



REPORT TO: East Lothian Integration Joint Board

MEETING DATE: 19 December 2024

BY: Chair, East Lothian IJB

SUBJECT: Chairs Report

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To provide a report on the activities undertaken by the Chair of East Lothian IJB and any relevant updates.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The IJB is asked to:
- i. Note the activities and updates that have taken place since the last meeting.
 - ii. Note that the report is to help raise awareness of the wide range of work carried out across East Lothian that contributes to the strategic directions of the IJB.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The following is a summary of activities and updates that are relevant to all IJB members.

Scottish Government Budget announcement

- 3.2 The Scottish Government announced its budget on 5th December. The headlines tell us that that biggest financial commitment that the Government have made is to the NHS. The budget has allocated £21 billion for health and social care and an increase of £2 billion for frontline NHS Boards which has been highlighted as a record uplift. Media reports have outlined that these are resources to make it easier for people to access GP appointments, improve A&E and to provide the care that people need in time. A further £200 million is planned to reduce waiting times and improve capacity and remove blockages that keep people in hospital for too long. At the time of writing this report some very limited information was available. My understanding to date is that East Lothian

Council has been provided with funding to deliver the Real Living Wage and other small grants. It hasn't been provided with funding cover the challenges in social care. The funding for social care has been passed onto NHS Lothian which is being used to support Hospital to Home and Hospital at Home Services. Once there is a clearer picture details will be circulated to IJB members.

- 3.3 With no reserves at our disposal to support the many challenges that we face it will be important to ensure that we are fairly funded. As one of the fastest growing areas in Scotland we are now also the worst non-city funded areas. As our population is growing we are seeing the over 75 population growing to 11,000 people at 9.8% of our overall population compared to the Scottish average of 9%.

Volunteer Centre East Lothian Annual Conference

- 3.4 The voluntary and community sector plays an important role is supporting the strategic direction of East Lothian IJB. As Chair it was important to attend the conference to firstly show support for the range of work that is taking place to support our objective some commissioned and some not. Secondly it was valuable opportunity to listen to views of the sector and understand the challenges they face. Lack of sustainable multi-year funding and the national insurance contributions were raised as concerns. The presenters included Elaine Gale, Our Community Kitchen, Elaine Morrison, Foodbank East Lothian, Emma Brown, Connected Communities and Lucy Higgins, Policy Officer, Equalities & Tackling Poverty. The breakout sessions focused on contributing towards the poverty plan. There was a brief presentation by Andy Cox the Director of SIGNAL which was followed up.

Volunteer Centre East Lothian partnership with SIGNAL

- 3.5 A briefing was organised for a wide range of partners from across East Lothian including HSCP staff, Police and NHS Lothian Public Health Team to find out more about the partnership between Volunteer Centre East Lothian and SIGNAL and what it's trying to achieve. SIGNAL is a data driven survey that empowers individuals through self-directed growth with the aim of reducing poverty, enhancing health & wellbeing and improving the lives of individuals and communities. A bespoke tool has been developed for East Lothian by VCEL and SIGNAL working together. At the briefing session the work carried out so far through the Community First Project was highlighted and evidence of the areas that would make a difference to a person's life evidenced. Over a period of time a picture would be created of the person's journey in real time and what would make the biggest difference to them. This is an area of work that would be a useful development session for IJB members.

Ross High School 70th Anniversary

- 3.6 The school arranged a community intergenerational event to enable former pupils to come back and visit and celebrate their anniversary. The reason why I have included this event as there were a number of carers who attended with their family members who had dementia. I spent my time talking to carers and their family members and heard first-hand the

struggles that they face with limited respite opportunities. The event provided some really touching moments for many carers as their family members recognised themselves from old school photographs. I'm extremely grateful to Paul Reynolds, Headteacher and his staff team for organising the event.

East Lothian Champions Board

- 3.7 The Champions Board organised an event to raise awareness of the work that Care Experienced young people have been involved with. These areas ranged from housing, finance and health & well-being. I was particularly interested in transitions and the areas around health that Care Experienced young people were highlighting that didn't meet their needs. Its vitally important as an IJB to engage with the Champions Board especially around transitions and mental health services.

East Lothian & Midlothian Women's Aid Annual General Meeting

- 3.8 The 16 days of activism against gender-based violence campaign runs from 25th November to December 10th. The goal of the campaign is to draw attend and awareness of the increasing levels of violence against women and girls. The long-term effects of domestic violence include acquired brain injuries, disabilities or chronic health issues, mental health issues and trauma to the women and their family members. It's important to support local groups like East & Midlothian Women's Aid who work hard to empower women who experience domestic violence. At their AGM their adults' referrals over the year had increased by 10% to 1,489 and by 11% for children and young people. In recognition to the increases in referrals they have been developing projects such as "Prescribe Nature" to support who have faced trauma and focus on alternatives to medication. They had their AGM at their Women's Empowerment Centre to enable the organisation to look at sustainability and encourage entrepreneurial activities.

Breast Feeding Peer Support Graduation

- 3.9 Kat Pringle is based within Home-Start East Lothian and is the MotherBaby Together Co-ordinator. She has been playing an instrumental role in supporting and training peer supporters. Her work over the years has now resulted in breastfeeding levels in East Lothian increasing. At her Peer Support Graduation event which was attended by representatives from Scottish Government and by Nicola Tait from NHS Lothian who recognised the positive trends in East Lothian. The long-term benefits of breastfeeding are widely know which include lowering the baby's risk of infections and fewer visits to hospital as a result. Reducing the baby's risk of obesity and cardiovascular disease in adulthood. Breastfeeding also lowers the risks of breast cancer, ovarian cancer, obesity and cardiovascular disease.

Neil Gray visit to Prestonpans GP practice

- 3.10 The Cabinet Secretary for Health visited the Prestonpans GP practice as Scottish Government data highlighted that it was a high performing organisation. He was keen to find out how it operates in comparison to other places and its funding model. At the last IJB I was asked to raise

aware of the challenges that we face at the highest political level and I took the opportunity to do that at this meeting.

Network of Chairs & Vice-Chairs of Integration Joint Boards

- 3.11 The last meeting of the Network was a Q&A with Neil Gray and again I took the opportunity to raise the challenges that we face. It was also important to highlight the many positive contributions that IJB can and should be making through its social work, social care workforce and voluntary and community sector but this work is significantly hindered through lack of resources.

Affordable Housing Emergency

- 3.12 East Lothian Council declared an affordable housing emergency. The paper that was submitted to this meeting outlined the significant impact that the lack of affordable housing will have on the strategic directions of the IJB. During 2023/24 there were 795 homelessness applications from across East Lothian. It's known that experiencing homelessness can result in poorer physical and mental health and more health interventions. This discussion on this issue highlighted examples where the housing team intervened to support East Lothian residents when there were no bed spaces available at the Royal Edinburgh Hospital through Elder Street model. The supply of housing that the Learning Disabilities Team rely on to support the "Core & Cluster Model" would be impacted if it didn't continue as well a housing that is accessible for people with disabilities or wheelchair accessible homes. At the time of writing this report the level of resource that had previously been cut from the social housing budget and at what level it will be resorted to East Lothian is yet unknown.

Haddington Dementia meeting space

- 3.13 Members will be familiar with the Musselburgh Meeting Centre and its ethos of a community-based support for people living with dementia and their care partners. The plan across the County is to establish satellite meeting spaces. The first meeting of establishing a satellite space in Haddington started this month. Sue Northrop brought together a wide range of organisations to start this process rolling. The meeting was well attended and there was agreement to set one up in the Haddington area and to come together again in January.

Meeting with the network of Day Centres

- 3.14 I chaired the regular meeting with Day Centres from across the Country. There was a full agenda which included funding, training, understanding the role of Day Centres and the work they do in supporting carers. Discussion took place on the decision to pause the Musselburgh Day Centre and its impact in the local area.

NHS Lothian Board & Charity

- 3.15 All NHS Lothian Board members are also trustee of the NHS Lothian Charity. The Charity had two development sessions to look at how more focus could be placed on prevention work. This is prevention work that can help immediately to support people who are struggling for e.g.

CALMHS waiting lists. The charity has now allocated £200,000 towards prevention work from 25/26. I'm keen to see projects from East Lothian apply.

Carers of East Lothian Annual General Meeting

- 3.16 I participated in a very well attended AGM which took place in Musselburgh. Participants heard from Jess Wade CEO, Lydia Eunson Counselling Co-ordinator and Rowena Price on the progress being made with the Hospital Link Work pilot project and the Counselling Service. Both projects demonstrated they were making a difference to carers. The challenges for carers in receiving respite care and support for their health & well-being continue to be a top priority.

4 ENGAGEMENT

- 4.1 Engagement has taken place with a wide range of stakeholders in producing this report.

5 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The updates provide an insight of the IJB's policy direction and the impact on areas such as the Carers Strategy.

6 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 6.1 The subject of this report does not affect the wellbeing of the community or have a significant impact on equality, the environment or economy.

7 DIRECTIONS

- 7.1 The report reflects the priorities of the IJB Strategic plan in the following areas:
- Deliver new models of Community Provision, working collaboratively with communities.
 - Focus on prevention and early intervention.
 - Enable people to have more choice and control and provide care close to home.
 - Keep people safe from harm.
 - Address health inequalities.

8 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 Financial – There is no financial implications from this report but the activities do highlight some of the impacts of the budget decisions made by the IJB.
- 8.2 Personnel – None
- 8.3 Other – None

9 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 9.1 Links to NHS Lothian Board papers.

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