



REPORT TO: East Lothian Integration Joint Board

MEETING DATE: 20 March 2025

BY: Chair of East Lothian IJB

SUBJECT: Chair's 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 visits, meetings and information updates that are relevant to IJB members.

3.2 ***Dunbar Day Centre***

I am planning to visit Dunbar Day Centre on the morning of 18 March. The invitation is open to all IJB members and if anyone is interested in attending then please contact me at: sakhtar@eastlothian.gov.uk.

3.3 ***Roots & Fruits AGM***

I attended the Roots & Fruits Annual General Meeting at Elphinstone Community Centre on 28 February. Roots & Fruits are a community-based project who aim to make fruit and vegetables affordable and accessible to people across East Lothian. They do this through their shop in Elphinstone and by delivering to families across the County. In the local community they organise a "Bite and a Blether" Lunch Club to reduce social isolation. They supply fruit to schools, nurseries, playgroups and after school clubs to encourage healthy snacks.

3.4 ***Meeting of Chairs & Vice-Chairs of IJB***

I attended a meeting of Chairs & Vice Chairs of IJB for an update of stage 1 of the National Care Service Bill. On 22 February the Health, Social Care & Sport Committee published a 183-page report on stage 1 of the National Care Service (Scotland) Bill. At this stage it is a “framework Bill” and further details would be required to outline a model of how the proposed National Care Service would operate. Much of the discussion from the civil servant focused on the National Advisory Board and its composition and ensuring representation from voices of unpaid carers and people with lived experience. As there are unpaid carers on every IJB a suggestion was made that this might be a good way of engaging with this group.

3.5 ***Audit Scotland Report – Reform urgently needed to tackle precarious health & social care finances***

Audit Scotland produced the above report of which a link has been provided in the paper. The report outlines the important work of IJB’s in commissioning many vital community-based health and social care services. The report warns that IJBs cannot manage future financial pressures in isolation and that collaboration is needed between council and NHS partners. With a stronger focus on transforming how services are delivered and prevention work.

3.6 ***Trade Union Representation on IJB***

We have two Trade Union Representatives on the IJB Darren Bradley (Council) and Thomas Miller (NHS) from UNISON. Since the last meeting I have met with Darren and spoken with Thomas over the phone. We all felt that it would be valuable to meet together and each emphasised the importance of engaging with both representatives in IJB work.

3.7 ***Enjoy Leisure Physical Activity Rehabilitation Presentation & East Volunteer Centre State of the Voluntary Sector report***

“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.

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.

The Enjoy Leisure presentation and Volunteer Centre East Lothian State of the Voluntary Sector report will be circulated to IJB members.

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 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 Scottish Parliament National Care Service Bill Stage 1 report.
<https://digitalpublications.parliament.scot/Committees/Report/HSCS/2024/2/22/a8006131-8b6c-4a0b-8450-9e02ff419bac-1>
- 9.2 Audit Scotland Report – Reform urgently required to tackle precarious health & social care finances.
<https://audit.scot/news/reform-urgently-needed-to-tackle-precarious-health-and-social-care-finances>

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