



Fife Primary Care Strategy 2023-2026 Summary Version

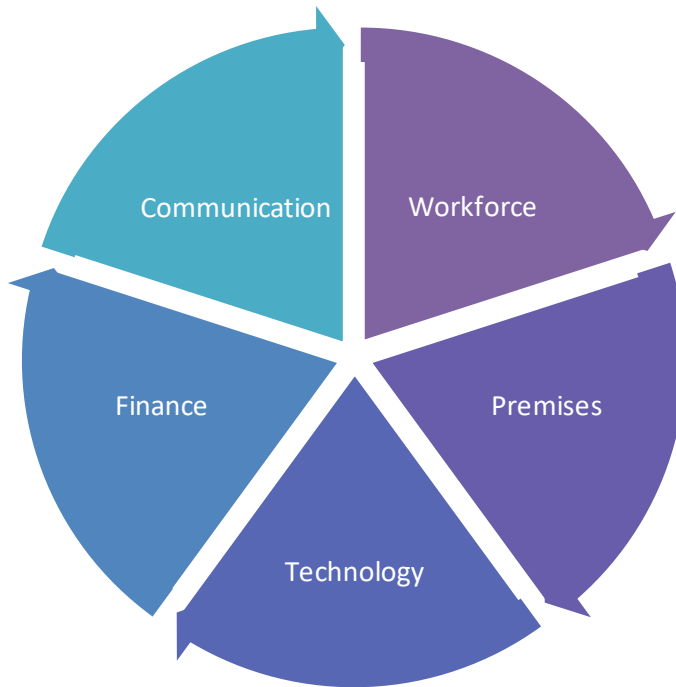
Fife Primary Care Strategy 2023-26

A resilient and thriving primary care at the heart of an integrated health and social care systems supporting delivery of excellent, high quality, accessible and sustainable services for the population of Fife



Our Vision

- **Primary Care** at the heart of our integrated health and social care system.
- **People** who need care will be more **informed** and **empowered**, will **access** the right professional at the right time and will remain at or near home wherever possible.
- **Multidisciplinary** and **multiagency teams** will deliver care in our communities and be involved in the strategic planning of our services.



Our Priorities

- **Recover** and **transform** services with a renewed focus on what matters to people and ensure a **safe, sustainable**, high **quality** health and social care support system.
- Develop an integrated **workforce** to support the capacity and capabilities required across all primary care services aligned with NHS Fife and Fife HSCP workforce plans.
- Improve the **quality** and **capacity** of our **physical assets** to support the ongoing **transformation** required to ensure delivery of high quality primary care services.
- Embed and accelerate **digital technology** solutions to support **recovery** and underpin **transformation** of primary care.
- Contribute to improving population **health** and **wellbeing** and **reducing health inequalities**.



What is Primary Care?

Primary care is an integral part of a well functioning healthcare system and is an individual's most frequent point of contact with the NHS. Primary care covers a wide range of services including:

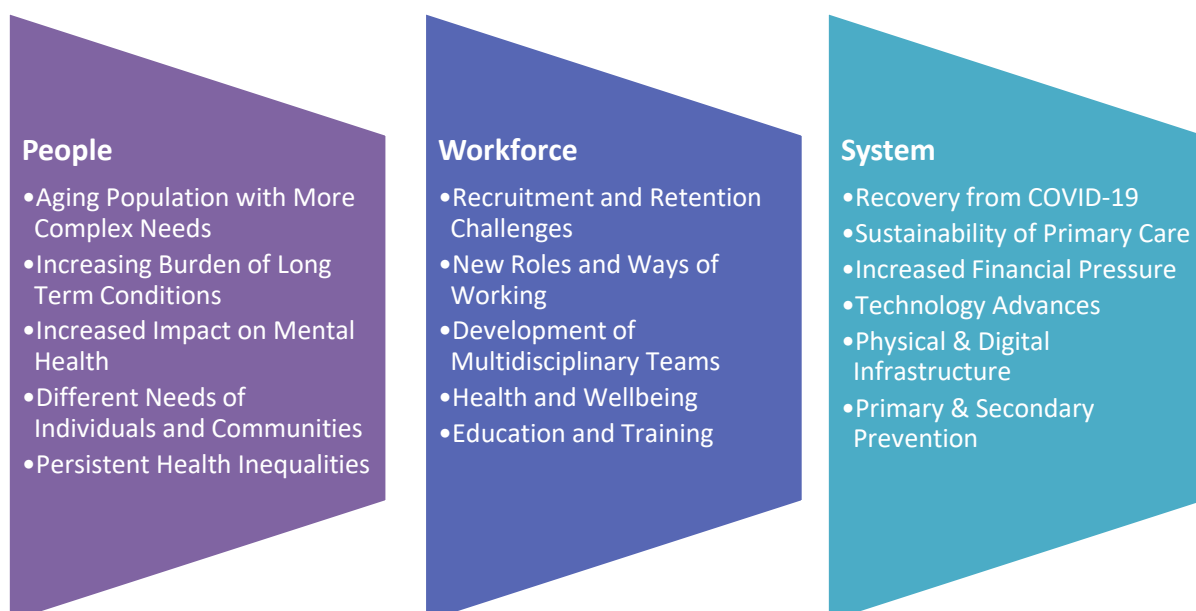


The scope of this strategy includes General Medical Services (53 GP Practices); Primary Care Dental Services including General Dental Services (67 High Street Dentists) and the Public Dental Service; Community Pharmacy Services (86 Community Pharmacies); and Community Optometry Services (50 High Street Opticians).

General practitioners, dentists, pharmacists and optometrists are mostly independent contractors who are financially responsible for the business affairs of their practices and are contracted by NHS Boards to provide services on the Board's behalf within nationally negotiated contracts and regulatory frameworks.

What Challenges Does Primary Care Face?

Primary care faces a range of challenges in common with other parts of the health and social care system:-



The Covid-19 pandemic has significantly impacted the physical and mental health and wellbeing of individuals, communities and staff. Limited access to and delivery of some services has resulted in many people experiencing longer waiting times for outpatient and elective care. This has increased pressure on primary care as people seek support as their circumstances or conditions deteriorate.

The population of Fife is aging and living longer with more long term conditions and complex care needs. The projected growth in the over 65 population will create additional demands for services and place a growing demand on unpaid carers. At the same time the working age population is shrinking which will have an impact on the whole health and care system.

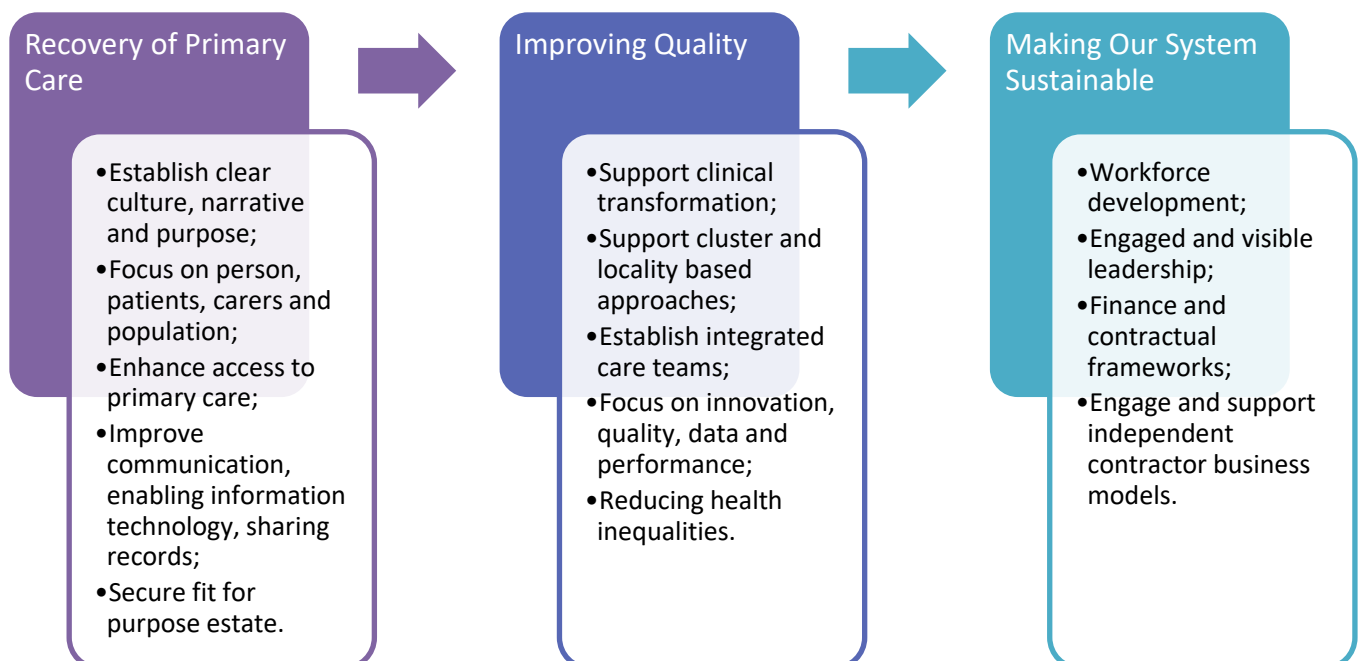
There are different challenges across and within Fife’s seven localities relating to accessibility, inclusion and health and wellbeing outcomes.

Sustainability of primary care has been a national and local concern prior to the pandemic and is largely influenced by the demographic of the workforce, difficulties with recruitment and retention across all disciplines, availability of funding, the quality and capacity of premises for service development and the digital infrastructure to support new ways of working.

Our Vision

Primary care will be at the heart of our integrated health and social care system. People who need care will be more informed and empowered, will access the right professional at the right time and will remain at or near home wherever possible. Multidisciplinary and multiagency teams will deliver care in our communities and be involved in the strategic planning of our services.

This strategy focuses on the recovery of primary care, improving quality and making our services more sustainable to achieve our strategic ambition *to have a resilient and thriving primary care at the heart of an integrated health and social care system supporting delivery of excellent, high quality, accessible, equitable and sustainable services for the population of Fife.*



Our Priorities for the Next 3 Years

1. To recover and transform services with a renewed focus on what matters to people and ensure a safe, sustainable, high quality health and social care support system;
2. To work with partners to develop an integrated workforce to support the capacity and capabilities required across all primary care services aligned with NHS Fife and Fife HSCP Workforce Plans;
3. To improve the quality and capacity of our physical assets to support the ongoing transformation required to ensure delivery of high quality primary care services;
4. To embed and accelerate digital solutions to support recovery and underpin transformation of primary care;
5. To contribute to improving population health and wellbeing and reducing health inequalities.

Key Enablers

Workforce

Development of the workforce capacity and capabilities across all primary care services is critical to ensuring sustainable service provision. Initiatives that encourage people to want to live and work in Fife and opportunities for recruitment and retention of all healthcare professionals will be maximised.

Premises

A review of premises has highlighted areas for major capital investment as well as a number of short, medium and long term investment priorities. Development of premises will focus on maximising clinical space and ensuring local accessibility including options for integration with other public services.

Digital Technology

Technology has the potential to extend the range of care primary care can offer and improve the quality and accessibility of services. Focusing on technologies to support access and prioritising those with the greatest need will support patients to be managed by the professional with the most appropriate skills to meet their needs in the right place, at the right time, first time.

Finance

The remuneration of primary care contractors for their services is subject to national negotiations and agreements as set out in the relevant regulatory frameworks. Although contracts and associated payments are determined nationally, opportunities to develop services by targeting resources, seeking innovative and dynamic approaches and delivering at scale will enable local needs to be met and deliver best value.

Communication

Promoting a greater understanding of primary care and designing services based on an appreciation of what matters to people in terms of their values, outcomes and experiences will be crucial for success and will ensure people are able to access the right care, at the right time and in the right place.

How will we deliver this?

To realise our ambition a 3 year action plan has been developed to support recovery of and improve the quality and sustainability of primary care services in Fife. The following summarises our main commitments over the 3 year period:-

Summary of Planned Actions	
Overarching actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of workforce plan to ensure managed service delivery and maximised support to independent contractors; • Development of primary care communication and engagement plan; • Development of performance, quality and assurance framework; • Stakeholder engagement to influence national direction for all primary care services.
General Medical Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support General Practice in stabilising its position; • Continue development of multidisciplinary team and GP expert medical generalist role; • Continue to implement priorities of GMS contract; • Maximise training opportunities, portfolio careers and options to attract and retain workforce; • Develop Primary Care Premises Strategy; • Adopt new technologies, implement new clinical system, and prepare for digital prescribing.
Primary Care Dental Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve access to NHS dental services; • Maximise opportunities to attract and retain dental workforce; • Maximise capacity to deliver dental care and improve outcomes; • Review Public Dental Service (PDS) functions to increase capacity for urgent care; • Refine referral pathways between General Dental Services, PDS and secondary care; • Review emergency dental service to improve access and sustainability; • Recover delivery of oral health improvement programme to reduce inequalities; • Monitor recovery through registration and participation rates.
Community Pharmacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review process and recovery of new pharmacy applications; • Refresh community pharmacy hours of service contractual arrangements; • Promote community pharmacy as first point of contact for minor illness and self care advice; • Ensure that the annual Pharmaceutical Care Services Report is co- designed with localities to meet the needs of local communities; • Engage with Digital Prescribing and Dispensing Pathways Programme; • Support contractors to maximise role as Anchor institutions in their local communities.
Optometry Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop GP- Optometry pathway; • Implementation of national community glaucoma service; • Monitor uptake of eye examinations and develop plan to address inequalities; • Develop standardised approach to delivery of additional services; • Review demand, access and equality of low vision services; • Explore opportunities for investment in technology and greater collaboration with secondary care.