality / outcomes, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact on service users • Impact on families and unpaid carers • Impact on staff • Impact on Service Level Agreements • Impact on local, board level and national targets 	25%
3	Alignment with Strategic Plan themes, Workforce Plan and relevant policy & legislation	10%
4	Risk Impact	10%
5	Reputational Impact	10%
6	Ability to implement	10%

5.7. In using this options appraisal approach, the following points provide further detail on the nature of the process and how it has been applied:

- It is important to weight criteria to reflect that some have greater importance than others. For example, the contribution to budget sustainability should have higher importance than the difficulty of implementing a proposal. Weighting means that some criteria will contribute more to the overall score than others.
- Linked to the above point, reflecting that the current focus of the Sustainable Futures programme is on achieving financial sustainability, this has been weighted at 35%. However, it is essential that the impact of proposals on service quality are given equal weighting, which is provided through the combination of criteria 2 and 3. Implementation requirements account for the remaining 30% of the weighting.
- Each proposal is given an initial score between 0 to 10 against each of the criteria. These scores can then be multiplied against the weighting identified to provide an overall weighted score for comparison. The maximum weighted score any option could achieve across all of the criteria is 10.
- Where a single proposal has been identified, for example the proposed closure of the Flexicare service, this has been scored against the current 'As Is' position to provide a comparison, in line with good practice for options appraisals.

5.8. In addition, the following examples explain how scoring has been undertaken for each of the criteria included in the appraisal process:

- The contribution to budget sustainability scores are scored comparatively against one another. For example, if an option was proposed to save £200k, this would be given an initial score of 10, to give a weighted score of 3.5. If the alternative option was expected to save £100k, this would be given an initial score of 5, to give a weighted score of 1.75.

- For the scores for ‘impact on service quality’ and ‘alignment with strategies, policies and legislation’, the more positive the impact and alignment, the higher the initial score on the scale of 0 to 10.
- However, for the risk impact and reputational risk criteria, the higher the associated risk or reputational impact, then the lower the score on the scale of 0 to 10 will be to reflect the more negative impacts that have identified. For example, a proposal that had no risk attached would score 10, however an alternative proposal which was deemed high risk would be scored closer to 0.
- The easier a proposal is to implement, the higher the initial score provided on the scale of 0 to 10.

5.9. The progress made in developing options, and each options appraisal assessment has been considered by each Project Board and the Sustainable Futures Programme Board. Further details on the assessments are provided in the following sections of this paper and supporting appendices. As noted above, IJB members have received additional details through the development session process, alongside briefing documentation, to support their decision-making. This is set out in the following section.

6. Options development and detailed discussion with the IJB

6.1. The IJB approved the broad scope of the Sustainable Futures approach in March 2023 and agreed the scope and structure of the programme at its following meeting in June 2023. Following this agreement, programme governance arrangements were put in place and detailed work commenced on the development of potential savings options.

6.2. The update papers provided to the IJB have continued to set out the breadth and complexity of the activity that has been undertaken to identify these initial options, and subsequently to engage with stakeholders on these prior to development of options appraisals and equality impact assessments. However, given the scale of ongoing activity, it is not possible to include all of the detailed analysis undertaken in the papers that the IJB is asked to consider.

6.3. The HSCP has therefore continued to engage with IJB members throughout the Sustainable Futures programme. To date, this has included a series of development sessions both in-person and online, to provide further detail on emerging proposals and opportunity for additional discussion and questions. These sessions have also been supported by supplementary documentation covering questions relating to national policy, the current baseline of services within scope, the nature of proposals, and mitigating actions for risks or negative impacts identified. The development session briefings have been intended to support IJB decision-making, and a summary is set out in the table below:

Date	Nature of Development Session Briefing
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27 October 2023	Discussion on updated approach to Sustainable Futures programme and identified proposals to be included within November IJB papers.
17 November 2023	<p>Session for IJB voting members providing further opportunity to discuss options for consideration at November meeting and to ask further clarifying questions.</p> <p><i>Note: At its November meeting, the IJB gave approval to proceed with further assessment of the options set out in the Sustainable Futures paper, to be brought back for final consideration in March 2024.</i></p>
15 December 2023	Update on early engagement process and initial feedback received.
25 January 2024	<p>Development Session for IJB voting members covering content of papers prior to IJB meeting on 26 January covering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme update, including an update on engagement process undertaken to date, including lessons learned. • Opportunity for in depth discussion and consideration of scenarios to articulate potential impact of proposed changes to non-residential charging policy captured in IJB paper, supported by FAQs. <p><i>Note: At its January meeting, the IJB agreed that recommendations should be submitted to a subsequent Leadership Board meeting.</i></p>
23 February 2024	<p>Development session for all IJB members covering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on residential care proposal covering its rationale, engagement carried out and implications including staffing models and impact on residents and families affected. • Focus on the Mirin and Milldale proposal, recognising challenges raised through engagement process. Further details provided on the national policy context, current demand, benchmarking against other HSCPs, and key features of the proposed model. Supported by detailed policy and proposal briefing documents. • Overview of current position of wider projects and update to be provided at the March IJB.
13 March 2024	Session for IJB voting members covering:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Content of papers to be considered at the March IJB meeting, including the assessments which the IJB would be asked to consider. • An update on the options appraisal process and EQIAs. • Update and discussion on the petition for Judicial Review. <p><i>At its meeting on 22 March 2024, IJB voting members were unable to reach agreement on the Flexicare proposal, or amendments raised relating to the Mirin and Milldale proposal.</i></p>
26 April 2024	IJB Development Session held to further discuss the Mirin and Milldale and Flexicare proposals. The full Options Appraisals and EQIAs were issued to voting members in advance to support consideration and discussion.

7. Closing Flexicare service: assessment

- 7.1. The assessment for the closure of the Flexicare service included a comparison of the proposal against the status quo position which would maintain provision of Flexicare. The results of this assessment are provided in the table below. The IJB is asked to further consider the assessment and decide to approve or reject implementation of this proposal.

Options Appraisal Summary: Closure of the Flexicare Service	
Option	Overall score (Max score 10)
Closure of the Flexicare service	5.10
No change (As Is position)	3.55
Commentary on assessment:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The assessment undertaken shows that the proposal to close the Flexicare service scores more highly than the 'As Is' position. • The assessment also recognises that there is less risk and reputational impact associated with maintaining the current position. • It is also noted that Flexicare is not a registered service and the nature of the service provided is based on a time-limited period for individuals who may access support for a short time each week. • The overall scoring reflects reduced service utilisation and challenges in engaging with registered service users. 45 service users have been identified as priority as they do not currently access other RLDS services. Within this cohort 37 people are engaged and access the service a maximum of 1 to 3 hours each week, with some accessing on a fortnightly basis. 	

- The service has also lost volunteers following the pandemic and has been unable to resume business as usual activity as a result. In assessing this proposal, there would be opportunities to retain volunteers and link with other service areas.
- Concerns have been raised during the engagement process regarding the closure of the service. These have been captured within the EQIA and include impact due to age and disability, and mitigating actions have also been identified.
- **The proposal would provide savings of £170k.**

8. Merge of Mirin and Milldale day services: assessment

8.1. The assessment carried out in relation to the proposed merge of Mirin and Milldale day services has considered two elements:

- An assessment of the proposal against the 'As-is' position; and
- Should the IJB approve a decision to merge the day services, an assessment of which location would be most appropriate for the merged service.

8.2. Further details on scoring are provided in Appendix 1. The IJB is asked to consider the assessment and decide to approve or reject implementation of this proposal.

8.3. Pending this decision, and in recognition of the similar scores identified for each location, the IJB is also asked to identify the preferred location for a merged service or identify further information required to reach a decision.

Options Appraisal Summary: Merge Mirin and Milldale Day Services	
Option	Overall score (Max score 10)
Merge Mirin and Milldale Day Services	8.0
No change (As Is position)	3.9
Additional Analysis: Most appropriate location for the merged service	
Utilisation of Mirin (Lagoon Centre, Paisley)	8.0
Utilisation of Milldale (On-X Centre, Linwood)	7.65
Commentary on assessment:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The assessment undertaken shows that the proposal to merge Mirin and Milldale services scores more highly than the 'As Is' position. Further assessment shows that Mirin (at the Lagoon Centre, Paisley) 	

scores slightly higher when considering the most appropriate future location for a merged service, if approved.

- The overall assessment process has taken into account the concerns and opposition raised to the proposal during the engagement process.
- The analysis also identified the potential reputational risk for the IJB and HSCP should the IJB choose to approve implementation of the proposal. However, consideration was also given to the reputational risk which may also arise for the IJB and HSCP nationally as local service models continue to be misaligned with Scottish Government policy and guidance.
- The proposal aligns with commitments in the IJB's Strategic Plan and with Scottish Government policy and would enable enhanced, more flexible, staffing models to be put in place within the merged service meeting current and projected demand for services, which has reduced by 27% from its peak level of 190 registered service users in 2019.
- Following implementation, the level of day service places available for adults with learning disabilities (places would be available for 25% of all adults on a daily basis) would remain above the Scottish average (according to SCLD, 18% of adults with a learning disability attended a day centre in 2019).
- As noted above, the scoring identifies Mirin (Lagoon Centre, Paisley) as the most appropriate location. Postcode analysis has shown that use of Mirin would reduce cumulative travel time and enable access to a higher level of community supports within close proximity than use of Milldale. However, it is recognised that the overall scoring for future location is very close and therefore a decision is requested from the IJB in this regard.
- The EQIA undertaken has included assessment of the concerns raised during the engagement process relating to impact on individuals, including continued access to services and communication. Potential impacts due to age and disability have been identified with mitigating actions identified.
- **The proposal would provide savings of £458k.**

- 8.4. Should the IJB choose to proceed with this proposal, implementation will not occur immediately. The HSCP will work with impacted individuals, families, and carers to develop individual plans to support people through the change process. Implementation would be phased over an expected period of four to 6 months to ensure the needs of each individual are reflected, and to support staff through the process.

Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** – This paper captures the final proposals for the Flexicare and Mirin and Milldale options initially considered by the IJB in November 2023. Approval was provided to undertake further analysis of these. The paper also sets out the full year savings impact of the proposals, should they be approved.

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2. **HR & Organisational Development** – HR colleagues, alongside Staff-side and Trade Union colleagues are members of the Sustainable Futures Programme Board and retain oversight of programme progress and the development of options appraisals. Proposals set out will have an impact on staff and the HSCP will continue to apply existing HR processes and policies to support staff impacted.
 3. **Strategic Plan and Community Planning** – This paper aligns with the Sustainable Futures theme set out within the IJB's Strategic Plan 2022-25.
 4. **Wider Strategic Alignment** – This paper also aligns with the IJB's Medium Term Financial Plan 2022-25.
 5. **Legal** – All updates in this report are consistent with the HSCP's statutory duties and support delivery of the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014.
 6. **Property/Assets** – The proposals considered, should they be implemented, will to impact on the HSCP's existing use of property. Ownership of property currently utilised remains reserved to NHSGGC and Renfrewshire Council and engagement with these partners will remain ongoing.
 7. **Information Technology** – No implications from this report.
 8. **Equality & Human Rights** – The proposals discussed in this paper have been subject to the development of full equality impact assessments (EQIAs). These are live documents which will be reviewed and updated as appropriate in future.
 9. **Fairer Scotland Duty** – Any implications on the Fairer Scotland Duty from the proposals identified have been captured and assessed as part of the EQIA process.
 10. **Health & Safety** – The proposals considered, should they be implemented will impact on the property and assets currently utilised. Implementation of changes to service models, staff ways of working and building usage, should they be approved, will continue to involve engagement with Health & Safety.
 11. **Procurement** – No implications from this report.
 12. **Risk** – Risks and issues arising from the contents of this report are tracked and managed on an ongoing basis and incorporated into reports to the IJB Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Committee as appropriate.
 13. **Privacy Impact** – No implications from this report.
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List of Background Papers: None

Author: David Fogg, Strategic Lead and Improvement Manager

Any enquiries regarding this paper should be directed to Frances Burns, Head of Strategic Planning and Health Improvement (frances.burns@renfrewshire.gov.uk)
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Appendix 1: Options Appraisal Scoring and Commentary

Closure of Flexicare Service

Option	Overall score (Max score 10)	Viability	Deliverability		Feasibility		
		Budget Sustainability	Impact on service quality	Alignment with Strategic Plan and Policy	Risk Impact	Reputational Impact	Ability to implement
Closure of the Flexicare service	5.10	3.5	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3
No change (As Is position)	3.55	0.0	1.25	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.5

Commentary on scoring

Findings

- The closure of the Flexicare service has a higher score than the current 'As-Is' position. This reflects the potential savings achievable. The scoring recognises that there is less risk and reputational impact associated with maintaining the current position.
- The scoring also reflects the removal of an element of choice from individuals' support.

Supporting Commentary

- The closure of Flexicare would achieve savings of £170k.
- Flexicare is not a registered service. The nature of the service provided is based on a time-limited period for individuals who may access support for a short period of time each week.
- Due to a loss of volunteers post-pandemic, the service has been unable to resume business as usual activity.
- Continued provision of support to those registered to attend the service has proved challenging, as service utilisation has also decreased in recent years and the level of active engagement has also decreased.
- 45 service users have been identified as priority as they do not currently access other RLDS services. Within this cohort, 37 people are engaged and access the service a maximum of 1 to 3 hours each week, with some accessing on a fortnightly basis.

- Some of those who attend have never had a formal adult social care assessment and therefore are not aligned with the HSCP eligibility criteria which currently meets substantial and critical need only. It is likely that some people attending would not meet this threshold. Further work is underway to determine what proportion of service users may require a care package following service closure.
- The service would require further review if not closed.
- Concerns have been raised during the engagement process regarding the closure of the service. These have been captured within the EQIA and include impact due to age and disability. Individuals impacted will be supported through individual plans and the HSCP will continue to promote equality of opportunity through its service models for people with learning disabilities and/or autism, providing alternative service options or signposting to wider support available, in line with the IJB's Strategic Plan and national policy.

Merge of Mirin and Milldale Day Services: Scoring Breakdown

Option	Overall score (Max score 10)	Viability	Deliverability		Feasibility		
		Budget Sustainability	Impact on service quality	Alignment with Strategic Plan and Policy	Risk Impact	Reputational Impact	Ability to implement
Merge Mirin and Milldale Day Services	8.0	3.5	2.0	0.8	0.8	0.2	0.7
No change (As Is position)	3.9	0.35	1.25	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.9
Additional Analysis: Most appropriate location for the merged service							
Utilisation of Mirin (Lagoon Centre, Paisley)	8.0	3.5	2.0	0.8	0.8	0.2	0.7
Utilisation of Milldale (On-X Centre, Linwood)	7.65	3.5	1.75	0.8	0.8	0.2	0.6
Commentary on scoring							
Findings							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The assessment identifies the proposal to merge Mirin and Milldale services as the highest scoring option, following which Mirin (Lagoon Centre, Paisley) has been assessed as scoring slightly higher than Milldale (On-X Centre, Linwood) when considering the most appropriate location for a merged service. The assessment reflects the saving achievable through the merge of services, and the alignment of this proposal with the IJB's Strategic Plan and with the intent and direction of national policy. Concerns and opposition to the proposal have been raised during the engagement process, and potential use of Mirin (Lagoon Centre) as a location for the merged service. These have been captured within the assessment process. 							
Supporting Commentary							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The merge of the two services would enable savings of £458k to be made. 							

- Maintaining the 'As Is' position would require no disruption to families, carers or service users however there is a need for additional activities to support the broad age range of people accessing services due to people living for longer.
- However, the merge of the service would enable all those in family-based care to continue to access services, with no change to each individual's current allocation of transport provision. Those in Supported Living would have personalised plans developed, with support provided by their Supported Living provider. Engagement with providers has been positive.
- Following implementation, the level of day service places available for adults with learning disabilities (places would be available for 25% of all adults on a daily basis) would remain well above the Scottish average (18% of adults with a learning disability attended a day centre in 2019, SCLD).
- The proposal to merge would deliver on commitments in the IJB's Strategic Plan and Scottish Government policy to explore wider community-based support with reduced reliance on building-based provision (whilst still maintaining this offer), and it would enable higher, more flexible, staffing ratios to be put in place, whereby the current model is more challenging to maintain and staff. This would enable the service to meet current and projected demand, which has reduced by 27% from its peak level of 190 registered service users in 2019.
- The analysis also identified the potential reputational risk for the IJB and HSCP should the IJB choose to approve implementation of the proposal. However, consideration was also given to the reputational risk which may also arise for the IJB and HSCP nationally as local service models continue to be misaligned with Scottish Government policy and guidance.
- Both locations have similar facilities however postcode analysis has shown that use of Mirin (Lagoon Centre) will reduce overall travel time required for people to access the service. In addition, higher levels of community-based activities are available within proximity of the service in Paisley than for Milldale in Linwood. However, it is recognised that the overall scoring for future location is very close and therefore a decision is requested from the IJB in this regard.
- The EQIA undertaken has included assessment of the concerns raised during the engagement process relating to impact on individuals with disabilities and families and carers including concerns around continued access to services and communication needs. In particular, potential issues raised relating to age and disability have mitigating actions identified where necessary. The EQIA also notes the intention to minimise impact by ensuring that those require building-based support continue to receive this whilst enabling other individuals to access wider forms of support in the community, where appropriate.