

# East Lothian Partnership

**Governance Group**  
**Tuesday 24th October 2023**  
**2.00pm – 4.00pm**

**Hybrid Meeting**

**CMT meeting room, John Muir House**  
**or TEAMS**

**Present:**

Monica Patterson, East Lothian Council  
Maureen Allan, VCEL  
Benjamin Leathes, Police Scotland

Audrey Cumberford, Edinburgh College  
David Morrison; Scottish Fire & Rescue  
Fiona Wilson, NHS Lothian

**In Attendance:**

Lesley Brown, East Lothian Council  
Jamie Baker, East Lothian Council  
Toby Renouf, East Lothian Council  
Caitlin McCorry, East Lothian Council

Sharon Saunders, East Lothian Council  
Stephanie Kerr, East Lothian Council  
Paolo Vestri, East Lothian Council  
Philip Conaglen, NHS Lothian

**1. Welcome and apologies**

Apologies had been received from:

- Bettina Sizeland, Transport Scotland
- Douglas Proudfoot, East Lothian Council
- Mark McMullen, Scottish Enterprise

**2. Note of 28<sup>th</sup> June Governance Group meeting**

Approved as a correct record.

**2a. Matters Arising: Strategic Needs Assessment Update**

Paolo Vestri reported on the discussions that have taken place on updating the SNA. This has emphasised the changing dynamics since 2017, including climate change, affordable housing, and health inequalities, increase in poverty and in-work poverty, and recognition of COVID's impact.

Members of the Group comments on the report and it was noted that another SNA workshop is being held on 13<sup>th</sup> November.

**Action: A further report on draft revised SNA will be presented to the next Governance Group meeting.**

**3. Community Wealth Building Diagnostic and Actions**

Paolo Vestri and Jamie Baker presented the report on the Community Wealth Building diagnostic and proposed actions in the report from Stantec.

It was noted that NHS Lothian, the Council and VCEL are already making progress with various aspects of the CWB pillars including formally adopting the role of Anchor Institution, developing procurement strategy with a focus on CWB and Fair Work policies.

It is acknowledged that further work, including ensuring political and executive buy-in and support for CWB and raising sectoral and public awareness will be required.

It is noted that the CWB working Group will produce a draft CWB Charter and Action Plan based on the Stantec report and diagnostic.

**Action: Draft CWB Charter and Action Plan will be presented to the next Governance Group meeting**

#### **4. Updates from Strategic Partnerships**

##### **4.1. Connected Economy Group**

- Focused on developing the new Local Economic Strategy. The group's next meeting will discuss a draft of the strategy, including vision, objectives, and key actions.

##### **4.2. Children's Strategic Partnership**

- Lesley Brown has taken over as chair. Lesley presented the 2023-2026 Children and Young Peoples Services Plan. The broad themes of the plan, Healthy, Happy and Heard came from children themselves.
- The plan's priorities are children's rights, mental health, and family support with the aim of focusing on a small number of priorities but to do them well.
- Clear targets and milestones for these priorities are being established and new Terms of Reference are being developed for groups to support delivery of the priorities.

##### **4.3 Community Safety & Justice Partnership**

- The draft notes of the Partnership's August 2023 meeting were presented and noted.
- It was noted that the Equally Safe Group is still to be set up and that further discussions about the Group's relationship with the Mid and East Lothian Public Protection Committee and Violence Against Women and Girls Delivery Group and membership / chairing of the Group will take place over the next few months.

##### **4.5 Community Justice Group**

- The draft note of the Group's last meeting (4<sup>th</sup> September 2023) was presented. The main item of business was approval of the 2022-23 Outcome Activity report and preparation for the new Community Justice Outcome Improvement Plan. It was noted that the group is exploring initiatives including restorative justice and trauma-informed practices to improve community justice outcomes.

##### **4.6. Community Safety Group**

- The Group has held two meetings and agreed its Terms of Reference and membership. It is developing a set of Community Safety indicators that will be tracked over time. It was noted that the Group has agreed to focus on key community safety concerns within the community such as the, suicide prevention, mental health and antisocial behaviour.

#### **5. Proposal to Hold East Lothian Partnership Forum:**

Paolo Vestri presented the paper on the proposal to hold a Partnership Forum in early 2024. The Forum will be an opportunity to review progress with the current East Lothian Plan and the impact that COVID and the cost of living crisis have had on our communities. Looking forward the Forum could consider the potential of Community Wealth Building and related initiatives such as Fair Work and Fair Funding.

Maureen Allan noted that the forum could be an opportunity to showcase good work being done despite severe challenges.

The Governance Group agreed in principle to the holding of a Partnership Forum in early 2024

**Action:** The Forum Working Group to take forward the proposal to hold a Forum and bring forward recommendations for date, venue and programme.

## **6. Update on Area Partnerships Locality Planning**

Caitlin McCorry provided an update on Area Partnerships. It was noted that:

- Area Partnerships complement the governance group's work, representing local voices in community planning.
- The six Area Partnerships are each led by a local volunteer.
- They have developed Area/ Locality Plans that address community needs using local data and profiles. The key focus is to reduce inequalities.
- The Partnership played a key role in helping their communities deal with the impact of COVID-19 and more recently the cost of living crisis. The Council provided them with additional funds earmarked to support local initiatives addressing these issues.
- The Partnerships are reviewing and updating their area plans to take account of emerging needs and local priorities.
- Efforts are ongoing to ensure inclusive and representative partnership representation.

## **7. Proposal to Undertake Self-Evaluation**

Paolo Vestri presented the paper proposing that the Governance Group undertake a self-evaluation in 2024. It was noted that the East Lothian Partnership last undertook a self-evaluation and review of its structure and governance arrangements in 2017. A formal self-evaluation that had been planned to be undertaken in Spring 2020 was cancelled due to the COVID pandemic lockdown.

The Governance Group agreed that a self-evaluation should be carried out in 2024 and that it should consist of two elements – a survey of members and partners, followed by a facilitated review and development session or sessions. Issues that might be considered through the self-evaluation include:

- the links between the Partnership and other partnership groups and committees that are not currently formally within the ambit of the Community Planning Partnership
- how oversight and leadership is given to cross cutting agendas such as responding to climate change, tackling poverty, prevention and early intervention and Community Wealth Building
- engagement with, and involvement of, Area Partnerships, Community Councils and Tenants and Residents Associations
- how the Partnership communicates with the community and the public
- the resources (staffing and financial) required to support the Partnership and its various strategic and supporting groups.

**Action: A small short-life working group will be established to plan and facilitate the self-evaluation. The working group will liaise with the Governance Group on the logistics and format of the self-evaluation.**

## **8. 2022 Census – Headline Results Analysis**

Paolo Vestri presented the analysis of the headline results of the 2022 Census which highlighted the scale of the population growth that has taken place in East Lothian since 2001.

It was agreed that the data will help to inform the revised Strategic Needs Assessment and strategic planning. It should also be used to try to influence future resource allocation.

## **9. By Exception Verbal Updates from Partners**

### **Police Scotland**

- Focused on budget constraints and challenges in meeting operational costs.
- increases in certain types of crime, particularly domestic break-ins.

### **Scottish Fire & Rescue Service**

- Emphasized the rigidity of their procurement procedures and financial constraints.
- Discussed the potential impact of national strategies on local service delivery.

### **VCEL**

- Highlighted challenges faced by local organisations, particularly in meeting costs.
- Mentioned the upcoming VCEL conference focused on partnership collaboration.

### **Edinburgh College**

- Noted the challenge in aligning funding allocation to the College with demographic changes and population growth and growing concerns about funding not keeping pace with growing demand.

### **NHS Lothian:**

- Reported a slightly improved deficit prediction but still facing significant challenges.
- Focused on waiting lists, recruitment challenges, and public health prevention strategies.

### **IJB/H&SCP**

- Discussed the development of the older people's strategy.
- Emphasized the importance of aligning services with changing demographics.

### **East Lothian Council**

- Highlighted the severe financial challenges faced by the council.
- Discussed the impact of population growth/demographics on budget and resource allocation.

**Action: Agreed that the Governance Group should write to the First Minister highlighting the financial challenges faced by all partners which are exacerbated by East Lothian's population growth**

### **10. Any Other Business**

It was noted that the CPP has limited public profile. It was agreed that consideration should be given as part of the self-evaluation as to the name and profile of the Governance Group/ CPP. Also consideration to be given to whether the minutes of the ELP Governance Group could/ should be made available on the Council's website and to issuing press releases after each meeting highlighting the a work being done/ decisions taken.

### **11. Date of Next Meeting**

Noted that the next meeting is scheduled to take place on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2023.

A schedule of meetings for 2024 will be presented to this meeting.