



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

**MEETING DATE:** 20 March 2025

**BY:** Chief Officer

**SUBJECT:** Appointment of IJB Standards Officer

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## **1 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to nominate a replacement Standards Officer as required by the Ethical Standards in Public Life. (Scotland) Act 2000.
- 1.2 The nomination will be subject to the approval by the Standards Commission for Scotland.

## **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 The IJB is asked to:
  - i. Nominate East Lothian Council's Head of Corporate Support, Hayley Barnett, as a replacement to the IJB Chief Officer, as Standards Officer to East Lothian's IJB.
  - ii. Note the appointment is subject to the approval by the Standards Commission Scotland.

## **3 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Integration Joint Boards (IJBs) were established in 2014 through the Public Bodies (Joint Working) Scotland Act as a means for health boards and local authorities to integrate adult health and social care services and budgets, through delegation to a locally accountable body.
- 3.2 East Lothian IJB was established in July 2015, taking on responsibility for development of integrated planning and delivery of health and social care services and criminal justice social work in the East Lothian Council geographical area, as well as certain acute hospital services managed by NHS Lothian.

3.3 As a “devolved public body” the Integration Joint Board is required to produce a Code of Conduct setting out how members should conduct themselves in undertaking their duties. The Scottish Government has produced a model Code of Conduct for use by IJBs and East Lothian IJB adopted the model code. This was last updated and agreed by ELIJB in October 2023.

3.4 Each body which comes under the Model Code of Conduct for Devolved Public Bodies is required to appoint a Standards Officer.

3.5 The Standards Commission for Scotland (SCS) sets out the role of the Standards Officer in an Advice Note available at:  
<https://www.standardscommissionscotland.org.uk/about-us/news/health-and-social-care-ijbs---standards-officer-appointments>

3.6 The duties of the Standards Officer cover:

- Regular training for IJB members on the ethical standards framework, the Code of Conduct and the Standards Commission guidance.
- Maintenance of high standards of conduct by promoting awareness of the Code and advising and supporting IJB members on its interpretation and application.
- Advising an individual member, if concerns arise, they may have breached the Code, or risk doing so.
- To provide members with private advice or support (although, in some circumstances the Standards Officer may need to share information with other parties).
- To maintain an IJB Members’ Register of Interests, updated at least yearly.
- To ensure each meeting of the IJB starts with a declaration of interest on any item/s on the agenda.
- In certain cases, to adopt an investigatory role in respect of complaints made or concerns raised about a member’s conduct.
- To report to the IJB on matters relating to the Ethical Standards Framework and compliance.

3.7 The Standards Officer for East Lothian IJB has been the Chief Officer for the IJB, currently Fiona Wilson. It is recognised that a more independent officer is required and therefore Head of Corporate Support for East Lothian Council is to be nominated as the IJB’s Standard Officer.

## **4 ENGAGEMENT**

4.1 There is no engagement required in connection with this paper.

## **5 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There are no further policy implications, beyond ensuring all IJB members are aware of the Code of Conduct and associated guidance and have signed the Code and updated the Register of Interests and the Standards Officer is registered with the Standards Commission.

## **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 There are no implications for Directions arising from this report.

## **8 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 There are no financial, personnel, or other resource implications arising from this report.

## **9 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 9.1 The advice note for IJB members (also at appendix 1) is available at the Standards Commission for Scotland (SCS) website:  
<http://www.standardscommissionscotland.org.uk/about-us/news/advice-note-for-members-of-ijbs>
- 9.2 The SCS website also contains further information relevant to IJBs at:  
<http://www.standardscommissionscotland.org.uk/search/?search-filter=ijb>

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