

What I want for my life

Community Transformation Newsletter December 2020



East Lothian
Health & Social Care Partnership



Update

Since our last newsletter, things have changed a lot. Because of the global pandemic, and these exceptional times, the way that services have had to be delivered has changed beyond recognition.

We are grateful for the flexibility, energy, creativity and care that has been shown time and again by individual people, communities and services in adapting arrangements to support the most vulnerable people.

Change of scope to include older people

There have been lots of changes in response to COVID. East Lothian Health and Social Care Partnership (ELHSCP) asked the project team to extend its scope to include the needs of older people, previously supported in day centres, into this programme of work. We are working with ELHSCP managers, the Association of Day Centres and the third sector to map out needs and then we will work together on developing a new model of support. Day centres are already providing outreach services in their communities and some may open soon in a reduced capacity for people at significant risk.

We will let communities know whenever services are reopening as soon as information is available.

Impact of infection control and physical distancing measures

Although the Scottish Government has set out guidance on reopening day services, the infection control measures and the requirement for physical distancing mean that service delivery is fundamentally different. Currently, we can only put it in place for those in the most critical need. This means that alternative and additional services are required and these bring with them greater cost.

All plans for re-opening services must be agreed with ELHSCP in advance, to ensure the plans contribute to meeting needs across East Lothian.

Impact on mental health

Our feedback shows that across the county there is evidence of deterioration in mental health and the extent of emerging need for mental health support is seen across all service user groups. The impact of carer stress is key concern as well - limited services have created additional stress for carers and replacement care is needed urgently. Social isolation, loneliness and lack of physical activity, in addition to reduced access to services, has led to an increase in hospital admission and long-term care. This reinforces the value of investing in a preventative approach.

Two-phased approach

In terms of community supports (resource centres, day centres and third sector providers), we are taking a two-phased approach:

- Phase One - this is underway and continues on a case by case basis - those with critical care needs have had support arrangements agreed with them, a small minority accessing building based support.
- Phase Two (now under consideration) - this is the second phase of service redesign for community supports and we will be in touch with all providers and partners to discuss what this would look like and how it can be delivered.

We will also reconvene a Reference and Engagement group in a different way. One of the challenges is the difficulty in planning with the COVID restrictions but we have to assume these will continue for the medium term.

Resource Coordinator

A piece of good news is that we have approval for funding for the Resource Coordinator service and we are looking at how we can get this service implemented as soon as possible. This funding came from COVID remobilisation funds. The service will work initially with those who used to use Resource Centres and link them in with community supports. The plan is for staff to be based in the Connected Community areas and make local connections with services.

ELHSCP Strategic Planning Group

The Strategic Planning Group met recently and:

1. Noted that the model of care for community support to individuals over 65 will require EL HSCP to negotiate a variation to the access criteria, i.e. increasing the average of service users accessing these services who have been assessed as being at high risk, whilst not designing out early intervention/ prevention approaches entirely
2. Agreed to receive future reports making recommendations for re-opening of day services from our external providers, with both capacity and financial impact analysis
3. Agreed to support continuation of funding to providers as per their contractual agreement for 2020/21 in order to support their immediate sustainability
4. Noted that further needs analysis is required to identify emerging needs around mental health
5. Noted we intend to implement the new Resource Coordinator service (4.5 FTE on a locality basis) from January 2021. The options appraisal to inform the procurement approach is underway
6. Noted that work continues to support providers to design new models of services including older peoples' day centres
7. Noted that the Transformation Programme will continue to develop the financial assumptions for the 2021/22 budget, which will need to report on the risk of rising costs of service provision and challenges to the individual Personal Budget model
8. Noted the longer term financial implications, particularly in regard to the current costs captured as COVID spend and the challenges of increased reporting of unmet need and pressures for replacement care
9. Agreed to receive a further report detailing the financial and workforce implications of higher cost models and the loss of efficiencies on both through a requirement to reduce use of shared services and shared spaces.

Join our Reference and Engagement Group

The role of the Reference and Engagement Group is:

- Sense-check developments, ideas for service and support changes and priorities from the Change Board
- Consider options for models, to ensure best fit for East Lothian and to meet the needs of the changing population
- Be the critical friend to the Partnership in our planning and considerations
- Assist in shaping the final recommendations that are presented to the Partnership and the Integrated Joint Board for approval and implementation
- Coproduction of future models of care and support
- Helping the Partnership understand the impact of change
- Ensuring that key important elements are built into all change programmes.

Volunteer Centre East Lothian lead the Third Sector Interface and its role is to support, promote, develop and advocate the interests and role of the third sector. If you are a third sector agency and would like to be involved in the Reference and Engagement Group please contact Maureen Allan at maureen@volunteereastlothian.org.uk.

Please comment on your preferred method e.g. Zoom or Microsoft Teams.

There are lots of challenges ahead but on behalf of the project team we are grateful for your ongoing commitment. We'd really like to hear how you've adapted to the pandemic and look forward to working with you to further develop community-based services.

**If you would like more information about the Community Transformation Programme
Christine Johnston, Programme Manager at cjohnston5@eastlothian.gov.uk**