

Hospital at Home Programme

Progress update October - December 2025

Hospital at Home H@H:

Is a short-term, targeted intervention providing acute level hospital care in an **individual's home** or homely setting. (1)

This programme:

- has **high satisfaction** and patient preference across a range of measures. (1)
- reduces pressure on unscheduled acute care in hospitals by **avoiding admissions** and **accelerating discharge**. (1)
- has consistent evidence of **lower costs** compared to inpatient care. (1)

What we do:

Optimise and expand H@H services: Supporting NHS boards/HSCPs to optimise and expand their neonatal, paediatric and adult H@H services.

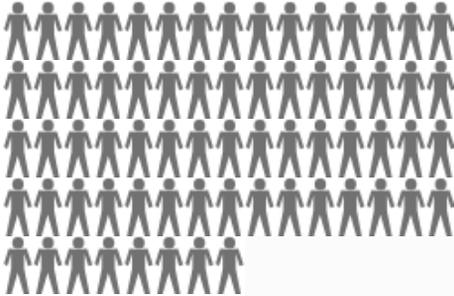
Develop new H@H services: Supporting the implementation of new neonatal and paediatric services across Scotland, and new adult services in remote and rural areas across Scotland

National Learning System: Enable neonatal, paediatric and adult H@H services to share and learn from each other.

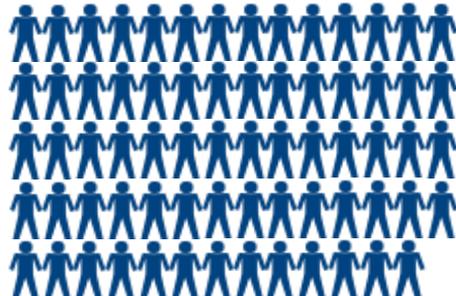
National Infrastructure: Develop national infrastructure to enable sustainable neonatal, paediatric and adult H@H services.

Impact so far...

8% increase in adult patients managed by hospital at home services



11,985 adult patients were managed by H@H services from April to December 2024



12,966 adult patients were managed by H@H services from April to December 2025

Adult H@H services prevented over 12,000 patients spending time in hospital during April to December 2025, relieving pressure from A&E and the Scottish Ambulance Service.

Delivering patient centred care

“They exemplify what healthcare should be – compassionate, professional, and truly patient-centred”

Patient supported by Forth Valley’s adult H@H service

“He was able to go to school for a couple of hours in the afternoon each day which meant he was able to see his friends and regain a sense of normality instead of being isolated and confined to hospital”

Parent of patient supported by Greater Glasgow and Clyde’s paediatric H@H service

This has been achieved by...

Working with 13 NHS boards across Scotland



We are working with services across 13 NHS boards to create new services, improve the resilience of existing services and evaluate new ways of working.

Service updates

Neonatal & Paediatric H@H:

Since launching in November, **NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde's** neonatal team has supported 31 babies. **NHS Lanarkshire** also launched their first clinical pathway and cared for their first patient at home.

Adult H@H:

NHS Forth Valley conducted a three-week test of change. This admitted 18 patients to the respiratory virtual ward, confirming that the model is possible and beneficial. Full implementation will begin once recruitment is complete.

NHS Argyll and Bute are increasing their activity each month and on track for meeting SG target of 12 beds.

NHS Shetland also received their highest ever patient numbers in December 2025.

Information sources:

1. Rapid Response – Admission avoidance hospital at home for older people with frailty, Healthcare Improvement Scotland, February 2022.
2. Monthly improvement data each adult H@H services sends to Healthcare Improvement Scotland since March 2021.
3. PHS Scotland, Acute hospital activity and NHS beds information (annual), Year ending 31 March 2025.
4. Care Opinion, <http://www.careopinion.org.uk/>
5. NHS GGC [news article](#).

Growing capacity to be bigger than Forth Valley Royal ⁴

Aberdeen Royal Hospital

718 beds

Hospital at Home

680 equivalent beds

Forth Valley Royal Hospital

643 beds

Western General Hospital

570 beds

University Hospital Wishaw

514 beds

In December 2025, there was the equivalent of 680 adult hospital at home “beds” with an occupancy rate of 80%. This is larger than Forth Valley Royal in NHS Forth Valley.

Guiding principles

In October 2025, HIS published an updated [H@H guiding principles for adult service development](#).

The guiding principles for neonatal and paediatric H@H services are currently being drafted for future publication in 2026/27.

This document will include information on:

- the definition of the service
- the evidence base
- how the development of paediatric and neonatal H@H services align with current health and social care policy.

Supporting service

“the support we have had has been pivotal in helping us to pilot and develop our H@H service”

Advanced Practice/Urgent Unscheduled Care Lead,
NHS Shetland