

East Lothian
Integration Joint Board



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

**THURSDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 2022
VIA DIGITAL MEETINGS SYSTEM**

Voting Members Present:

Councillor S Akhtar
Ms E Gordon
Councillor C McFarlane
Mr P Murray (Chair)

Non-voting Members Present:

Ms M Allan	Mr D Binnie
Ms L Cowan	Ms C Flanagan
Dr W Hale	Ms M McNeill
Mr T Miller	Dr J Turvill
Ms F Wilson	

Officers Present from NHS Lothian/East Lothian Council:

Ms L Berry	Mr P Currie
Ms C Goodwin	Mr J Hardman
Ms J Jarvis	Ms L Kerr
Mr M Kennedy	Mr C King

Clerk:

Ms F Currie

Apologies:

Ms F Ireland
Councillor L Jardine
Ms V de Souza
Mr I Gorman

Declarations of Interest:

None

The Chair made a statement on the sad passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth. He paid tribute to her 70 years of service to her country and the wider world, observing that she was someone who deserved the utmost respect. He said that everyone would have their own particular recollections of the Queen and he invited those present to pause for a moment of silent reflection before the commencement of the meeting.

1. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EAST LoTHIAN IJB ON 25 AUGUST 2022 (FOR APPROVAL) AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the meeting on 25th August 2022 were approved. There were no matters arising.

2. CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair had no matters to raise in addition to those on the agenda.

3. EAST LoTHIAN IJB STRATEGIC PLAN 2022-25

The Chief Officer had submitted a SBAR updating members on the preparation of the new Strategic Plan for 2022-25 and seeking the IJB's approval of the Plan.

Paul Currie presented the report. He outlined the background to the preparation of the Plan, the consultation process, the agreed strategic objectives and accompanying actions. He reminded members that the Plan was designed to be flexible to take account of changing responsibilities flowing from the new National Care Service and other current and future challenges. The Plan would also be subject to an Integrated Impact Assessment and would be converted from a text-only version to include illustrations and other DTP elements.

Fiona Wilson stated that as a Health & Social Care Partnership, they were keen to be ambitious for local communities and to deliver person-centred care to meet the needs of people in East Lothian.

The Chair said that it was important to him that the IJB demonstrated that, irrespective of the work on the National Care Service, it was still open for business and that it maintained a clarity of purpose and direction, and was keen to deliver on stated objectives. He added that without the strategic enablers the process would be flawed and that these should address any issues which could potentially derail delivery of the Plan.

Maureen Allan put forward some suggested amendments to the text to better reflect collaborative working with the partners and the funding available for delivery of each of the objectives. Laura Kerr suggested that while emphasis around funding could be added to the Plan it was not perhaps the right place of the detailed funding information.

Councillor Shamin Akhtar suggested that Ms Allan's points could be reflected in next year's performance report. In the meantime, she wanted to recognise the comprehensive consultation which had taken place on the Plan including seeking views of those with lived experience, the third sector and others.

The Chair thanked Ms Allan and Councillor Akhtar for their comments.

Mr Currie said that more detail would be included in the delivery plan document but that if Ms Allan could provide specifics he would look at revising the text of the Strategic Plan, where appropriate.

The members agreed to note recommendations i to iii. The vote was taken by roll call on recommendation iv, and this was approved unanimously.

Decision

The IJB agreed to:

- i. Note the consultation and other processes carried out to develop the 2022-25 Strategic Plan and its Strategic Objectives;
- ii. Note the intention to develop an Annual Delivery Plan for the Strategic Plan and to report on progress;
- iii. Note that the SPG approved the Strategic Plan at its 6th September meeting and agreed to recommend it to East Lothian IJB; and
- iv. Accept the 2022-25 Strategic Plan.

4. IJB ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2020-2021

The Chief Officer had submitted a SBAR updating members on progress with the IJB's annual performance report 2020-2021.

Claire Goodwin presented the report. She reminded members that requirement for the annual performance report was set out in legislation and that the content of the report was in line with the guidance from the Scottish Government including performance in relation to core indicators, Ministerial Steering Group indicators and financial performance. In addition, it contained a detailed narrative describing elements across HSCP services and highlighting key achievements during the year, illustrated with specific examples and case studies. The guidance required the report to be presented in a way that to non-experts and Ms Goodwin explained that this had been addressed in the report's language and design. Further work would be done to make the report even more accessible and easier to navigate and a summary version would be made available online.

The Chair said the report was a great summary of the activity during the year and clearly demonstrated the hard work of staff and the progress made from previous years and the continuing challenge of COVID.

Councillor Akhtar referred to a number of the achievements highlighted in the report and asked how best to acknowledge the role of staff in these achievements and to pass on the thanks of the IJB.

Jennifer Jarvis said she would be happy to produce press releases highlighting key elements from the report and to help reflect these in the design of the report.

Ms Wilson observed that when talking about the new Strategic Plan it would be important to ensure that staff and communities understood their place in the Plan and their part in the delivery process.

The Chair agreed that the choices made regarding priorities for the Strategic Plan should be reflected in the performance report and the delivery of outcomes within a balanced budget added to the level of achievement seen in the current report.

He thanked officers for their work on the report and agreed with Councillor Akhtar on the need to get the message out to staff.

Decision

The IJB agreed to:

- i. Recognise the achievements of East Lothian HSCP and individual services throughout the year; and
- ii. Commend the contribution made by staff, volunteers, communities and partner organisations.

5. EAST Lothian COMMUNITY HOSPITALS AND CARE HOMES PROVISION CHANGE BOARD

The Chief Officer had submitted a SBAR providing members with an update on the progress of the East Lothian Community Hospitals and Care Homes Provision Change Board.

Ms Kerr presented the report. She referred to previous reports presented in December 2021 and March 2022 and advised that this paper provided a further update. She outlined the progress made by the 3 working groups: Communications and Engagement; Capacity and Planning; and Finance and Capital, and she summarised the key messages drawn from the capacity planning work.

The Chair thanked Ms Kerr for the update and reiterated the importance of the work around intermediate care, timely communications and identifying sources of capital funding to take projects forward to the next stage.

Ms Allan said it was generally recognised that East Lothian was ahead of the curve on a lot of these issues and she welcomed the report. She also commended the hard work and commitment of staff over the past few years.

Dr Jon Turvill thanked officers for producing an excellent report and said he looked forward to having the opportunity to contribute to the future work. He referred in particular to the number of people who were in hospital in the last few months of life and the need to improve opportunities for them to remain in their own homes for as long as possible. He added that there were good services available but there was clearly a need to understand and address why these were not being accessed in some cases.

Ms Wilson concurred with Dr Turvill's comments and said capacity in the workforce would be a key issue, along with strengthening connections between community services and building confidence in services overall. She agreed that significant work had been done but that there remained some distance to travel.

Decision

The IJB agreed:

- i. To note the actions and work to date undertaken by the Change Board in relation to the 3 working groups and the production of the Intermediate Care Paper and our focus upon Home First;
- ii. To note the Summary to date of this work and its key messages; and

- iii. To note the continuing 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 self-isolating.

6. 2022/23 Q1 FINANCIAL UPDATE

A report was submitted by the Chief Finance Officer laying out the results of the partner's (East Lothian Council and NHS Lothian) quarter one financial reviews and considering how these impacted on the projected financial position of the IJB for 2022/23. The report also provided an update on the work to support sustainable financial solutions as part of the COVID exit planning.

Claire Flanagan presented the report. She set out the results of the Partners' quarter 1 reviews and the IJB's financial position as at end June, including the year end forecast of a £1.1m overspend. She advised that COVID funding continued to be drawn down and that this and further allocations from the Scottish Government meant that the budget position would remain fluid in the months ahead. The largest budget pressure would be seen in Set Aside and the biggest financial uncertainty would be the pay award with the costs of this yet to be built into the budget. Despite further allocations from the Scottish Government, there was likely to be a shortfall in COVID funding for 2022/23 and it would be necessary to use winter funding to support COVID exit planning. Most areas had been realigned against recurring funding sources but four areas were currently without allocated funding beyond 2022/23. Ms Flanagan concluded that work would continue to mitigate financial pressures where possible and regular updates would be provided to the IJB.

The Chair acknowledged that the inability to influence the Set Aside budget was a difficulty and that this lack of flexibility would have to be addressed going forward. He also noted the potential shortfall in COVID costs and the impact on key areas if the IJB was unable to use its Reserves.

Ms Flanagan concurred; explaining to members that the Scottish Government had written to all IJBs seeking the return of COVID funding reserve balances where these were not required to cover COVID costs. She added that she continued to submit regular reports to the Government and that this issue had been highlighted.

Ms Flanagan and Ms Wilson responded to a question from Elizabeth Gordon regarding the potential impact of reduced COVID funding on the arrangements for the vaccination programme. Ms Flanagan advised that the vaccination programme was administered and funded by NHS Lothian. Ms Wilson confirmed that there were challenges resulting from reduced funding and planning work was underway to identify sustainable options for premises going forward. She also acknowledged the need to use the transformation programme to address future challenges resulting from the National Care Service and continued pressure on funding across all services.

In response to further questions from members, Ms Flanagan agreed to provide a more detailed outline of prescribing pressures in future financial update reports and suggested that a presentation from colleagues on the Set Aside budget might provide some useful context for members.

Dr Turvill, Mr King and Mr Hardman discussed some of the reasons for increases in the prescribing budget and alternative options for the management of chronic pain. Ms Wilson suggested that a development session on this issue might also be helpful for members and allow them to better understand some of the key challenges.

Ms Allan observed that while she agreed that GPs must prescribe based on their professional judgement, she questioned the necessity of using public funds to prescribe drugs which were cheaply available over the counter.

Lesley Berry outlined the physio-led service in East Lothian for the management of chronic pain and advised that work was ongoing to expand this to include providers such as Enjoyleisure and to cover prescribing options for GPs. A paper would shortly be presented to the Strategic Planning Group covering these options.

The Chair welcomed this news and said he looked forward to seeing the benefits of these new services coming forward in the months ahead. In the meantime, he thanked members for their contributions to the discussion.

Decision

The IJB agreed to:

- i. Note the quarter one financial review undertaken by partners; and
- ii. Note the COVID exit planning.

Signed

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Mr Peter Murray
Chair of the East Lothian Integration Joint Board