

East Lothian
Integration Joint Board



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
EAST LOTHIAN INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD**

**THURSDAY 16th SEPTEMBER 2021
VIA DIGITAL MEETINGS SYSTEM**

Voting Members Present:

Mr P Murray (Chair)
Councillor S Akhtar
Dr P Donald
Councillor N Gilbert
Councillor S Kempson
Dr R Williams
Councillor F O'Donnell (Items 5 – 9)

Non-voting Members Present:

Ms L Cowan	Mr I Gorman
Mr D King	Mr T Miller
Ms J Tait	Dr J Turvill
Dr C Mackintosh	

Officers Present from NHS Lothian/East Lothian Council:

Mr P Currie	Ms C Goodwin
Ms C Johnston	Mr M Kennedy
Ms L Kerr	Ms G Neil
Ms J Ogden-Smith	

Others Present:

Ms E Scoburgh, Audit Scotland

Clerk:

Ms F Currie

Apologies:

Ms F Ireland
Ms A MacDonald
Ms M McNeill

Declarations of Interest:

None

The members agreed to a change in Agenda order; Item 3 was taken first.

3. CHAIR'S REPORT

Peter Murray informed members of a communication with stakeholders on 1st September 2021 notifying them of the relocation of staff from the Edington Hospital in North Berwick to the East Lothian Community Hospital (ELCH) in Haddington. This action was in response to specific and significant pressures and was designed to ensure the continuity of services within the county. The position was to be reviewed after 12 weeks.

Mr Murray said that he had received a number of communications from individuals regarding the lack of consultation prior to this decision being taken. His response had been that this was a highly unusual set of circumstances which had required urgent action to avoid the situation worsening. This had limited the opportunity for and type of consultation with stakeholders. He said that the subsequent social media response had been concerning and disappointing, as well as being unhelpful to colleagues who were taking difficult decisions to ensure continuity of services and staff safety. He referred in particular to a petition which had been raised suggesting that the Edington Hospital was in line for closure. He assured IJB members that the Edington Hospital was not being closed. He encouraged members to support health and social care staff by countering any inaccurate comments or reports.

The Chair invited Iain Gorman to outline the reasons behind the decision to relocate staff. Mr Gorman provided details of some of the key challenges which had been facing the Health & Social Care Partnership (HSCP) and warned that these challenges were becoming more acute. He referred to increasing COVID-19 cases and the associated pressures on frontline services and the long-term impact on staff who had been dealing with the pandemic for over 18 months. Although the HSCP was working with partners across the sector, it was struggling to manage the pressure and the need to keep key services running. The decision to relocate staff had come from a need to consolidate staffing and maintain services in as safe as way as possible.

Mr Gorman also outlined the pressures facing the Care at Home service and the additional implications for the HSCP and individual care packages if external care providers struggled to deliver their contracted hours. He praised the work of staff to implement the COVID-19 vaccination programme but highlighted proposals to begin vaccinating 12-15 year olds, as well as delivering booster jabs and the winter flu jab programme, as further challenges to resources over the coming months. He advised members that the HSCP had alerted the Scottish Government to their current situation and that they would continue to manage current and future pressures as well as possible.

The Chair asked members to contact Mr Gorman if they had any questions on this issue. He added that it was important to present the decision relating to Edington Hospital within a broader context. He acknowledged the strength of feeling to maintain local services and also the need for Edington Hospital to be part of a broader analysis of care services. However, he wanted to emphasise that the current crisis, and the subsequent decision to relocate staff from Edington Hospital, was separate to that discussion.

1. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EAST LOTHIAN IJB ON 24th JUNE 2021 (FOR APPROVAL)

The minutes of the meeting on 24th June 2021 were approved.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 24th JUNE 2021

The following matters were raised:

Item 8: Dr Richard Williams said he had raised a question regarding his membership of the Change Board and sought advice as to whether his participation as a GP was appropriate, or whether he was there as a member of the IJB. Mr Murray agreed to seek advice and respond to Dr Williams directly.

Sederunt: Dr Jon Turvill and Mr Thomas Miller left the meeting.

4. CHANGES TO THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE EAST LoTHIAN INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD

The Chief Officer had submitted a report seeking the Integration Joint Board's (IJB) agreement to changes in its non-voting membership.

The Clerk presented the report outlining the background and recommendations.

The Chair asked that a letter of thanks be sent to Paul White expressing the IJB's appreciation for his contributions during his tenure as Third Sector representative. He welcomed the new members and offered his thanks to those members continuing for a further term of office.

The vote was taken by roll call and all of the recommendations were approved unanimously.

Decision

The IJB agreed:

- (i) that, with effect from September 2021, Maureen Allan would replace Paul White as a non-voting member and Third Sector representative on the IJB.
- (ii) the re-appointment of Dr Jon Turvill and Thomas Miller as non-voting members of the IJB for a further term of office; and
- (iii) the appointment of Dr Claire Mackintosh as a non-voting member, to replace Prof. Emma Reynish, effective from August 2021.

Sederunt: Dr Turvill and Mr Miller re-joined the meeting. Mr David King left the meeting.

5. INTERIM APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

The Chief Officer had submitted a report updating the IJB on the proposals for the recruitment of the Chief Finance Officer/Section 95 Officer to cover a period of maternity leave.

The Clerk presented the update which followed on from the report considered at the IJB's meeting on 24th June 2021. The recommendation of this report was that the IJB approve the appointment of David King as Interim Chief Finance Officer.

The vote was taken by roll call and the recommendation was approved unanimously.

Decision

The IJB approved the appointment of David King as Interim Chief Finance Officer for the period of Claire Flanagan's maternity leave.

Sederunt: Mr King re-joined the meeting.

6. EAST LOTHIAN IJB 2020/21 ANNUAL AUDIT REPORT

Esther Scoburgh presented the 2020/21 ELIJB Annual Audit Report.

Ms Scoburgh advised members that the report and the ISA 260 (Report Charged to Those with Governance) had been presented to the IJB's Audit & Risk Committee on 14th September and had been agreed and recommended to the IJB. She outlined the content of the audit report which included reviews of the annual accounts; financial management and sustainability; governance transparency and Best Value; as well as the 2020/21 action plan and significant audit risks. The auditors proposed an unmodified opinion meaning that the accounts presented were true and fair and that there were no material misstatements noted in 2020/21. The report also recommended that the medium term financial plan and budgets were revisited to factor in the increased COVID-19 costs and funding and its impact.

She indicated that, as a result of rapid changes in the financial position at year end, a further updated report would be provided showing the finalised position. This would not alter the content of the message but rather provide improved clarity/transparency in the auditors' reporting. She drew members' attention to examples of good practice highlighted in the report and advised that these had been shared with the Audit Scotland national NHS overview team.

Ms Scoburgh referred members to the recommendations contained in the 2020/21 action plan and confirmed that the auditors were satisfied with management responses. She highlighted the key risks identified and the national reports which may be of relevance to IJB members. Finally, she thanked officers for their assistance during the year and in the preparation of this report.

Mr King welcomed the report noting in particular the comments regarding medium term financial planning. He said he was currently working on a post-COVID version of the IJB's 5 year financial plan and this would be brought to the IJB's October meeting along with a report on how to deliver a balanced financial plan.

Dr Richard Williams observed that the audit report was very clearly set out and understandable. He viewed the 'unqualified' audit opinion as meaning that the financial information provided to the IJB during the year was both robust and timely. He thanked the Chief Finance Officer and colleagues for their diligence.

Dr Patricia Donald stated that as chair of the Audit & Risk Committee she was always very impressed by the quality of reporting and level of assurance given, as well as the work done by officers. She also offered her thanks.

The Chair said he would pass on these comments to Ms Flanagan, who was currently on maternity leave, but who had been instrumental in preparing the 2020/21 accounts. He also welcomed the report and noted that the examples of good practice being shared nationally were a further testament to the work of local colleagues. He commented on the challenges of financial planning and said that change would be essential if the IJB was to balance its budget in the medium term.

7. 2020/21 AUDITED ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

The Chief Finance Officer had submitted a report presenting the IJB's annual accounts for 2020/21.

Mr King presented the report advising members that the accounts had been considered and recommended for approval by the IJB's Audit & Risk Committee at its meeting on 14th September. He also advised that the accounts would be signed by Councillor Shamin Akhtar, who latterly held the post of Chair in 2020/21, as the current Chair had been appointed from 1st April 2021.

In response to a question from Councillor Akhtar, Mr King indicated that during the pandemic there were a number of services which were postponed and which had resulted in cost savings. Following remobilisation, these services had restarted and the associated savings were no longer being achieved. This had resulted in increased financial pressures which would be likely to continue in the current financial year. He agreed to provide Councillor Akhtar with a more detailed update following the meeting.

The Chair actively encouraged members to read the accounts, if they had not already done so, as they provided a very good summary of the IJB's work during the previous financial year. He referred in particular to the management commentary which included a thank you to staff across services for their hard work and dedication during such a challenging period. He echoed those thanks resoundingly, on behalf of all IJB members.

The vote was taken by roll call and all of the recommendation was approved unanimously.

Decision

The IJB, having noted the report of the independent auditor, agreed that the annual accounts for 2020/21 could be signed electronically on behalf of the IJB by the Chair, the Chief Officer and the Interim Chief Finance Officer, following approval of the accounts at the IJB's Audit & Risk Committee meeting on 14th September 2021.

Sederunt: David King left the meeting.

8. NATIONAL CARE SERVICE CONSULTATION

The Chief Officer had submitted a SBAR report updating members on the national consultation underway concerning the establishment of a National Care Service and inviting members to consider how to formulate the IJB's response to the consultation.

Paul Currie presented the report outlining the background to the consultation exercise, its scope and some issues of particular interest to IJB members. He referred to the previous request for members' comments and said that 2 responses had been received initially and that he was now seeking approval to set up a development session in early

October. This event would allow members to consider the consultation and what is happening more widely and to formulate the IJB's response. He added that some IJBs had not put forward a response to the consultation as they could not reach a consensus. However, in his opinion, a range of views should not preclude the IJB from providing a constructive response to the consultation.

Dr Donald supported the opportunity to have further discussion on the issues and to formulate a response. She said that the IJBs and HSCPs both had relevant expertise in integration and it was right that they should be participating in this consultation.

The Chair expressed concern about the lack of recognition of the previous 5 years of endeavour on the part of IJBs. He said it would be important to highlight and reflect on good practice as well as responding to the current proposals. He also encouraged members to attend one of the information sessions being held by the Scottish Government as these provided useful background on the consultation.

Councillor Fiona O'Donnell said she was happy to support the recommendations in the report but queried the best way to respond to wider issues such as community justice and children's services.

Judith Tait advised that that East Lothian Council was preparing its own response to the consultation which would cover these areas. It was undertaking a range of meetings with key services in order to prepare a draft response and there would be a briefing session for Councillors on 12th October to discuss this document. She added that the message from the Scottish Government was that they wanted to hear from as many people as possible. Responses were being encouraged in a range of formats and need not necessarily follow the consultation response proforma.

Councillor Akhtar also welcomed the recommendations in the report and the work to extend the deadline to the consultation. She said that everyone had the same aim – to improve outcomes for health and social care – and she encouraged as many people as possible to comment on the sections of the consultation which were relevant to them.

The vote was taken by roll call and all of the recommendations were approved unanimously.

Decision

The IJB agreed:

- i. That a development session would be arranged in late September/early October to provide IJB members with an opportunity to discuss the implications of the NCS consultation for health and social care services in East Lothian and more widely; and
- ii. That the outputs of any development session should be used to prepare an East Lothian IJB response to the consultation on the establishment of a National Care Service.

9. COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME, ADULTS WITH COMPLEX NEEDS OVER 65

The Chief Officer had submitted a report updating the IJB on the progress of the Community Transformation Programme for over 65s and seeking approval for the recommendations set out in the report; which were agreed at the Strategic Planning Group meeting on 8th September 2021.

Christine Johnston presented the report reminding members of the actions agreed by the IJB at its June meeting. She advised that discussions had subsequently taken place with Older People's Day Centres and additional new investment had been agreed to develop outreach support until 2023. However, in considering the longer term 4 year public contract framework, a number of risks and issues had been highlighted and, as a result, it was recommended that the existing funding for the centres should be continued until 31st March 2023. She added that additional actions had been recommended to mitigate any risks and to address the concerns of colleagues in procurement and legal services. Ms Johnston also updated the members on the proposals for a Meeting Centre in Musselburgh.

Ms Johnston responded to questions from members on demonstrating Best Value and the implications of a light touch application process.

Councillor Akhtar said she had been meeting with the Association of Day Centres and she felt that they would welcome this report. She referred to the range of work being done to support carers and service users and said she had agreed to circulate examples of good practice to IJB members. Ms Johnston offered to help collate some examples for circulation.

The Chair said that the report demonstrated a constructive response to the concerns raised and comments made by stakeholders during the engagement process. He felt that the proposals were being taken forward in a very measured way.

The vote was taken by roll call and all of the recommendations were approved unanimously.

Decision

The IJB agreed to:

- i. Note the background;
- ii. Note the risks and issues in commissioning Older People's Day Centres and approve the proposed approach set out in the report;
- iii. Approve the mitigating actions set out in the report; and
- iv. Note the update on the Meeting Centre proposal and approve the further development of the Public Social Partnerships approach set out in the report.

Signed

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Mr Peter Murray
Chair of the East Lothian Integration Joint Board