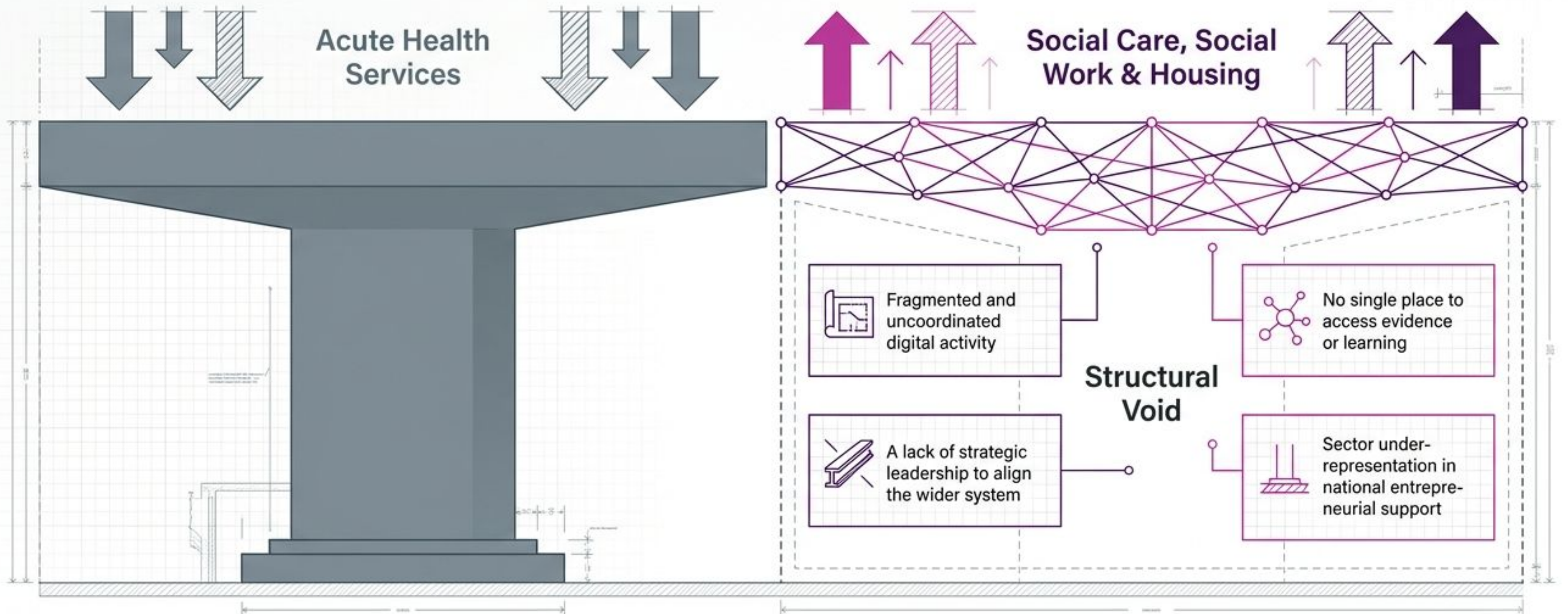


Community care faces rising demand without the necessary innovation infrastructure

Preventative, community-based approaches are critical for relieving pressure on acute health services. However, a 2024 landscape review revealed a missing load-bearing structure for community care.



Social care innovation receives a fraction of a percent of healthcare investment

£188.5 Billion to £214.1 Billion

Healthcare Budget (2023-2025)

£42.6 Million

Social Care
Innovation
Investment

The funding ratio stands at roughly 0.02%. Without targeted investment and dedicated innovation infrastructure across broader care contexts, Scotland risks widening the gap between sectors and reducing overall system resilience.

Existing national innovation pathways are structurally biased toward healthcare

Dimension	Current State: Healthcare	Current State: Social Care & Housing
Adoption Pathways	Established fast-track routes like the Accelerated National Innovation Adoption (ANIA) Pathway.	No equivalent pathway; methods and governance not extended to care.
System Support	Robust backing via Innovation Design Authority and Chief Scientist Office (CSO) Fellowships.	Sector is highly under-represented in national innovation assets.
Evidence & Learning	Centralized evaluation and sharing.	Fragmented; providers struggle to navigate technology procurement alone.

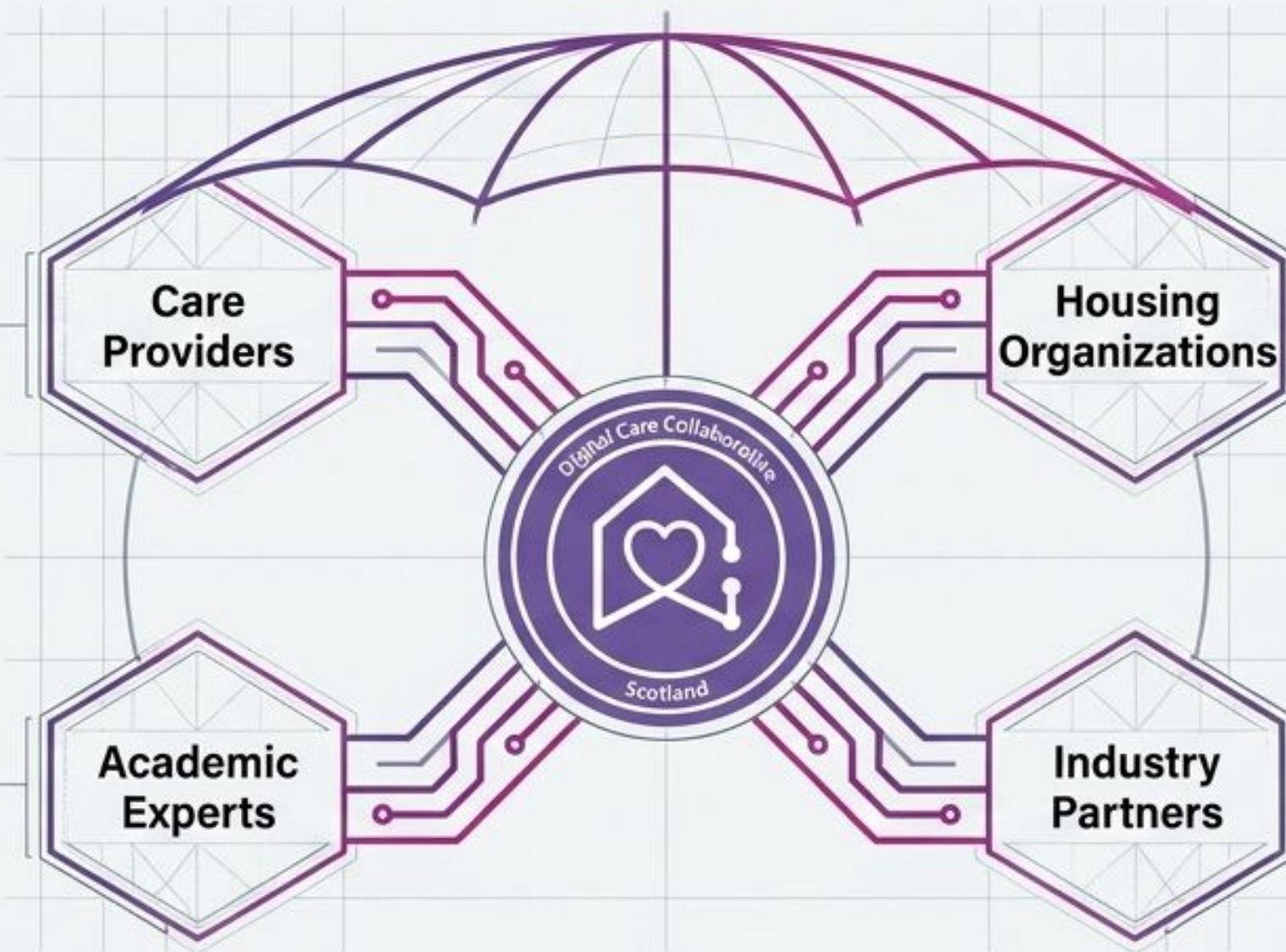
The evidence clearly dictates the need for a dedicated framework to establish service parity and coordinate national action.

The Digital Care Collaborative Scotland provides a dedicated framework for social care

Launched in December 2025 and hosted by the Digital Health & Care Innovation Centre (DHI), the DCCS serves as a catalyst for change.

Core Purpose:

To provide strategic coordination, alignment, and knowledge exchange across Scotland's digital care landscape.



The Goal:

Accelerate the adoption of digital approaches that improve outcomes for people and communities, supporting the sector to scale and embed innovation effectively.

Five strategic pillars form the foundation for scalable digital care innovation

Sustainable Digital Care Ecosystem

Conditions for Innovation

Developing a strategic framework/pathway that sets priorities, promotes parity, and aligns digital care innovation.

Knowledge Exchange

Establishing a collaborative space across Scotland, the UK, and internationally for care, tech, and policy.

Evidence & Research

Consolidating evidence, showcasing best practice, and leveraging funding opportunities.

Resources & Tools

Providing access to simple, actionable tools to support local innovation.

Workforce Capability

Supporting partners like NES and SSSC to strengthen digital leadership and confidence.

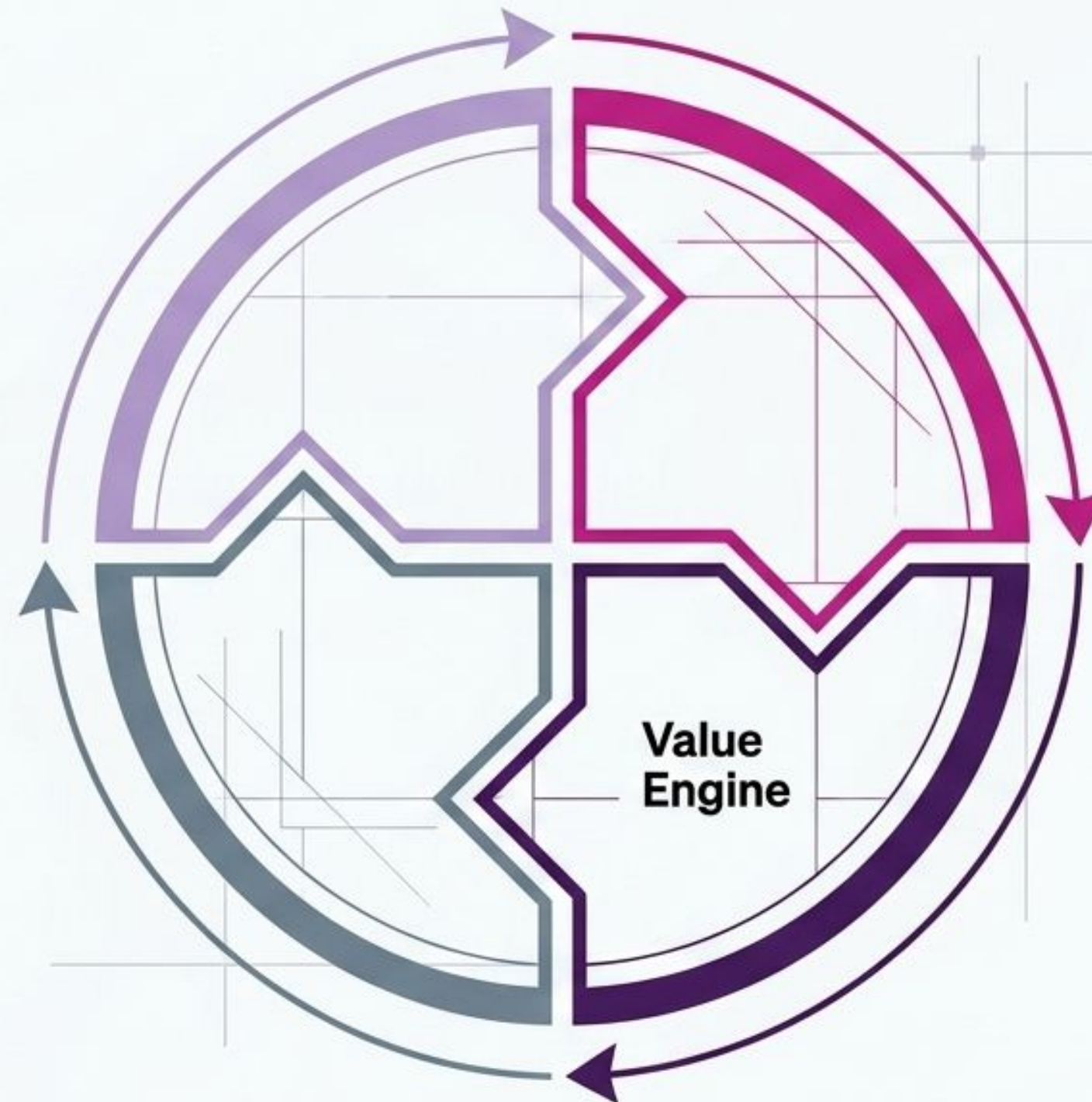
The DCCS value creation engine translates collaborative activity into systemic reform

Evidence-Informed Transformation

Utilizing shared evaluation approaches so partners can truly understand impact, replicate successes, and scale effectively.

Cultural Shift

Fostering a proactive embrace of digital innovation across the workforce, complementing wider health and social care reform.



Sector Parity

Providing a dedicated strategic approach that elevates social care, social work, and housing to the same innovation level as healthcare.

Sustainable Scalability

Defining a clear national pathway and identifying the infrastructure needed to resource and maintain long-term progress.

Digital care innovation integrates directly with Scotland's broader service renewal ambitions

Alignment Map

National Policy Alignment

Directly supports Scottish Government ambitions around prevention, person-led care, and equity as outlined in the Population Health and Service Renewal frameworks.

National Programmes

Contributes critical digital care innovations to cross-cutting initiatives like the Digital Front Door.

Digital Care Collaborative Scotland (DCCS)

System Integration

Complements the emerging National Care Service Advisory Board work plan to drive system-wide integration.

Social Work Collaboration

Established strong links with the National Social Work Agency and the Scottish Social Work Partnership.

A robust national ecosystem drives the collaborative's delivery and governance

Strategic oversight is provided through the DHI Board and Scottish Government, with operational delivery managed by a cross-sector group aligning dispersed work.



Join the community driving the future of digital care across Scotland



April
2026

A detailed delivery plan for 2026/27 will be published, setting out specific activities to build engagement and momentum across the five national priorities.



Membership Portal

The DCCS operates as an open DHI innovation cluster. Membership is free for anyone interested in digital care innovation.

Subscribe and Join:
www.dhi-scotland.com/subscribe

Learn More:
www.dhi-scotland.com/innovation-clusters/dccs