



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EAST LOTHIAN INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD

THURSDAY 22 JUNE 2023
VIA DIGITAL MEETINGS SYSTEM

Voting Members Present:

Councillor S Akhtar (Chair)
Councillor L Bruce
Mr A Cogan
Mr G Gordon* (*substitute*)
Ms F Ireland
Councillor L Jardine
Councillor C McFarlane
Mr P Murray

Non-voting Members Present:

Ms M Allan	Mr D Aston
Ms L Byrne	Dr P Conaglen
Ms L Cowan	Ms C Flanagan
Dr C Mackintosh	Ms M McNeill
Mr T Miller	Ms F Wilson

Present from NHS Lothian/East Lothian Council:

Ms L Berry	Ms M Burton
Dr J Hardman	Ms J Jarvis
Ms C Johnston	Mr M Kennedy
Ms L Kerr	Mr A Main

Clerk:

Ms F Currie

Apologies:

Ms E Gordon*
Mr D Binnie

Declarations of Interest:

None

**1. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EAST LoTHIAN IJB ON 25 MAY 2023
(FOR APPROVAL)**

The minutes of the IJB meeting on 25th May were approved.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 25 MAY

There were no matters arising.

3. CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair said she would be meeting individually with all IJB members to get their feedback on what had been working well and on areas for improvement. The feedback to date had suggested that members might benefit from development sessions focusing on Directions and financial matters.

She also updated members on the following:

The launch of the East Lothian Rehabilitation Service annual report at Queen Margaret University. The report provided details of the important and varied work being undertaken by the partnership. The Chair provided a brief overview of the work and commended the report to members.

Carers Week – the Chair had met with representatives of caring groups and organisations across the county to get feedback on the level of support they received from the HSCP.

East Lothian Foodbank AGM – the Chair highlighted the increase in referrals and levels of support provided to individuals with long-term conditions. She suggested that this might be an area for future involvement by the IJB.

Day Centres – the Chair reported on her recent meetings where she had heard how day centres were increasing their outreach across their communities.

The Chair met with members of the Care and Repair Board to hear about their work and how relatively small adjustments could help people get back into their homes.

The Chair also touched on the continuing work around the dementia strategy being prepared by the Scottish Government. She updated members on the delays to work on the National Care Service, confirming that there would be no further action during 2023/24 on the removal of residential charging.

Peter Murray highlighted the recently published Chief Medical Officer's annual report which covered 4 key areas, including health inequalities and value-based healthcare. He commended it to members as a useful and informative read.

Mr Murray also reminded members of the paper produced by Chief Officers on the financial pressures being faced by IJBs across Scotland, as a result of significant funding gaps. The Chairs and Vice Chairs Group had decided to work with the Chief Officers to examine the impact of these reductions and to feedback to the Scottish Government as part of their budget planning for 2024/25.

The Chair said that the reports mentioned by Mr Murray would be circulated to members for information.

4. EAST LoTHIAN IJB ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2022/23

A report was submitted by the Chief Officer presenting the East Lothian Integration Joint Board Annual Performance Report for 2022-23.

Fiona Wilson presented the annual report which she said demonstrated the continued success of the ELHSCP in delivering health and social care services across the county. This was a very detailed report; and a summary report would also be prepared. Ms Wilson invited members to review the report and recognise the achievements of staff and services during 2022-23; to note that there may be minor changes once some of the data was finalised; and to formally approve the annual report.

Mr Murray thanked all staff involved for an excellent report which was easy to read and very informative. He asked whether, going forward, it would be possible to provide a clearer correlation between specific Directions and the work outlined in this report. He felt that this would provide greater clarity on the role of the IJB.

Ms Wilson acknowledged this and agreed to take this on board for the future.

Councillor Jardine said she had a number of comments and asked if there was still time to feed these into the final report. Ms Wilson said that there may still be time to make minor adjustments and she asked Councillor Jardine to submit her comments to Claire Goodwin as soon as possible.

Andrew Cogan said that, as a new member, the report had given him an excellent overview, particularly of the good and innovative work, but core services seemed to be less obvious within the report. He also noted that there were many small references to digital innovation but there was no clear strand which showed how digital innovation was being taken forward across all services.

Ms Wilson thanked him for his feedback and acknowledged the need to strike a balance on the information provided in the report. She also encouraged him, and other members, to contact officers if they wanted more information on any area of work.

In response to a question from the Chair on the relevance of some indicators in the report, Laura Kerr advised that the National Indicators were set by the Scottish Government and applied to all areas across Scotland.

The Chair also asked about reflecting the contributions of other partners, such as the voluntary sector, and whether information could be sought from VCEL or others.

Maureen Allan said she would be happy to contribute information to future reports.

The Chair commended the report and the range and significance of the work highlighted within it. She moved to the vote on the recommendations, which was taken by roll call and approved unanimously.

Decision

The IJB:

- i. Reviewed the report, and in doing so, recognised the achievements of East Lothian Health and Social Care Partnership and individual services during 2022-23, and commended the contribution made by staff, volunteers, and partner organisations throughout the year.

- ii. Noted that there may be changes to the National Integration Indicators data once the final data set was published by Public Health Scotland at the start of July, and that a final version of the APR, incorporating any changes, would be sent to IJB members for information prior to publication at the end of July.
- iii. While noting that there was no requirement within the statutory guidance for IJBs to formally sign-off APRs, the IJB approved the publication of the 2022-23 APR, subject to any minor changes as noted in recommendation ii above.

5. CARERS' STRATEGY

A report was submitted by the Chief Officer presenting the East Lothian HSCP Carers Strategy (2023-26), summarising work done over the previous financial year and giving details of how funding would be utilised over 2023/24 to develop carer support.

Maria Burton presented the report. She outlined the background to the development of the strategy and its purpose. She explained that this draft strategy was the second local strategy for East Lothian and had been put together following consultation with carers', carers' groups and other representatives. The draft strategy set out plans to improve support over the next three years and had been shared widely for consultation, including comments from the Strategic Planning Group (SPG). Ms Burton drew members' attention to the 7 outcomes included in the strategy and provided details of current and proposed actions under each of these headings and confirmed that new initiatives and funding would be considered by the Change Board going forward.

George Gordon welcomed the wide consultation on the strategy and commended officers for an excellent piece of work.

Councillor Jardine also commended the work and the recognition of the very valuable role of carers. She asked about the comparison between East Lothian and the national average on the gender split for carers and whether this had impacted the strategy.

Ms Burton said she had not picked up a significant difference from the figures but acknowledged that it had long been recognised that women were more likely to have a role in unpaid caring.

Mr Murray also wished to recognise the good work demonstrated by this strategy. He asked about reporting on outcomes and whether there was confidence in the level of funding available.

Ms Burton confirmed the intention to report annually on progress to carers' groups and the SPG. Mr Murray said that he would like to see progress reported to the IJB to ensure that funding remained appropriate to support the delivery of the strategy.

Ms Kerr acknowledged the challenges associated with securing and maintaining appropriate resources, and of adjusting plans based on what was deliverable. She advised that spending on the strategy was monitored very closely by the Change Board and that this would continue to be the case.

Marilyn McNeill asked if there was any support available for carers where the person being cared for was reluctant to accept outside help.

Ms Burton advised that Carers of East Lothian were the best people to advocate for those involved, as this was quite a common problem.

The Chair asked about the level of support from partners for respite opportunities and how this service was being delivered.

Ms Burton said that people were very aware of the need for respite and she felt that appropriate support was there from partners. She also outlined alternatives being considered for the way in which these services could be accessed, e.g. using self-directed support.

The Chair passed on comments from IJB member and carer representative, David Binnie, who was not present at the meeting. He had commended the work undertaken on the strategy and the engagement with carers' groups and representatives. The Chair added her own remarks on the importance of the strategy and of acknowledging the role and contributions of carers.

The Chair moved to the vote on the recommendations, which was taken by roll call and approved unanimously.

Decision

The IJB:

- i. Approved the draft Carers Strategy for implementation; and
- ii. Noted the funding agreed for 2023/24.

6. EAST LOTHIAN HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE PARTNERSHIP COMMISSION COMMUNITY SUPPORT 2023/24

A report was submitted by the Chief Officer informing the IJB of the budget and proposed commissioning arrangements for 2023/24 in relation to commissioned community support.

Christine Johnston presented the report and reminded members that this paper related specially to the voluntary sector budget. The approach was underpinned by the commissioning strategy previously approved by the IJB, which focussed on personal outcomes, and took account of relevant regulations. She drew members' attention to key points within the report and appendices, including services such as Community First, the post-diagnostic support service for people with dementia, and day centres. She also highlighted organisations which had been identified for an uplift in funding.

Ms Johnston responded to questions from Mr Murray providing further detail on the arrangements for longer-term commissioning for day centres and the quality assurance processes being put in place. She acknowledged the severe financial pressures facing providers and advised that proposed uplifts had been aligned with Scottish Government adult social care uplift levels while also taking account of affordability.

Ms Kerr provided further detail on options for individuals receiving services and the associated mechanisms for commissioning, funding and delivery to ensure that services met the needs of clients. Matthew Kennedy added that there was a distinction between groups of service users, and that those who arranged services through self-directed support may have more complex needs than those who accessed collectively commissioned services.

Claire Flanagan replied to a question from Mr Cogan on the governance around financial reporting. She acknowledged that there were risks, however the HSCP had their own internal resource to augment the standard financial reporting arrangements.

Councillor Jardine asked about older peoples' day centres and the support for trustees. Ms Johnston confirmed that all trustees had received training through VCEL on their roles, responsibilities and charitable law. As part of the commissioning process they were also required to prepare a trustee development plan identifying strengths and weaknesses.

Maureen Allan advised that VCEL had been working with day centres to support business planning and develop health checks on governance arrangements which would include conversations on training programmes, policies and procedures and HR support available through VCEL and other organisations.

In response to questions from the Chair, Ms Johnston confirmed that those organisations who had received a one year grant were aware that funding had ceased, and that they had had the opportunity to apply for further funding but had not done so. However, she understood that these groups had received funding from other sources and that they were continuing to deliver the same level of service.

Ms Kerr confirmed that grant applications were for a set period or piece of work and these outcomes were monitored closely. However she accepted that, due to budget constraints, the grants programme no longer had the same flexibility.

Ms Allan confirmed that VCEL was providing support to these organisations and that there were other funding sources open to them. She outlined some of the assistance provided to identify alternative funding sources and added that organisations had to take some responsibility when funding was year on year.

In response to further comments from the Chair on Macmerry Men's Shed and Pennypit, Ms Allan reiterated that these organisations were receiving continuing support and had access to alternative funding. The Chair indicated that she would like to discuss this issue further with Ms Allan and Ms Johnston outwith the meeting.

Ms McNeill asked about the arrangements for organisations to approach Area Partnerships for funding.

Ms Allan advised that VCEL representatives attended all Area Partnership meetings and she would encourage organisations to sign up to the VCEL newsletter which contained detailed information on funding opportunities.

Ms Kerr referred to the new One Council fund and outlined the process through which organisations could approach the HSCP for funding on a commissioned or one off basis.

The Chair thanked officers for their work and the importance of funding and support for local groups and communities. She moved to the vote on the recommendations, which was taken by roll call and approved unanimously.

Decision

The IJB:

- i. Noted the commissioned community support budget and agreed uplifts for providers for 2023/24 as set out within appendix 1;

- ii. Noted the budget for 2023/24 for Older Peoples Day Centres within appendix 2. This now included funding to commission a new day centre in Musselburgh.
- iii. Noted the budget for 2023/24 for Housing Support within appendix 3 including the removal of funding from Abbeyfield and the transfer of the NCH Scotland and Blue Triangle budget to East Lothian Council Housing Department within 2023/24.
- iv. Noted the short-term funding arrangements for the East Lothian Sexual Abuse Service delivered by Edinburgh Rape Crisis Centre.

7. 2022/23 DRAFT UNAUDITED ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

A report was submitted by the Chief Finance Officer presenting to the IJB its draft (unaudited) Annual Accounts for 2022/23.

Ms Flanagan presented the report. She outlined the content of the draft annual accounts including the management commentary, remuneration report, annual governance statement and financial statements. She set out the year-end position - a deficit of £10.1M – which had occurred as a result of a surplus from 2021/22 and the IJB incurring expenditure against its earmarked reserves. She noted that the performance against the in-year budget had resulted in a £282,000 surplus in social care and a very small, £31,000, overspend in the health budget; however, non-recurring financial support had been provided by NHS Lothian to balance the health budget. Ms Flanagan said there had also been significant movement in the Reserves position during year, however, this had been anticipated. She highlighted the continuing pressures on Set Aside and Prescribing budgets and challenges resulting from external issues, such as the proposed National Care Service.

Fiona Ireland confirmed that the draft accounts had been reviewed at the Audit & Risk Committee meeting on 6th June. She then referred to recent media coverage around the standard of financial controls in East Lothian Council, and asked whether the concerns expressed by Audit Scotland should be reflected in the commentary or annual governance statement within the IJB's accounts.

Ms Flanagan said she was aware of this issue although she did not know the detail behind the report. She advised that the IJB relied on letters of assurance from both NHS Lothian and East Lothian Council regarding the IJBs financial position held by Partners and their financial controls. These letters were required as part of the audit process.

In response to further questions from Ms Ireland, Ms Flanagan said that she had yet to receive the Council's letter of assurance for 2022/23 but would follow this up as part of the audit process. She confirmed that she would only expect the letter to reflect the comments made by Audit Scotland, if anything related to or would impact the IJB.

The Chair advised that a paper on the Audit Scotland report would be presented to the next full Council meeting and that this could be shared with IJB members. She added that the Council's Finance Team had put appropriate checks and balances in place to address the issues highlighted by Audit Scotland.

Cllr Jardine informed members that this had also been raised at recent meetings of the Council's Audit & Governance Committee and its Policy & Performance Review Committee, and Councillors were very mindful of this issue.

The Chair asked whether it would be possible to receive more information so members could better understand East Lothian's use of services covered by the Set Aside budget. She referred to previous work around this issue and asked if there had been any recent progress. She felt it would be useful for members to get a better understanding of the IJB's use of these services.

Ms Flanagan advised that this work had been paused during pandemic and she was not sure of its current status on the work plan. However, it should be possible to gather some data locally and provide this to members.

Ms Wilson acknowledged the point. She advised that some information was contained within the annual performance report, however, it would be useful to see further data on the use of acute services and how this might impact future Direction-setting. She agreed to explore the possibility of a presentation to IJB members on acute service finances.

The Chair thanked Ms Flanagan and other finance colleagues for their work on the annual accounts. She noted the small overspend and said that this demonstrated how hard staff were working to deliver services within budgets. She recognised the continuing pressures faced through population growth within the county, and other factors, and how these impacted on delivering the best possible outcomes for local communities.

The Chair moved to the vote on the recommendations, which was taken by roll call and approved unanimously.

Decision

The IJB:

- i. Noted the draft unaudited annual accounts were considered at the Audit & Risk Committee on 6th June 2023; and
- ii. Agreed that the draft annual accounts could be published and presented for audit.

Signed

Councillor Shamin Akhtar
Chair of the East Lothian Integration Joint Board