



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EAST LoTHIAN INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD

THURSDAY 13 DECEMBER 2021
VIA DIGITAL MEETINGS SYSTEM

Voting Members Present:

Mr P Murray (Chair)
Councillor S Akhtar
Councillor N Gilbert
Ms F Ireland
Councillor S Kempson
Councillor F O'Donnell
Dr R Williams

Non-voting Members Present:

Ms M Allan	Mr D Binnie
Mr D King	Ms A MacDonald
Dr C Mackintosh	Ms J Tait
Dr J Turvill	

Officers Present from NHS Lothian/East Lothian Council:

Mr P Currie	Mr B Dickie
Ms C Goodwin	Ms H Gray
Mr M Kennedy	Ms L Kerr
Ms G Neil	

Clerk:

Ms F Currie

Apologies:

Dr P Donald
Dr P Conalglan
Ms L Cowan
Mr I Gorman
Ms M McNeill
Mr T Miller

Declarations of Interest:

None

1. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EAST LoTHIAN IJB ON 28 OCTOBER 2021 (FOR APPROVAL)

The minutes of the meeting on 28th October 2021 were approved.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 28 OCTOBER 2021

There were no matters arising.

3. CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair informed members that, through the IJB Chairs/Vice Chairs Group, he had been offered a place on the National Care Stakeholders Forum. He said that this would be a very useful way of keeping up to date with developments and he would feedback any relevant information to the IJB.

Councillor Shamin Akhtar advised members of a presentation by the Carers Trust on the impacts of COVID-19. She said she would circulate the slides to members for their information.

Alison MacDonald updated members on the vaccine roll out and plans to increase capacity for the delivery of booster jabs which would involve trebling current capacity. She referred to problems with the service at the Community Hospital in Haddington following a misunderstanding over whether a drop-in vaccination clinic was available. She confirmed that this was being addressed with updates to the website and she hoped to announce the opening of a second vaccination site in East Lothian in the next couple of days which would offer a drop-in service.

[Post Meeting Note: A new vaccination centre opened in the Corn Exchange, Haddington.]

Ms MacDonald also advised that the current situation with Edington Hospital would be reviewed at the end of January 2022.

The Chair welcomed news of additional vaccination capacity and acknowledged the significant challenges of increasing the speed of the roll out. He added that clear messaging was an important part of that.

4. MEMBERSHIP OF EAST LoTHIAN IJB

The Chief Officer had submitted a report informing the IJB of the renewal of the term of office for Councillor Neil Gilbert.

The Clerk presented the report outlining the rules surrounding members' terms of office and reminded members that the appointment of voting members was a matter for the partners – East Lothian Council and NHS Lothian. The IJB was being invited to note Councillor Gilbert's re-appointment.

Decision

The IJB agreed to note the renewal of the term of office for Councillor Neil Gilbert as a voting member of the IJB appointed by East Lothian Council.

5. FINANCIAL UPDATE – PROJECTED 2021/22 OUT-TURN AND ADDITIONAL WINTER FUNDING

The Interim Chief Finance Officer had submitted a report updating the IJB as to the updated projected out-turn position for 2021/22 and providing information as to the additional Winter Funding which had been received by the IJB.

David King presented the report outlining the background and proposed uses for the additional winter funding and the three areas which it covered – interim care arrangements, Care at Home capacity and multi-disciplinary teams. He explained that there were serious concerns about the pressures on the system and that managing all of these may take up most of the additional money. However, due to the timing of this funding, the IJB would be unlikely to spend all of the additional winter funding by the end of March 2022. Any unspent funds would be carried forward into 2022/23.

Mr King also advised members that, based on current projections, the IJB was expected to reach a breakeven position by the 2021/22 year end. He recommended that members take up the offer of a finance workshop in January so that they would have a clearer understanding of the totality of the position when considering the budget offers for 2022/23. The second purpose of the workshop would be to look at ways of mapping budgets to individual Directions to allow better monitoring of progress against objectives and any financial implications.

Mr King and Ms MacDonald responded to questions from members on the process for notifying IJBs and Councillors of the additional winter funding and the need to ensure that there was transparency in the governance arrangements. Ms MacDonald also confirmed that as Chief Officer she had the authority to direct where the funding should be spent, within the bounds of the 3 priorities outlined in the funding letter, to ensure the best outcomes for the local population. She said that East Lothian was in a good position to do that as it had a history of developing services differently. She hoped to bring a paper forward to the IJB early in 2022 to show how this was being done.

There was some discussion on the funds for increasing the minimum wage for social care staff. Laura Kerr confirmed that the extra money would be in staff accounts in January. She said it was important to highlight that providers must agree to pay the extra money and her team had to wait on returns from providers before processing payments. She said that there were implications for providers increasing the minimum staff wage to £10.02ph, such as uplifting the pay of other staff in their organisations to maintain their pay and grading structures. However, she confirmed that if providers were already paying more than £10.02ph minimum and decided not to pass on a % increase to staff, they must return the money to the HSCP and from there to the Scottish Government. She advised that a couple of providers who paid more than £10.02ph had already indicated that this money did not help them, and there was at least one provider in East Lothian in that position.

Ms MacDonald outlined some of the other proposals for the funding, including increasing Care at Home capacity and reiterated that a paper would be brought to a future IJB meeting detailing where the additional funding had been spent.

Replying to a question on the reliance on independent providers, Ms Kerr acknowledged that while not as straight forward as increasing in-house capacity, this was an area that needed to be addressed and further details would be set out in agenda item 6.

Maureen Allan commented on the proposals saying that for many providers increasing the minimum wage to £10.02ph would make little difference and staff would still be

leaving social care to take better paid jobs in other sectors such as hospitality. There needed to be better solutions to solve the problems in the long-term. In relation to the point about reviewing reliance on independent providers, she said that communities should be encouraged to get involved and that such initiatives should be reflected in the IJB's Strategic Plan.

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

Decision

The IJB agreed:

- i. To note the updated financial out-turn position for 2021/22;
- ii. To accept the additional winter funding – that is the amendment to East Lothian Council's budget offer to the IJB;
- iii. To direct additional winter funds to the HSCP to deliver the ambitions of the use of that fund; and
- iv. To use its workshop in January to further consider the financial plan.

6. CARE AT HOME SERVICES EAST LoTHIAN

The Chief Officer had submitted a report informing the IJB of the current, severe service pressure within Care at Home services in East Lothian.

Ms Kerr presented the report stating that members would be well aware of the existing crisis in care services and that current circumstances were making it worse. She referred to some mitigations already in place, as outlined in her report, and went on to consider the challenges facing the sector through reliance on independent providers, compromised efficiency of care delivery and lack of staff. She set out some of the key priorities for action and emphasised the importance of a co-ordinated approach working with providers and the Care Inspectorate, among others.

Ms Kerr responded to questions from members providing further detail on the impact of self-isolation requirements on staff absences, ensuring staff have up-to-date information on changes to these requirements, and speeding up the pace of vaccination and booster jabs for staff and encouraging uptake.

Replying to questions on pay and conditions, she acknowledged that £10.02ph was not enough to encourage people into the profession or to support staff retention. However, there were financial challenges associated with increasing the minimum wage to £12-15ph as suggested by CoSLA. There were also other factors to address such as travelling times, provision of transport and the way the service managed and brokered care. She agreed that it might be helpful to look at modelling possible options as part of the finance workshop.

Ms MacDonald added that finding long-term solutions to the problems would involve discussion and agreement between all 4 Lothian IJBs as many providers worked over more than one area. There was a place for both internal and external providers but it was about getting the balance right to ensure a sustainable service.

In response to a further question, Ms Kerr confirmed that Integrated Impact Assessments would be undertaken in relation to any proposed changes of policy.

Ms Kerr and Ms MacDonald also addressed the balance of skill sets required within care homes acknowledging that there was a greater need for clinical knowledge and skills than might have been the case 5-10 years ago. In East Lothian, care homes had

advanced practitioners but they were also looking to have nurses embedded into the service to support staff to manage different care requirements.

Councillor Akhtar commented that social care staff often felt that their role was undervalued. She asked that the IJB formally acknowledge the work and contribution of social care staff and this request was fully supported by the Chair.

Decision

The IJB agreed:

- i. To note the content of the report and the actions taken;
- ii. To offer continued support to ELHSCP staff as they work under significant pressure to deliver Care at Home services to people who are most at risk within the community; and
- iii. To note NHS Lothian Gold directive to move people who are clinically fit for discharge but await Care at Home services to Interim Care Home Beds.

7. CHIEF SOCIAL WORK OFFICER ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21

The Chief Social Work Officer (CSWO) provided the IJB with the annual report of CSWO for 2020/21 on the statutory work undertaken on the Council's behalf; to encourage discussion around the IJB's Directions and the impact these are having on tackling the issues and challenges identified within the CSWO annual report.

Judith Tait presented the annual report outlining the background and key findings. She said that the timeframe broadly aligned with the first year of the pandemic and every aspect of social work had been affected by it. She said that the workforce should be commended for its dedication and commitment and she wanted to offer them her personal thanks for their efforts. She added that the experiences had taught them a lot about how to identify solutions at local level and that both social work and social care services were still firmly in response mode. She concluded that the impacts of the pandemic on families and service users continued to emerge and they were embarking on a period of potentially significant change for social work and social care.

The Chair also acknowledged the contribution of social work and social care staff and, on behalf of the IJB, he thanked them for their continuing work.

Ms Tait responded to questions. She acknowledged the need to continue increasing opportunities for staff training and placements within social work services; she advised that it was difficult to compare last year's figures with previous years due to the pandemic but that they were mindful of the significant increase in referrals.

Matthew Kennedy and Ms Kerr replied to further questions on managing resources and prioritising services, as well as identifying and addressing unmet need. While the report focused on unmet need within care homes, they acknowledged that there was also unmet need within community settings which would take time to be recognised. However, the aim would always be to try and address such needs before they got to the level of formal social work intervention.

Ms Tait agreed, saying that the full impact of COVID-19 was yet to be understood and one of the issues was that the length of time the need was there without being met had increased the level of that need. This was particularly true for learning disability and family services, where individuals and families were already being asked to do more than they should.

Dr Jon Turvill commented that understanding the level of need and unmet need was difficult. As a GP, he recognised the importance of encouraging families to come forward for assessment and he often saw people who clearly needed help, alongside the existing support from their family.

Decision

The IJB agreed to note the contents of the report and consider the implications for provision of social work services in East Lothian and their role in assuring welfare and safety of vulnerable adults and children across the county.

8. EAST LOTHIAN COMMUNITY HOSPITALS AND CARE HOMES PROVISION CHANGE BOARD

The Chief Officer had presented a SBAR providing a brief update on progress of the East Lothian Community Hospitals and Care Homes Provision Change Board.

Bruce Dickie presented the report outlining the background to the Change Board and highlighting recent progress and changes to meeting frequency. He also drew attention to two items of note - the impact of the impending local government elections and staff pressure over winter. He advised that the timetable of work had been adjusted to take account of the pre-election period and the additional pressures facing staff and a further report to the IJB would be brought forward in late 2022.

Responding to a question, Mr Dickie acknowledged that there was a very tight timeline at present and it may be necessary to review and revise this depending on the impact of the Omicron variant. He said he would discuss any potential revisions with the Chief Officer and Chair. Ms MacDonald confirmed that the IJB would be kept updated as the work progressed.

Decision

The IJB agreed to:

- i. Note the actions to date undertaken by the Change Board;
- ii. Note the key changes to the timelines of work as a result of the Scottish Elections and pre-election period;
- iii. Note the continuous and ongoing pressure on staff as a result of the impact of COVID-19 and service impacts of COVID-19 through high levels of sickness, high vacancies and staff's need to self-isolate.

Signed

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Mr Peter Murray
Chair of the East Lothian Integration Joint Board