



NHS Lanarkshire

Meeting: February 2025

Meeting date: 30/01/2025

Title: Signing of a Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA)
between NHS Lanarkshire & the University of
Glasgow

Responsible Executive/Non-Executive: Dr Chris Deighan, Executive Medical Director

Report Author: Prof Eamonn Brankin, Associate Medical Director,
Strategic Academic Liaison

1 Purpose

This report is presented for:
(please tick all appropriate)

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

This report relates to a:
(please tick all appropriate)

Local Policy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Government Policy	<input type="checkbox"/>
Urgent Operational Issue	<input type="checkbox"/>

This report aligns to the following NHS Scotland quality ambition(s):
(please tick all appropriate)

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

This report relates to the following Corporate Objectives:
(please tick all appropriate)

Better Health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Better Care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Better Value	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Better Workforce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

2 Report Summary:

Signing of a Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA) with the University of Glasgow for the first time.

2.1 Situation

This report seeks the endorsement of the NHS Board of the signing of a SPA for the first time with the University of Glasgow on 17/01/2025.

2.2 Background

The HSMR report on NHS Lanarkshire in 2014 triggered a wide ranging review of the quality of care within NHS Lanarkshire. As part of this review, Professor Sir Lewis Ritchie challenged NHS Lanarkshire around the lack of academic visibility across all aspects of care at that time. As part of aspiring for improving standards, it was noted that ‘you can’t be what you can’t see’. The Board had few staff with professorial status who could be seen as role models for aspiring colleagues and no university departments. As a result of this, the NHS Board endorsed a strategic aim to collaborate much more, in both depth and breadth, with local Higher Education Establishments, with strategic aims to raise clinical standards in every area, to improve its involvement and level of both undergraduate and post graduate teaching & be more proactive in Research and Development, all with a view to improving the healthcare of the population of Lanarkshire.

In this regard over the intervening period since then, the NHS Board has been much more successful in signing strategic partnerships successively with Glasgow Caledonian University, The University of the West of Scotland and the University of Strathclyde. These strategic partnerships have resulted in a significant increase in collaborations with local universities, which in turn has led to many more opportunities in research, development and innovation, promoting NHSL to the forefront of academic thinking and innovation in many areas with the ultimate ambition of providing better healthcare.

Absent in the NHS Lanarkshire strategic partnerships has been the University of Glasgow which hosts the only undergraduate medical school in the West of Scotland. However, recent opportunities have arisen which have led the NHS Board to reimagine and re-invigorate its relationship with the University, which ultimately have resulted in the signing of a strategic partnerships agreement (SPA) for the first time on 17/01/25 by Prof Jann Gardner, CEO of NHSL and Prof Iain McInnes, Vice Principal of the University of Glasgow. This SPA includes the awarding of ‘University status’ to the Health Board, including both primary care and acute divisions and this is the first time that ‘University status’ has been awarded by the University of Glasgow to an NHS Board, so this represents another ‘First’ for the NHS Lanarkshire.

2.3 Assessment

The signing of a strategic partnership agreement is a landmark achievement by NHS Lanarkshire and it is anticipated that this will be fully endorsed by the NHS Board.

2.3.1 Quality/ Patient Care Assessment

It is anticipated that the signing of a SPA with the University of Glasgow, will drive forward collaborations with academic colleagues in a variety of departments, schools and institutes at the University, resulting ultimately in significant improvements to the quality of patient care in a multi-disciplinary way and will offer new pathways in the delivery of care, including the use of new technology and innovation, in conjunction with colleagues at the University.

2.3.2 Workforce Assessment

As a result of signing SPA's with other partner universities, opportunities have arisen for colleagues on both sides of the partnership to be seconded to each other's organisations. The awarding of 'University status' to NHS Lanarkshire by partner universities has seen improvements in recruitment and retention of staff, subsequent to gaining University status and in some areas to becoming University Departments. It is hoped and anticipated therefore that the signing of the SPA and awarding of University status to the NHS Board will have similar benefits in both recruitment and retention of staff of all professions and increase the profile and prestige for NHS Lanarkshire in its ongoing development as a University Health Board.

2.3.3 Financial Assessment

No new financial implications are anticipated by the signing of this SPA and awarding of this title.

2.3.4 Risk Assessment/Management/ Sustainability

Closer working and alignment with the University of Glasgow and indeed with its other University partners will hopefully see the NHS Board being more and more successful at recruiting staff, based on its growing reputation and high standards of care. It is anticipated that this will continue and grow in both the medium to long term.

2.3.5 Equality and Diversity (including health inequalities and the Fairer Scotland Duty)

Has an E&D / FSD Impact Assessment has been completed?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

If no, there are no Equality and Diversity implications to be noted.

2.3.6 Other Issues

No other issues require to be noted.

2.3.7 Communication, Involvement, Engagement and Consultation

Negotiations with the University have evolved over the last year and the SPA application has gone through a rigorous assessment by the University including by its legal team and previously from an NHS perspective, by the central legal office, as this SPA is based on those already agreed with other partner universities. It is anticipated that the Communications teams from both partner organisations will work to publicise and celebrate this landmark achievement once formally approved by the NHS Board.

2.3.8 Route to the Meeting

This SBAR has been requested to be presented to the NHS Board by Prof Jann Gardner, Chief Executive Officer, NHSL & Dr Chris Deighan, Executive Medical Director, NHSL.

2.4 Recommendation

It is recommended that the Executive Directors Group, Corporate Management Team and NHS Board endorse the signing of the Strategic Partnership Agreement with the University of Glasgow and the decision of the University of Glasgow to award University status to the NHS Board.

Professor Eamonn Brankin, Associate Medical Director, Strategic Academic Liaison, NHSL
Dr Chris Deighan, Executive Medical Director, NHSL.
22/01/25

3.0 List of Appendices

The following appendices are included with this paper:

- Copy of the Strategic Partnership Agreement between NHS Lanarkshire & the University of Glasgow.