



**REPORT TO:** East Lothian Integration Joint Board

**MEETING DATE:** 20 February 2025

**BY:** Chair of East Lothian IJB

**SUBJECT:** Chair's Report

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## 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 visits, meetings and information updates that are relevant to IJB members.

### 3.2 ***Budget offer from Partners***

As agreed from our last IJB meeting a letter was sent to the Chief Executives of our partners, East Lothian Council and NHS Lothian. The letter made reference to the professional leads paper, outlined our challenging financial position and asked for recognition of the difficult decisions that have already been taken. To date we have an [offer from East Lothian Council](#) and I've yet to hear back from NHS Lothian. A copy of the letter was sent to all IJB members.

3.3 A considerable amount of my time has been spent on supporting the development of the East Lothian Council budget with Councillors colleagues and finance staff. Through the budget process there was a very

strong message coming through of the importance of support and investment in community-based services including day centres and reflecting alignment with strategic plan priorities. We are all aware of the messages from NHS Lothian that their services are under extreme pressure. This makes the case for community-based interventions for East Lothian residents stronger than ever and to look at more ways to use the community hospital to support the increase in demand.

3.4 The budget officer recognises the value and importance of community-based services. This can be seen through the allocations made to the revenue and capital budgets. At the point of writing this report the Council budget has been agreed and in summary it reflects in the following way:

- £3.2 million additional funding which is notified through the draft settlement which has been passed onto the IJB;
- £3.7 million of a further budget uplift to support pay, inflationary and demographic pressures; and
- £0.6 million funding to fully offset the employer costs of the employer national insurance contribution increase with a further allocation from the Council budget to meet the funding shortfall.

3.5 The additional funding set out above equates to a recurring revenue uplift of £7.5 million which is a 9% increase from the Council. Alongside this the proposed General Services capital budget includes £1.7 million to secure a sustainable future for Haddington Day Centre by enabling them to relocate to the Tynebank Resource Centre, alongside continued investment in community alarms' transition to digital of £750,000.

***Scottish Government announcement***

3.6 On 27<sup>th</sup> January 2025 the First Minister John Swinney announced his three priorities: to reduce immediate pressures in the NHS, shift the balance from acute services to the community and to use innovation to improve access to care. He also indicated that a greater proportion of new NHS funding would go to primary and community care. He highlighted that £10.5million would be pledged to improve GP capacity and early intervention to prevent illness. I have raised this announcement at the NHS Lothian Board and NHS Finance & Resource Committee for further details on any funding allocation and what this would mean for East Lothian IJB.

***Musselburgh, Wallyford & Whitecraig Day Centre***

3.7 The lack of a Day Centre in Musselburgh is continually being raised as a concern by practitioners and members of the local community. Since the last meeting an integrated impact assessment has been carried out and identified no positive benefits to the proposal ceasing. The assessment noted the cumulative impacts on community services along with additional financial burdens on the NHS as a result would be significant. The decision to postpone the commissioning of the Day Centre would be in contradiction to some of the IJB's strategic objectives. Also, the area of Musselburgh is

projected to see a 50% increase in its population aged 75 and over by 2041. The case for this proposal is getting stronger by the day and hope to see the paper come forward to the IJB sooner rather than later.

***Reserves position***

- 3.8 Since the last meeting the Scottish Parliament Information Service has produced an updated brief for 2025-26. It outlines that the position for East Lothian as one of the fastest growing areas and also the worst funded non-city areas in Scotland still remains the same. 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 which I have been raising with the Cabinet Secretary Neil Gray. It is also important for the IJB to follow up on the position that was agreed that if NHS Lothian broke even for then the reserves would be returned.

***The state of the voluntary sector in East Lothian***

- 3.9 The voluntary and community sector is an important partner to East Lothian IJB. There is a wide range of organisations that support to help deliver our strategic objectives. To support our knowledge and understanding of the sector I thought that it would be helpful to share the state of the voluntary sector report produced by Voluntary Sector East Lothian which is attached.

***East Lothian Champions Board***

- 3.10 The Champions Board organised an event to raise awareness of the work that Care Experienced young people have been involved with. The follow up from the event has been the production of their impact report highlighting their work with NHS Lothian and East Lothian Council. A link to the report has been included in the background papers.

***Equally Safe Leadership Board***

- 3.11 Equally Safe is the national strategy for preventing and eradicating violence against women and girls. In East Lothian a Leadership Board has been created to ensure that organisations such as East Lothian IJB and other partners are embedding the strategy with an action plan within their work. I attend the Board meetings which are chaired by Cllr Jardine.

***Neil Gray visit to Prestonpans Community Centre***

- 3.12 Neil Gray visited Prestonpans Community Centre to attend the celebration of "Grow Your Own Routes" project. This was a very powerful event enabling young carers to share their experience with the support of Scottish Families Affected by Alcohol and Drugs. This also gave me the opportunity to raise awareness of the financial challenges that East Lothian IJB faces across the County.

***Haddington Dementia meeting space***

- 3.13 A second meeting has taken place bringing together all interested parties in the Haddington area who would benefit from a dementia meeting space. The meeting was well attended and facilitated by Sue Northrop. The next steps were to organise a session on brain development. This work is

hugely important across the County as by 2040 there will be a projected increase of 68% of people with dementia.

***Dunbar Day Centre***

- 3.14 I have received an invitation to visit Dunbar Day Centre which is open to all IJB members. If any IJB members want to visit the Centre then please let me know.

***Tranent Day Centre 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary***

- 3.15 Tranent Day Centre celebrated their 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary which was well attended by service users, supporters and partners. My visit highlighted the importance that the Day Centre plays in providing much needed respite to carers. It also gave me the opportunity to thank Diane Radin the Manager and their Committee Chair, Donald Grant for their valuable work.

***Supporting Carers Rep on IJB***

- 3.16 I had a really productive meeting with our Carers Representative David Binnie. We discussed a wide range of issues which included; IJB finances, National Care Service, respite opportunities and difficulties that are currently being faced for families who are seeking guardianship. I was keen to ensure that he was supported in his role as the voice of carers is hugely important on the IJB.

***Enjoy Leisure Physical Activity Rehabilitation Presentation***

- 3.17 *"If physical activity were a drug, we would refer to it as a miracle cure, due to the great many illnesses it can prevent and help treat."* Professor Sir Gregor Smith, Chief Medical Officer for Scotland

- 3.18 I attended a presentation organised by the Enjoy Leisure Health & Well-Being Team at Meadowmill. Their presentation focused on their work to support people with long-term conditions through physical rehabilitation. They provided a number of very powerful case studies of people who started with very little mobility after a stroke to being able to engage in exercise. This is a partnership between NHS Lothian and Enjoy Leisure and would be useful for a future development session.

***Collective for Change***

- 3.19 I attended a drop-in session organised by the Collective for Change who are a group of local people with experience of hardship. Their aim is to ensure that those in power in their communities listen and understand their experiences so that things can change and improve. This could be discrimination, financial hardship or disability, creating change from the community and ensuring that decision makers hear them and act. As part of any engagement strategy this would be a group that we want to ensure were involved.

**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 that it's having on a number of areas such as Carers Strategy and Dementia 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 closed to home.
- Keep people safe from harm.
- Address health inequalities.

## 8 **RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 Financial – There are 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 Link to NHS Lothian Board papers 5<sup>th</sup> February 2025.  
<https://shorturl.at/ZEMK9>

- 9.2 Local government finance: Budget 2025-26 and provisional allocations to local authorities SPICE Report  
<https://digitalpublications.parliament.scot/ResearchBriefings/Report/2024/12/20/b9f25db0-6031-47bd-881f-2e76d4b957a5>

9.3 Champions Board Impact Report  
<https://www.canva.com/design/DAGdrjoMPQQ/8GcNP7cptX6P9xL44KG OVw/edit>

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